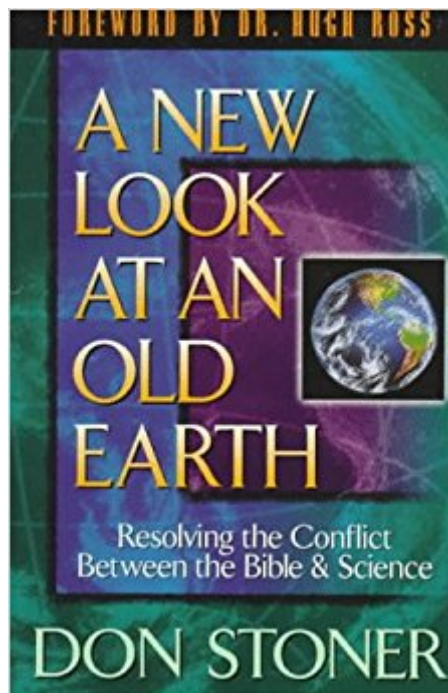




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A New Look At An Old Earth; Resolving The Conflict Between The Bible And Science



Synopsis

A New Look at an Old Earth explores the impact of popular theories on Christianity and science, the importance of reconciling modern science with the Bible, and the way "facts" in theology and science are observed.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I was quite pleased with Don Stoner's strong and lucid advocacy of the "Old Earth" view as he seeks to harmonize the Biblical account of creation found in Genesis with generally accepted scientific discoveries. In contrast to advocates of a "young earth" or "recent creation" (yielding an age of ca. 6,000 to 10,000 years), he presents a concise and fair research methodology in interpreting the "Creation Days" as extended geological epochs (not the 24-hour days we are familiar with). Mr. Stoner convincingly argues that the Hebrew word "yom" (translated as "day") can also refer to a longer period of time. I would suggest that the reader (especially one who has been exposed to the views and writings of "young earth" scholars) thoughtfully peruse Stoner's exposition of the pertinent verses in Genesis - for he uses effective logic in harmonizing the geological and fossil evidence (dating earth's formation to 5+ billion years ago) with the statements of Scripture. In my view, the creative Hand of God fashioned a planet that was (and is) entirely suitable for life and an ideal habitation for man (the apex of Creation on the sixth day). Also, the presence of the fossil column as well as the mammoth deposits of coal, petroleum, natural gas, limestone and marble are best accounted for by an earth much older than ten millennia in age. I would also say (in fairness)

that the author appears (in some measure) to be dependent upon the research of Dr. Hugh Ross, who is the host of the "Reasons to Believe" television program. Nonetheless, Mr. Stoner does present his views in a format that can be easily assimilated by the layman and can prove to be a useful tool in understanding our Creator and His Creation.

Book seemed to be well written and interesting. The author may have almost overload at some points in making his position. I do not feel well prepared to evaluate his arguments but found them interesting. Thought the tone of the author's thoughts to be appropriate.

Don Stoner's book A new look at an old earth is a very persuasive and intelligently written book to convince people that old earth creationism is compatible with both science and scripture and there is no arguing the antiquity of the earth and the universe.

Many Christians blindly subscribe to young-earthism, never looking at old-earth creationism. The YEArthers continue to confuse Christians and turn away skeptics. "The world is only 5000 years old!" they say, no wonder they turn people away and confuse others! Read this book and remove this stumbling block from Christianity. Also check out Ross' "a matter of days" & "the genesis question" Stop the YECs and you will stop the skeptics!

Just read the young-earth reviewers below, they dig their own hole. They use emotionalism and blindly repeat what others tell them is correct. One is a review for another book by another author! The young-earthers don't care about accuracy, they just want to scare you. Stoner uses reason, facts and good scholarship. Young-earthism is pseudoscience that is not literal or scholarly and is largely a 20th century phenomenon. Let's leave it and its embarrassment in that century. I'll stick to scholarly people like Stoner and Hugh Ross anyday over the hand-waving antics of Ken Ham and his emotional-... team anyday.

Don Stoner is pretty much damned if he does and damned if he doesn't, advocate an Old Earth Creationist position. On the one hand, he faces empirical data that demonstrates clearly the age of the universe. He actually focuses on the scientific evidence and shows quite clearly using the data obtained from quasars and pulsars and the resultant red-shifting demonstrated in the light spectrums that unless one accepts the implausible possibility that the speed of light has not always been constant, the universe is Billions of years old. He then makes a compelling argument that if

Scripture is to be taken as true it cannot be at odds with the truth of the creation itself. Here's where Stoner (and all Old Earth Creationists) finds himself in the cross-hairs. The vast majority of scientists would find his arguments as basic foundational information and accept his science without necessarily seeing the need to accept his theology. At the opposite end the Young Earth Creationists, whom Stoner appears to be targeting, are so committed to their interpretation of Scripture they will reject his arguments de facto without the benefit of a great deal of thought going in to their rejection because their position is based in faith and they cannot accept anything that is counter to their espoused presuppositions. Witness other critiques of this book which pretty much deal with Scripture and ignore the strongest physical facts presented. All this aside Stoner does a commendable job keeping the tone and tenor of his argument on the high road. He attempts to demonstrate to Young Earth Creationists how their positions in fact drive scientists and independent thinkers away because they see Christianity itself tied to what in effect is intellectual suicide. Stoner goes to great lengths to argue that the issue isn't Scripture itself; the issue is one's interpretation of that Scripture. There's room, even in Christianity for saying to some issues, "I don't know." "This is how understand it, but it is possible I am wrong." By making Young Earth Creationism tantamount to the Scripture itself, Young Earth Creationists repeat the mistakes of their intellectual ancestors who impuned Galileo and espoused a flat earth based on much the same arguments. Stoner does an admirable job. Unfortunately for him (or more to the point, unfortunately for many Christians) he is going to be met with indifference and unpopularity from both sides. Hang on though. Time showed Galileo right. Time may well just demonstrated Stoner's position to be right, or at least closer to right than the popular Young Earth Creationist movement, once they get past their unwillingness to accept that their position while scripturally based, is not the equivalent of Scripture itself. Take a look objectively at both the facts AND the scripture with a willingness to listen and learn. Whether either side changes their mind, Stoner has done an admirable job, with a difficult subject and handled it with intellectual and Scriptural integrity and graciousness. We all can learn a lot from that.

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