

The New **Answers** Book 4



**Over 30 Questions on
Creation/Evolution and the Bible**

Ken Ham General Editor

First printing: August 2013

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Master Books®, P.O. Box 726, Green Forest, AR 72638.

Master Books® is a division of the New Leaf Publishing Group, Inc.

ISBN: 9780890517888

Library of Congress Number: 2013947562

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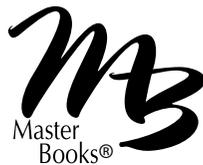
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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND SPECIAL THANKS

Our many thanks to the following for the work of reviewing, editing, or illustrating this book.

Dr. Jason Lisle, Dr. John Whitmore, Dr. Ron Samec, Dr. Elizabeth Mitchell, Dr. Tommy Mitchell, Dr. Andrew Snelling, Dr. Danny Faulkner, Dr. Terry Mortenson, Dr. Georgia Purdom, Dr. John Baumgardner, Gary Vaterlaus, Mike Matthews, Bob Hill, Roger Patterson, Troy Lacey, Steve Golden, Jeremy Ham, Buddy Davis, Randall Hedtke, Wayne Strasser, Mike Oard, Scott Chadwick, Erik Lutz, Gary Vaterlaus, Mike Matthews, Dan Stelzer, Dan Lietha, Doug Rummager, Laura Strobl, Bodie Hodge, Steve Fazekas, and Diane King.

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INTRODUCTION

Atheistic Devices: Spotting Them . . . but Countering Them, Too?

KEN HAM

Introduction: Atheists Using Churches to Infiltrate and Deceive

Did you know that many Christian leaders are doing exactly what the atheists are encouraging them to do? It's incredible.

You see, there's an "epidemic" that is infecting and destroying many churches around the world. It is the epidemic of Christians (including many church leaders) who are adopting man's religion of evolutionary ideas and adding them to Scripture — thus undermining the authority of the Word of God.

As we see the loss of the foundation of the authority of God's Word in our Western nations, we are also seeing a massive decline in Christian morality in society. Even the great nation of America is on a downward spiral, as we see the absolutes of Christianity being eliminated from the culture (on an almost daily basis).

We spoke to a prominent Christian leader recently. He is the pastor of a large church in a generally conservative denomination (though many of its churches allow for millions of years). He shared with us that within his denomination, he saw the next big theological debate being whether or not Adam and Eve were literal human beings!

Such re-writing of Scripture is sadly coming to this denomination. But is it all that surprising? Once the door was opened when many of its churches (and affiliated seminaries) began to compromise on the foundations of Genesis, as they added millions of years to Genesis, then the slippery slide into unbelief in other areas of Scripture began to escalate — even whether there was a real Adam.

Right into Their Hands

At AiG, we have been saying for years that as churches compromise with millions of years and evolution, eventually they will begin to compromise other parts of Scripture. They will give up on Adam and Eve and original sin — then maybe a literal hell, bodily resurrection, and virgin birth.

Sadly, we are now seeing that happening more and more in the Church. Last year, *Christianity Today* published a cover story about the battle over a literal Adam and Eve. Yes, now even *that* question is beginning to infiltrate theologically conservative churches. We also hear of Christian leaders giving up a belief in a literal hell. And there are those who are beginning to question aspects of the Resurrection and so on.

Yes, what is happening in the Church today is exactly what the atheists want to see happen. The atheists know that if they can get Christians to compromise God's Word in Genesis, eventually there will be a generational decline in the acceptance of the authority of all of God's Word.

The Trojan Horse

Last year, a professed atheist, Dr. Eugenie Scott, mailed a fundraising letter on behalf of her organization called NCSE (National Center for Science Education). This group was set up primarily to oppose biblical creation organizations like AiG.

In this letter, Dr. Scott told blatant untruths about what AiG is doing. But then again, you shouldn't be surprised when atheists don't tell the truth. After all, if they don't believe in an absolute authority, they have no basis for truth — except for how they decide to define it as such! She is obviously greatly concerned about the effect of AiG in society. Well — we can praise the Lord for that!

