

God's Grand Design
Class #5
How old is the earth?
Genesis 5 & 11
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The Rock Church

(pray, pause, breath)

INTRODUCTION

Good evening everyone. Welcome to the Rock! My name is Josh Whitney. I am one of the pastors. We are continuing our study of **God's Grand Design**. This is part 5.

This fifth class will be based on Genesis 5 and 11 and answering this question, **how old is the earth?** Plus math, science and a video.

For the record, tonight, we will be approaching this question from more of a biblical perspective. In two weeks, we will be approaching this question from more of a scientific perspective. In two weeks, we will get into radiometric dating and carbon 14 dating.

So let's start with prayer.

OVERVIEW

In this class, we are comparing two different views of origins. When I say origins, I mean, where did everything come from?

View #1 – God created the heavens and the earth. (in six days, thousands of years ago)

And **View #2. The heavens and earth evolved without God. (millions and billions of years ago)**

Evolved means gradually, step by step, slow progression.

View #2 is the dominant view in our society and culture today.

But I believe View #1 makes the most sense, biblically and scientifically. And that is what this class is all about.

EVOLUTIONARY AGE OF THE EARTH

Let's talk about View #2. Let's review the evolutionary timeline briefly.

Where did the universe come from? According to space.com. **The Big Bang Theory says the universe started with an infinitely hot and dense single point that inflated and stretched — first at**

unimaginable speeds, and then at a more measurable rate — over the next 13.7 billion years to the still-expanding cosmos that we know today.

Where did the earth come from? According to Los Alamos national laboratory. **Earth formed from debris orbiting around our sun about 4.5 billion years ago.**

Where did life come from? According to Smithsonian. **According to the conventional hypothesis, the earliest living cells emerged as a result of chemical evolution on our planet about 3.7 billion years ago in a process called abiogenesis.** [life from non-life]

Tree of life. And then over the next 3.7 billion years, that simple life evolved into more and more complex life forms. And eventually became you and me. In the top middle there.

According to evolutionary timeline, the early human lineage broke away from chimpanzees about **7 million years ago.**

And then about **250,000 years ago,** the first homo sapiens appeared.

Here is a **summary table.** We have unpacked those topics in previous classes.

Two comments. First, this is the conventional, evolutionary timeline. You hear these dates if you go to museums, turn on nature documentaries, read science textbooks, etc. There will be some variation, but generally, these are the numbers you will see.

Second, in two weeks, we are going to talk about how they arrive at these dates. We are going to get into radiometric dating and carbon 14 dating. Next class, that's where we are going.

But I have a question for you, as we dive in.

What if all of these dates are wrong?

DOCTRINE STATEMENTS

Here are our two foundational doctrine statements.

The Rock Church believes the Bible (the inspired Word of God) is completely true. This means we believe it's accurate as related to earthly events – both in the past and in the future (John 3:12). We believe events described in the Bible happened just as they were written. The miracles described in the Bible are true, historical events that took place as the Scriptures depicted them.

So because we believe the Bible says what it means. Next doctrinal statement, the underlined part.

The Creation of the universe came about just as the Word of God described; it was a six-day Creation event. The true age of the earth (and all of the physical universe) is measured in

thousands (not billions) of years (Genesis 1-11). Mankind began with two individuals who came into being through a special, personal, creative act of God (Genesis 2).

We talked about the six days of creation in class 2.

We talked about two individuals, Adam and Eve, created by God in class 4.

And now for class 5, I want to focus in on the highlighted line.

Why would we say that the true age of the earth is measured in thousands not billions of years?

For the record, that is a wildly controversial sentence. Even among Christians. Definitely among non-Christians.

BIBLICAL AGE OF THE EARTH

Why do we teach this? Turn in your Bible to Genesis 5.

We are skipping forward in the story. God created Adam and Eve in chapter 2. Then the fall and the curse of sin in chapter 3. Then Cain kills Abel in chapter 4.

