

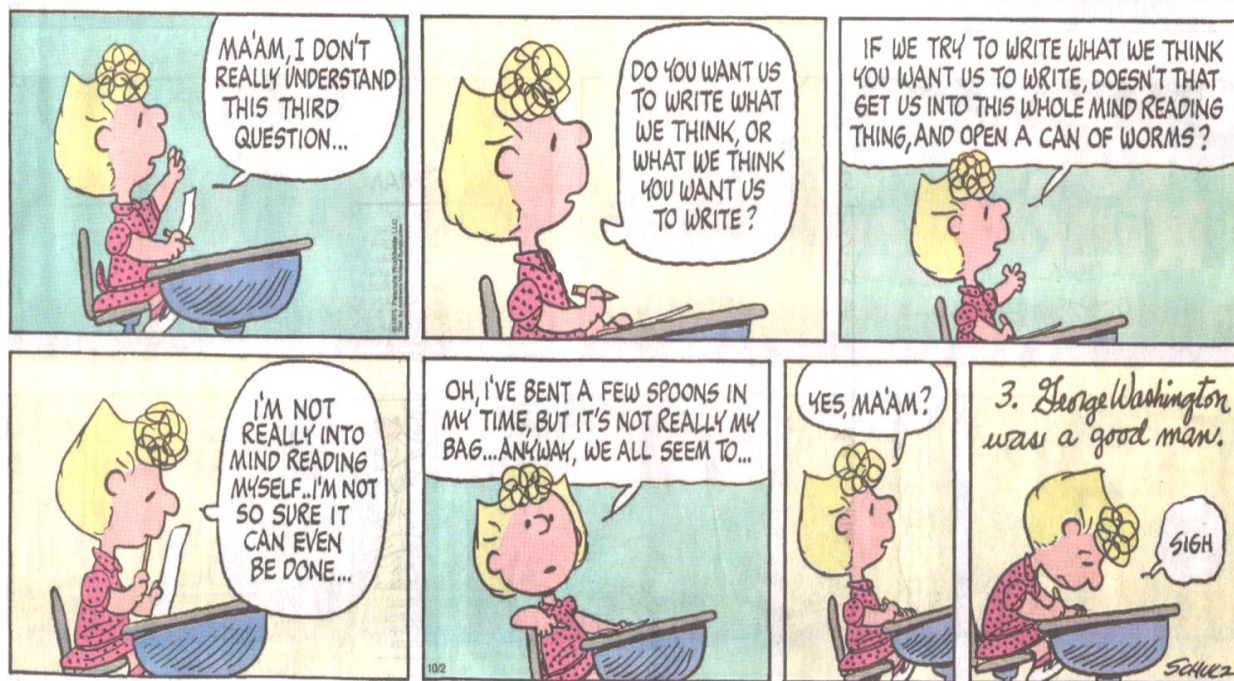
Christian Students - Evolution and Age of the Earth

WHY SOME STUDENTS LEAVE CHRISTIAN HOMES AND TURN FROM GOD

These type experiences are not that all unusual. In its basic form, children place trust in authority figures. For a Christian based home, the authority figure is usually the parents or a close caregiving relative. However, as the child age increases other authority figures enter their thought processes. While learning to think on their own is part of the maturation process, the clash often occurs between their parent's beliefs and differing outside influences. This clash of beliefs is well summarized in this Peanuts cartoon.

CLASSIC PEANUTS

BY CHARLES SCHULZ



Obviously, the above cartoon is about political thought, and this has its place. It also illustrates that beliefs that were once reserved for college, high school have penetrated much deeper into elementary school or even kindergarten. The overriding principles for Christians are to Love God with all your heart and love your neighbor as yourself—if you do this all the other commandments will automatically fall into place because of the love and simplicity of these two commandments.

But this writing is not so much about social or political clashes; it is more about the perceived clash between “science” and “church doctrine.” More specifically, it is about evolution and the age of the earth/universe as taught in secular schools and also in some seminaries. However, true science searches for the truth and true scriptural interpretation should converge. Unfortunately, both church doctrine and science both have a somewhat checkered history. For example, the world is flat or use of leaches to remove blood is healthy.

But how does a student know that science and scripture are converging to truth? There are many examples in the Bible—here is just one. How could Job have described so perfectly **in very ancient times** the same view when modern day astronauts were amazed--to behold day and night compassing a spherical earth as they ascended away from the earth.

Job 26:7 He stretcheth out the north over the empty place, **and hangeth the earth upon nothing**. **8**He bindeth up the waters in **His** thick clouds; and the cloud is not *torn* {rent} under them. **9**He holdeth back the face of **His** throne, *and* spreadeth **His** cloud upon it. **10**He hath **compassed** the waters with *a boundary* {bounds}, until the day and night come to an end.

Both the **general science and prevailing church thought at that time** had to change their positions from flat earth to the compass of light and dark **compassing** a spherical earth. There are many other examples of science “discovering” truth in the scriptures as outlined in the book, [The Door Knob](#) but we will not dwell on those here. Instead, we will concentrate on two subjects: **Evolution** and the Age of the earth/universe. We will first look at evolution.

Here is an example. Suppose that we consider the sequential development of a rolling stone, a wheel, a cart, an automobile, a plane and a spaceship—and we say that the stone morphed into a wheel into a cart into an automobile into a plane into a spaceship without intelligent design. Actually, scientists are beginning to abandon the old school classic Darwin concept of evolution in favor of intelligent design. Set in their ways some professors have made Herculeaneum efforts to find the amoeba morphing through many steps into a human--only to begin to recognize the complexity of even an amoeba requires intelligent design. Of course, “Intelligent Design” is a comfortable way of scientists recognizing that it is necessary without being accused of affirming the presence of God. Don’t dare to say the word “God” because it just might be linked to the Bible—you might lose your ability to receive government grants or publish in prestigious journals.

Sure there is evolution within a species which the teachers and professors happily cite example after example. However all the species are similar because they all have that spark of life, but finding the sequential “links” from the amoeba to the human has eluded them. Unfortunately, it will take a while for this old school thought to be purged from curricula and textbooks. In the meantime, it is being taught in schools and is causing young Christians to turn aside from their belief in an intelligent creator—God. The old school evolutionists are slowly but steadily losing momentum. Dare a student actually ask an entrenched professor about the competing premises of intelligent design?

Yes, there is a place for mini-evolution within a species depending on environment and other factors. There are black bears, brown bears, grizzled bears and white bears—but it is within the same species. There are hybrids such as a mule from a donkey and horse—but mules don’t reproduce. Robins and cardinals both have red colors but even within the bird species you don’t find a “Robinal”. It took until the mid-twentieth century for scientists to understand the DNA coding and have now even implanted human genes within mice to test the efficacy of new drugs. But didn’t that require “intelligent design” on their part—or did it just happen without skill over time in an unattended lab?

So what does our Peanuts student put down on her test? Is it what she thinks the teacher wants or what she believes? Each situation is unique; and the student (and parents) should ask for wisdom to resolve it.

Now on to the age of the earth and universe. This one is a bit more difficult to resolve because of so many conflicting ideas and positions—namely is the earth about 6000 years old or billions of years old? A student taking most geology courses will be told that the universe is in the four to five billion years old range. However, in prevailing church doctrine we are told the earth is much younger. How does one sort this one out and what does our Peanuts student put down on her geology test? Is it possible that prevailing church doctrine has misinterpreted the scriptures or has science extrapolated present time concepts into billions of years back when scientists were not there to observe it?

Here is an idea—lets start from the premise the scriptures are correct and see where we wind-up. Maybe we will not arrive at a solution that pleases everyone, but possibly a solution that makes sense between science and the scriptures. We will start at the beginning scripture of the Bible.

[GENESIS 1:1] Genesis 1:1 In the beginning **God** created the heaven and the earth.

Now, we are going to do what Einstein would call **a thought experiment**. Suppose that all the scriptures between Genesis 1:1 and the following verse were **completely removed** from our mind. All we had to go on would be the following scriptures which in our thought experiment would be sequentially numbered from Genesis 1:1—forget about the in between scriptures--until you arrive at these in Genesis 8 and Genesis 9.

[GENESIS 1:2] Genesis 8:22 While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.

[GENESIS 1:3] Genesis 9:1 And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, **Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth.**

[GENESIS 1:4] Genesis 9:1 And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth, and upon every fowl of the air, upon all that moveth *upon* the earth, and upon all the fishes of the sea; into your hand are they delivered.

If the above were all we would know from our “thought experiment” we would naturally assume that “something” had happened to the previous plenishing of the earth; and it needed to be replenished. But back to the present, we know that the population of the earth was severely diminished by the Noah era flood and truly the earth needed to be replenished with people. Given that, we will return to Genesis chapter one and see if the same pattern applies.

Genesis 1:1In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. **2**And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness *was* upon the face of the deep. **And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.** **3**And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. **4**And God saw the light, that *it was* good: and God divided the light from the darkness. **5**And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.

.... Genesis 1:27 So God created man in his *own* image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. **28**And God blessed them, and God said unto them, **Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth**, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

Here again we see the same pattern: **Be fruitful, and multiply and replenish the earth.** Problem solved—while we don't know what happened between Genesis 1:1 and the flood of Genesis 1:2, we do know and can infer that the earth needed to be replenished/ repopulated. Unfortunately, Genesis does not elaborate on what happened during the elapsed time –could be hundreds, thousands, millions or even billions of years. What caused the flood of Genesis 1:2 and where did the void and darkness come from?

But, we may have celebrated prematurely. There is a problem, a serious one, and let's revisit Genesis chapter one to address it.

The Beginning

1In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. **2**And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness *was* upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

The First Day: Light

3And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. **4**And God saw the light, that *it was* good: and God divided the light from the darkness. **5**And **God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.**

The Second Day: Firmament

6And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters. **7**And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which *were* under the firmament from the waters which *were* above the firmament: and it was so. **8**And God called the firmament Heaven. And the evening and the morning were the second day.

The Third Day: Dry Ground

9And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry *land* appear: and it was so. **10**And God called the dry *land* Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called the Seas: and God saw that *it was* good. **11**And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, *and* the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed *is* in itself, upon the earth: and it was so. **12**And the earth brought forth grass, *and* herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed *was* in itself, after his kind: and God saw that *it was* good. **13**And the evening and the morning were the third day.

The Fourth Day: Sun, Moon, Stars

14And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years: **15**And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so. **16**And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: *he made* the stars also. **17**And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth, **18**And to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness: and God saw that *it was* good. **19**And the evening and the morning were the fourth day

Well, what is this serious problem? Here we have light and darkness on the first day and this happens before the Sun, Moon and Stars are created on the fourth day. Seems a little out of sequence. Otherwise, the sequence of events seems pretty much like the Noah era account, waters covering the earth, dry land appearing, and grass, herbs and fruit appearing.

So, we have a head scratcher and we will come at the problem from a different angle. Previous to space exploration we knew very little about the planet Venus. However, further exploration and even penetration into the Venus atmosphere. This revealed a very thick atmosphere of carbon dioxide and sulfurous gases with a pressure at ground level of approximately ninety times the atmospheric pressure of earth—almost no light from the sun is able to penetrate it—very dark indeed. See NASA image of Venus below.



There have been incidents in the earth's history where volcanic dust and smoke resulted in a serious change in the seasons. The year 1816 was called **the year without a summer** primarily due to an Indonesian volcano eruption. The expected summer season was absent with some areas receiving 8 inches of snow in June and frost in August. In some places it was almost permanently overcast with very little sunlight getting through. Could a similar set of events similar to volcanic eruption and flood water like the Noah era cause the earth to essentially be without form and void? However, we are still faced with the same problem – how could you have day and night before the sun, moon and stars were created? Let's look closely at day four of Genesis.

The Fourth Day: Sun, Moon, Stars

14And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, **and for seasons**, and for days, and years: **15**And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so. **16**And **God made [vai-ya'-as] two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also.** **17**And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth, **18**And to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness: and God saw that *it was good*. **19**And the evening and the morning were the fourth day.

Popular assumption has been that the scriptures say that God **created** the sun, moon and stars on the fourth day. However, do the scriptures **really** say that? Suppose **made the sun, moon and stars to rule** really means the darkness was cleared. And once again the already existing sun, moon and stars could rule the seasons of spring, summer, fall and winter. Our readers are asked to judge whether this is a reasonable explanation both from the standpoint of science and scripture. Note that the Hebrew word pronunciation [**bara**] is used for “create” in Genesis 1:1 whereas the Hebrew word pronunciation [**vai-ya'-as**] is used for “made” in Genesis 1:16.

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created [**bara**] the heaven and the earth. **2**And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness *was* upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

Well, so far so good, but admittedly, we have only partially proven our case. Do scriptures exist that the verses from darkness of Genesis 1:2 and forward are God's rehabilitation of the void earth? Fortunately, yes there are. As many have overlooked the question of plenishing and the need for replenishing, they have overlooked these scriptures which have a direct bearing on the events of formlessness, darkness and void? We will first look at the Hebrew pronounced words for Genesis 1:2 and see if the Bible gives relevant scriptures elsewhere.

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

² And the earth was **without form** [*tohu*], and **void** [*bohu*]; and **darkness was upon the face of the deep**. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

Our first scripture is in Isaiah where the LORD tells us that he created in not in vain [*tohu*] and the earth was formed to be inhabited (plenished).

Isaiah 45:18 For thus saith the LORD that created the heavens; **God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain** [*tohu*], he formed it to be inhabited: I am the LORD; and there is none else.

Since God did not create the heaven and earth in vain [*tohu*], an intervening period must have existed between Genesis verse 1 and verse 2. How long was that period, the scriptures do not say—could have thousands, millions or even billions of years—or time before time? But fortunately, a set of scriptures in Jeremiah tells us what really happened.

Jeremiah 4:23 I beheld the earth, and, lo, **it was without form** [*tohu*], and **void** [*bohu*]; and **the heavens, and they had no light**.

²⁴ **I beheld the mountains, and, lo, they trembled**, and all the hills moved lightly.

²⁵ I beheld, and, lo, **there was no man**, and all the birds of the heavens were fled.

²⁶ I beheld, and, lo, **the fruitful place was a wilderness**, and all **the cities thereof were broken down** at the presence of the LORD, and by **his fierce anger**.

²⁷ For thus hath the LORD said, The whole **land shall be desolate**; yet will I not make a full end.

²⁸ For this shall the earth mourn, and the **heavens above be black**; because I have spoken it, I have purposed it, and will not repent, neither will I turn back from it.

The Jeremiah verses are a perfect description of Genesis 1:2. Some terrible event changed the terrain of the earth—**whole cities were wiped out** and ruined and the **fruitful place** was turned into a wilderness. You mean there were inhabited cities before this desolation? One of the princes died, little fallen elohims were told they would die like the men of that period. Genesis 1:3 was the beginning of God's restorative process from the ruin and destruction. No wonder that he gave mankind the mission of replenishing the earth.

Psalms 82:5 not, neither will they understand; **they walk on in darkness: all the foundations of the earth are out of course**.

⁶ I have said, Ye are gods [*elohims*]; and all of you are **children of the most High** [*El Elyon*].

⁷ **But ye shall die like men, and fall like one of the princes**.

Who was this prince that fell—Satan has been described as the prince of this world and isn't it true that this deceiver was already present in the Eden Garden?

Students need not be disturbed when scientists speculate about the age of the earth—if they have mastered the pertinent verses in the Bible. Scientists say the universe beginning (the big bang) came from a common point and the Genesis 1:1 scripture also say there was a beginning.

In summary the classic Darwin evolution theory is slowly, but steadily being replaced by intelligent design and both scientists and churches will keep searching for the truths of the beginning. Actually, science has a bit of catching up to what has already been written in the ancient scriptures.

However, for those who are intrigued about what may have happened before the flood of Genesis 1:2, the book entitled [*Replenish, Replenish and Plenish*](#) is available. This book includes what is already written here, but also explores many other sources that may shed light on this ancient period.

Another book which will be helpful to students and parents preparing their children for what they will encounter in the academic world is entitled [*The Door Knob*](#). This book gives many examples where already written scripture has been awaiting scientists to “discover” ancient truths. More information on similar writings can be found on the website: www.DaySpringonHigh.com.

Many parents have experienced heartache when their children enter the academic world only to be turned away from God by secular teachers. However, it is important not to stifle enquiring and questioning minds. It is more important to be able to provide satisfactory answers for the questions. The goal of this writing is to help to converge science and scriptural interpretation to truth. Hopefully, students will be prepared to question the old classical Darwinian concepts and also be prepared for their encounters in geology classes without losing their faith in God.

“the truth will set you free”