But in her letter, designed to cause alarm and raise funds for her anti-Christian organization and “motivate the secular troops” to oppose creationist organizations like AiG, Dr. Scott made a statement similar to the one she has made before on her website about how she seeks to recruit religious people to help her atheist group:

Find common ground with religious communities and ally with them to promote the understanding of evolution.

And back in 2008, Dr. Scott's NCSE website made these statements in an article entitled "How You Can Support Evolution Education."¹

One section listed these ideas:

- Suggest adult religious education projects focusing on evolution with your religious leaders.
- Encourage your religious leaders to endorse the Clergy Letter Project and to participate in Evolution Weekend.
- Encourage your religious leaders to produce educational resources about evolution and religion, and to take a formal stand in support of evolution education.

The "Evolution Weekend" referred to above was founded (and is still run) by an atheist professor. He now has thousands of clergy who have signed a statement that agrees with the concept of millions of years/evolution and have agreed to conduct an "Evolution Sunday," when they will preach the "truth" of evolution to their congregations.

An Ally of Atheists

Dr. Scott, back in September 2000, in her opening statement at the American Association for the Advancement of Science Conference entitled "The Teaching of Evolution in U.S. Schools: Where Politics, Religion, and Science Converge," said:

You can't win this by scientific arguments . . . our best allies were members of the mainstream clergy. . . . The clergy went to school board meetings and said, evolution is okay with us . . . they didn't want the kids getting biblical literalism five days a week either, which meant they'd have to straighten them out on the weekends.

In 2005, I wrote about a supporter of AiG who attended a seminar conducted by Dr. Scott on how to teach evolution in public schools. When dealing with the issue of what to do with Christian students, she offered some sad advice. Our supporter reported:

I attended the "Teaching Evolution" seminar yesterday led by Eugenie Scott. The teachers were advised to suggest to the Bible believers to consult their clergy who would usually assure them that belief in evolution is OK!!

1. <http://ncse.com/taking-action/29-ways-to-support-science-education>.

In her latest fundraising letter, this atheist continues her tactic of trying to influence churchgoers to believe in evolution/millions of years.

Atheists understand that if they can get the Church to compromise with millions of years/evolution, this will undermine the authority of the entire Bible . . . and lead to unbelief about Christianity. The atheists know that getting the Church to compromise today, then coming generations may be won over to atheism. And more of our Church leaders are doing exactly what the atheists (gleefully) want them to do.

Breaking the Yoke

One verse of Scripture I have often used to remind me of the constant battle we are in (and the stand we should be taking) is 2 Corinthians 6:14:

Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?

When Christians compromise with the belief system of millions of years and evolution (in reality, a pagan religion), they are being unequally yoked with unbelievers.

Be Discerning

It seems almost everyone wants something free, right? Now, if you were offered a free curriculum to teach children about Genesis, would you jump at it? After all, we need to be educating young people about the authority of God's Word, correct?

Well, there is now a free curriculum for you to consider. And it's designed to teach children about Genesis. To help you in your decision-making about getting this curriculum, I'll give you some samples of what it teaches.

Now, before you read these samples (and I really urge you to look at the quotes below), consider the biblical example of the Christians at Berea who "searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so" (Acts 17:11). Okay, now read the following excerpts from this new Genesis curriculum:²

During the sixth day God creates land animals, including man — Day Six began about the time the first land animals appear in the fossil record, about 250 million years ago . . . God created the land dwelling creatures on this day. . . .

2. www.oldearth.org/Day6.ppt.

Man is clearly the ruler of earth, even though many animals are larger. God gave man the ability to think, enabling him to rule the earth. . . . Before the creation of Adam, there were other human-like animals, such as Neanderthal and *Australopithecus*. . . . Evolutionists point to them as an evolutionary path from ape to man. . . .

