

A Selected Bibliography on Genesis, Creation, and Evolution

The following are books that the elders at Grace Bible Church have read recently in preparation for this series. We recommend them to you for further reading:

Coming to Grips with Genesis: Biblical Authority and The Age of The Earth edited by Terry Mortenson and Thane H. Ury. This work is a very helpful collection of essays on Genesis. The table of contents is telling - here are the chapter titles: 1) The Church Fathers on Genesis, the Flood, and the Age of the Earth. 2) A Brief Overview of the Exegesis of Genesis 1-11: Luther to Lyell. 3) "Deep Time" and the Church's Compromise: Historical Background. 4) Is Nature the 67th Book of the Bible? 5) Contemporary Hermeneutical Approaches to Genesis 1-11. 6) The Genre of Genesis 1:1-2:3: What Means This Text? 7) Can Deep Time Be Embedded in Genesis? 8) A Critique of the Framework Interpretation of the Creation Week. 9) Noah's Flood and Its Geological Implications. 10) Do the Genesis 5 and 11 Genealogies Contain Gaps? 12) Apostolic Witness to Genesis Creation and the Flood. 13) Whence Cometh Death? A Biblical Theology of Physical Death and Natural Evil. 14) Luther, Calvin, and Wesley on the Genesis of Natural Evil: Recovering Lost Rubrics for Defending a *Very Good* Creation. This is a very helpful work, and it answers many of the questions that critics of a literal interpretation of Genesis put forth. This is a moderate read - some of it is technical. One great feature of this book is that each chapter is accessible on its own. It need not be read sequentially to be profitable. You can read whatever portions are of interest to you. 468 pages.

The Battle for the Beginning by John MacArthur. MacArthur walks through the first three chapters of Genesis, allowing the text to speak for itself. He interlaces his explanation of the Biblical text with helpful analysis of scientific presuppositions, with scientific and biblical critiques of evolutionary theory, and with illustrations from creation itself of the greatness of God's handiwork. This is an easy to moderate read. 221 pages.

The Genesis Record by Henry Morris. Written by the president of the Institute for Creation Research, this commentary on Genesis is written from the perspective of a scientist who believes the first eleven chapters of Genesis to be an accurate record of history. This narrative commentary was originally published in 1976; and while other creation scientists have put forth different scientific models for some of the mechanisms for the events in Genesis, this classic work is still a very valuable resource for studying the text of Genesis while giving careful consideration to the kinds of scientific ramifications of taking the text of Genesis at face value. Approaching 700 pages, this book is thick. It is not, however, overly technical. a moderate read.

Darwin's Black Box: The Biochemical Challenge to Evolution by Michael Behe, 352 pages, an easy to moderate read. One of the most influential books of the intelligent design movement. The author, a biochemist, shows how biochemistry reveals incredible levels of complexity in the micromachinery of cells and biological systems. Darwinism claims that complexity arises gradually from less complex, by numerous, successive, slight modifications. However,

when we look at the way biological systems actually function, we see that the lack of any one part renders the system useless. Behe discusses bacterial flagellum, blood clotting cascade, immune system, cellular transport mechanisms, and others as examples of such systems that could not have evolved according to Darwinian methods. He calls these systems irreducibly complex and proposes intelligent design as an alternative against Darwinism for their existence. Behe writes in simple and easy-to-understand language even for the non-scientist. Each example chapter does have a more scientifically in-depth portion which is not necessary to understand the book but does give more details for those more familiar with biochemistry. Behe is not a creationist, and though a Christian, does not argue in the book that the intelligent designer is the God of the Bible.

Old-Earth Creationism on Trial: The Verdict Is In by Tim Chaffey & Jason Lisle, 240 pages, an easy read. Written in easy language light in references and technicality. For some this is a weakness (those should read *Coming to Grips with Genesis*), and for others *Old-Earth Creationism on Trial* will help to provide a simple summary of the old-earth, young-earth debate. The book's goal is to put forth the evidence (Biblical and otherwise) for a young earth and to critique (place on trial) the claims of creationists who say that the Biblical account of creation is compatible with a very old (billions of years) age of the earth. The areas specifically analyzed in the book are 1) plain teaching of Scripture on age of earth, 2) Extent and effects of the flood, 3) Philosophy, bias, and correct use and application of science, 4) Gaps in the Genesis genealogies, 5) Commentary on the intelligent design movement, and 6) Big bang. The book could be improved by more documentation and detailed references (instead references are generally made to other books one could read for more detail rather than specifically referencing claims). Nevertheless, as an introduction for the Bible-believing Christian to the important young-earth, old-earth debate, *Old-Earth Creationism on Trial* is a helpful read.

