

This is Why Earth is Older Than 6,000 Years

By Richmond Shee

Most Christians are taught that the earth is young, about 6,000 years old, based on the account given in the book of Genesis. Evolutionists, however, believe the earth is billions of years old. What's interesting is that both camps examine the same evidence – fossils, rocks, and bones, and draw vastly different conclusions. Both camps have experts, methods, evidence, and compelling arguments, and there is no end in sight to their standoff.

The purpose of this paper is to show believers that the Bible supports an older earth—much older than the generally accepted 6,000 years, and that the account of creation in Genesis (with the exception of Genesis 1:1) really is the account of recreation instead.

Why is this age issue important? What difference does it make if this earth is 6,000 years old or billions of years old? It is important because as Christians, we need to do three things with the word of God: learn it right, live it right, and let it out. God began the Bible with the recreation story. If we don't get this right, our foundation is off, and that may lead to secondary problems.

I should level-set with readers before I present my arguments.

- I am a Christian, born-again by the grace of God through faith. I do not believe in evolution or any middle ground such as Theistic evolution.
- I subscribe to six literal 24-hour days of recreation in Genesis 1.
- The scriptures are my evidence. I will not consider physical evidence and science for now. The apostle Peter, who witnessed the transfiguration of the Lord Jesus Christ and heard God's declaration of His beloved Son, told us in 2Peter 1:19 that we have a "more sure" word of prophesy. That is, the Word of God is surer than our senses and measures.

With this background out of the way, let's begin to explore why the earth is older than the Christian-accepted 6,000 years.

Where in the Bible did you learn about creation?

If Genesis is your only source, you are missing a huge part. It's like being late to a 2-hour movie and only able to catch the last six minutes.

The account of creation is scattered all over the Bible. The books of Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Nehemiah, and 2 Peter have verses on creation. The book of Genesis picks up the story after the fall of Lucifer and it is a story of recreation. The other books tell the creation story before the fall of Lucifer. When all the books are considered, the picture shows a rather old earth.

There was a time when the earth was God's footstool (Isaiah 66:1), and Lucifer led the hosts of heaven to worship God. Everything was fine and dandy. That peace was shattered when Lucifer rebelled against God and drew 1/3 of the stars of heaven (angels) away (Revelation 12:3-4). The Kingdom of God suffered loss. Lucifer became the devil.

The rebellion of Lucifer, though not mentioned in the book of Genesis, cannot be shoved aside. It is part of the legitimate history of the Kingdom of God. It is one of the puzzle pieces that every believer needs to fit in, and once in its proper place, the picture tells of an old earth. A creation teaching that is solely based on the first two chapters of the book of Genesis is incomplete. Believers who hold the young earth position will have a hard time fitting the fall of Lucifer into the picture, and most often will throw the piece away, simply saying that it occurred sometime in the past. Their creation picture will never be complete or accurate.

The creation story commonly is told along this line: In the beginning, God created heavens and an earth. The earth was formless and empty, and darkness was over the surface of the deep. The Spirit of God hovered across the surface of the waters. God created the spiritual light on day 1. He made the sky on day 2; dry land, vegetation, and trees on day 3; the sun, moon, and stars on day 4; sea creatures and birds on day 5; land creatures and Adam on day 6; and rested on day 7.

That story is partial. It does not include the creation of spiritual beings such as angels, seraphims, cherubims, and Lucifer for God's service. *Nehemiah 9:6 Thou, even thou, art LORD alone; thou hast made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth, and all things that are therein, the seas, and all that is therein, and thou preservest them all; and the host of heaven worshippeth thee.*

These spiritual beings predated Adam and they occupied the earth. They worshipped God from thence before day 1 of Genesis 1. We must ask ourselves when were these spiritual beings created? How long was the earth used as a platform for worship before Lucifer rebelled, took a third of the heavenly

forces away, and a war broke out? And how soon after the rebellion did the longsuffering God create Adam to replenish the loss? Without proper accounting of the spiritual beings and the acts of Lucifer, it is easy for believers to subscribe to the 6,000-year-old model. This model suggests that the Almighty God, the Ancient of days, the King of kings, the Lord of lords, who is from everlasting to everlasting, only as recently as 6,000 years ago decided to create something for Himself. One thing is for sure, God was not lonely before Adam and Eve.

Psalms 41:13 Blessed be the LORD God of Israel from everlasting, and to everlasting. Amen, and Amen.