From a Christian perspective, they were not “in the image of God” as Adam was. In other words, they did not have an eternal soul, capable of choosing eternal life with God. . . . Just how “human-like” they were is debatable, and there will always be an argument surrounding their position in God’s creation. . . .

Man and animals are given plants to eat. This is often misinterpreted by young-earth creationists. . . . Young-earth creationists claim there was no death before Adam’s sin. They claim that only plants could be eaten based on Genesis 1:29-30. . . . First, look back at Genesis 1:28. Man was instructed to subdue the earth (and its animals). . . .

It is clear from the fossil record that there was much death before Adam. . . . Day Six ends with the statement “very good.” Young earth proponents say it could not be “very good” if there was death before Adam. . . . Death is a natural process of God’s created world, therefore God created death. . . .

So, now would you want this free curriculum to teach your children? Absolutely not!

Twisted Scripture

I hope you will be like the Bereans. AiG supporters would realize that whoever wrote this curriculum accepts fallible man’s ideas concerning evolution and millions of years and, as a result, twists and contorts the Scriptures to justify an acceptance of man’s pagan religion. In other words, they are mixing the religion of the day with their Christianity just like the Israelites did with Baal in the Old Testament a number of times.

My purpose is *not* to go in-depth and critique these blatant reinterpretations of Scripture. I’m sure you can recognize the problems. But I do want to point out an increasing and related problem I see all over the Church.

Satan is very clever. However, he still uses the same tactic: to work from within the Church to lead generations of people away from the truth of God’s Word and the gospel.

Truly we are in a spiritual battle — not just with the world, but also within much of the Church. The attacks on Christianity from the secular world are obvious. But the Church has many wolves in sheep’s clothing (as God’s Word warns us it would). And as God raises up ministries like Answers in Genesis to battle with the pagan religion of this day (evolution/millions of years) that leads people away from God’s Word, Satan is actively recruiting people within the Church to try to combat what we’re trying to accomplish.

Truly we are in a spiritual battle — not just with the world, but also within much of the Church. By the way, the compromising web-based curriculum I’ve mentioned is offered free *in the name of Christianity*. And it has an agenda for parents to teach children in a certain way about the Bible. But this website has a name that is obviously designed to mimic (and even be confused with) Answers in Genesis: it’s called Answers in Creation!

Remember our book *Already Gone?* In that publication we presented the detailed research into why two-thirds of our young people are leaving the Church by college age. The major reasons came down to:

- Young people being taught to compromise Genesis with evolution and millions of years; respondents saw this as hypocrisy within the Church.
- Churches and parents not teaching children apologetics — not teaching them how to defend the Christian faith against the secular attacks of our day.

Sadly, free curricula like the new one referred to above, if used by families and churches, will lead to more young people walking away from the Church. At Answers in Genesis, we are so burdened about such sad developments that we stepped out in faith to produce a high-quality Bible curriculum for kindergarten through adult. Titled the *Answers Bible Curriculum*, it is an entirely integrated curriculum for Sunday school so the entire family (no matter the age) can discuss the material when they get home (i.e., children and parents cover the same topics — but at a different level).

Many Attacks on the Bible, Not Just Curriculum

Some days in ministry, it can be exhausting. There seem to be constant daily battles! But I remind myself that Answers in Genesis, a Bible-upholding ministry, is engaged in an ongoing spiritual war; when one battle is over, another front opens. To illustrate, here is a list of just some of the many “battles” that have involved AiG in the last year. It’s not a complete list, but it still reminds us of the battles raging around us. Many are quite startling:

- An American Atheist billboard appears near the Lincoln Tunnel entrance at New York City with its message for Christmas: “You KNOW it’s a Myth . . . This Season, Celebrate REASON!” The atheists are becoming more active each year, and every Christmas they ramp up their propaganda.
- Rev. Barry Lynn, president of Americans United for Separation of Church and State, and I debate on CNN’s *Anderson Cooper 360* TV program over the passing of tourism incentives for our Ark Encounter project.
- The Calvin College biology department issues their “Perspective on Evolution,” a statement from a *Christian* college endorsing evolution as the best scientific explanation for life on earth.
- U.S. Congressman Pete Stark of the Bay Area of California introduces a bill to proclaim February 12 as “Darwin Day.”
- Bill Nye, “The Science Guy” of PBS-TV fame and well-known atheist, visits the Creation Museum for two minutes to stand in the museum driveway and take photos so he can say he has legitimacy to criticize the Creation Museum.
- Former Eastern Nazarene College physics professor Karl Giberson, and BioLogos founder Francis Collins publish *The Language of Science and Faith*, arguing for theistic evolution and against the origin of sin as taught in Genesis.
- Political activist/blogger Joe Sonka and a friend try to crash “Date Night” at our museum by pretending to be (in their words) a “flamboyantly gay” couple.
- Pastor Rob Bell publishes *Love Wins: A Book About Heaven, Hell, and the Fate of Every Person Who Ever Lived* in which the biblical view of hell is undermined.
- I’m dropped from the “Great Homeschool Conventions” programs in Cincinnati and Philadelphia for revealing the biblically compromised teachings of Peter Enns (who believes Jesus was in error), also a speaker at these conventions.
- NASA astrobiologist Richard Hoover claims life on earth may have come from other planets in the *Journal of Cosmology*.

- The office of the secretary of the Assemblies of God denomination sponsors a conference entitled Faith and Science Conference promoting theistic evolution.
- Tim Keller, well-known author and senior pastor of the Redeemer Presbyterian Church in Manhattan (New York), again endorses evolution as a possible way God created.
- Rev. Barry Lynn of Americans United for Separation of Church and State posts a YouTube video mocking our Ark Encounter project and the Bible's account of Noah.
- *Christianity Today* magazine publishes an article entitled "The Search for the Historical Adam," questioning the historicity of Adam and Eve. The cover features an "ape-man."
- In a *USA Today* article on the recent Miss USA beauty pageant winner, Alyssa Campanella shares how she believes in evolution; the article disparages Answers in Genesis, the Creation Museum, and the Ark Encounter.
- New York attacks the Bible by legalizing "gay marriage."
- A *Washington Post* blog discusses presidential candidate Michele Bachmann as an evolution-doubter and disparages the Creation Museum.
- Chinese scientist Xing Xu claims that *Archaeopteryx* is not a bird, but rather a feathered dinosaur.
- Hank Hanegraaff — the "Bible Answer Man," president of the Christian Research Institute, and host of the *Bible Answer Man* radio program — endorses William Dembski's book *The End of Christianity*, which presents an unbiblical position on the creation and evolution of humans.
- The General Presbytery of the Assemblies of God adopts a revised statement on "The Doctrine of Creation," now allowing for evolution and millions of years.
- Calvin College professor of religion John Schneider is forced to resign after casting doubt on the historical accuracy of Adam and Eve and their fall into sin.

- GOP presidential candidate Texas Governor Rick Perry is questioned about evolution by a child at a political rally and a video of it goes viral.
- Susan Brooks Thistlethwaite, professor of theology at Chicago Theological Seminary, writes an article for the *Washington Post* entitled “The Theological Case for Evolution” that criticizes the Creation Museum.
- A columnist for the United Kingdom Christian website Network Norwich calls Answers in Genesis “a cult.”
- BBC TV launches a major new dinosaur series in the United Kingdom that, as expected, promotes evolution and millions of years.
- Prof. Richard Dawkins, Sir David Attenborough, and 28 other prominent UK evolutionists ask the British government to censor the teaching of creation in Britain’s publicly funded schools.
- Karl Giberson, former vice president of BioLogos and former physics professor at Eastern Nazarene College, and Randall Stephens, history department chair at Eastern Nazarene College, publish *The Anointed*. Answers in Genesis is singled out at the very outset of the book as a proponent of an “anti-intellectual populism undergirding evangelical ‘truth,’ and that the movement takes its cues from a handful of enormously influential but only dubiously credentialed authority figures.”
- *Science* magazine publishes additional articles supporting the claim that *Australopithecus sediba* was an ancestor of humans.
- Darrel Falk, president of BioLogos and biology professor at Point Loma Nazarene University, responds to my lecture on the “Anti-biblical Teachings of BioLogos” and critiques AiG’s stand on Genesis by siding with the atheistic arguments against the Bible.

