SCIENCE SAYS-

In the beginning there was nothing. Suddenly, some 13 billion years ago, something caused a tiny speck in space, to violently explode and throw out everything that is now in the universe. Scientists call this event the 'Big Bang.' After a humongous burst of light, all of the matter that had come from that Big Bang from nothingness flew outward, but the space grew grey, cold, and then black, as the light faded and left behind vast amounts of hydrogen gas, the invisible building blocks of matter.

Gravity pulled massive clouds of hydrogen gas together, forming proto-stars which flashed into stars. Eventually, those stars eventually exploded and died, but, their energy release was sufficient to produce larger atoms to include carbon, nitrogen, oxygen, all of which were necessary to form life. But those atoms were, in-turn, clustered together to become new stars that could fuse those atoms together and produce larger and larger atoms.

In our region of the universe, the ever-present force of gravity pulled the atoms into a new, but still dark, proto-star which already had orbiting clumps of cold, dark rocks that held many of those different kinds of atoms.

But as the proto-star became ever larger there was finally, sufficient pressure and temperature to again trigger nuclear fusion in which some of the hydrogen again converted to helium and larger atoms, with a massive release of energy and light, causing its orbiting proto-planets (including proto-earth) to be bathed in a continuous stream of intense light. This was the birth of our solar system.

One side of the earth (and all other planets) was perpetually bathed in light, while the opposite side was always in the dark. While the inhabitants on the light side were experiencing day-light, those on the other side were experiencing night. The constant rotation of the earth caused the inhabitants to experience cycles of day and night.

Due to the bombardment by the searing sunlight and the decay of radioactive elements at the center, our earth became a hot-house of steam and molten rock. As the earth slowly became cooler, water (from the firmament=starry sky=heavens) fell to the earth as rain, only to be vaporized again, to again cool and fall as rain onto the hot surface. Eventually cooling, the water began to puddle on the surface and finally,it formed a great sea. The dry land was all located in a single, giant continent, which today's scientists call 'Pangaea.'

All forms of life began in the sea. First came tiny, single-cell bacteria-sized packages of life that used the energy of the hot molten rock to reproduce. As the earth cooled, some of these organisms developed the ability to convert sunlight to sugars and starches—these were the first plants. Some plants took a foothold on the ancient sea shores and developed the ability to grow in the air.

Some plant organisms developed a new ability to move about and consume other plants, they became the ancestors of all animals. Like their ancestors the plants, animals first developed in the sea and then on dry land. Insects were among the first kinds of animals, then came reptiles and early mammals. On dry land, some reptiles roamed the earth as dinosaurs and some of them eventually evolved into birds.

Plant-eating animals came first—these animals were herbivors. Then, came animals that eat both plants and animals, these were the omnivors. Finally, came animals that ate only other animals—the carnivors.

The discovery of this sequence of change in organisms comes from their remains which are entombed within layers of the earth's crust. The oldest creatures lived first and are in the lowest levels of these layers. Year after year, the bodies of these creatures were buried and fossilized—layer after layer. Thus, the oldest creatures are found only in the oldest (lowest) layers—below the level of the lowest fossil evidence of life, we find NOTHING but featureless stone. This indicates that there was no life form at the time that layer of stone laid down on the deep bed of some lifeless, ancient sea. As we analyze the fossils in the next higher level we start to find fossils of simple life forms—forms that we can tell were in the sea and not on land. At a particular level, and found around the world, the fossils suddenly begin to show evidence that some of the fossils were land-dwelling creatures. Each higher level reveals new forms of life mixed with the older forms and sometimes there is a sudden loss of fossils that were common in the lower strata of rock—this indicates an extinction of earlier life forms. The history of these changes in living organisms is written in the fossils in these layers of stone.

The changes in living organisms is called evolution and the science of geology shows us many examples of the almost infinite number of steps of evolution. Unfortunately, we rarely can see the details in these changes—we find only many intermediate steps that we can link together to see the overall sequence of evolution—the evidence of these changes is shown in fossils which are found the world around in those many layers of stone.