When did God create spiritual beings, including Lucifer, for His worship? God is never without worship. Rev 4:8

The earth served as a platform for worship, so it had to exist during this time. "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth."

There was Eden, and Lucifer (not the serpent) was in it.

*Eze 28:13 Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created.
14 Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire.
15 Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.*

When did Lucifer rebel, become Satan, and draw 1/3 of the angelic beings with him?

*Eze 28:16 By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire.
17 Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee.*

How long was the angelic war that destroyed the earth and turned it into "without form and void?" Jer 4:19-23

Gen 1:2 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.

When did God begin to clean up and replenish the missing spiritual beings?

When did God create Adam and Eve for this purpose?



And you try to fit all that history in 6,000 years?



Following are four proof points for a very old earth.

1. The Lucifer Puzzle

No one would argue that the devil was Lucifer. He was the anointed cherub that covered the mercy seat, according to Ezekiel 28:14. His name means "light bearer." He was a perfect creation of God. *Ezekiel 28:15a Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created.* (God only used the word "good" to describe the things created in Genesis 1, but He ascribed "perfect" to Lucifer.) Lucifer was the sum of God's creation, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty (Ezekiel 28:12). In other words, he was it! Perfect, excellent in everything, and nothing could be added.

Yet we know Lucifer was not content being number 2. He wanted to be like God. His iniquity corrupted him and brought him down. *Isaiah 14:12 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!* ¹³ *For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also*

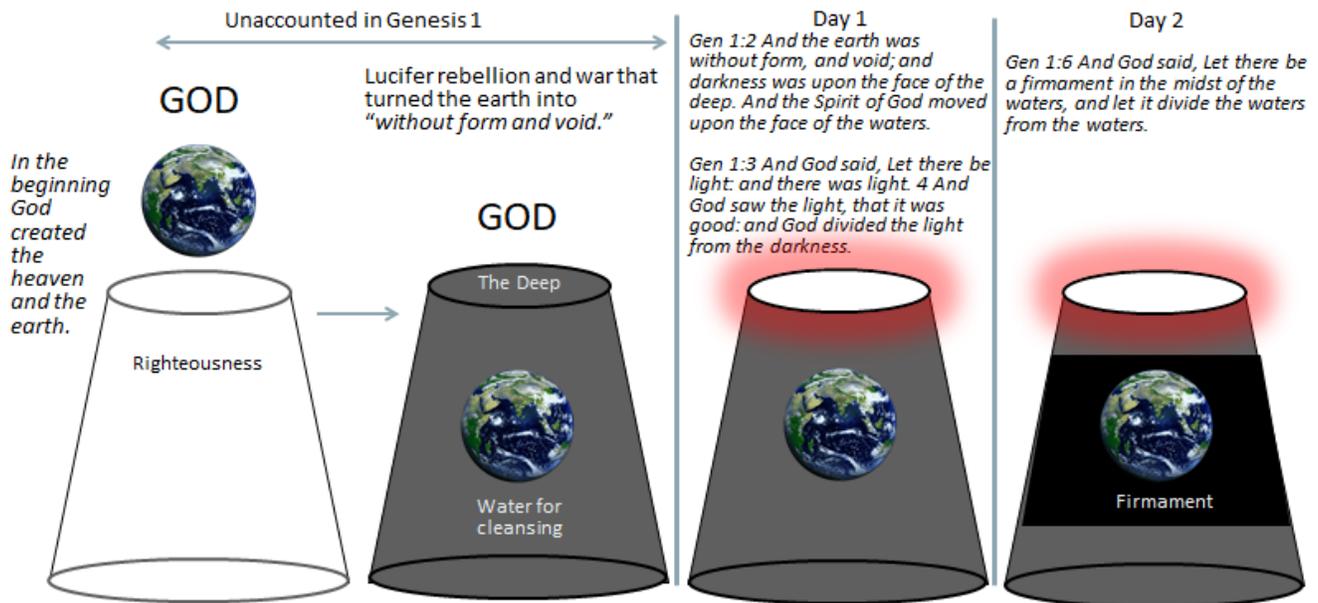
upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: ¹⁴ I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. ¹⁵ Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit. Ezekiel 28:15 Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee. ¹⁶ By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. ¹⁷ Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee.

But when did Lucifer become Satan, devil, dragon, or the serpent that deceived Eve? And where does this fit in the following creation timetable?

