

# Evolution 101

## Lesson 12

### EVIDENCE OF A YOUNG EARTH

The question of the age of the earth probably concerns most Christians more than any other issue in the creation vs. evolution controversy. How can one reconcile the apparent recent and quick creation of the earth as told in Genesis with the billions of years claimed by the geologists? Can these scholarly scientists be mistaken in their theories and methods? Have they extrapolated into conclusions that are impossible to support with empirical proof? Likewise, the creationists cannot produce empirical proof for a young earth. Both conclusions are in the realm of metaphysics, beyond and outside the operation of the present processes and laws of science.

The Christian must remember that the data underlying all of the clocks are subject to interpretation based on one's presuppositions. The evolutionists are uniformitarians meaning that present natural processes have operated in the past at the same **rates** as observed today. Creationists are catastrophists meaning that present natural processes have not always operated in the past at the same rates observed today. Examples: Creation Week, Noah's Flood and God's curse pronounced on the earth after Adam and Eve sinned.

When the underlying assumptions are analyzed, the Christian will find no compulsion to reinterpret Genesis to accommodate the evolutionist's doctrine of uniformitarianism.

It must be understood that super-natural creation is not time bound. The universe may be either young or ancient. The Genesis story of creation may require a young earth. In any case, the theory of evolution suffers another mortal blow if the required billions of years of time for evolution are not there.

### URANIUM-TO-LEAD CLOCK

Uranium 238 decays radioactively into Lead 206 at a half-life of 4.5 billion years. If a rock sample consists of one half of the original quantity of Uranium 238, it is said to be 4.5 billion years old.

For this to be true, several assumptions had to be made. The clock was set to zero (no lead) at the start. No uranium leached into or out of the sample during all that time. No lead leached into or out of the sample. No catastrophic events occurred which would reset the clock. The decay rate has remained constant during all of the time.

None of these assumptions is reasonable for a creationist. His initial conditions and subsequent processes would differ. Who decides whose assumptions are correct? The same problems confront the Potassium-Argon and Rubidium-Strontium clocks.

### TIME FOR DISTANT STAR LIGHT TO REACH EARTH

The speed of light is 186,000 miles per second. The distance to stars is measured in light years (the distance light travels in one year). If a star is 4.5 billion light years away, the evolutionist concludes that the star is 4.5 billion years old and that the earth is the same.

The creationist assumes that God created a mature universe during Creation Week with creative processes not presently available for study. During this time creationists assume that the speed of light was infinite.

Indeed, Barry Setterfield, an Australian physicist and astronomer, has completed an analysis of the measurements of the speed of light taken over the last 300 years and concludes that light is slowing down. His work remains to be validated but if correct, he extrapolates back 6,000 years to a time when the speed of light was nearly infinite.

## POLONIUM RADIOHALOS

Polonium 218 is a decay product in the uranium-lead series but has an extremely short half-life, three minutes. In the Precambrian rocks there are trillions of mysterious polonium radiohalos. When a radioactive element like polonium decays in a transparent rock like mica in granite rock, the emitted alpha particles infuse a distinctive spherical shell of discoloration in the mineral. **The mystery is that the polonium particles were never associated with a uranium parent!** They must have been free particles of the element polonium. They must have come into existence as free and independent elements, lived their few moments of life while they infused their halos in the surrounding solid rock; and then disintegrated and vanished.

Radiohalos will not form in molten rock. They form only in solid rocks that are cooler than 300°C. Hypothetical Big Bang rocks would be molten and require long ages to cool and solidify. Long before that, any free polonium would have disintegrated and disappeared. These halos knock out the idea that the Precambrian rocks ever existed in the molten state. In this state there could be polonium radiohalos only from polonium products produced by uranium after the rocks had cooled and solidified.

The inference is clear. There had to be an instantaneous creation of solid basement rocks containing free polonium, which left its halos and disappeared. Creationists call these radio-halos **God's fingerprints!**

Robert Gentry, an international authority on radiohalos, stated that polonium radiohalos changed him to a believer in a literal six-day creation.

## DECAY OF THE EARTH'S MAGNETIC FIELD

Dr. Thomas Barnes of Institute for Creation Research (San Diego) has studied the measurements of the earth's magnetic field recorded since 1835. His calculations show that the earth's magnetic field has been decreasing in strength a half-life (50%) every 1,400 years. The earth is a huge electro-magnet. Extrapolating backward in time, the field doubles in strength every 1,400 years. This results in an upper limit for the age of the earth.

Since an electromagnet is produced by an electric current passing through a conductor, heat is generated. The heat associated with a magnetic field of 20,000 years ago would probably liquefy the earth. At 1,000,000 years ago there would be so much heat that the earth would vaporize.

Therefore, this dating method limits the age of the earth to less than 10,000 years. Since the magnetic field influences cosmic ray influx, the shielding from these rays would have been greater in the past. This would influence the Carbon-14 dating method discussed in the next lesson.