Did you get tired reading this list? Well, I did — and that’s just the *short* list. Many of you likely have lists of attacks of your own. Christians are coming under attack from many directions in today’s culture and it is good to spot these attacks so you can counter them.

Equipping the “Troops”

Amidst all this opposition, here is what Answers in Genesis is doing to counter the attacks on the Bible and equip people with effective Bible-defending “weapons”:

- Provide incredible new apologetic resources on the AiG websites, with 17 million users a year accessing the sites!
- Write and publish various books [like this one in the *New Answers Book Series*], such as *Already Gone*, *Already Compromised*, *The Fall of Satan*, *How Do We Know the Bible is True?*, *Demolishing Contradictions*, *The Tower of Babel*, *The Lie: Evolution*, *One Race One Blood*, *Coming to Grips with Genesis*, and so on.
- *Answers Bible Curriculum* for all ages (seven age levels).
- Produce new faith-defending video sets, including my 12-part *Foundations* series and Dr. David Menton’s excellent *Body of Evidence* anatomy series.
- Conduct hundreds of apologetics conferences and other speaking engagements at churches and colleges in the USA and around the world.
- Announce the building of Noah’s ark as part of the Ark Encounter project — a reminder that God’s Word and its salvation message are true.
- Build a Creation Museum with an observatory, Special Effects Theater, Planetarium, Dinosaur Den, Bug Exhibit, and much more.
- Produce Vacation Bible School (VBS) programs, now used by thousands of churches a year!

Now this kind of list doesn’t make me tired at all! It gets me excited! I often tell people that I look on the resources that AiG produces as Christian “patriot missiles,” equipping believers in daily spiritual battles that seem to be heating up around the country!

Such resources are needed (and more) to help the Church be discerning to the specific attacks of our age. We need to know what the attacks on the Bible are and how to counter them. This is why this book series is so important — it gives answers in an effort to help ground Christians to have a firm foundation on the authority of the Bible.

CHAPTER 1

Does the Gospel Depend on a Young Earth?

KEN HAM

Can a person believe in an old earth and an old universe (millions or billions of years in age) and be a Christian?

First of all, let's consider three verses that sum up the gospel and salvation. 1 Corinthians 15:17 says, "If Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins!" Jesus said in John 3:3, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." Romans 10:9 clearly explains, "If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."

Numerous other passages could be cited, but not one of them states in any way that a person has to believe in a young earth or universe to be saved.

And the list of those who cannot enter God's kingdom, as recorded in passages like Revelation 21:8, certainly does not include "old earthers."

Many great men of God who are now with the Lord have believed in an old earth. Some of these explained away the Bible's clear teaching about a young earth by adopting the classic gap theory. Others accepted a day-age theory or positions such as theistic evolution, the framework hypothesis, and progressive creation.

Scripture plainly teaches that salvation is conditioned upon faith in Christ, with no requirement for what one believes about the age of the earth or universe.

Now when I say this, people sometimes assume then that it does not matter what a Christian believes concerning the supposed millions-of-years age for the earth and universe.

Even though it is not a salvation issue, the belief that earth history spans millions of years has very severe consequences. Let me summarize some of these.

Authority Issue

The belief in millions of years does not come from Scripture, but from the fallible methods that secularists use to date the universe.

