

ANSWERS

BOOK

4 TEENS

VOL 2



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First printing: July 2012

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Master Books®, P.O. Box 726, Green Forest, AR 72638
Master Books® is a division of the New Leaf Publishing Group, Inc.

ISBN: 978-0-89051-660-7

Library of Congress Number: XXXXXXXXXX

Cover and Interior Layout by Justin Skinner

Unless otherwise noted, Scripture quotations are from the New King James Version of the Bible.

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Acknowledgments

Many thanks to those who reviewed and edited portions of this book: Dr. Tommy Mitchell, Roger Patterson, Dr. Andrew Snelling, Ken Ham, Tim Chaffey, Troy Lacey, Dr. Elizabeth Mitchell, Paul Taylor, Frost Smith, David Wright, Steve Golden, and Bodie Hodge.

INTRODUCTION

As any teen probably knows, school can be a great place and a terrible place — whether public/state schools, Christian schools, or even home schools! In public schools and in some Christian schools, things can sometimes get even worse for Christians, especially when false information and false claims about the Bible are often repeated. Sometimes teachers and sometimes students make these false claims — and many times they do not realize the errors of these claims.

But I want to encourage you as Christians to be discerning on these issues. I understand some of you who are reading this may not be Christians or may be unsure of what you believe, so let me take this time to encourage you to consider the claims of the Bible and of Jesus Christ. We invite you to receive Christ as Lord. To understand this more, please read the last chapter of this book, which explains this good news of how you can be saved and go to heaven.

Discernment means to have understanding and wisdom about issues so you can see what is right and what is wrong. For example, if someone said, “God exists, but He is evil,” the discerning person would recognize that the person claiming this is both right...and wrong. This statement is right because God does exist. But it is wrong in saying that God is evil. The Bible says:

Test all things; hold fast what is good (1 Thessalonians 5:21).

Let’s look at some false claims and misconceptions so that you can learn to be discerning if they pop up in discussions with teachers, other students, or even your parents!

SPOTTING FALSE CLAIMS AND MISCONCEPTIONS

Here are some false claims and some brief responses:

1. **The Bible teaches that the earth is flat.** Of course, this is nowhere in Scripture and the Bible informs us that the earth is round (e.g., *Isaiah 40:22*, “the circle of the earth,” or *Job 26:10*, with “a circular horizon”).

Instead, this flat earth idea was a false Greek mythology (~500 B.C.) that, sadly, a few Christians actually bought into around A.D. 300. And it was fellow Christians who had to refute this idea, using the Bible. People who attack the Bible actually pull verses out of context to try to say it teaches that the earth is flat. One of these verses is Revelation 7:1, which in prophetic language refers to the “four corners of the earth.” But this is clearly a metaphor for the four directions (*north, south, east, and west*). If we’re using discernment when we read, we see that it obviously does not imply a flat earth.

2. **Creationists don’t believe animals change.** This false claim is set up to try to make Christians look ignorant. Usually, the critics will say, “Evolution means animals change, but creationists don’t believe animals change. Since we see animals change every day, evolution is true and the creationists are wrong!”

But creationists do believe animals change. Even in the Bible, Jacob did selective breeding to make animal changes happen quickly (*Genesis 30:31–43*). So changes in animals are not a problem for creationists. The difference between evolutionists and creationists is the AMOUNT of change. This is the part that requires discernment.

The evolutionist says that change in animals is huge, like an amoeba changing into a goat over millions of years. But we don't observe this, do we? In fact, no one can observe this over millions of years. Creationists, however, say there is change within a respective kind (*versus a species, which has a definition that changes a lot*). What do we mean by "kind"? We explain it in detail in chapter 2 of this book.

3. **Creationists don't believe in science.** Those who level this claim at Christians often say that it's "religion versus science."

But what they fail to realize is that science comes out of a biblical worldview. God upholds the universe in a consistent fashion ([Hebrews 1:3](#); [Genesis 8:22](#)); therefore, the laws of nature will be the same tomorrow as they are today, until the end of the world. If everything exploded from nothing, like the big-bang idea teaches, why would we have all these beautiful laws in the universe and why are they upheld so perfectly? This is why we can formulate laws of science and do scientific experiments. Most of the fields of science were developed by Bible-believing creationists like Faraday, Boyle, Mendel, Newton, and many others.