We may come back to parts of that.

But for now, we are skipping forward to the genealogies in Genesis chapters 5 and 11.

Also, I am going to come back to these incredible lifespans later. For now, just track the total time.

And sometimes, genealogies can be a part of the Bible we skip, but it is critical. And we will see that tonight.

Genesis 5:1 This is the book of the generations of Adam. When God created man, he made him in the likeness of God. 2 Male and female he created them, and he blessed them and named them Man when they were created. 3 When Adam had lived 130 years, he fathered a son in his own likeness, after his image, and named him Seth. 4 The days of Adam after he fathered Seth were 800 years; and he had other sons and daughters. 5 Thus all the days that Adam lived were 930 years, and he died.

Adam was 130 years old when he fathered Seth. I am going to move through these quick because there are a lot of generations.

Verse 6 When Seth had lived 105 years, he fathered Enosh. 7 Seth lived after he fathered Enosh 807 years and had other sons and daughters. 8 Thus all the days of Seth were 912 years, and he died.

Seth fathered Enosh when he was 105. So $130 + 105 = 235$

One comment on the word fathered. The word beget in Hebrew means to be fathered by or descended from. Nothing in these chapters would indicate it means anything other than a literal father-son relationship.

If you want to study this in detail, I can send you articles breaking down the word fathered.

Verse 9 When Enosh had lived 90 years, he fathered Kenan. 10 Enosh lived after he fathered Kenan 815 years and had other sons and daughters. 11 Thus all the days of Enosh were 905 years, and he died.

$$235 + 90 = 325$$

Verse 12 When Kenan had lived 70 years, he fathered Mahalalel. 13 Kenan lived after he fathered Mahalalel 840 years and had other sons and daughters. 14 Thus all the days of Kenan were 910 years, and he died.

$$325 + 70 = 395$$

Verse 15 When Mahalalel had lived 65 years, he fathered Jared. 16 Mahalalel lived after he fathered Jared 830 years and had other sons and daughters. 17 Thus all the days of Mahalalel were 895 years, and he died.

$$395 + 65 = 460$$

Verse 18 When Jared had lived 162 years, he fathered Enoch. 19 Jared lived after he fathered Enoch 800 years and had other sons and daughters. 20 Thus all the days of Jared were 962 years, and he died.

$$460 + 162 = 622$$

Verse 21 When Enoch had lived 65 years, he fathered Methuselah. 22 Enoch walked with God after he fathered Methuselah 300 years and had other sons and daughters. 23 Thus all the days of Enoch were 365 years. 24 Enoch walked with God, and he was not, for God took him.

$$622 + 65 = 687$$

Verse 25 When Methuselah had lived 187 years, he fathered Lamech. 26 Methuselah lived after he fathered Lamech 782 years and had other sons and daughters. 27 Thus all the days of Methuselah were 969 years, and he died.

The longest lifespan in the Bible.

$$687 + 187 = 874$$

Verse 28 When Lamech had lived 182 years, he fathered a son 29 and called his name Noah, saying, “Out of the ground that the Lord has cursed, this one shall bring us relief from our work and from the painful toil of our hands.” 30 Lamech lived after he fathered Noah 595 years and had other sons and daughters. 31 Thus all the days of Lamech were 777 years, and he died.

We arrive at Noah.

$$874 + 182 = 1056.$$

Verse 32 After Noah was 500 years old, Noah fathered Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

$$1056 + 502 = 1558$$

We are going to jump right to Genesis 11. I am making a big point.

