



## Zionophobia: Charles Clough: The Problem of Constants in Pagan Cosmology; Age of the Earth from Biblical and Pagan Methods of Evidence

Clough, Charles A. Appendix C of "Buried Truths of Origins" in *A Biblical Framework for Worship and Obedience in an Age of Global Deception*. (Bel Air, MD: Charles Clough, 1996): 114-119:

### METHODOLOGIES AND PRESUPPOSITIONS

The method you use to measure past historical time shows the way you think about physical constants and their basis of stability. Insistence upon a vast age for the world has always been a hallmark of paganism. Commentators on the history of science have often remarked that ancient Hinduism foreshadowed modern scientific cosmology in its concept of an essentially eternal universe. (p. 114)

This pagan insistence upon vast ages is not surprising to any Bible-believing student of paganism. Vast ages push back any creative work of God far beyond the human horizon and a sense of ethical responsibility to Him. A long chronology offers spiritual "relief" to the rebellious heart. If any conceivable creation is too distant in the past to contemplate, then any judgment would probably also be too distant in the future to worry about. Thus both ancient and modern paganism agree in conjecturing that the universe (the creation) has divine attributes (of the Creator).

On the presupposition of paganism modern science has developed a doctrine of "natural law". Hiding behind this legal metaphor, modern paganism seeks to establish an autonomous base for knowledge independent of God and His Word. An illusion is thus created that seems to provide the necessary constants for mathematical calculations. Such constants or "laws" are then universalized throughout space and time far beyond mankind's local experience and data-sets.

On the presupposition of the Creator-creature distinction given in the Bible, however, man's knowledge is anchored in God's quality of immutability. Since Noah's day, the universe has existed in a geophysical/biochemical steady-state bounded by God's verbal promises. Natural constants, therefore, which are the center-piece of all time measurement, derive from the Word of God.

Methods of time measurement are bound up with the presuppositions chosen. Let's do a thought experiment about the creation of Adam given in Genesis 2:7. Imagine three observers to this event: A, B, and C. Observer A has a video cam with a clock recorder in the viewer. He records the entire event of Genesis 2:7 on video with the time recorded. Let's say it happened between 10:00 A.M. and 10:05 A.M. on the sixth day.

At 10:10 A.M. observer B (who knows nothing about the recent miraculous creation event) enters the garden and sees Adam. Observer B has data from his experience about how men normally grow up from natural birth, but he has no access to the video-cam record. Thus observer B projects backward in time on the basis of his experience of human growth rate in order to figure out how old Adam is. Observer B is very confident that human growth-rate is a stable constant and estimates Adam's age at, say, 25 years. (p. 115)

At the same time observer B enters the garden, observer C enters the garden by another route and also sees Adam. Observer C, unlike observer B however, has access to the video-cam record of observer A. Observer C, therefore, has a choice in methodology of deriving Adam's age. He can either accept the eye-witness record of observer A's video cam or the human growth rate calculation of observer B. If he accepts the video-cam record, he finds that Adam is only 5 minutes old and that the human growth-rate constant has been unexpectedly changed. On the other hand, if he can't accept unexpected changes in the human growth-rate constant, he will reject the video-cam record and figure Adam's age at 25 years.



Faced with two discordant ages, observer C now has to decide which methodology to follow in measuring the past historical duration of Adam's life. How can he decide? He has to weigh the reliability of alleged observational data (video-cam record) against the strength of a hypothetical constant (human growth rate). But this choice involves what he believes about the world and its overall structure--in short, his presupposition or worldview. His choice is not a scientific one; it is a philosophic one! Methodologies, therefore, are interwoven with presuppositions; they are not "theory-neutral" and objective as most people think.

### TERRESTRIAL "CLOCKS" AND THE BIBLE

Let's apply the two methodologies to physical evidences available on planet earth. What is the age of the earth according to the two methods? The evidences are directly available to mankind so I refer to them as "local" to distinguish them from extra-terrestrial evidences.

#### The Biblical Age of the Earth.

From the biblical view ... Adam fathered the human race that genealogically produced Abraham, Moses, David, and Jesus. Records of the Adam-Jesus genealogy exist through Scripture and are summarized in Luke 3:23-38. Obviously, these records limit the age between Adam and Jesus to thousands of years, not millions or billions of years. The Bible also observes that whatever processes God used to create the earth and its life, those processes stopped on the seventh day and do not continue today (Gen. 2:1-3). (p. 116)

All calculations, therefore, involving so-called constants such as radioactive decay constants must model the observational data of Genesis 1. Moreover, they must model the further observational data of Genesis 6-9 that report a cosmic discontinuity affecting the entire universe. The present-day steady-state condition of the earth cannot be extrapolated backward naively beyond the flood of Noah's day.

NOTE:     **Extrapolate:** To project or extend known data or experience into an area not known or experienced so as to arrive at a usually conjectural knowledge of the unknown area. [*Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*, 11<sup>th</sup> ed.]

#### The Pagan Age of the Earth.

In the pagan view, present-day observations fix the value of all timing constants. Any supposed "discontinuities" such as a creation and a flood are ignored. These constants are then compared; their differences reconciled; and a picture of past history is built up. A value of several billion years is generally accepted as the age of the earth. It must be kept in mind, however, that the underlying method here always depends upon carefully selected constants being extrapolated backward millions of times beyond direct human records.

What is not usually mentioned is that even with this method there are widely varying ages that result. Here are a few examples: (1) human population growth rates yield an age for the human race of less than **9000** years; (2) Carbon 14 has not yet reached equilibrium which requires that the build-up to present levels could not have taken more than **10,000** years; (3) Helium is continuing to build up in the atmosphere and gives an average atmospheric age of less than **100,000** years; and (4) the earth rotation rate is slowing down which implies that it could not be more than **325,000** years old, or it would have been spinning so fast that the continents would have lined up along the equator. Clearly, these examples show that the pagan methodology gives ages from a few thousand to a few billion years! A method that is this uncertain should not be considered a serious threat to biblical faith.