To attempt to “fit” millions of years into the Bible, you have to invent a gap of time that almost all Bible scholars agree the text does not allow — at least from a hermeneutical perspective. Or you have to reinterpret the “days” of creation as long periods of time (even though they are obviously ordinary days in the context of Genesis 1). In other words, you have to add a concept (millions of years) from outside Scripture, into God’s Word. This approach puts man’s fallible ideas in authority over God’s Word.

As soon as you surrender the Bible’s authority in one area, you “unlock a door” to do the same thing in other areas. Once the door of compromise is open, even if ajar just a little, subsequent generations push the door open wider. Ultimately, this compromise has been a major contributing factor in the loss of biblical authority in our Western world.

The Church should heed the warning of Proverbs 30:6, “Do not add to His words, lest He rebuke you, and you be found a liar.”

Contradiction Issue

A Christian’s belief in millions of years totally contradicts the clear teaching of Scripture. Here are just three examples:

Thorns. Fossil thorns are found in rock layers that secularists believe to be hundreds of millions of years old, so supposedly they existed millions of years before man. However, the Bible makes it clear that thorns came into existence after the Curse: “Then to Adam He said, ‘Because . . . you have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, ‘You shall not eat of it’: Cursed is the ground for your sake. . . . Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you’ ” (Genesis 3:17–18).

Disease. The fossil remains of animals, said by evolutionists to be millions of years old, show evidence of diseases (like cancer, brain tumors, and arthritis). Thus, such diseases supposedly existed millions of years before sin. Yet Scripture teaches that after God finished creating everything and placed man at the pinnacle of creation, He described the creation as “very good” (Genesis 1:31). Certainly calling cancer

and brain tumors “very good” does not fit with Scripture and the character of God.

Diet. The Bible clearly teaches in Genesis 1:29–30 that Adam and Eve and the animals were all vegetarian before sin entered the world. However, we find fossils with lots of evidence showing that animals were eating each other — supposedly millions of years before man and thus before sin.

Death Issue

Romans 8:22 makes it clear that the whole creation is groaning as a result of the Fall — the entrance of sin. One reason for this groaning is death — the death of living creatures, both animals and man. Death is described as an “enemy” (1 Corinthians 15:26), which will trouble creation until one day it is thrown into the lake of fire.

Romans 5:12 and other passages make it obvious that physical death of man (and really, death in general) entered the once-perfect creation because of man’s sin. However, if a person believes that the fossil record arose over millions of years, then death, disease, suffering, carnivorous activity, and thorns existed millions of years before sin.

The first death was in the Garden of Eden when God killed an animal as the first blood sacrifice (Genesis 3:21) — a picture of what was to come in Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, who would take away the sin of the world. Jesus Christ stepped into history to pay the penalty of sin — to conquer our enemy, death.

By dying on a Cross and being raised from the dead, Jesus conquered death and paid the penalty for sin. Although millions of years of death before sin is not a salvation issue per se, I personally believe that it is really an attack on Jesus’ work on the Cross.

Recognizing that Christ’s work on the Cross defeated our enemy, death, is crucial to understanding the “good news” of the gospel: “And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away” (Revelation 21:4).

Rooted in Genesis

All biblical doctrines, including the gospel itself, are ultimately rooted in the first book of the Bible.

- God specially created everything in heaven and earth (Genesis 1:1).
- God uniquely created man and woman in His image (Genesis 1:26–27).
- Marriage consists of one man and one woman for life (Genesis 2:24).
- The first man and woman brought sin into the world (Genesis 3:1–24).
- From the beginning God promised a Messiah to save us (Genesis 3:15).
- Death and suffering arose because of original sin (Genesis 3:16–19).
- God sets society’s standards of right and wrong (Genesis 6:5–6).
- The ultimate purpose of life is to walk with God (Genesis 6:9–10).
- All people belong to one race — the human race (Genesis 11:1–9).