Verse Genesis 11:10 These are the generations of Shem. When Shem was 100 years old, he fathered Arpachshad two years after the flood. 11 And Shem lived after he fathered Arpachshad 500 years and had other sons and daughters.

$$1563 + 100 = 1658$$

Verse 12 When Arpachshad had lived 35 years, he fathered Shelah. 13 And Arpachshad lived after he fathered Shelah 403 years and had other sons and daughters.

$$1663 + 35 = 1693$$

Verse 14 When Shelah had lived 30 years, he fathered Eber. 15 And Shelah lived after he fathered Eber 403 years and had other sons and daughters.

$$1698 + 30 = 1723$$

Verse 16 When Eber had lived 34 years, he fathered Peleg. 17 And Eber lived after he fathered Peleg 430 years and had other sons and daughters.

$$1728 + 34 = 1757$$

Verse 18 When Peleg had lived 30 years, he fathered Reu. 19 And Peleg lived after he fathered Reu 209 years and had other sons and daughters.

$$1762 + 30 = 1787$$

Verse 20 When Reu had lived 32 years, he fathered Serug. 21 And Reu lived after he fathered Serug 207 years and had other sons and daughters.

$$1792 + 32 = 1819$$

Verse 22 When Serug had lived 30 years, he fathered Nahor. 23 And Serug lived after he fathered Nahor 200 years and had other sons and daughters.

$$1824 + 30 = 1849$$

Verse 24 When Nahor had lived 29 years, he fathered Terah. 25 And Nahor lived after he fathered Terah 119 years and had other sons and daughters.

$$1854 + 29 = 1878$$

Verse 26 When Terah had lived 70 years, he fathered Abram, Nahor, and Haran.

$$1883 + 70 = 1948.$$

And 1948 years from Adam to Abram (or Abraham).

So about 2000 years.

ABRAHAM

Now when did Abraham live?

Bible scholar timeline ~1909 BC.

Britannica encyclopedia Abraham lived around early 2000 BC.

Masoretic text 2056 BC

Jewish library 1800 BC

So ballpark, Abraham lived around 2,000 BC.

So Creation/Adam to Abraham ~2000 years.

Abraham to Jesus ~ 2000 years.

Jesus to us ~ 2000 years.

So that is ~6,000 years from Adam to Us.

Why did I spend the time adding all of those lifespans? It is important you see where the biblical age of the earth comes from.

If you have ever wondered how did Christians come up with the age of the earth measured in thousands of years, there you go.

You read Genesis 1, six days.

You read Genesis 5 and 11, about 2000 years.

Add 4000 more. And you arrive at about 6,000 years.

HISTORICAL CORROBORATION

Now is this corroborated by archeology?

Don't get stuck on these exact dates. We will get into dating method next class. But I want you just focus on the general range.

When was the first writing?

The earliest known writing was invented around 3400 B.C. in an area called Sumer near the Persian Gulf. Getty.edu

When was the first city?

The so-called Fertile Crescent east of the Mediterranean Sea has often been called "the cradle of civilization" thanks to the emergence of city-states such as Uruk in ancient Mesopotamia, which became increasingly urbanized from around 6000 years ago. newscientist.com

And when was the first civilization?

The earliest civilizations developed between 4000 and 3000 B.C. ...Civilizations first appeared in Mesopotamia and later in Egypt. Civilizations thrived in the Indus Valley by about 2500 B.C.E., in China by about 1500 B.C.E. and in Central America by about 1200 B.C.E. National Geographic.com

Again, don't get stuck on the exact dates. Just look at the general ranges. We are talking about the first writings, cities, and civilizations from the conventional archeological times lines from around 4000 to 6000 years ago.

Which is surprisingly similar to the Bible's timeline. Again, if you see dates bigger than the Bible, we will discuss dating methods next time.

I thought this quote was very interesting. Dr. Jon Taylor was the curator of the Cuneiform Collection at the British Museum. He asked what is the oldest writing we can date without using Carbon 14. For cuneiform, we can securely date using a solar eclipse observed in 763 BC. Before that, we rely on less secure methods such as historical records of various sorts. That gets us back to about 1400 BC.

Interesting quote. He is saying these dates that are presented to resolutely aren't as sure we are led to think.

