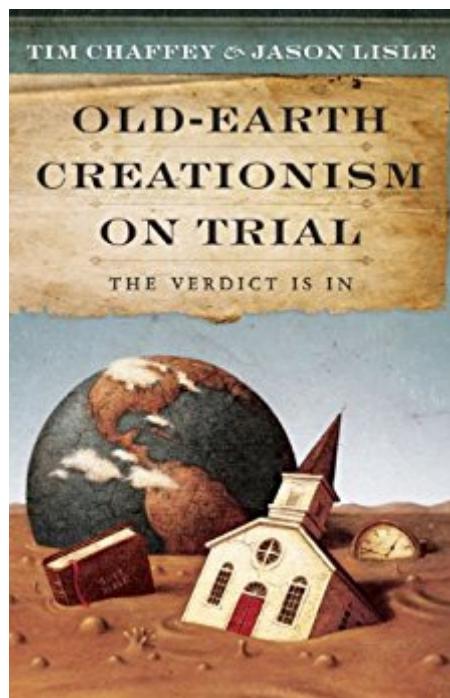


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Old-Earth Creationism On Trial



Synopsis

As the modern Church struggles to find a place of relevancy for a new generation that already has massive demands on its time and attention, more and more young people raised in the Church are leaving it — failing to find the answers to their questions of faith and life, beset with doubts raised by issues that the Church chooses not to address. Opting to skirt the controversy of Genesis as literal history, the biblical authority of the Holy Word is called into question and reduced to a collection of mere stories. More popularly considered an issue for schools or in the public realm, the conflicting views on the age of the earth also remain a pivotal issue within the Church — as it has for over two centuries. Was the Creation week literally six days? Does science really point to an old earth? Does the issue really matter for Christians? Should this issue even be discussed within the Church? Join authors Dr. Jason Lisle and Tim Chaffey as they put forth a case against an old-earth interpretation of Scripture. A comprehensive biblical, theological, and scientific critique of old-earth creationism, the book presents its compelling testimony in layman's terms to create a powerful debate that leads to unquestionable truth.

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Customer Reviews

Tim Chaffey is an apologist who is the content manager for the "Ark Encounter

I read the draft for Tim Chaffey's portion of the book about two years ago. Even then I thought it was the best book on creationism from a Biblical perspective that I have ever read. This is KEY: Tim puts Old Earth Creationism on trial from a Biblical perspective. (Dr. Lisle adds the scientific portion of the argument.) You do not need to be a theologian or a scientist to understand and benefit greatly from this book. It is shocking to me how old earth creationists (OEC) hold to an inerrant, infallible, verbally inspired Bible, but then get all wishy-washy when dealing with the creation accounts in Genesis. Tim graciously and effectively demonstrates the weakness of the OEC interpretation. If you are a young earth creationist, you will applaud this book. If you are an OEC, I think an honest reading will surprise you. Either way, your confidence in the reliability of Scripture will be strengthened. (Disclaimer: I am a personal friend of Tim Chaffey and have appreciated his ministry through Midwest Apologetics.)

First, I find it interesting that the book centers around a "trial". The book was published in 2008 when AiG, the ministry that Dr. Lisle was with at the time was in legal dispute with another young earth ministry CMI. It was encouraging that in "Is Genesis History" both groups were sitting at a table together (it is 10 years later now) and such matters are in the past. I still can't help but wonder if this is a large part of why Dr. Lisle left AiG. Dr. Lisle states that "Old-earth creationists must be able to conclusively demonstrate that Scripture repeatedly not only allows for, but also implies, an age of the earth in excess of 10,000 years." Even young earth creationists have done this. One of the best defenses of gaps in the genealogies is found in appendix ii of "The Genesis Flood" Morris Whitcomb 1961 p. 474-489. I find their arguments much more persuasive than appendix c of OEC on trial. Dr. Lisle states that personal attacks are unnecessary and unbiblical, and states that we should cast down arguments not people. This is too true. I wish Dr. Lisle had written this before he wrote the chapters on the flood (chapter 5-6). You would think that the local flood view is the idea of Dr. Hugh Ross. But in "The Genesis Flood" 1961 on page 36, they go after Dr. Bernard Ramm for this. But in "The Christian View of Science and Scripture" 1954, Dr. Ramm states that "Although many Christians still believe in the universal flood, most of the recent conservative scholarship of the church defends a local flood." So go after the arguments, Dr. Lisle, not Ross, not Ramm, not the recent conservative scholarship of the 1950s, go after the arguments, and cast those down, not the people. By going after Ross on this you show the political motivation of your view. In Appendix E

they state that "The big bang is the secular model of how the universe was formed." This completely denies the historical framework of the big bang in its entirety. The big bang was first proposed under a theistic worldview and Dr. Lisle knows this. The big bang gained dominance in the 1950s and was rejected by secular astronomers because of its theistic implications. There is a similar problem between those who hold a naturalistic worldview, and Christians who only view certain theories under a naturalistic lens. In both cases, it can be a blinder that keeps them from discovering the truth. The reason I have great respect for my brothers and sisters in Christ who are young earth creationists is that they are holding on to what they believe. They state in the book "God's Word clearly teaches a young earth and that settles the matter." If I became convinced that the Bible taught YEC, then I would hold on to it as well. But after comparing the claims of this book with what the Bible actually teaches, I strongly disagree and the inappropriate dogmatism of chapter 9 The Verdict and Recommendations does not help their case. If truth is on your side, then dogmatism like this is not necessary. My apologies to Tim Chaffey coauthor since I have been strictly using "Dr. Lisle".

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