

Can those who believe creation occurred in 6 literal days and those who believe it took billions of years both be correct? Using the best of science and theology, the 2:4 Solution is an astounding breakthrough in the creation controversy.

The 2:4 Solution: Yes, You Can Be a Good Christian and Not Believe in a Literal 6-Day Creation

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# **THE 2:4 SOLUTION**

**YES, YOU *CAN* BE A GOOD CHRISTIAN  
AND *NOT* BELIEVE IN A LITERAL 6-DAY CREATION**

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**Rev. Dr. Robert LeFavi, SOfc**

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## Chapter Three

### In The Beginning

“We had the sky, up there, all speckled with stars, and we used to lay on our backs and look up at them, and discuss about whether they was made, or only just happened.”

- Mark Twain, *Huckleberry Finn*

**W**hen all is said and done, the “creation dilemma” is the monumental battleground for the unfortunate war between science and religion, positioning one body of knowledge and “truth” against the other. This dilemma also fosters cognitive dissonance in many people, creating a roadblock to further Christian growth. Is there a genuine way scientists and religious scholars can talk intelligently about the beginning of the universe and humankind without one denigrating the other and without submitting to preposterous rationalizations? I believe so.

#### **It’s About “Time”**

Scripture indicates that it took six days to create the universe, life, and humankind. To the religious scholar calculating the ages of all the generations of people recorded in the Bible since the appearance of Adam this means the universe and humankind are certainly no more than 10,000 years old.

This latter viewpoint is one with no basis when we consider what is known as fact about the physical universe. Scientific evidence has the age of the universe at roughly 14 billion years with fossil records of human-like beings approximately two million years old; the recently found fossilized skulls in Java are human-like and 1.8

million years old. These fossils absolutely do exist; religious scholars must accept them as true so as not to be hypocritical when accusing scientists of wearing blinders.

We also know, for example, that the simplest forms of life (prokaryotic bacteria and blue-green algae found in early sedimentary rock in Africa and Australia) originated approximately 1 billion years after the Earth's crust cooled and solidified, and have been geologically dated at 3.5 billion years old. How do you reconcile that the universe is roughly 14 billion years old, the Earth about 4.8 billion years old, and evidence of life beginning approximately 3.5 billion years ago with six days? Good question.

Obviously, when it comes to the creation of the universe and life, *time* is the problem, the seemingly impermeable wall between "truth-seekers" on both sides. It would appear that there is no place for common ground; 14 billion years and six days don't even come close.

Thus, Christians who adhere to the belief that the universe with all its life was created in six Earthly days, and refuse to acknowledge that which paleontologists have physical evidence of, often attempt to account for this tremendous difference. We find rationalizations such as the following, some of which are not only inconsistent with science, but also with scripture:

- God put very old fossils of the creation life there to test our faith;
- Satan put these fossils there to deceive us;
- The process of identifying the age of materials, known as carbon dating, is wrong because the decaying patterns of paleontological matter have changed as a result of Noah's flood. (Note: Scientists have yet to find radioactive carbon-14 that does not have a 5600-year half-life);
- Allocating each day about 2.5 billion years. (Note: Scripture does clearly say there was morning and evening, one day).

Well, who is wrong here and who is right? Was it six days or 14 billion years?

## THE 2:4 SOLUTION

### **The Point of Departure**

What I am saying here is that *both are correct*; they are describing the *exact* same thing. That is, it *did* take six days *and* 14 billion years, simultaneously, starting at the same instant and finishing at the same instant. I know, you've got to see this to believe it. Okay, but first, let me clarify things.

When we look at how scientific literature and the Bible relate to each other in their accounts of the "beginning," it is very interesting to note that everything occurring *after* the creation of the universe, life, and humankind is *temporally consistent*. That is, everything *after* the creation of the first man ("Adam") is both well-established by and harmonious with science and scripture. In my research, I have found this to be very well accepted by scientists and theologians alike, even to my own surprise as I understand that the Bible was not written per se to be a historical document.

For example, the invention of tools made of forged brass is described in scripture to have happened at a particular point in time, subsequently confirmed by science. The Bible says Tubal-Cain, son of Lamech, was responsible for developing brass (Genesis 4:22). When we calculate scriptural ages, we see the time that Tubal-Cain invented forging was about 1350 years after the appearance of the man called Adam, or roughly 4400 years before the present. Archeologically, the appearance of early brass tools is seen at roughly 2400 B.C., also about 4400 years ago. In fact, historians of science call the time of Tubal-Cain the early Bronze Age.

In 1853, Henry Rawlinson's excavations at Borsippa near Babylon in southern Mesopotamia unearthed the commemorative cylinders that recorded how Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, had rebuilt and repaired the temple there in the early sixth century BC – precisely as told in scripture. Fourteen years later, Lieutenant Charles Warren found the underground water channel that Hezekiah constructed under Jerusalem (II Kings 20:20). In addition, any reader of the Old Testament will come across the Hittites, who were regarded as being a Biblical legend – until their capital and records were discovered in Turkey and dated to the time predicted by religious scholars.