Again, the Bible gives dates older than some, younger than others. But what struck me is that the Bible historical timeline and the archeological timelines are similar.

HISTORICAL AGE OF EARTH

So again we **totaled the genealogies** from Creation/Adam to Abraham and got around 2,000 years. And then Bible scholars and archaeologists date him to 2,000 BC. So we arrive at this 6,000 years of earth history.

But is this a modern thought that the earth is around 6,000 years old? You know, those crazy young earth creationists pushing this agenda?

No, this has been part of the Christian faith for centuries.

Dr. **Floyd Jones**, Bible scholar looked at 34 different bible chronologists writing from 200 to 1600 AD. Don't get stuck on any particular dates, just look at the range.

All 34 thought the old Testament date age of creation was around 5500-3800 BC. Which would put the earth's age at around 6000 to 7000 years old.

Two charts. Sometimes Christians can get into arguments with each other about these thousands of years. Well I think it is 7,000 years, no 6000 years. Let's not miss the forest for the trees. If this number is 6000 or 7000, we are talking about a number that is over **2 million times smaller** than the conventional age of the universe.

We aren't going to get too worked up about a thousand here or there.

But **something happened** after Helwigius in 1630 AD that started to cause Christians to start adding greater and greater time to the Bible.

In 1804, the gap theory was developed to add more time.

In 1823 the day/age theory was developed to add more time.

In 1924 the framework theory was developed to add more time.

In 1945 the progressive creation theory was developed to add more time.

What happened a couple hundred years ago?

This idea that the earth was millions of years old started to become the leading theory, the fashionable thought of the day and Christians started reinterpreting Genesis to add millions or then billions of years.

You don't have to believe Genesis. But I want you to have a real clear historical perspective that Christians have held a young earth perspective for thousands of years.

Next week, mostly science. But this week, Bible. And this is the Bible case for a relatively young age of the earth.

NEW TESTAMENT

I want to look at the New Testament for a minute. Does the New Testament confirm any of this?

First a verse from Jesus. Jesus talked about Adam and Eve. Answering a question about divorce, Jesus said this. Notice, he speaks about Adam and Eve like it is a real story and builds doctrine on it.

Matthew 19:4 He answered, “Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female.

From the beginning he made adam and eve. Look at this chart.

So Jesus said from the beginning he made them male and female. So in the creationist view. On day 6, God made Adam and eve. Then 4000 years pass. Then Jesus says this from the beginning. So Adam and Eve were essentially there at the very beginning of creation.

But in the evolutionary view, the first human beings appeared on the scene 250,000 years ago, after 13.7 billion years of universe history. So that is after 99.998% of history has passed, before the first people appear on the scene.

According to the evolutionary view, the secular time, Jesus is wrong. People were not there from the beginning.

So from the creationist view, Jesus is teaching people were there from the beginning.

This is a significant chart.

Even look at Jesus' genealogy. In Luke 3. This shows the significance of these genealogies, that we again tend to skip over. Luke is establishing Jesus is descended from Adam through Mary's line.

Luke 3:23 Jesus, when he began his ministry, was about thirty years of age, being the son (as was supposed) of Joseph, the son of Heli, 24 the son of Matthat, the son of Levi, the son of Melchi, the son of Jannai, the son of Joseph, 25 the son of Mattathias, the son of Amos, the son of Nahum, the son of Esli, the son of Naggai, 26 the son of Maath, the son of Mattathias, the son of Semein, the son of Josech, the son of Joda, 27 the son of Joanan, the son of Rhesa, the son of Zerubbabel, the son of Shealtiel, the son of Neri, 28 the son of Melchi, the son of Addi, the son of Cosam, the son of Elmadam, the son of Er, 29 the son of Joshua, the son of Eliezer, the son of Jorim, the son of Matthat, the son of Levi, 30 the son of Simeon, the son of Judah, the son of Joseph, the son of Jonam, the son of Eliakim, 31 the son of Melea, the son of Menna, the son of Mattatha, the son of Nathan, the son of David, 32 the son of Jesse, the son of Obed, the son of Boaz, the son of Sala, the son of Nahshon, 33 the son of Amminadab, the son of Admin, the son of Arni, the son of Hezron, the son of Perez, the son of Judah, 34 the son of Jacob, the son of Isaac, the son of Abraham, the son of Terah, the son of Nahor, 35 the son of Serug, the son of Reu, the son of Peleg, the son of Eber, the son of Shelah, 36 the son of Cainan, the son of Arphaxad, the son of Shem, the son of Noah, the son of Lamech, 37 the son of Methuselah, the son of Enoch, the son of Jared, the son of Mahalaleel, the son of Cainan, 38 the son of Enos, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God.

