

Reconciling Science and the Bible

Lesson 1: 7 Days of Creation

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Lessons: Reconciling Science and the Bible

1. 7 days of Creation
2. In the Beginning (the Big Bang)
3. Did dinosaurs really exist? How old is the Earth?
4. The Existence of God: The Ontological Argument
5. The Existence of God: The Anthropological Argument
6. The Existence of God: The Argument from Logic
7. The Existence of God: The Argument from Intelligent Design
8. What is truth? Is the Bible true and can you trust it?
9. Was Jesus a REAL person?
10. Why does God allow evil to exist?
11. Is there life after death?
12. Is God multidimensional?
13. Living an intentional life!



What does a “day” mean?

- There are a few reasonable assumptions
 - A period of light and dark
 - A period of 24 clock hours
 - General, vague time (“Our marriage just gets better every day!”)
 - A point in time (Valentine’s day, solstice day)
 - A year
 - The time it takes for the earth to rotate around its axis
- The English language can have 14 different meanings including:
 - the break of day
 - A day on Mars is 25 hours, a day on Venus is 6,000 hours
 - 24 mean solar hours beginning at midnight mean time
 - A specific date as in “my wedding day”
 - An age “old days” or “Days of the Dinosaur”
 - seemingly unending time as in “Day after day”

Usage of “Day” in the Bible

- In all other verses that refer to a “day” outside of Genesis 1, it is accepted that it means a literal 24-hour Earth day
- The use of “evening and morning” in Genesis 1 would also signify a literal 24 hour period on Earth
- In Exodus 20:1 “In six days the Lord made heaven, and earth, and all that is in them and rested on the seventh day”
- But, in Genesis 1, could “day” mean a ***much*** longer period of time?
- A day on Earth is 24 hours, on Jupiter it is 10 hours, on Mercury it is 1,408 hrs and on Venus it is 5,832 hours. Only on planet Earth is a day 24 hours!

Day 1 Light, Dark, Time



“Let there be Light” (Day 1)
Sun will not be created until Day 4?

Science can tell you why/how!

¹In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

² Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

³ And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light.

⁴ God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness.

⁵ God called the light “day,” and the darkness he called “night.” And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.

Day 2 Firmament



⁶ And God said, “Let there be a vault between the waters to separate water from water.”

⁷ So God made the vault and separated the water under the vault from the water above it. And it was so.

⁸ God called the vault “sky.” And there was evening, and there was morning—the second day.

Day 3 Dry Land, Plants, Trees



⁹ And God said, “Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear.” And it was so. ¹⁰ God called the dry ground “land,” and the gathered waters he called “seas.” And God saw that it was good.

¹¹ Then God said, “Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds.” And it was so. ¹² The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. ¹³ And there was evening, and there was morning—the third day.

Day 4 Sun, Moon, Stars



Wasn't light created on Day 1?

How did He create light in Day 1 without the sun?

Science can tell you!

¹⁴ And God said, “Let there be lights in the vault of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark sacred times, and days and years, ¹⁵ and let them be lights in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth.” And it was so. ¹⁶ God made two great lights—the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars. ¹⁷ God set them in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth, ¹⁸ to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹ And there was evening, and there was morning—the fourth day.

Day 5 Birds and Water Animals



The creation of life on earth

- Sea creatures first
- Then birds

²⁰ And God said, “Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the vault of the sky.”²¹ So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living thing with which the water teems and that moves about in it, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. ²² God blessed them and said, “Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth.” ²³ And there was evening, and there was morning—the fifth day.

Day 6 Land Animals



²⁴ And God said, “Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: the livestock, the creatures that move along the ground, and the wild animals, each according to its kind.” And it was so. ²⁵ God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.

The creation of life on earth

- Land creatures next

Day 6 Land Animals and Man



The creation of life on earth

- Mankind last
- To rule over all other creatures

²⁶ Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals,^[a] and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”

²⁷ So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

²⁸ God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

²⁹ Then God said, “I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. ³⁰ And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food.” And it was so.

³¹ God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.

Day 7 Rest!



Creation continued on the 7th Day

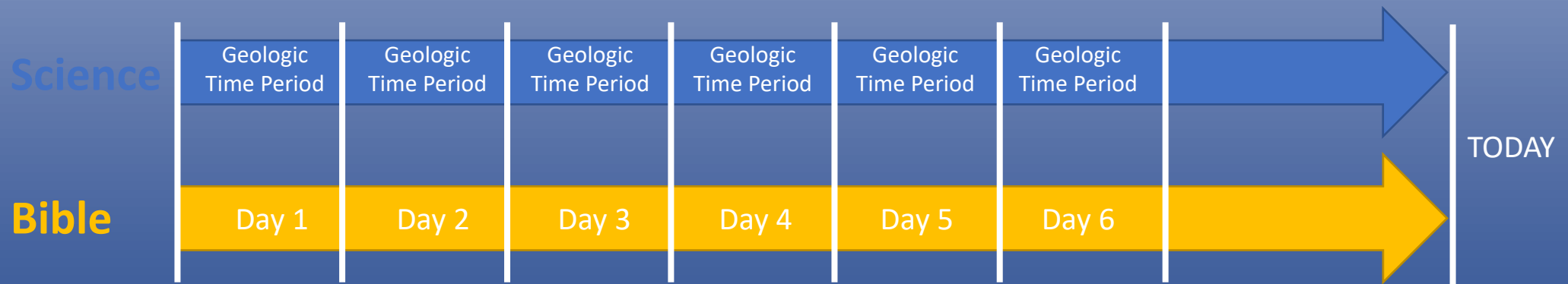
- Rest
- Holiness

¹Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array.

² By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work.³ Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done

Compare Science and the Bible

- Science says the earth was created over billions of years
- The Bible says it was created in 6 days
- What if a “day” in Genesis really meant millions of 365-day years?
- Compare the order of the creation of things in Science and the Bible
- You may be surprised!





Day 1 Time and Earth

- Earth is hot and molten
- Carbon Dioxide atmosphere
- The moon breaks off from the Earth
- Hadean period lasted 1B years
- *Photons were created 13B years before, but the universe was still in a thick fog*

Sky is dark with haze, unable to see past the smoke and haze, unable to glimpse the sky and into the heavens, earth is completely dark, and hot



4.7 Billion
Formation of the Earth

4.5 Billion
Formation of the moon

4 Billion
First Life Appears

Hadean

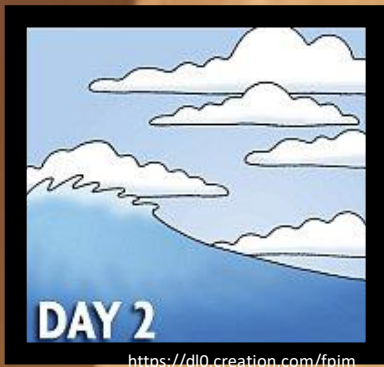
Geologic
Time
Chart

Gen 1:1 The earth was formless and empty, Darkness was over the deep and the spirit of God was hovering over the waters

<http://cosmology.net/images/HadeanEarth1.jpg>

Day 2

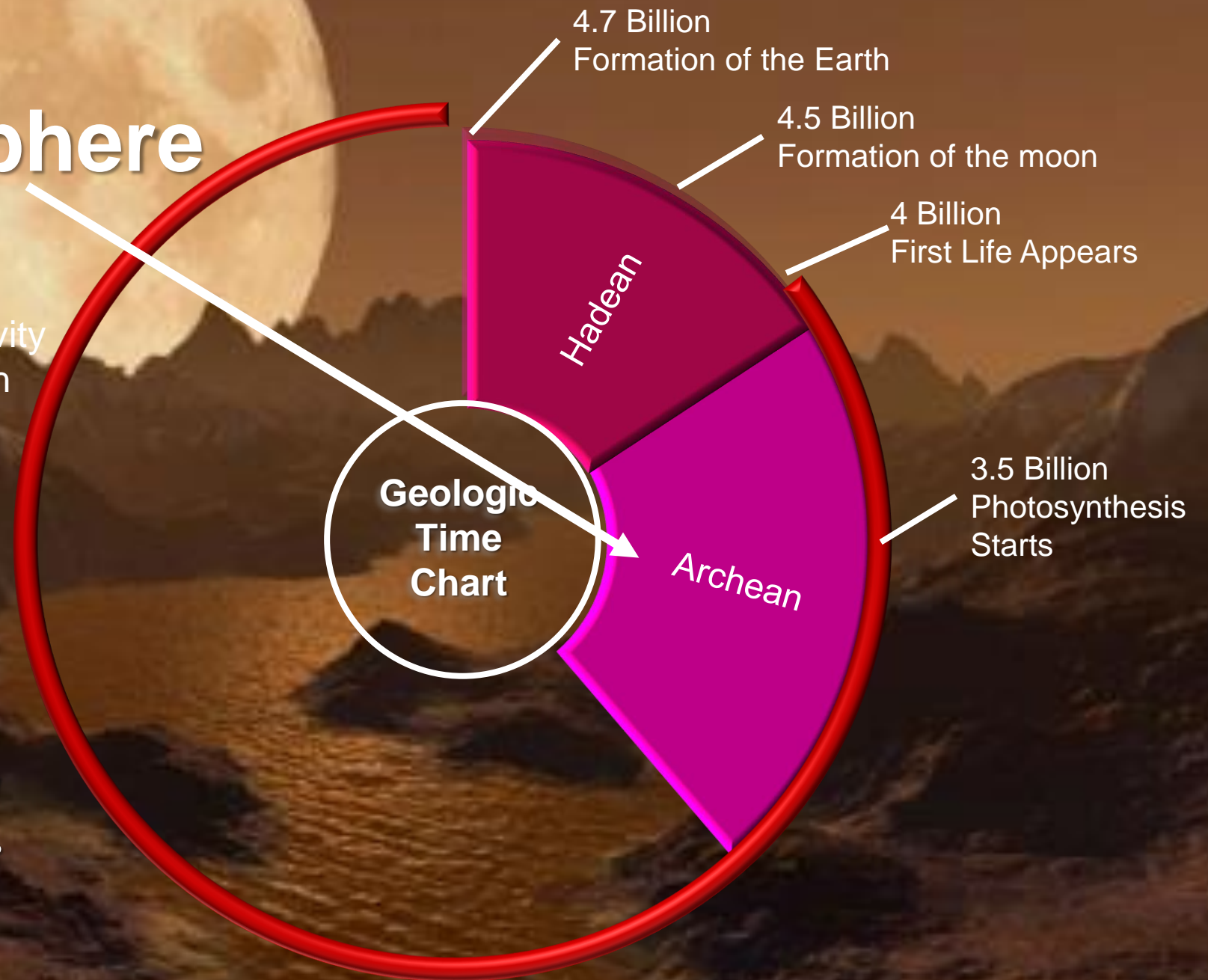
Atmosphere

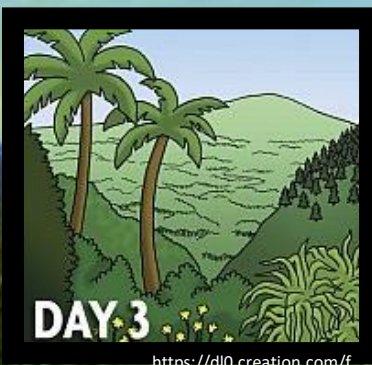


<https://d10.creation.com/fpimages/1023.jpg>

- High rate of geologic activity
- Few large continents, tectonic activity
- Comets & asteroids bombard Earth
- Liquid water present
- Temperatures very similar to today
- Simple single-cell organisms begin producing oxygen
- Photosynthesis starts
- Archean period lasts 1.3B years
- Could not see far into the heavens

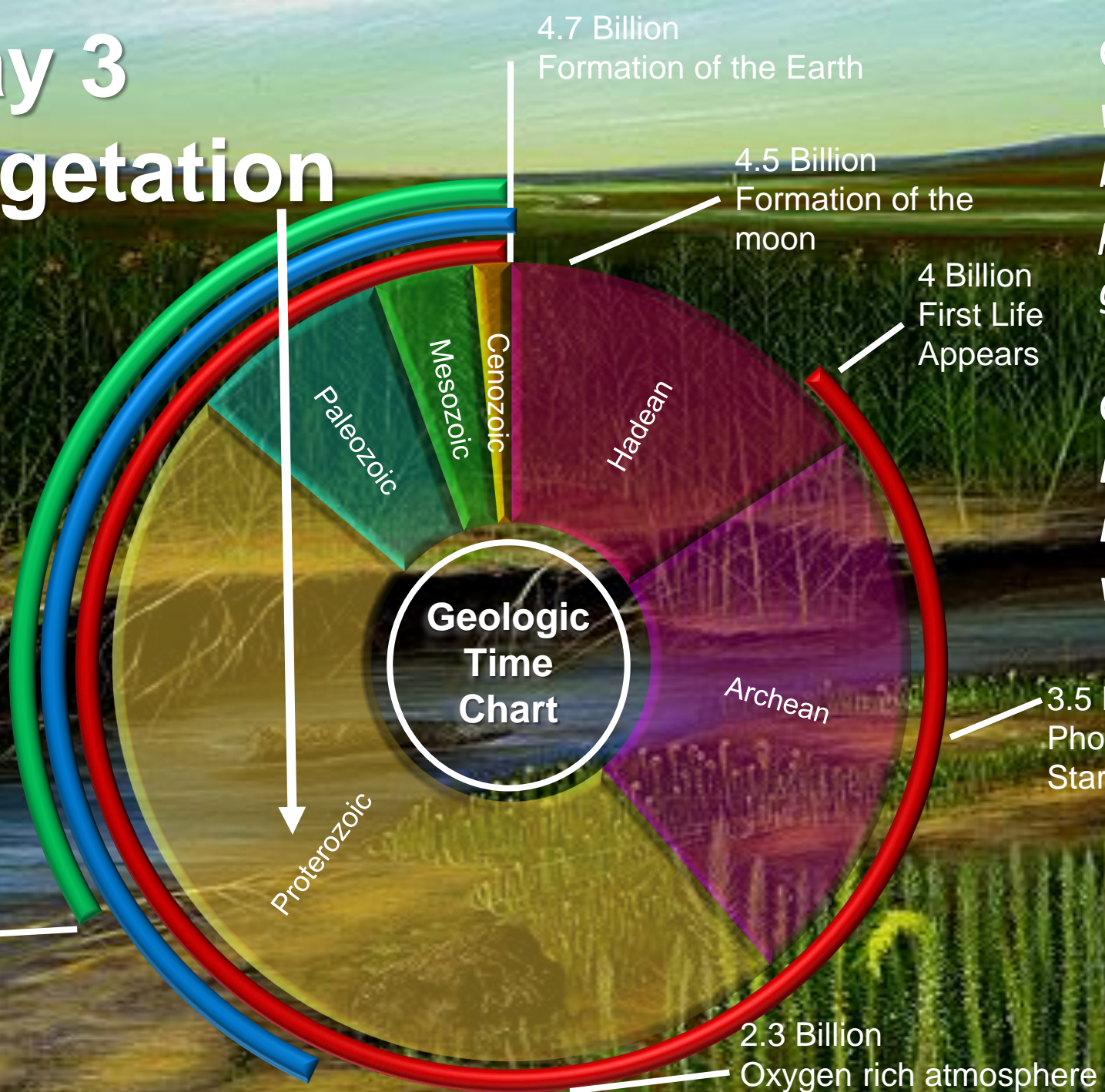
Gen 1:6 God made a vault and separated the water under the vault from the water above it. God called the vault "sky."





Day 3 Vegetation

- Multi-celled life forms appeared
- Plants thrived in oxygen-rich air
- Several major glaciations
- Proterozoic period lasts 2B years



Gen 1:9 *Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear*

Gen 1:11 *Then the Lord said, let the Land produce vegetation*



Day 4 Sun & Moon

750 Million
First animal life forms

350 Million
First vertebrates & Plants

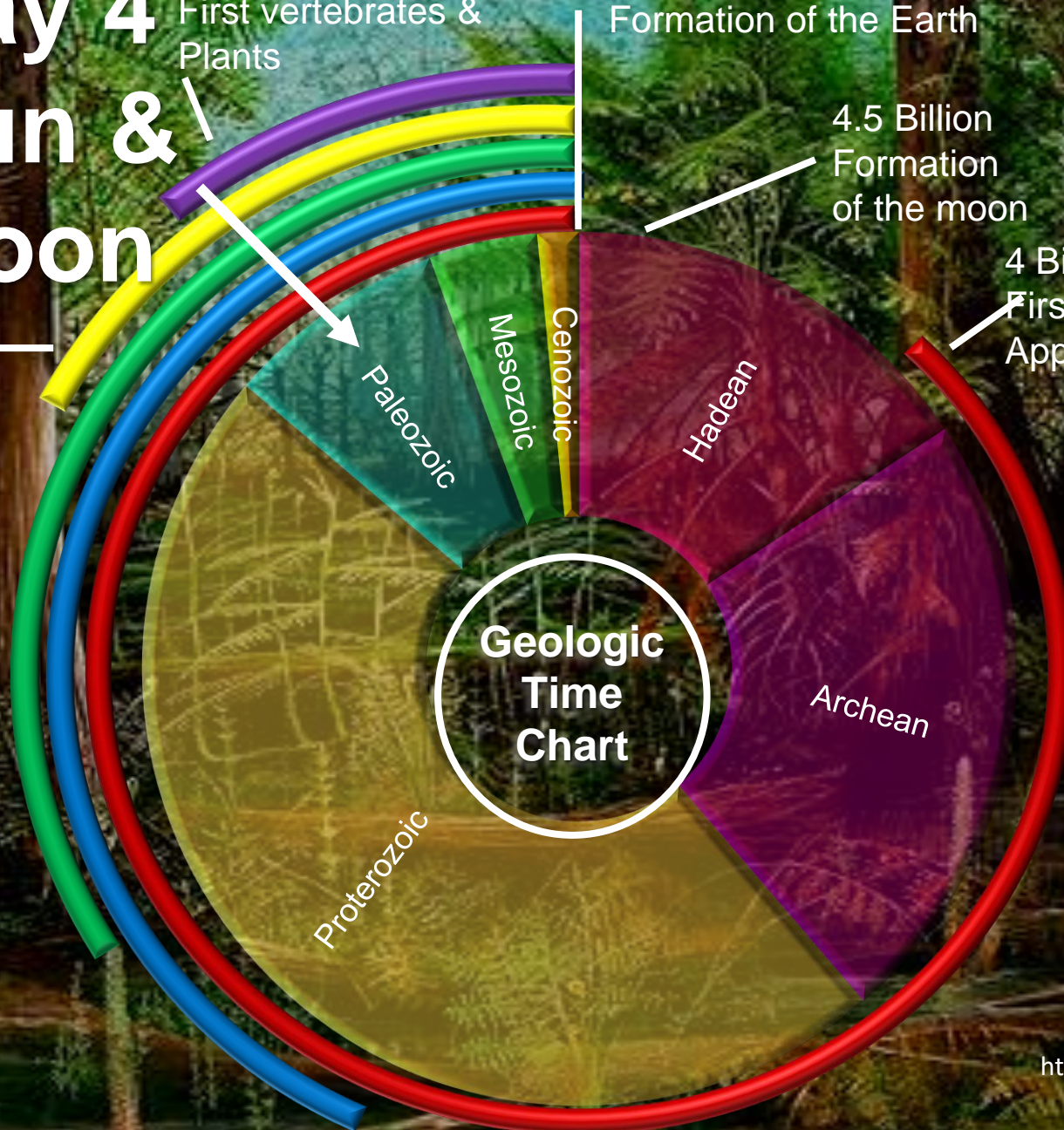
4.7 Billion
Formation of the Earth

4.5 Billion
Formation of the moon

4 Billion
First Life Appears

- Fish populations explode
- Plants and conifer trees thrive
- Invertebrates emerge
- Land vertebrates appear
- Large sophisticated reptiles emerge
- Largest mass extinction (Permian) killed 90% aquatic and 70% land animals, plants, and insects
- Paleozoic period lasts 0.5B years

3.5 Billion
Photosynthesis Starts



Geologic
Time
Chart

Proterozoic

Mesozoic

Hadean

Archean

Gen 1:16-19 God made two great lights ... He also made the stars. God set them in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth, to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness.

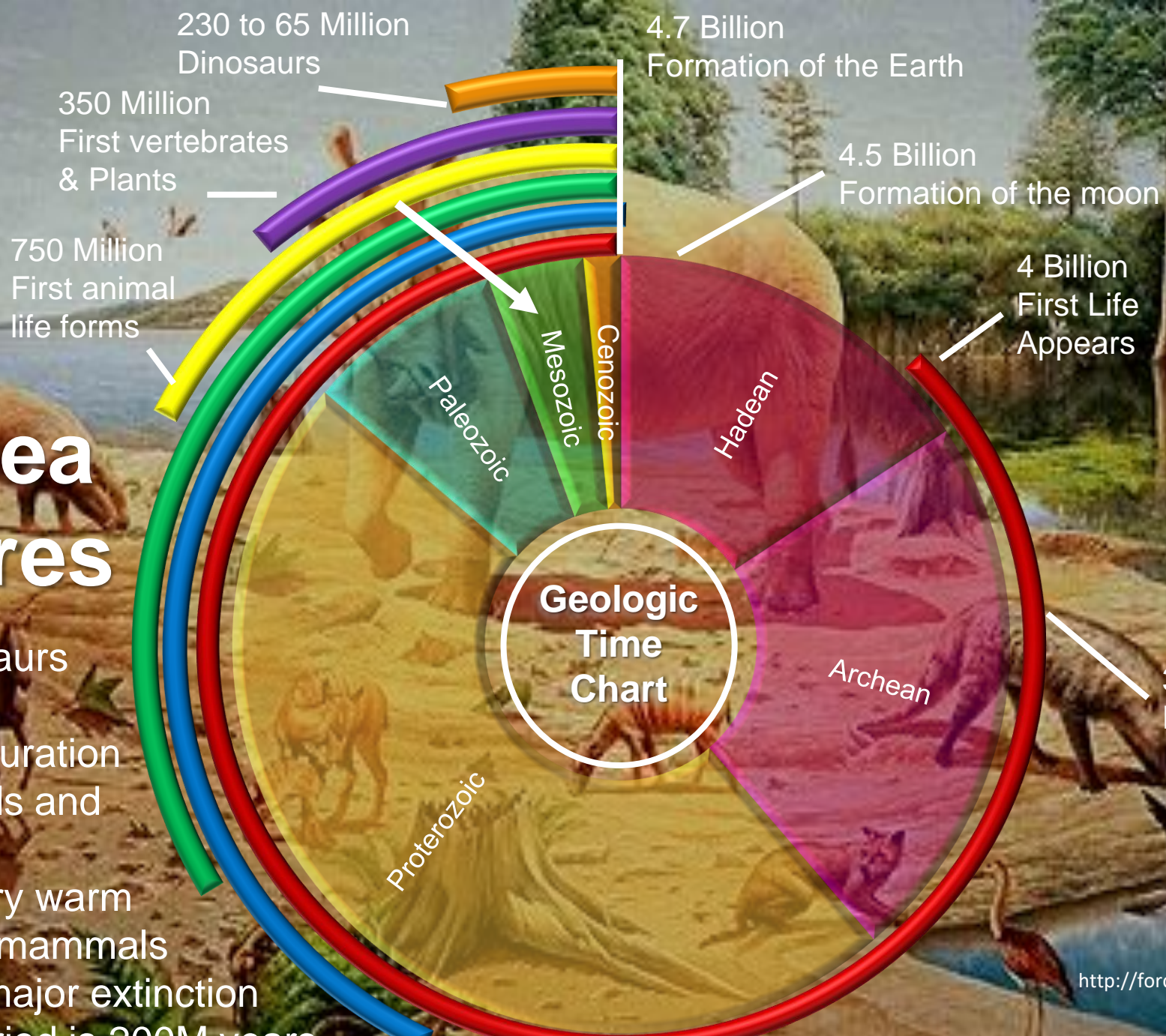
(God made lights = Clear Skies)

http://forces.si.edu/atmosphere/images/02_02_06_a.jpg



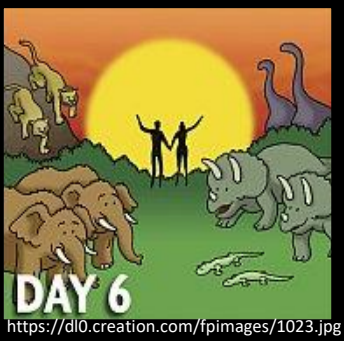
Day 5 Land/Sea Creatures

- Age of Dinosaurs
- Plates shift to current configuration
- First mammals and birds appear
- Climate is very warm
- Reptiles and mammals
- Ends with a major extinction
- Paleozoic period is 200M years



Gen 1:20 *Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the vault of the sky.*

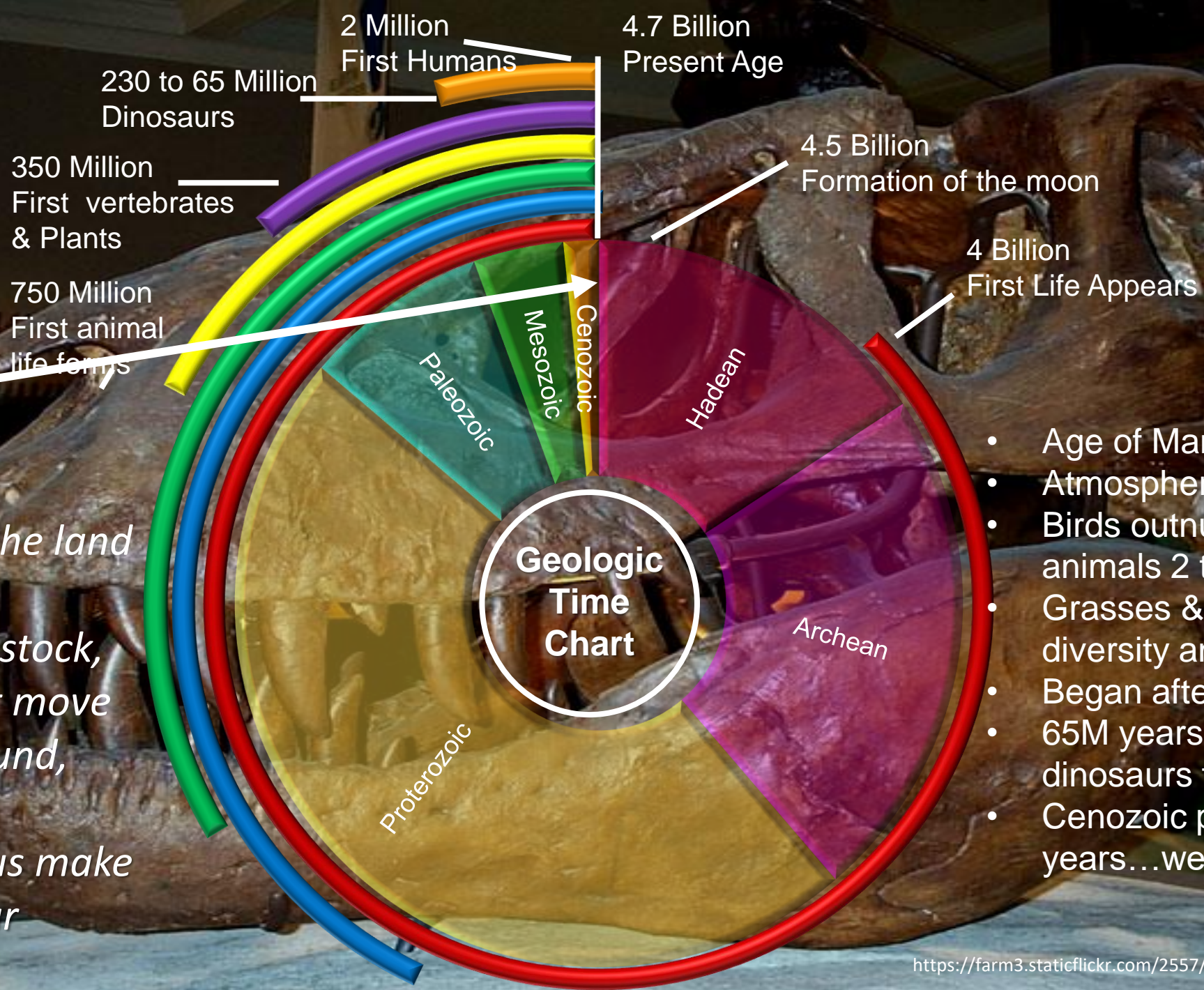
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Day 6 Man

Gen 1:24 *Let the land produce living creatures: livestock, creatures that move along the ground, wild animals...*

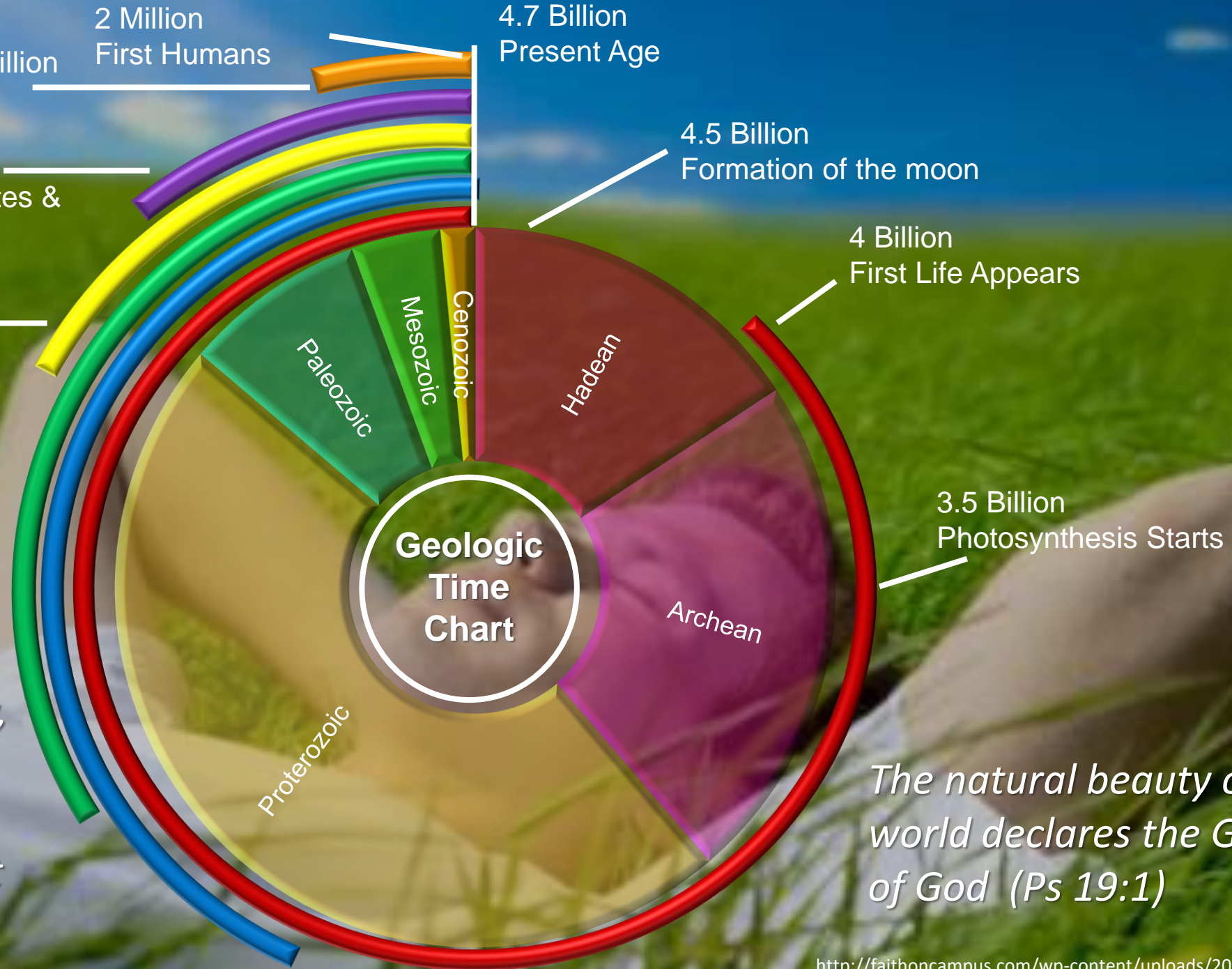
Gen 1:26 *Let us make mankind in our image...*



- Age of Mammals
- Atmosphere cools
- Birds outnumber land animals 2 to 1
- Grasses & plains shaped diversity and bird evolution
- Began after K-T extinction
- 65M years separate dinosaurs from man
- Cenozoic period lasts 65M years...we're in it!

Day 7 Rest

Gen 2:2-3 *On the seventh day he rested from all his work. Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.*



The natural beauty of the world declares the Glory of God (Ps 19:1)

Reconciling Science and the Bible

- It is AMAZING that the creation account in Genesis aligns perfectly with the Scientific theories about the order of the creation of things in the universe!
- Even the Sun/Moon being “created” on Day 4 lines up with the clear view into the heavens during the Paleozoic period
- Science says Earth was created 4.6 billion years ago
- The Bible says it only took 6 days

What was Created First?

- Gen 1:2



- At first nothing, not even time, existed
- God said let there be light!
- Science says photons (light waves) were the **first** things created from the Big Bang explosion
- But, apart from the fact that there was NOTHING alive to even see, the universe was still incredibly hot from fusion and **light would not be visible** for at least 380,000 years
- In Gen 1, the Sun will not be created until Day 4!

Why no Sun and Moon Until Day 4?

- Day 1: Dark and formless earth and day/night
- Day 2: Firmament was created (vault in sky)
- Day 3: Dry land and sea, vegetation on land
- Day 4: Lights placed in the sky (sun, moon, stars)

From science:

- Light was the first thing created at the Big Bang
- Lights in the heavens would not be observable on Earth until this time

Order of Creation

- Day 1: **Earth** and **Time**, 12-hour periods of dark and light in a 24 hour day
- Day 2: **Atmosphere**, a livable habitation
- Day 3: **Dry land**, trees, grass, vegetation
- Day 4: **Sun** was created after vegetation! (Light is visible everywhere at once)
 - Didn't vegetation need the sun for life?
 - No, vegetation needed God for life. He is the sustainer, not the Sun!
- Day 5: **Living creatures: Fish in seas, birds in the air**
 - They were created after things they needed for life...vegetation, oxygen, light
- Day 6: **Land-dwelling creatures, including man**
 - He was created last...a house for his dwelling was created first
- Day 7: God created **Rest**. There was creation going on in this day, too!



The Garden of Eden

- To reconcile Science and the Bible on the Garden Story is difficult
- It is either Absolute Truth or it is a simple fable or story
 - If it is **true**, this garden (long ago lost to us) existed somewhere on Earth and Adam and Eve were literal people who were ancestors of everyone thereafter
 - If it is a **story**, this garden is a great way to describe the creation and development of life on Earth by evolutionary processes
- Believe what you want to about this



Describe the Garden of Eden

- A “garden” in the East with all kinds of trees
- The garden was planted in a place called Eden
- Thought to be located somewhere in the Fertile Crescent
 - A river flowed in and divided into 4 streams
 - Pishon in Havilah where there are all kinds of gems and gold
 - Gihon in Cush
 - Tigris
 - Euphrates

Man

- God formed man from the dust of the earth
- God breathed into his nostrils the breath of life
- Man became a living being
- God put him in the garden as a caretaker
- Named him Adam

<http://1.bp.blogspot.com/-JVYBdOSkyJA/UiGRMS-AJXI/AAAAAAAAAC5g/lvEHInmyRTM/w1200-h630-p-k-no-nu/Gen-1-26-Creation-of-Man.jpg>

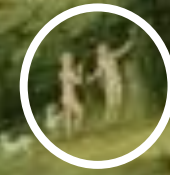
Creation of Eve



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Creation of Eve

- Adam needed a “helper”
- He was put into a deep sleep
- A rib was taken
- Eve was created from man’s rib
- “Bone of my bones, flesh of my flesh”
- Adam named her “woman”
- Both were naked but felt no shame



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Science and Evolution

- Many believe the Bible's account is true and discredit what Science says. These Christians believe Evolution is false and trust this account to be real.
- Several approaches have been offered to align Science and the Bible
 1. Some teach "Theistic evolution", where God is directing evolution for his own benefit. Yet, science insists this is not how evolution works...it has to be undirected.
 2. Most scientists believe there was a single common ancestor, though some feel it was not one but several progenitors that evolved into the Kingdoms of life today.
 3. Others teach that God created the first creatures and left evolution as Science describes it to derive all others (undirected evolution)
 - He would KNOW that sooner or later man would evolve without his involvement and could then begin to work with him...after all, God is not bound by time!