Of course, records are more likely to remain for royalty. It was once claimed there was no Assyrian king named Sargon as described in Isaiah 20:1 because this name was not known in any other record. Then, Sargon's palace was discovered in Iraq. The very event mentioned in Isaiah 20, his capture of Ashdod, was recorded on the palace walls. What is more, fragments of a stone memorializing the victory were found at Ashdod itself.

In addition, the scriptural account of Joshua's conquest of Canaan, his burning of the city of Hazor, and the subsequent rebuilding of Hazor by Solomon some 300 years later corroborate perfectly the findings of scientists during the recent excavation of Hazor. Researchers there found the charred ruins of a burned city, and above this was built a new city, complete with Solomon's uniquely shaped gates and horses' stables. Further, until 1993 there was little proof of the existence of Solomon's father, the great King David. Then, archeologists found proof of King David's existence at an ancient mound called Tel Dan, in the north of Israel. Words carved into volcanic rock were translated as "House of David" and "King of Israel," clearly illustrating that he was more than just a legend.

R.D. Wilson, who wrote *A Scientific Investigation of the Old Testament*, found that the names of 29 Kings from ten nations (Egypt, Assyria, Babylon and more) are mentioned not only in the Bible but are also found on monuments of their own time. Wilson discovered that of the 29 kings having an archaeological corroboration, every single name is transliterated in the Bible exactly as it appears on the archaeological artifact – syllable for syllable, consonant for consonant, 29 kings, every single name. Additionally, we find that the chronological order of these kings is precise. In other words, every name in the Bible, some of which go back to the book of Genesis, appears in its correct order, with the correct spelling, in the correct time, as attested by the archaeological artifacts and period literature.

The point I'm making is that what functionally may be the *single most divisive issue* between science and religion in the modern world comes down to what happens in just *the very first part of Genesis*.

## *THE 2:4 SOLUTION*

So, how can I say both are correct? How do I reconcile two very different accounts of the beginning of the universe and life? With a little help from a genius. Hang on, it's really not too difficult to grasp. It may have taken an Einstein to come up with it, but it doesn't take an Einstein to understand it.

### **It Took an Einstein**

“For astronomy is not only pleasant, but also useful to be known; it cannot be denied that this art unfolds the admirable wisdom of God.”

- John Calvin, French theologian

By the late 19<sup>th</sup> century scientists had determined that light traveled at 300,000 kilometers per second (186,000 miles per second), which had been designated as “c.” The problem was that researchers were having trouble figuring out how light, as a wave, was carried along. For instance, sound waves need air to travel and water waves need water, but what material supported light's transmission? Scientists felt that there must be some material, which they hypothesized as “ether,” that light traveled through. Yet, for nearly four decades researchers could not identify or find this substance.

In 1887, American scientists Albert Michelson and Edward Morley attempted to find ether by using Earth's movement through space. The assumption was that ether in space would be stationary, therefore they would be able to detect it rushing past the Earth as one feels the wind on one's face when running. They intended to measure the speed of light in the direction the Earth was moving. Then they could compare it to the speed of light traveling in the opposite direction. Since they believed that light moved at a constant speed (“c”) through ether, any difference between the two should demonstrate the speed of the Earth's movement. What they found was shocking: Whatever way they looked at it, light always traveled at the same speed.

During this time – the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, Albert Einstein was working in Bern, Switzerland, and was intrigued by

Michelson and Morley's findings. He began to question whether ether even existed. As Einstein pondered this dilemma, he re-visited issues raised by Galileo Galilei. Galileo showed the difficulty of measuring the true speed of an object. Here was Galileo's problem in a nutshell: How can you measure the speed of a person, for instance, when that person and the planet that person is on is also moving? Further, when you look at this book and the desk it is on, both are actually hurtling through space. They only seem to be still because you are also hurtling through space at the same speed. You are not able to tell that you, the book, and the desk are moving, unless you have some other external "frame of reference." Believe it or not, if you understand this, then you really understand the basic idea underlying *relativity*.

***Reference Frame***

A reference frame is the conceptual framework from which one can make observations. Your frame of reference specifically refers to your state of motion and position. For instance, if you are sitting stationary on a cruise ship, then all other stationary objects on that ship are in your reference frame; the ships and people in the ports you are passing – even a person walking past you on the ship – are not.

Now let's back up. Galileo, and then later Isaac Newton, studied the motion of objects and concluded that objects have a natural state of motion. This natural state of motion is not to be at rest, as Aristotle suggested, but to move at a constant speed and in a straight line – *uniformly*. This became one of the *laws of motion* (a "mechanical" law), known as *inertia*; it takes no effort or force for an object to continue at a constant speed and in a straight line. If an object changes directions or speed, then something acted on it. These laws apply to everyone – as long as they are moving uniformly. Thus, Galileo and Newton developed a *mechanical* understanding of motion, which helped predict the motion of objects. This *Newtonian relativity* principle – that the *laws of motion* work equally well for all *frames of reference* (*all observers*) in *uniform motion* – holds true.

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