

Smoky Mountain Bible Institute

Biology, Young earth Dating Methods 107

Welcome back to the lab. Time, time and more time! We will complete our short detour from the topic of biology and touch on a few more dating methods. I think we have sufficiently demonstrated that assumptions within dating methods lead to conclusions that support an old or young world view depending on which assumptions you employ. Let's finish this timely discussion by examining some dating methods that lead to the conclusion of a young earth. These are all dismissed by old-earthers as junk science, but read and decide for yourself. The assumptions are clearly biased, but the methods are just as scientific as old earth claims about radioactive decay and the more recently invented genetic marker clocks.

There are a number of dating methods that suggest a young earth. (Yes, they too have assumptions.) Common young-earth "dating methods" give upper limits to the age of the earth that are much lower than the more commonly accepted ages of millions and billions of years. The upper limits of these methods are usually in thousands of years. Here are some of the more commonly used dating methods employed by young-earth scientists: dendrochronology; accumulation of helium in the atmosphere; decay of the earth's magnetic field; accumulation of meteoritic dust on the moon; disintegration of comets; accumulation of metals into the oceans; population of the earth; and Io—the still-volcanic moon of Jupiter. This is by no means an exhaustive list. There are over 70 young earth dating methods, but I will try to briefly explain the few I can squeeze into this lesson.

Dendrochronology: Tree rings can be of great assistance in determining when a piece of wood was cut down and put to use because of observable patterns in the rings that correspond with weather patterns. The bristlecone pine is the oldest living thing on the earth. Native to the mountains of California and Nevada, the oldest tree has been dated at 4,600 years old. By correlating the rings with dead wood found near the trees and beams from local buildings, a chronology of 11,300 rings has been suggested. However, this does not necessarily correlate to years because multiple rings can grow in one year. This is one of many dendro-chronological examples. The 4,600-year age of the oldest tree, named Methuselah, corresponds to the date of the Flood calculated by Ussher (the early church bishop, not the rap star) and others. Is it just a coincidence or did this tree begin growing shortly after the Flood?

Decaying magnetic field of the earth: We know that the earth's magnetic field has been decaying since the time it was first measured in 1835. Given the most plausible model of magnetism being generated by circulating electric currents that are decaying within the earth, and projecting these numbers backwards, we discover that 10,000 years ago, the earth would have a field as strong as a magnetic star which utilizes thermonuclear processes to maintain a field of that strength.

Population of the earth: Today the population grows at 2% per year. If we set the population growth rate at just 0.5% per year, then total population reduces to zero at about 4500 years ago. Strangely close to the time of the Flood again, Hmmm? If the first humans lived over a million years ago, then at this 0.5% growth rate, we would have 10 to the two thousand, one hundredth power, (that is a ten with 2100 zeros following it) people right now. If the present population was a result of over a million years of human history, then several trillion people must have lived and died since the emergence of our species. Where are all the bones? And where is the evidence of Ancient civilizations? Written history and archaeological evidence of ancient civilizations dates back to several thousand years. Beyond that, all traces of civilization disappear. This is not consistent with a species which is supposed to be at least hundreds of thousands of years old.

There are many other dating methods I did not even mention that produced young earth conclusions. If you would like to study this further, I suggest the following websites; Answers in Genesis, (www.answersingenesis.org), Institute for Creation Research (www.icr.org), Next lesson—back to biology.