So why do some people say it's "religion versus science"? This is called a "bait and switch" fallacy. They are actually "baiting" you with the good meaning of science, which is the repeatable and observable science that we all do. Their "bait" conjures up in your mind great scientific achievements (*computers, mixing chemicals in a test tube, rockets, jets, and more*), all of which are repeatable and observable, but then they "switch" the definition out from under you. They switch to a lesser-known definition of science, "naturalistic evolution," which is not repeatable or observable. When people make the claim that it's "religion versus science," they really mean it's "biblical creation versus evolution." And this is really a religion versus a religion.

There is also the issue of origins (*historical*) versus operational science, the highly reliable and repeatable science that has a tremendous reputation. This is the type of science that put men on the moon, builds computers and automobiles, develops genetic mapping, etc. As Christians, we fully believe in operational science. In fact, most of these fields of science were developed by Christians.

The other science is called historical science. It isn't repeatable because it deals with events in the past. Evolution, radiometric dating, etc., deal with reconstructing the past, so it requires quite a few assumptions to fill in the gaps. These assumptions are called "interpretations" and they are not repeatable science.

Many times, these assumptions change and are shown wrong and the whole concept of what was believed changes. This happens frequently in historical science, which is not very reliable and changes quite often. Sometimes I wonder why it is even called "science" with such a bad reputation and non-repeatability. It makes people lose hope in good operational science just because it uses the name "science." Some people even get confused and think the reputation of operational science can be applied to historical science, which it should not.

These are just a few things to be discerning about when people make false claims or present false information. Of course, there are many others, like the number of "species" on the ark (*it should be "kinds"*), mutation and natural selection, or that "the Bible is full of contradictions." These misconceptions are what spurred us on to write this book! We hope to address many of these claims in a way that will answer your questions and help you develop discernment for those times when people approach you with misconceptions about the Bible. In this way, you can be a light to the people around you so that they also can learn to trust that the Bible is true.

Q1 Did creation really take just 6 days or did God use
THE BIG BANG?

I know you probably don't like taking tests — it sort of feels like being at school! But how about taking a test for me? I assure you, it is a very easy test. Grab your Bible and read through Genesis chapter 1. As you do, look for any hint in Genesis 1 — don't think about what you may have heard! — that God supposedly took millions of years to create the universe, including all the life forms on earth.

While you do this, also look for any suggestion at all that the Bible teaches something like the big-bang idea about the origin of the universe. (*Here's a hint for you: the big-bang idea teaches that the universe began about 13–15 billion years ago, the sun came before the earth, and earth formed after the sun as a hot molten blob that took millions of years to cool down!*) Okay, time's up! What did you find?

WHAT DID YOU LEARN FROM THE TEST?

If you read only the account in Genesis chapter 1, you see that God created space, matter, and time at the beginning. The earth was created as water; it obviously was not a hot molten blob that cooled down for millions of years.

The sun, the moon, and all the stars were not created until the fourth day — after the earth was formed. So it's obvious — the big-bang idea does not fit with the Bible at all! Either the big-bang model is correct and the Bible is wrong; or the Bible is correct and the big-bang model is wrong.



And do you know what? The secularists who propose the big-bang idea were not there to see it happen — they don't have digital photographs of the big bang occurring! However, God, who knows everything and has always been here, had written down in His Word what did happen — and that's the record we read in Genesis 1. Wouldn't you rather believe the trustworthy Witness who knows everything and who was there, instead of the words of finite, sinful humans, whose hearts are against God because of their sin nature, who don't know everything, and who weren't there?

Now as you read Genesis 1, did you get the idea that God took billions of years to create everything? No, you read that God created in six days. For instance, we can read exactly what God created on the first day of creation:

Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light...God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the first day (Genesis 1:3–5).

HOW LONG WAS A "DAY"?

Some people ask the question, "But what does the word day mean in Genesis 1? Could it mean a period of millions of years?"

Well, let's go to Hebrew experts. We are going to consult a Hebrew lexicon, which is a Hebrew dictionary. A modern and very scholarly Hebrew lexicon is that produced by Kohler and Baumgartner.¹ When we look up the meaning of the Hebrew word for "day" (*the word yom*), we find it has a number of different meanings. Why is that?

Well, most words have two or more meanings depending on the context. For instance, the English word day can have different meanings. Consider this sentence:

Back in my father's **day**, it took 10 **days** to drive across the outback during the **day**.

