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# Creation Answers

Creation Education Materials, P.O. Box 1818, Arlington, TX 76004

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## Who does this newsletter?

This newsletter is produced by Wayne Spencer of Creation Education Materials on a Quarterly basis. Its purpose is to bring creation research within the reach of Christians and provide up-to-date reliable information on creation issues. Wayne Spencer is a creation author and former teacher who has presented papers at the International Conference on Creationism and contributed to radio programs for the Institute for Creation Research.

This newsletter is meant to help people plug into creation resources and get informed about creation and evolution. It is provided free of charge on request. Using the free Adobe Acrobat Reader is the best way to view the newsletter. There are no restrictions in copying this newsletter or passing it on to others. To request to be placed on the e-mail list, send a request to Wayne at [wayne@creationanswers.net](mailto:wayne@creationanswers.net).

More information on Wayne Spencer's education and publications can be found on the [creationanswers.net](http://creationanswers.net) web site. You'll also find many other resources.

<http://creationanswers.net>

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## A Personal Note from Wayne Spencer

As of this writing, I am still unemployed and continue to look for work in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. In the past month I have had three interviews and there is another promising prospect as I write this newsletter. Note that I have a new e-mail address, [wayne@creationanswers.net](mailto:wayne@creationanswers.net). The comcast.net and attbi.com addresses will stop working sometime in October.

When I'm not job hunting or preparing to move, I continue to work on writing projects for the Biblical Creation Society in England and for Answers in Genesis. I have also been in contact with three different creation ministries regarding my new *Our Genesis* book. They are considering reselling my books in their area. If you don't know about my *Our Genesis* book, go to my web site and click on the Price List link, or go to the download page and right click on the file "OurGenesis.exe" and save it to your computer. This is a presentation you can show on any windows pc that explains what is unique about this new book.

If you have never come to the meeting of the DFW Creation Study Group, you might consider coming October 25th. We meet at the Hurst Public Library, Hurst, TX, from 2:00 to 4:30pm. You can go to my web site to the link on Meetings and Events to find out when the next study group meeting will be. There is an e-mail notice sent out for the creation study group meeting. If you are in the Dallas area and you would like to receive this notice, send me an e-mail letting me know.

Wayne Spencer, M.S., Physics

## ***A Biblical Approach to Astronomy, Part 3***

### **The Big Bang Versus the Bible**

The idea that the universe expanded from a single point billions of years ago is now a deeply entrenched concept in astronomy. Though the term “the Big Bang” was originally a derogatory term for the concept, the name stuck.

In the Big Bang, the universe begins with what is called a singularity. It is believed that the fundamental forces switched on and fundamental particles formed in the initial moments. A very hot ball of energy and particles expanded outward from a point. This is sometimes described as an explosion, but technically the Big Bang is not an explosion. It is not that the matter exploded outward, rather the concept is that space itself expands outward, carrying the matter and energy with it.

Though Big Bang theory does not include God creating, there have been many scientists who have tried to harmonize Big Bang theories with the Bible. To harmonize Big Bang theories with the Bible, it is the Bible that is reinterpreted to make it not contradict accepted ideas on the origin of the universe. In Part 2 of this series we looked at some problems with intelligent design arguments that are built on the assumption of the Big Bang.

Though the Bible is not clear about many scientific details, it is clear that the creation account does not agree with the Big Bang. First of all, the Big Bang would have other stars forming before our Sun and so there would be stars before Earth. But the Bible indicates Earth was created even before our Sun or the stars. This implies there was some other point light source (likely supernatural) that made the day/night

cycle possible for Earth on the first three days. Also, the Sun and stars were created on the same day in the creation week (Genesis 1:14-19).

In Big Bang theory, everything forms by natural processes via known physical forces and effects. Supernatural creation is not involved, though some have essentially tried to add some supernatural to the theory to try and harmonize with the Bible. How does the Bible say creation took place? By what process did it happen, according to Scripture? Psalm 33 answers this clearly:

By the word of the LORD were  
the heavens made, their starry  
host by the breath of his mouth. . . .  
Let all the earth fear the LORD;  
let all the people of the world  
revere him.  
For he spoke, and it came to be;  
he commanded, and it stood firm.  
Psalm 33:6, 8-9 NIV

The God of the Bible does not need natural processes to create, though he can use natural processes for his purposes. Psalm 33 and many other statements in the Bible imply that things came into existence by command and on command. What God created was brought into existence immediately. Genesis 1:3 and indeed even the whole creation account makes this point.

God said, “Let there be light,” and  
there was light. (Gen. 1:3 NIV)

You might say God created by “God’s will” and not necessarily by “command” in some cases. But there was no long period of time involved. There is no plausible place in the Bible to put long periods of millions or billions of years, either for the universe or the Earth. This does raise many scientific questions about astronomical processes. There could have been some natural processes involved that accompanied the miraculous processes of creation. But we must deal honestly with

what Scripture tells us and interpret it properly in context. Then we should work within the framework implied by Scripture to deal with the scientific questions as best we can. If some questions do not have complete scientific answers, that should not be threatening to us because we know God acted supernaturally. However, on issues in which Scripture is not clear, potential scientific answers should be fully explored before we assume miraculous intervention. Our study of the universe should motivate us to want to know and worship God more and give us greater confidence in His word. It can also help us to communicate our faith to others.

There are a number of individuals who are astronomers or physicists who have suggested that the Bible agrees with the Big Bang. Though not always the case, there is a tendency for people with a scientific background hold to a view of Genesis 1 that is called the Day-Age Theory. On the other hand, individuals with theological or seminary training tend to hold to another view of Genesis 1 called the Gap Theory, which puts a long period of time between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2.

The Day-Age Theory holds that the days described in the Creation account of Genesis 1 are each long periods of time. People of the Day-Age view usually also hold that the seventh day of the Creation week is a “continuing day” of several thousand years in length. Thus by this idea we are still in the seventh day even now. The Creation days by this view are considered to be overlapping periods of time. The overlap is necessary in this view to attempt to deal with how the order of events in Genesis 1 contradicts the order of events from the Big Bang and evolution. One well known proponent of the Day-Age Theory today is Hugh Ross, a Christian astronomer with a ministry called Reasons to Believe.

There are a number problems with both the Day-Age Theory and the Gap Theory, as interpretations of Genesis. Even if Genesis chapter 1 is not clear enough,

Exodus 20:11 is unmistakably clear, saying essentially that everything was created in six days. There are several indications in Genesis 1 that the Creation days are literal days. The reference to “and there was evening and morning” and to a numerical adjective with the word “day” clearly point to the days being literal. Also, if the days were long periods of time, how would plants survive from day three to day four, when the Sun is first mentioned? If we can take the term for “day” in Genesis 1 as a long period of time, then it would be possible to take the New Testament the same way and argue that Jesus Christ had not yet risen from the dead since the “three days” he was in the tomb would not yet be completed. This is absurd.

#### What should Christians think?

When Genesis is not interpreted properly, that can open the door to rejecting other important things in the Bible. Many say that you can be a Christian and believe the Big Bang, or believe in evolution. Henry Morris once made a striking comment about this in a book that is now out of print: *“Christians can be inconsistent and illogical about many things, but that doesn’t make them right.”* (From the book *King of Creation*, 1980, p 84.)

John Polkinghorne is a British theoretical physicist formerly at the Queens College at Cambridge and is also an ordained minister in the Church of England. He is also a member of the Royal Society of London, a very elite association of scientists hundreds of years old. Polkinghorne is well-known for his writings on the relationship between science and religion. Polkinghorne says there is no conflict between Christianity and the Big Bang. He wrote:

As far as Christianity is concerned two things need to be said. The first is that the Christian is not committed to believe in the literal truth of every miraculous event recorded in the Bible. An understanding of the

role of myth and legend enables us to accept some stories as just that, pictorially valuable but not historically accurate.

I have to disagree with Polkinghorne. If we cannot trust all of the Bible, including the miracles, how can we really trust any of it and base our lives on it? It is not "putting God in a box," as some suggest, to believe in six literal days and a young universe. It is taking God at his word, and that is the calling of every Christian. But there are limits to what science can tell us. Where science ends, or where science is not perfect, we must put our trust in the word of the God who was there in the beginning and who has spoken to us in the Bible. Reinterpreting the scientific data from a creation point of view requires some very creative thinking. The solutions to the scientific issues may be surprising even to creationists. But compromising on our approach to Scripture is not an option.

### **Hezekiah's Tunnel Dated by Carbon-14**

There has been a controversy over a particular tunnel in Jerusalem from the time of Hezekiah in ancient Israel. II Chronicles 32:1-31 and II Kings 20:20 tell the story of why the tunnel was constructed. Scientists have sometimes disputed the Biblical account saying that the tunnel could not have been the right age to date from the time of King Hezekiah. However, recently plant material that was embedded in the tunnel was dated by radioactive Carbon-14 dating. There were also stalagmites in the tunnel that were dated. It dated to be 2,700 years old (around 700 B.C. approximately). This does fit the Biblical record. Hezekiah was the King of Judah at the time of Isaiah the prophet. When Jerusalem was about to be attacked by the Assyrians, Hezekiah had a tunnel built to be an aqueduct to connect a particular water pool in the city to a spring outside the

walls. This helped the people in Jerusalem during the siege.

This is interesting for the following reasons. First, the tunnel was a major achievement for the people of Hezekiah's day. The tunnel is still in use today, making it one of the most ancient structures that have continued to work up to the present. Second, it is apparently a bit unusual to have opportunity to use Carbon dating to date a man made structure. This particular tunnel did not have other markings or archeological clues that could be used to date it. Third, the stalagmites show that long periods of time (like hundreds of thousands or millions of years) are not required to form stalagmites. Also, some might rightly wonder about whether the C-14 dates should be trusted for something like this. I would say the C-14 date for something like is probably very valid, though I would not say that for all C-14 dates. Because of the pervasive changes that Noah's Flood caused in the Earth, Carbon dates that are near the time of the Flood or older are probably suspect (meaning about 4,000 years and older). So, as radioactive Carbon-14 dates get older they are more likely to be flawed.

It is good to see scientific evidence confirm what the Bible describes, though we don't really have to have this kind of confirmation. It should give us confidence in the objective truth of God's word. It is also interesting that this was reported from National Geographic News, who is not quick to support the Bible.

### **Ken Ham comes to Fort Worth**

Ken Ham, from Answers in Genesis, along with actors Kirk Cameron and Ray Comfort are speaking Saturday evening Oct. 4, 2003, beginning at 6:00 pm. Call (972) 410-0694 for details or go to <http://www.southcliff.com>.