False Claims

The *New York Times* on November 25, 2007, published an article on the modern biblical creation movement. The Creation Museum/Answers in Genesis received a few mentions in the article. However, I wanted to deal with one statement in the article that had the writer done just a little bit of homework, she would have found it not to be true!

The writer, Hanna Rosin, stated concerning the Creation Museum:

The museum sends the message that belief in a young earth is the only way to salvation. The failure to understand Genesis is literally “undermining the entire word of God,” Ken Ham, the founder of Answers in Genesis, says in a video. The collapse of Christianity believed to result from that failure is drawn out in a series of exhibits: school shootings, gay marriage, drugs, porn, and pregnant teens. At the same time, it presents biblical literalism as perfectly defensible science.

Note particularly the statement: “belief in a young earth is the only way to salvation.” Even if a Christian believes in an old earth (and even theistic evolution), they would know that such a statement is absolutely false. The Bible makes it clear that, concerning Jesus Christ, “Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12). When the Philippian jailer in Acts 16:30 asked, “Sirs,

what must I do to be saved?” Paul and Silas (in verse 31) replied, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.”

In Ephesians 2:8–9 we are clearly told: “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.” And Jesus Christ stated: “Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me’ ” (John 14:6).

Creation Museum/Answers in Genesis Teachings

As one walks through the Creation Museum, nowhere does it even suggest that “belief in a young earth is the only way to salvation.” In fact, in the theater where the climax of the 7 C’s walk-through occurs, people watch a program called *The Last Adam*. This is one of the most powerful presentations of the gospel I have ever seen. This program clearly sets out the way of salvation — and it has nothing to do with believing in a young earth.

As I often tell people in my lectures, Romans 10:9 states: “If you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.” By confessing “Jesus is Lord,” one is confessing that Christ is to be Lord of one’s life — which means repenting of sin and acknowledging who Christ is. The Bible DOES NOT state, “That if you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead — AND BELIEVE IN A YOUNG EARTH — you will be saved”!

Concluding Remarks

So it should be obvious to anyone, even our opponents, that this statement in the *New York Times* is absolutely false. Sadly, I have seen similar statements in other press articles — and it seems no matter what we write in website articles, or how often we answer this outlandish accusation, many in the press continue to disseminate this false accusation, and one has to wonder if it is a deliberate attempt to alienate AiG from the mainstream church!

I believe that one of the reasons writers such as Hanna Rosin make such statements is because AiG is very bold in presenting authoritatively what the Bible clearly states. People sometimes misconstrue such authority in the way Hanna Rosin has. It is also interesting that people who don’t agree with us often get very emotional about how authoritatively we present the biblical creation view — they dogmatically insist we can’t be so dogmatic in what we present!! It’s okay for them to be dogmatic about what they believe, and dogmatic about what we shouldn’t believe, but we can’t be!

In my lectures, I explain to people that believing in an old earth won't keep someone out of heaven if they are truly "born again" as the Bible defines "born again." Then I'm asked, "Then why does AiG make an issue of the age of the earth — particularly a young age?" The answer is that our emphasis is on the authority of Scripture. The idea of millions of years does NOT come from the Bible; it comes from man's fallible, assumption-based dating methods. If one uses such fallible dating methods to reinterpret Genesis (e.g., the days of creation), then one is "unlocking a door," so to speak, to teach others that they don't have to take the Bible as written (e.g., Genesis is historical narrative) at the beginning — so why should one take it as written elsewhere (e.g., the bodily Resurrection of Christ). If one has to accept what secular scientists say about the age of the earth, evolution, etc., then why not reinterpret the Resurrection of Christ? After all, no secular scientist accepts that a human being can be raised from the dead, so maybe the Resurrection should be reinterpreted to mean just "spiritual resurrection."

The point is, believing in a young earth won't ultimately affect one's salvation, but it sure does affect the beliefs of those that person influences concerning how to approach Scripture. Such compromise in the Church with millions of years and Darwinian evolution, etc., we believe has greatly contributed to the loss of the Christian foundation in the culture.