Here, there are three different meanings for the word day:

- **Day**—meaning time ("*father's day*")
- **Day**—meaning an ordinary day ("*10 days*")
- **Day**—meaning daylight portion of a day ("*during the day*")

It is the context that determines the meaning of the word day. This is also true of the Hebrew language. Now when we look up the meaning of the word day in the Hebrew dictionary I mentioned above, we find a range of meanings, but look at the second definition of the word day. The lexicon gives the first example of where day means an ordinary day as in Genesis 1:5 — the first day of the creation week:

Yom: “Day of twenty-four hours: Genesis 1:5”²

Now why is it that the authors determined that the meaning of the word day in Genesis 1:5 is an ordinary, approximately 24-hour day? Well, let’s look at the context. Whenever the word day (*yom*) is used with a number (e.g., *the first day*), the word evening, the word morning, or the phrase “evening and morning” is used — so the meaning is an ordinary day. That is the contextual usage for each of the six days of creation! Note that the same Hebrew word for “day” (*yom*) is used in Genesis 2:4 and Genesis 3:5, but in those instances it means “time,” since *yom* is not qualified by a number, or “evening” or “morning.”

In fact, the Hebrew word for “day” is used 2,301 times in the Old Testament, in the singular and plural forms. It often meant an ordinary day — but it has other meanings depending on the context. For instance, it means “time” when used in the phrases “the day of the Lord” and “the time of the judges.”³



WHY QUESTION DAY IN GENESIS 1 AND NOWHERE ELSE?

Here's a challenging point for you! Christians know what the word day means everywhere it is used in the Old Testament, except in one place — Genesis chapter 1! Now why is that? It really is because many Christians have been influenced to believe in the idea that the universe is billions of years old, and they try to fit this into the days of creation (*prior to Adam*).

If these Christian critics were consistent, they should also be arguing that one can fit millions of years into the six days that Joshua marched around Jericho ([Joshua 6:3 and 14](#)); or the week that Noah spent loading the animals into the ark before the Flood ([Genesis 7:1–4](#)); or perhaps Jonah spent millions of years in a great fish ([Jonah 1:17](#)); or maybe Jesus spent millions of years in the grave ([Acts 10:40](#))! Such things are absurd.

To try to justify this, Christian critics often say, “The days couldn't be normal 24-hour days since the sun didn't exist until day 4.” But all you need for a normal 24-hour day is a light source and a rotating earth! We had a light source on day 1 ([Genesis 1:3](#)) and the sun took over the duties of providing light on the earth on day 4 ([Genesis 1:15–16](#)). So this is not a problem.

Sometimes Christian critics try to say that a day is like a thousand years as in 2 Peter 3:8. But if each of the days of creation is a thousand years, that still doesn't add up to billions of years! At most, that would add about 6,000–7,000 extra years. But there is no need to do this since 2 Peter 3:8 is in the context of the Lord's patience, not the days of creation. Besides, 2 Peter 3:8 (*the second part of the verse*) says a thousand years are like day! So there goes that argument!

The point is, why not read the Bible the way it was meant to be read?



In other words, these Christians believe man's fallible ideas about the age of the universe and the earth, and they are reinterpreting the clear meaning of the word day in Genesis 1 so man's ideas fit. This reinterpretation undermines the authority of the Bible and causes people to doubt that the Bible really is God's Word.

CONCLUSION

To finish this discussion, let's read Exodus 20:11. By the way, this passage was written by the very "finger of God":

For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it (Exodus 20:11).

That's where our seven-day week came from! If God worked for millions of years, and rested for millions of years, that would make nonsense of the seven-day week!

No! God created in six literal days, about 6,000 years ago, beginning with an earth of water ([Genesis 1:2](#); [2 Peter 3:5](#))! How do we know it was 6,000 years ago? If you add up the genealogies from Adam to Christ, which is about 4,000 years, and add 2,000 years from the genealogies until today, it equals about 6,000 years. Billions of years and the big bang do not fit with the Bible's account of origins at all.

¹ Ludwig Koehler and Walter Baumgartner, Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament, Volume 1 (Leiden, The Netherlands: Koninklijke Brill N.V., 2001), p. 399.

² Ibid.

³ James Stambaugh, "The Days of Creation: A Semantic Approach," first published in The Journal of Creation, 5, no. 1 (April 1991): p. 70–78 (later revision published by the Evangelical Theological Society). Online at http://www.answersingenesis.org/docs/4204tj_v5n1.asp.