Day 1	Heaven and earth and spiritual light	The light was good (Genesis 1:4)
Day 2	Firmament (the space)	
Day 3	Land, sea, vegetative life	They were good (Genesis 1:12)
Day 4	Physical lights	They were good (Genesis 1:18)
Day 5	Animal life that originates from waters, and birds	They were good (Genesis 1:21)
Day 6	Animal life that originates from earth. Adam and Eve also.	They were good and very good (Genesis 1:25, 31)
Day 7	God rested	

Based on the above creation activities, we might say that Lucifer rebelled on day 2 because that was the only day God did not label as good. However, this view is problematic. Ezekiel 28:13 says, *“Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created.”* He appeared in Eden as Lucifer and had not sinned. However, Genesis 3:1 says he appeared to Eve as a serpent. If you go with Genesis 3:1, you must cut Ezekiel 28:13 out of your Bible. But we know the Bible is the word of God and it does not contradict itself.

Perhaps the best clue of when Lucifer became the devil is from 1John 3:8, *“He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.”* Lucifer became the devil from (or since) the beginning, not in the beginning. This is to say after Genesis 1:1. This paper will attempt to show that the fall of Lucifer happened sometime between Genesis 1:1 and Genesis 1:2.



It seems curious that an incredible event like the fall of Lucifer is not recorded in the book of Genesis. Could it be that it happened before day 1? Yes, it makes sense that Lucifer fell before day 1 of Genesis 1. The context of Ezekiel 28:13 suggests that Eden was first given to Lucifer. It was the first Eden that God created for Lucifer. Adam’s garden was the second Eden. It was a recreation. Eve met the serpent, not Lucifer. In other words, Lucifer had fallen when he approached Eve (Genesis 3:1). The Bible does not tell us how long Lucifer performed his duty in the first Eden on this earth before he rebelled. It could be hundreds, thousands, millions, or billions of years. But we know that this event happened ages ago, and this earth could be much older than 6,000 years.

2. ***The Condition of the Earth in Genesis 1:2***

“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.”

Why was the earth formless, vain, void, empty, and dark (absent of spiritual light)? These attributes contradict God’s nature, character, and glory. If you were a king and resources were no object; you owned the cattle upon a thousand hills, would you want your subjects to worship you from a formless, empty, and dark platform? Wouldn’t that reduce your glory?

The earth originally couldn't have been void or empty because spiritual beings were on it before Adam. God Himself said He didn't make a formless and void earth. *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, he formed it to be inhabited: I am the LORD; and there is none else.*

The earth also couldn't have been a dark place originally. It does not make sense for God, the Father of lights (James 1:17), and without sin (1John 3:5), to produce something that is void of spiritual light and is evil (darkness). That is totally out of character. He clothed Adam and Eve in light. He made His ministers a flaming fire. (Psalms 104:4) Lucifer was the "light bearer"!

I can only imagine how beautiful and glorious the earth was when it was a worship platform for the heavenly hosts—"when the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy." (Job 38:7) (Why would they sing and shout for joy over an earth that was without form and void?) There was the Garden of Eden for sure. I'll bet there were even sea creatures and animals, and mountains and hills. Jeremiah 4:25 says, "*I beheld, and, lo, there was no man, and all the birds of the heavens were fled.*" It talks about birds impacted by the angelic war. I am convinced that originally the earth wasn't formless, void, and dark.

So, why does Genesis 1:2 paint such a horrible picture, as if something bad happened after verse 1 and light departed. Because something bad did happen. Lucifer sinned, the light departed from him, and darkness (evil) was upon the face of the deep. (Just like when Adam sinned, the light departed and he saw himself naked.) Genesis 1:2 documents the condition of the earth following the rebellion. *Jeremiah 4:23 I beheld the earth, and, lo, it was without form, and void; and the heavens, and they had no light. Isaiah 24:1 Behold, the LORD maketh the earth empty, and maketh it waste, and turneth it upside down, and scattereth abroad the inhabitants thereof.* (There is a major difference between *create* and *make*. To create is to bring about something from nothing, as in God spoke the heaven and earth into existence. To make is to bring about something from something, as in to make a cake from various ingredients. In Isaiah 24:1, God had already created the earth and it was made empty and waste following Lucifer's sin.)