Even if there are missing generations in this, if you double or triple it, you aren't arriving at millions or even 250 thousands years of human history. It just doesn't work

Speaking of NOT skipping generation. There is an interesting verse in **Jude 1:14 It was also about these that Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied, saying, ...**

Based on Genesis 5 and Luke 3, Jude 1 is confirming Enoch is the 7th generation from Adam. So there is no generation skipping there.

I came across an interesting quote by James Barr, a professor of Hebrew at Oxford University. Wrote this. For the record, Barr didn't believe in Genesis.

James Barr, **So far as I know, there is no professor of Hebrew or Old Testament at any world-class university who does not believe that the writer(s) of Genesis 1–11 intended to convey to their readers the ideas that: ... the figures contained in the Genesis genealogies provided by simple addition a chronology from the beginning of the world up to later stages in the biblical story.'**

Barr did NOT believe Genesis, but he knew what it clearly taught.

It is only a perceived need to match the Bible to an evolutionary timeline that leads to people add millions or billions of years to the book.

The Genesis text itself is very clear. The Bible teaches the earth is young.

LONG LIFESPANS BEFORE FLOOD

Now I want to talk about two science topics in these genealogies.

First, the great lifespans recorded BEFORE the flood and then second the dramatic drop in lifespans AFTER the flood. Some interesting science we will discuss briefly.

Look at the lifespans before the flood.

Adam - 930

Seth - 912

Enos - 905

Cainan - 910

Mahalaleel - 895

Jared - 962

Enoch - 365*

Methuselah - 969

Lamech - 777

Noah – 950

Enoch gets the asterisk because God took him early. So ignoring him.

Average lifespan: 912 years! Which is wild!

How is that possible?

This is not a teaching on aging. But

What causes aging and ultimately death?

Did you know that every cell in your body replaces every 7-10 years on average?

Your skin cells are replaced every few weeks. And your skeletal muscle cells are thought to be replaced every 15 years. So I look 46 years old. But I am actually 7 to 10 years old on average.
☺

So why do we age and die?

-Possible causes of aging and death: disease, diet, wear and tear, other environmental factors.

-But it appears there is an upper limit written into our genetic code.

-It is known that ordinary human cells divided about 80-90 times. (This is thought to be related to the telomere on the end of our chromosomes.)

This is science theory stuff. But our cells divide and regenerate. And it appears there is an upper limit on how many times our cells can divide.

So simply before the flood, God let the upper limit genetically speaking go longer? He slowed down the impact of this.

And after the flood he changed it.

DECREASING LIFESPANS AFTER FLOOD

Why do I say that? Look at the sharp drop in lifespans after the flood.

Noah 950
Shem 600
Arphaxad 438
Salah 433
Eber 464
Peleg 239
Reu 239
Serug 230
Nahor 148
Terah 205
Abraham 175

Isaac 180
Jacob 147
Joseph 110

What is happening here? I found this fascinating when I first studied this.

First let me teach you a little math.

So when I was an engineer. I would collect all kinds of data from different projects and then use a computer to add **trendlines to the data**. So the top is a perfect fit. This doesn't happen in real life. The points are the data. The trendline is the straight line. You see the R² value is 1. That means the computer trendline perfectly matches the data collected in the field. If you saw this, you would be suspicious that someone created the data.