Reasons We Believe: 50 Lines of Evidence That Confirm the Christian Faith, Nathan Busenitz, 224 pages. Not written to specifically address issues related to Genesis, this is perhaps the best apologetics text available written from a presuppositional point of view. When comparing the Bible's claims, either for the Christian or in apologetic evangelism, it is important that the Christian remain clearly convinced of the Bible's superiority, authority, and truthfulness. Far too often apologetic texts present evidence as if the author and the reader are unbiased and can objectively evaluate the evidence presented to them and come to the position that the evidence makes most probable (c.f. Romans 1:19ff, 1 Corinthians 1:18-2:16). Therefore, in many apologetic texts, an argument presupposing the truth of the Bible is "off limits because the non-Christian will not accept the Bible as true." This is the exact wrong way to go about things for the sinner who rejects God not due to a lack of evidence but due to a hard, unrighteous heart. Busenitz takes a scripture-saturated approach to answer questions related to (1) The rationality of the Christian faith, (2) God's existence, (3) The Bible as the Word of God, (4) The reliability of the Gospels, and (5) Jesus and his resurrection. MacArthur accurately writes, "If you are a Christian, you must be ready to make a defense for the hope that is in you (1 Peter 3:15)--and the best way to do that is to go to the Spirit-empowered Word of God. [Reasons We Believe] will show you where to begin." The method of inquiry and argument that Busenitz employs is a model for how the Christian should approach all claims of the Bible, especially related to Genesis 1-11.

Earth's Catastrophic Past by Andrew A. Snelling. This two-volume work is expensive (\$60) and big (1128 pages!). But if you want to read about the events of Genesis 1-11 from the perspective of a renowned geologist, this is the book for you. Much of it is technical and will require a new vocabulary unless you have a background in geology. This is a page-turner if you are interested in plate tectonics, radioactive decay and radiometric dating, the ice ages, glacial varves, rock formation, fossilization, sedimentation rates, atmospheric changes, etc., etc., etc. The book tackles many of the currently-claimed "evidences" of an ancient earth. I had a hard time putting this book down. A difficult read. And well-worth the time and effort!

Refuting Evolution by Jonathan Safarti. At 139 pages, this is a short, easy-to-read book confronting the major flaws in evolutionary theory. It is a written response to the National Academy of Sciences' *Teachin About Evolution and the Nature of Science*. This is a very helpful resource in dealing with some of the more recent arguments proposed to support evolution.

Unformed and Unfilled: A Critique of the Gap Theory by Weston Fields, 245 pages, a moderate to difficult read. This critique of the Gap Theory (a view that espouses long ages of time between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2) addresses the historical development of the Gap Theory, the dangers of trying to harmonize science and the Bible, and an extended grammatical and exegetical treatment of the Hebrew text in Genesis 1:1-2. The Hebrew words are transliterated for English-only readers, and the book does a good job of making the Hebrew grammar accessible to people not familiar with Hebrew. This book helps to answer from the text of Scripture the question "Does the Bible allow for long ages of time before the six days of creation?"

Radioisotopes and the Age of the Earth edited by Larry Vardiman, Andrew A. Snelling, and Eugene F. Chaffin. 676 pages, a technical report of the research project known as RATE (Radioisotopes and the Age of The Earth). This project set out to examine experimentally the "findings" of radioisotope dating methods which current scientific consensus uses to determine the age of the earth. Three assumptions plague radiometric dating methods: 1.) The rate of radioactive decay has been constant throughout time; 2.) The amounts of radioactive isotopes have not been altered throughout a sample's history by addition or subtraction; and 3.) we know how much parent/daughter isotope material existed in the rock at its formation. This book is the fruit of an eight-year project to address the first assumption. Its conclusion: we have reason to believe that rates of radioactive decay have not been uniform throughout earth's history. Rather, we have reason to believe that rates of radioactive decay were vastly accelerated at certain significant points in the history of the earth. This book is difficult to read without some background in chemistry and/or geology, or without at least a desire to immerse yourself in lots of new information and technical vocabulary. A "dumbed-down" explanation of the RATE project is DeYoung's *Thousands. . . Not Billions*.

Thousands. . . Not Billions: Challenging an Icon of Evolution - Questioning the Age of the Earth by Dr. Don DeYoung. This is a 183-page, much-easier-to-read summary of *Radioisotopes and the Age of the Earth* - the eight-year

RATE project conducted by six scientists to examine the methods and assumptions of radiometric dating. This is probably the most accessible entry into the RATE project findings. In addition, Chapter 10 of this book is a statistical analysis of the genre of Genesis 1:1-2:3. This chapter shuts the door on any contention that Genesis is anything other than straight-forward historical narrative.