Your task is to decide whether or not Science and the Bible in this account **should** be reconciled and find a way to do that or to ignore science on the matter

The Command



Snake!

The Command

- You may eat any but the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil!
- “Eat of it and you will surely die”
- Why was this “test” given? To test...
 - Comprehension: A test of Adam’s perception?
 - Intelligence: A test of Adam’s ability to understand?
 - Compliance: A test of Adam’s willingness to obey?

The Serpent

- Satan: “Did God really say not to eat of the fruit of **any** tree in the garden?”
- His focus was on the limitations placed by God, not the amount of freedom God allowed them
- Eve: “Well, no... Just of the one tree. We will die if we do.”
- Satan: “That is a lie. You will NOT die! You will become as wise as God and He knows it!”

The First Sin

A classical painting depicting Eve, the first woman, holding a red apple. She has long, dark, wavy hair and is looking down at the fruit with a contemplative expression. The background is a textured, golden-brown surface with large, stylized leaves.

- In a lush garden with all the food she could want
- But, this particular fruit was:
 - Good for food
 - Pleasing to the eye
 - Desirable for gaining wisdom



Compare Christ and Eve

- Situation:
 - Eve: In a lush garden with all she could want to eat
 - Christ: In a wilderness, fasting 40 days, hungry and weak
- Temptation 1: Body...desires of the flesh
 - Eve: Saw the fruit was good for food
 - Christ: Satan said "You need to eat. Make stones into bread!"
 - You need food! Craving of the flesh
- Temptation 2: Soul...desires of the mind
 - Eve: The fruit was pleasing to the eye
 - Christ: Sure you are God? Throw yourself down and see!
- Temptation 3: Spirit...recognition, praise, power
 - Eve: Desired to be wise
 - Christ: Look at all these kingdoms that can be yours!

Hiding from God

- God walked in the garden in the cool of the evening
- Adam and Eve heard God walking and hid
- Can anyone hide from God?
- Does God walk and talk directly with us today?

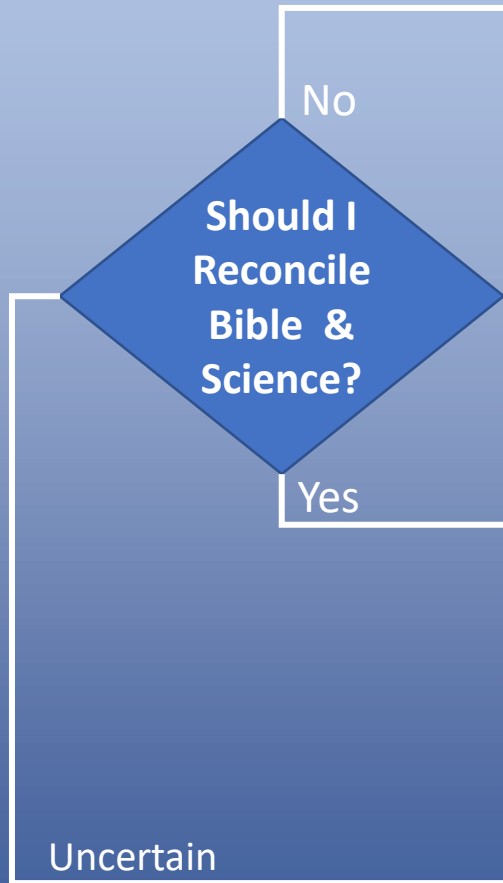


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Paradise Lost

- God knew they had disobeyed
- Adam's excuse: This woman you gave me!
- Eve's excuse: The serpent deceived me!
- Punishment:
 - Toil and labor to make food to eat
 - Life will be hard
 - Your days will be numbered
 - Banished from Eden where a cherubim and a flaming sword guard it
- Did Satan's promises come true for Eve?

Decision Time!



Accept Genesis 1 as literal and true and that all creatures were created as they are today
Disregard any attempts to date the age of the earth to anything over 4,000 to 10,000 years
Discredit Science's insistence upon the veracity of radiometric dating techniques
Accept that the flood was a global event that created the fossil record we have today
Believe that man and dinosaurs lived concurrently on earth
Accept the teachings of "The Institute for Creation Research" as true *Creation Science*
Continue to fight for the teaching of "Creation Science" in the classroom
As Henry Morris said: "Believe God's Word all the way or not at all!"
38% of American Adults take this view*

Assume Genesis is a story told by Moses to ancient people without math to understand
Accept science's date of the universe at 13.5B, the earth at 4.5B, and man at 300,000 years
Accept radiometric dating techniques as yielding appropriate age dating numbers
Accept that the flood was a local event or another beautiful story told by Moses
Assume an Old Earth in which undirected evolution has been at play for billions of years
57% of American Adults take this view*

Read and study the Bible, especially Genesis
Read teachings of all sides (Science, Young Earth Creationism, and Old Earth Creationism)
Determine if the account in Genesis is literal or if it is allegorical or figurative
5% of American Adults take this view*

* <https://news.gallup.com/poll/210956/belief-creationist-view-humans-new-low.aspx>