One of the hypotheses regarding evolution states that the strongest or most capable characteristics of an organisms are the most likely to survive to reproduce ('survival of the fittest'). The principle here is that those organisms that are able to survive a particular threat are the ones most likely to pass their

high-survival characteristics on to their descendants—obviously, the ones that did not survive to reproduce died out and had no descendants. Some of the evidences of evolution's 'survival of the fittest' are visible to us today in those rocks.

One example of evolution today is in the developing abilities of disease organisms to withstand the efforts of man to eradicate them. Man developed antibiotics to kill specific disease bacteria, but some of those organisms are adapting (evolving) so they can resist the antibiotics. These 'super-bugs' are becoming serious threats in the places that we would expect to be most safe—in our hospitals, where we try to kill all of the disease-causing organisms we can. But the highly-resistant 'superbugs' seem to be becoming more and more able to resist our efforts because they are evolving better defensive measures.

Another example of evolution today is our ever-changing flu viruses. Every year our scientists try to anticipate which particular variety of the many different flu-viruses is most likely to be prevalent in the following year. They prepare many millions of doses of vaccine to combat the most likely target, but the flu-virus is so capable of changing (because it so readily evolves its genetic code) that our scientists are sometimes wrong in their decisions. In those years, flu takes a terrible toll in human deaths.

The Science of the UNBELIEVER says:

There was no 6-day creation--Our earth is about 3 billion years old.

All plants and animals we find today have evolved from simpler organisms over hundreds of millions of years.

Some assert that the Bible must be wrong because science has demonstrated that the earth was NOT created in six, 24-hour, earth days.

HOW DO WE UNIFY SUCH DIVERGENT ASSERTIONS?

We will address each set of assertions and ask both sides to reevaluate them.

RELIGION	SCIENCE
The earth is about 6000 years old.	Our earth is about 3 billion years old.

CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING:

Fundamental religionists often interpret the Bible very literally, believing that it is inerrant and authoritative in every way. In their theology, the Bible says the earth was created in six days, and that MUST be so. Thus, when science that claims the earth is 3 billion years old, the science is in error and we must teach our children that evolution is a false doctrine.

Scientists who reject the Bible tend to do so because they observe plentiful evidence that the Biblical account is wrong in terms of a six-day creation. Thus, some disbelieving scientists conclude the Bible is wrong because they find evidence and can measure physical properties that show that the earth is about 3 billion years old. Thus, they decide--because the Bible is incorrect in some way--that the Bible must be in error or suspect in all ways.

I SUGGEST THAT THE ADHERANTS OF BOTH ARGUMENTS ARE SOMEWHAT OFF IN WHAT THEY CONSIDER TO BE 'THE FACTS.' Yes, the Bible says the creation took place in six days. But, the Bible also says that to God, a single day is as a 1000 years. (Psalm 90:4; 2 Peter 3:8) If we were to take that comparison literally, the age of the earth would be about 365,000 years. Of course that doesn't make 3 billion years, so perhaps the one day=1000 years concept is not exact either. Consider the possibility that the Bible is actually telling us that the earth was created in six basic ERAS and not six, 24 hour days.

CREATION

ERA	Biblical Account	Sequence of Scientific Events
1	Gen 1:1-3	Creation of the universe in the Big Bang
2	Gen 1:6 -8	Formation of the stars and galaxies (the firmament/heaven);
3	Gen 1:4-5, 14-19	Formation of our solar system and vapor-laden molten earth
4	Gen 1:20-23	Formation of life in the sea
5	Gen 1:9-12	Formation of plant life on the land
6	Gen 1:24-28	Formation of animal life and man on the land

FOR THE BIBLICAL LITERALIST INTERPRETATION: Note that there could have been NO 24-hour, earth-days until the solar system was developed (so the sun could shine and produce the earth's night-day-night cycle in ERA 3), and thus, the Biblical 'day' of Genesis 1 could not have been referring to a literal 24 hour earth-day. Even the 'firmament' (heavens=stars and galaxies) was not made until the Biblical 'second day.'

It seems to me that if we can accept that logic that THERE IS NO SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE GENESIS AND SCIENTIFIC DESCRIPTIONS OF THE CREATION. THEY ARE ESSENTIALLY THE S A M E!

FOR THE UNBELIEVING SCIENTIST: Note that EVERY basic element of the scientific interpretation of the creation is found in the Biblical account! I find that very significant. Judeo-Christian traditions hold that some parts of the Bible (the Pentatuch=first five books of the Bible) were written as early as the Mount Sinai experience of Moses, or around 1500 BC while some Bible critics believe that the Bible was a 'late' document (i.e., written during the Babylonian Captivity roughly 1000 years later) and was developed solely to justify the existence and territorial ambitions of a 'chosen people.' Even if we assumed the most recent date of about 2500 BC, the people who wrote the Bible were far from being scientists. Even though the most educated people of the day were the scribes, other than their observations of the constellations and certainty of changing views of the heavens, they had no knowledge of science as we know it today. Most people were uneducated farmers, herders, or workers with skills in building

structures, using the natural materials about them. How could ANY of those people have been able to know the steps of creation in such detail as are shown in Genesis 1?

MY CONCLUSION ABOUT THE CREATION: The Creation did not occur in six, 24 hour earth-days, but over a period of six eras which were spread over billions of years. The original writer(s) of Genesis were inspired to include every major step of the Creation. Who among them could have conceived of a nature of a void (nothingness) from which all things were created? Who could have conceived of LIGHT as being the first product of creation? From their earth-bound perspective, how could they have known that the stars (heavens=firmament) would have been produced before the earth?

In my opinion, it would have been impossible for the uneducated prophets/scribes of 2500 years ago, to record the Creation story without a higher intelligence informing them of details they could not have been able to understand. God somehow inspired those ancient writers and gave them the words that scientists have been able to piece together only during the last 100-200 years. God inspired the Biblical account.

God created everything and God has not finished His Creation because God is timeless. Science has developed equipment that sees the on-going processes of building new stars and most probably new planets in other areas of the universe. Science has yet to find other planets with life, but considering how God created OUR part of the universe, those 'alien' life forms are almost certainly out there, evolving much as the life on THIS planet has evolved—many will have progressed further in their evolution than we have here on earth—others will be in much earlier stages of evolution. To this point, scientists cannot describe HOW life developed, but they have discovered many truths in the sequence of the Creation process. Some seek to 'explain' the development of life by suggesting that it came from outer space and evolved here on earth—But that 'explanation' only pushes the question of the source of creation of life back to a different planet. God is the Creator of ALL creation. It was God who created life, but it is Science that shows us the sequence of events and how God used evolution in forming his Creation.

God's 'knowledge' is discovered by man through science, but God has known about every discovery made by man from the very beginning of creation. For example, God did not learn about gravity from Isaac Newton—Newton learned about gravity from applying his God-given human intelligence to studying the problem of why a planet orbits the sun. God 'invented' gravity at the moment of creation and gravity is what pulls hydrogen gas into great clouds from which new stars are born.

God has not given us His WORD just in the Bible, for God has written his WORDS in the skies where we see new stars forming as His work of creation continues, in the rocks where ancient fossils testify of Him and His works, and in the DNA code that resides within every one of our bodily cells. Science is reading those WORDS of God wherever it looks. But, while God never quits working and, God's works are mysterious to man, God is timeless, constant and never changes. Man is finite and even with the extraordinary, God-given intelligence that we humans have been blessed with, we will never attain to the infinity of God.

There is NO serious contradiction between the Biblical account of God's Creation and Science's viewpoints of what happened. Oh, details will change as science learns to read more and more new things about God's creation, but the divine inspiration revealed in the book of Genesis will not change.