Bones of Contention: A Creationist Assessment of Human Fossils by Marvin L. Lubenow. 352 pages, this book examines the various fossils that have been put forth by evolutionists as "missing links" between humans and the animals, and specifically between humans and primates. This work first critically analyzes the "science" of the study of man's "ancestors", exposing the agenda and presuppositions inherent in that field. Second, Lubenow rehearses some of the revisionist history concerning the early "finds" of missing links between humans and apes. He then takes the reader on a tour of all of the prominent fossil finds related to humans and "pre-human" creatures. Lubenow's conclusions: many of the missing link fossils are actually human, and many of them are actually primates. This is a non-technical, fairly easy-to-read book for those interested in an introduction to the debate over hominid fossils.

Human Nature in Its Fourfold State by Thomas Boston. This is a theological work on the nature of man in the four stages of his existence. 1) The first state of man was in the garden of Eden before the fall. Man and woman were without sin; experienced unbroken fellowship with God; had mental, physical, and emotional faculties untainted by sin; and lived in an un-cursed world. 2) The second state of man is post-fall. all of us were born into this state. We are sinners by nature living in a sin-cursed world. All of us have been created in the image of God, but that image is now corrupted, marred - a frightful deformity. Sin has affected every aspect of our being: our behavior, thinking, emotions, will - all of our capacities have been altered by sin. 3) The third state of man is post-fall, post-conversion. This is the category of believers. We exist in a mixed condition. We are still sinners, yet by the grace and power of God we have capacity for goodness and God-glorifying thoughts, emotions, and behavior. 4) The fourth state of man is the glorification of believers. Sinless perfection in heaven with restored, unbreakable fellowship with God. To summarize the relationship of man to sin in those four states: 1) able to sin; 2) unable to not sin; 3) able to not sin; 4) unable to sin. Boston's book is a moderate read and very helpful for understanding the nature of man prior to the fall, after the fall, after conversion, and after glorification. It helps to bring out the inherent dignity of man, and frightful tragedy of the fall and its consequences, the radical nature of salvation in Jesus, and the beauty and grandeur of our final salvation in eternity. 506 pages.

The Big Three: Major Events That Changed History Forever by Dr. Henry Morris III. This book discusses the three major events that have had significant impact on the world as we know it. The three events Morris has in mind are Creation, the Fall, and the Flood. These three events have shaped and defined our world more than any other events in history, yet it is precisely these three events which are denied by modern scientific theories. This is a fairly easy book, and a great introduction to the conflict between the truths of the Bible and the prevailing theories of our day. 219 pages.

7 Men Who Rule the World from the Grave by Dave Breese. This book examines the lives and philosophies of seven dead men: Charles Darwin, Karl Marx, Julius Wellhausen, Sigmund Freud, John Dewey, John Maynard Keynes, and Soren Kierkegaard. These seven men, though now long dead, rule our world by their philosophies. Their beliefs permeate the academies, social structures, and even churches of our day. Their once-ground-breaking and controversial views have become so axiomatic for our culture that we operate based on their beliefs, often without even known their names or having read anything that they wrote. This book will open your eyes to the influence these men have had on western thought and civilization. Charles Darwin leads the list, and the others follow in his wake. The untested theories that Darwin popularized became the bedrock foundation for a whole host of civilization-changing ideas. If you have lived in western society, you have been affected by these men, whether you are aware of it or not. A moderate read. Perhaps a must-read. 235 pages.

Faith, Form, and Time: What the Bible Teaches and Science Confirms About Creation and the Age of the Universe, by Kurt P. Wise. An easy to moderate read, 244 pages. This book is a very helpful resource for answering questions related to the age of the universe, from the text of Scripture as well as from scientific observations. One of the fundamental assertions of this book is that science ought not set out to prove or disprove the existence of God. Rather, God Himself is to be the starting point of all science. This approach results in a book that is grounded in a God-centered epistemology - it is therefore informed by God's bias and it promotes personal devotion.

The New Answers Book: Over 25 Questions on Creation/Evolution and the Bible by Ken Ham. This book tackles in an introductory fashion 25 questions related to creation and evolution. This is a helpful resource that is easy to read. Each topic is individually accessible. 365 pages.

The New Creationism: Building Scientific Theories on a Biblical Foundation by Paul Garner. Garner, with a background in geology and biology, begins his book with the assumption that the first eleven chapters of Genesis record actual history. His book includes explanations of the age of the earth and the age of universe, discussions of radiometric dating methods, the origin and diversity of life on earth, genetic mutation, similarity of structures in organisms, vestigial organs, Noah's flood, plate tectonics, rapid magnetic field reversal, the fossil record, ice ages, the Tower of Babel, and subsequent human history. This is an accessible book that gets technical in some sections. 300 pages.

Evolution Exposed: Your Evolution Answer Book for the Classroom by Roger Patterson. Patterson's goal in this book is to equip students in the classroom to rightly interpret evolutionary indoctrination. Helpful for high school students or even college students, this book analyzes four of the major textbooks used in biology classrooms in public education. This can be read non-sequentially, depending on which topics are of interest to the reader. Each section contains references to the textbooks commonly used in the classroom as well as references to online sources for answers from a Biblical perspective. This book also contains an excellent descriptive bibliography of additional resources. Easier to read. 320 pages.

Astronomy and the Bible: Questions and Answers by Donald B. DeYoung. An easy, non-technical read on astronomy, set up in a question-and-answer format. This book contains helpful short answers to many of the questions that are raised when the Bible's testimony of the universe's history is compared with current scientific theories. This book is very easy to use and to access topically, answering questions like What is gravity? How does red-shift work? How can we see distant stars in a "young" universe? What is light? How big are stars? and many more. 134 pages.

Nothing But the Truth: The Inspiration, Authority and History of the Bible Explained by Brian H. Edwards, 512 pages, a moderate read. Specifically, chapter 16 Durable Rubbish - Archaeology and the Bible. Edwards addresses the question "What does archeology prove?" He writes, "For those who are committed to an infallible Bible, there is no need to look to archaeology to prove or disprove anything. Its chief value is to throw light on the culture and customs of Bible times. Having said this, the 'man in the street'--too often aided and abetted by 'scholars' -- persistently trots out the mantra that 'Archaeology has disproved the Bible'" (pp. 382-83). Edwards' sound approach to archaeology in this chapter is adaptable for our series in Genesis and similar questions that arise like, "Science has disproved the Bible." He provides three key principles to keep in mind (p. 389ff): 1. Archaeologists are not infallible. 2. Archaeologists can rarely account for all the facts. 3. Archaeologists are often prejudiced. Edwards' high view of the Bible, his level-headed view of archaeology, and thorough list of archaeological finds, will bolster our confidence in Scripture and help us carefully assess archaeological finds, not granting them too much weight in either direction concerning Scripture's infallibility (proving or disproving the Bible).

Institutes of the Christian Religion, Book One: The Knowledge of God the Creator, by John Calvin. 196 pages in the 2-Volume McNeill/Battles translation in the Library of Christian Classics series published by Westminster John Knox Press. This section of Calvin's *Institutes* sees the Creatorship of God as fundamental to understanding God and ourselves in God's world. For God to be God means inherently that God is Creator and that God is sovereign over His creation. Calvin upholds the Biblical record of creation over against the competing philosophical and religious ideas of his day - and many of those competing ideas bear a striking resemblance to arguments put forth today! Calvin's thoughts in *Book One* help the reader to see how foundational and important the fact of God's creation in Genesis is to the rest of the Bible. A moderate read.

Dissertation on the End for Which God Created the World by Jonathan Edwards, available in Volume One of Banner of Truth's two-volume set *The Works of Jonathan Edwards*. Edwards's premise in this work is that God has created everything for His own glory. The purpose of creation is the glorification of God. This is an essential perspective for anyone living in the universe that God created. If you and I are to know why we are here, why the world is the way it is, and where it is all going, we must understand the themes the Edwards puts forth. Portions of this treatise are philosophical in nature, and portions are exegetical. This is a more difficult read, but it is well worth the effort.

Commentaries on Genesis: many commentaries on the book of Genesis are available. Very few of them uphold a literal six-day view of creation. The following three were helpful: Leupold, Calvin, and Keil and Delitzsch. *The Genesis Record* (Morris) and *The Battle for the Beginning* (MacArthur) may be considered commentaries, as they walk through the text verse-by-verse, but they are not as detailed in their analysis of the text. A soon-to-be-published technical commentary on Genesis by Dr. William Barrick will be a great addition to your resources on Genesis.

Online Resources:

Institute for Creation Research - icr.org

Center for Origins Research and Education - originsresearch.org

Answers in Genesis and the Creation Museum - answersingenesis.org