The second graph is an average fit. Again you collect the data and plot it. Then the computer adds a trendline. Notice how the R² value drops to 0.8. The data is still a decent fit. But notice, it doesn't always match.

My boss would say to me, when I collected data and analyzed it, what is the R² value? Meaning, how well does the data match the trendline. The reason this matters, is because once you create a reasonable trendline, you can project future conditions on an engineering project.

So here are the **biblical lifespans after the flood**. I made this graph and added the trendline for your enjoyment. Notice the R² value. 0.92. This is an exponential decay function with an incredible fit to the lifespans.

In order for this to "just happen", that would mean over centuries people would be using math function that hadn't been invented yet to write about something that was at the time unknown. A biological decay function.

Other **Christians good at math** have noticed this biological decay function. A few different sources.

See they are getting R² values of 0.94 or 0.95. They added later generations that I didn't use. The chances of this just happening mathematically, are one in a thousand. This passes every test for statistical significance.

There is something happening here that is very significant genetically. It is genetic decay or genetic entropy. Our genes are getting worse. We pass our genes onto our kids. So we are talking about copies of copies of copies.

VIDEO

So I want to play a video. 6 minutes.

So this is Dr John Sanford. He was a professor for 25 years. Wrote 80 scientific papers. Granted 30 patents. Developed the gene gun process, pathogen-derived resistance, and genetic immunization.

He is a brilliant Christian talking about the decay rate of these lifespans. He is calling it genetic entropy. That is the breakdown of the human genetic code generation by generation. You and I are a copy of copy of a copy of a copy. So to speak.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K8KbM-xkfVk&ab_channel=100huntley

from 1:30-8:03

Thanks Dad. Thanks Mom. Sorry kids.

Dr. John Sanford also said this.

The mathematical nature of the declining lifespans arose because the biblical accounts are true, and are actually faithfully recording the historical unfolding of some fundamental natural degenerative process... the shape of the downward slope should be immediately recognized by any biologist. it is a biological decay curve. Noah's descendants were undergoing some type of rapid degenerative process... there is now very strong evidence that humans are degenerating genetically, and have been for thousands of years, due to continuously accumulating mutations. this makes it very reasonable to conclude that the systematic degeneration of man that is documented in the bible was due to mutation accumulation and resultant genetic entropy.

Moses was recording lifespans that match an exponential decay curve and didn't even realize it.

Consider this, ancient people did not have the mathematical tools we have today. Nobody had ever made excel graph and added a trendline.

They did not have the tools required to fit exponential decay curves to consecutive data points and, since their contemporaries would not have rejected the thought of long lifespans, little reason even to try.

HOW LONG DO PEOPLE LIVE

What do our lifespans converge to? Do you know what the average life span is on the planet right now?

According to the world bank, it's 72 years. And in the US, it's 5 years higher 77.

And this is kind of interesting. This is life expectancy over over the last few centuries. A couple hundred years ago, people were living 30-40 years long span, but life expectancy has been steadily rising to 70s. Better nutrition and modern medicine.

But we might be hitting a genetic upper limit, 70 to 80 years. Because here is an interesting, related verse. Speaking of our mortality.

Psalm 90:10 The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty; yet their span is but toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away. 12 So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.

Lifespans in the US have dropped in recent years due to covid, etc.

CONCLUSION

As we bring this to a close, look at [this chart](#).

A straightforward reading of the biblical genealogies shows that the earth and Adam were created about 6000 years ago.

Christians who wish to add millions and billions of years to the Bible to fit their geological or archaeological theories have no grounds to do this based on the biblical record. They should rather look to their theories to see where the discrepancies lie.

That is where we are going in two weeks, radiometric and carbon 14 dating.

We will discuss till 800. Thank you!

Discussion Questions: