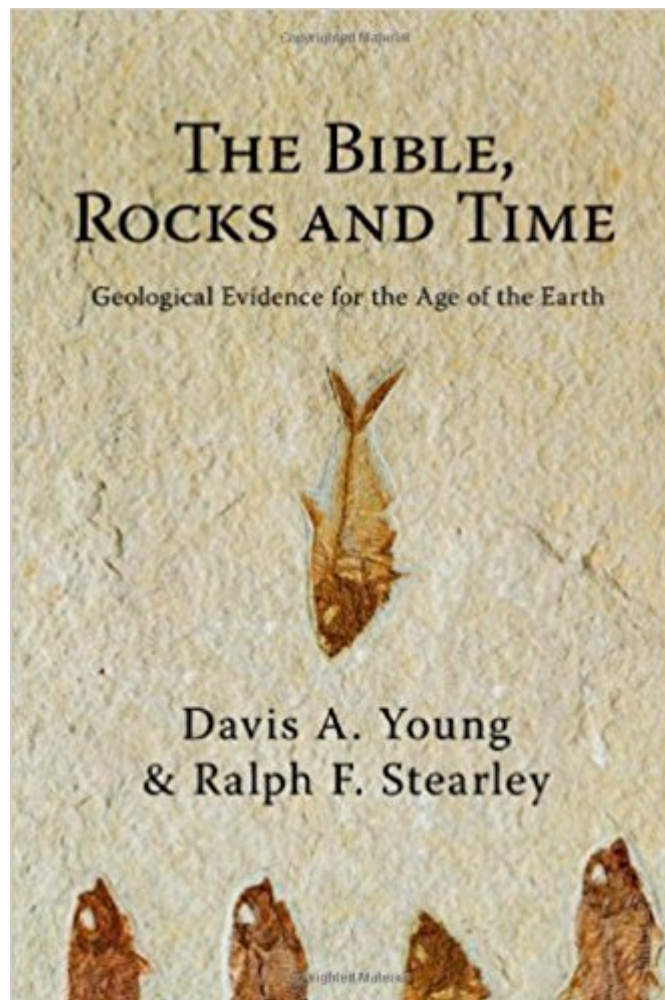




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The Bible, Rocks And Time: Geological Evidence For The Age Of The Earth



Synopsis

Is the Earth relatively young or very old? We've all heard the controversy. The consensus regarding the age of the Earth, based on the best geological evidence, is that it is billions of years old. But many Christians believe that the Bible teaches the Earth is only a few thousand years old at best. What are we to make of this discrepancy? Geologists Davis Young and Ralph Stearley tackle this issue head-on. Thoroughly examining historical, biblical, geological and philosophical perspectives, the amply illustrated Bible, Rocks and Time takes a comprehensive and authoritative look at the key issues related to the Earth's antiquity.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"This book will prove a useful tool for scientists to explain geologic ideas to the public, and to refute the notion that accepting science necessarily means rejecting religion. It will be especially useful in communicating with evangelical Christians." (Steven Newton, Reports, 2009)"Well written and comprehensive." (Hugh Henry, Stone Campbell Journal, Fall 2009)"I am sorry that this book had to be written, but I am so glad that it was written and that it was done in such a splendid fashion." (Michael Ruse, Perspectives on Science and Christian Faith, Spring 2009)"Rigorously argued and well-documented." (Marcus R. Ross, Christianity Today, April 2009)"It is remarkable to encounter a scientific treatise written in a very interesting style. One should not be intimidated by its 500-page length. One geologist says: "Every church librarian should have this volume available as an essential reference." We agree and are pleased to have a book of this caliber in our collection." (Betty Waller, The Lamplighter, May 2009)"Saying that The Bible, Rocks and Time is probably the