In the latter part of Genesis 1:2, the Holy Spirit moved to begin the restoration process, which is more evidence that something went horribly wrong between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2. The Holy Spirit is consistent with regeneration and renewal. *Titus 3:3 For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another.* ⁴ *But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared,* ⁵ *Not by*

works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

There is another thought to ponder. Why was the earth in the water? The earth was God's footstool. It doesn't make sense for a footstool to be in water. The reason the earth was in the water was because it had to be washed as a result of Lucifer's sin. (Consistent with our salvation, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost, as stated in Titus 3:5 above.)

Consider the following creation lessons that God gave to Job.

Before Lucifer rebelled:

Job 38:4 Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding. ⁵ Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? or who hath stretched the line upon it? ⁶ Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof; ⁷ When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?

After Lucifer rebelled:

Job 38:8 Or who shut up the sea with doors, when it brake forth, as if it had issued out of the womb? ⁹ When I made the cloud the garment thereof, and thick darkness a swaddlingband for it, ¹⁰ And brake up for it my decreed place, and set bars and doors, ¹¹ And said, Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further: and here shall thy proud waves be stayed?

When Lucifer sinned, God set bars and doors in heaven to prevent him from entering in and polluting it. The earth was plunged into water for cleansing.

There is untold number of years between Genesis 1:1, when God created the earth as a platform for His worship led by Lucifer, and verse 2, when light went out and evil was upon the face of the deep. Chances are that the earth is much older than 6000 years.

3. Adam and Eve's Mission

“And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. 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.” Genesis 1:26-28

Isn't that odd that God commanded Adam and Eve to replenish? What was missing that they had to replenish? Didn't God provide everything for them and it was all good?

Lucifer drew away 1/3 of the kingdom when he rebelled. The kingdom of God suffered loss and had to be replenished. Adam and Eve were to replenish the kingdom with righteous souls. The Bible does not disclose the span of time between the fall of Lucifer and when Adam was created. However, it is clear that day 1 in Genesis 1 is not the first day of the original earth. Day 1 is the first day of the newly renovated earth. The creation account in Genesis (except for Genesis 1:1) is the account of recreation.

Tragically, because of sin, Adam failed to accomplish his mission. Thankfully, the last Adam, The Lord Jesus, did it! *Matthew 18:11 For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost.*

4. The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil

“And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed. And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.” Genesis 2:8-9

Adam's Garden of Eden had many beautiful and fruitful trees. Two trees stood out among them—the Tree of Life, which represented The Lord Jesus Christ, and the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, which represented the devil. The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil was the snare of death, and God warned Adam not to eat its fruit even though it was good for food.

Adam inherited an imperfect garden. He was created and placed in the garden with the devil already in it. The devil predated Adam, which means Lucifer had to fall sometime between Genesis 1:1 and Genesis 1:2. The earth may be 6000 years old counting from Genesis 1:2, but there may be a huge time gap between 1:1 and 1:2.

I thank God the new heaven and new earth that is coming does not have the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil in it. It has the Tree of Life. Unlike Adam, I will inherit a place with no devil in it. *Revelation 21:1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. Revelation 22:1 And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. ² In the midst of the*

street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

Wrapping Up

As Christians, we must remember that we have a mission: To live and proclaim the truth of God and make disciples. Are we winning souls for the kingdom of God by debating unbelievers on how old the earth is? Are they any closer to getting saved if we win the debate? Or will they shun Christianity even more? I think it would be more productive to debate sin instead of the age of the earth. This is not to say that we don't ever debate the age of the earth. We may have to defend our position at times. However, we must be wise in choosing our battles.

If an unbeliever says the earth is billions of years old, tell the story of the fallen Lucifer and dovetail that to the gospel of salvation. And if an unbeliever says the earth is young, tell Adam's story and connect that to the gospel of salvation. Instead of arguing about the age of the earth, remind the person about sin and the salvation that is only available in Jesus Christ.

I hope that the Biblical evidence provided in this paper convinces you of an older earth. I will conclude with my creation story. In the beginning, in eternity past, God created **one** heaven and earth. He also created the heavenly hosts (angels, seraphim, and cherubim, including a perfect being named Lucifer) for His worship and service. The earth was His footstool and a worship platform for the heavenly host. Lucifer led worship from the Garden of Eden on earth. After some time, Lucifer decided to be like God and rebelled. He took 1/3 of the kingdom with him, and a war erupted in heaven. God cast Lucifer out of the mountain of God and put out his light. God began the restoration process. The earth was plunged into water for cleansing. This is the beginning of Genesis 1 verse 2, and the rest is history as we know it.