best book of its kind would not be saying enough, since there really is no other book of its kind: a treatment of the varied and overwhelmingly consistent evidence for the antiquity of our planet, written by Evangelical Christians with the aim of not only making the scientific case for the age of the Earth, but also helping conservative Christian readers navigate the issues of theology and Biblical interpretation that go along with such a conclusion, and all the while pointing out the difficulties and at times dishonesty of the young-earth creationist position. I highly recommend this book for any young earth creationist who is open to encountering an opposing viewpoint. I also recommend it for anyone who is unsure what to think about matters of science and creationism and wants more information. I heartily recommend this book -- all 510 pages of it!" (James F. McGrath, Exploring Our Matrix (exploringourmatrix.blogspot.com), April 23, 2009)"This solidly researched book would be a useful reference for anyone interested in the broader issues of the historical development of geology and why geology supplanted the traditional biblical view of Earth history. While all geologists should read this book to learn more about the history of their field, it would be especially valuable for Christian school and seminary libraries as well as university libraries with history of science and religious studies departments." (S. H. Schimmrich, CHOICE, February 2009)"These men know what they are talking about on this subject. They have put together a nice and readable presentation of the geological evidence for the age of the earth. This book is an excellent resource for and Pastor and any Christian struggling with the issue. I recommend [parts 1 and 2] to everyone interested in the debate and how we got to the current position, especially Pastors and church leaders. Even if you don't care about the scientific details, read this." (RJS, Jesus Creed (blog.beliefnet.com/jesuscreed), November 25, 2008)"How old is the earth, anyway? That's a question that continues to haunt evangelicals, even in the 21st century. Suggestion: an adult Sunday school class at your church, using this book as a text. Invite professors from local colleges for some of the sessions. Yes, you will be asking people to read 500 pages. About geology. And at the end, they will agree it was time exceedingly well spent." (John Wilson, Christianity Today, December 2008)"This book would be especially helpful for: Christian college students with a major or interest in sciencePastors and youth workers who need a viable, Biblically-sound alternative to young-Earth creationismNon-believing scientists, doctors and engineers who reject Christianity because they think faith in Christ is incompatible with scienceAnyone who has an interest in the relationship between science (especially geology) and the Bible" (The Geo Christian (geochristian.wordpress.com), September 11, 2008)"The tone is pastoral: the authors have no interest in winning a rhetorical battle. Rather, their wish is to provide a thorough assessment of the available evidence, evaluate young-Earth creationism, and encourage

those who hold an Evangelical faith with a paradigm for holding the two worlds together." (Peter Enns, a time to tear down (peterennsonline.com/book-reviews/), November 2008)"This deeply learned book by two committed Christians is the best of all proofs that science and religion properly understood are coworkers and not antagonists. It is fair-minded, it is sincere, it is informative, and above all else it is fun to read." (Michael Ruse, Lucyle T. Werkmeister Professor of Philosophy and Director of the Program in the History and Philosophy of Science, Florida State University)"The basic geology in The Bible, Rocks and Time is 'rock solid.' Despite my background of over a half-century of geologic teaching and research, I could find nothing with which to argue. The book represents a most welcome change, an authoritative and well-documented major work combining solid science and religious history to stand in sharp contrast against the vast religio-scientific literature by those with little sophistication about either or both. This book could and probably should be used as a geology text for Christian colleges, or it might well be the basic text for an innovative 'pro and con' geology course in more traditional colleges and universities." (Donald U. Wise, Professor Emeritus of Geology, University of Massachusetts--Amherst)"The Bible, Rocks and Time is a thoughtful book by Christian scientists for anyone interested in reconciling Genesis and geology. Planet Earth and life on our planet have long, complex and deeply interesting histories written in rocks and fossils that will never go away. Here professors Davis A. Young and Ralph F. Stearley lead us through a timely and constructive synthesis of religion and science." (Philip D. Gingerich, professor of geology and paleontology, University of Michigan)"What an enjoyable tour of the history of geology, the interaction between geological study and biblical exegesis, and the current field of geology itself! Professors Young and Stearley have shown us why the geological evidence for the age of the Earth is persuasive. Their love for the Bible and for the world that God made, their commitment to a biblical worldview, and their patient explanations of scientific principles are exemplary, as is their respect for those Christians with whom they disagree. Thank you, Professors, for writing such a helpful book, which I will be glad to have people read." (C. John Collins, professor of Old Testament, Covenant Theological Seminary)"This book is a masterful, scholarly, engaging and readable defense of the claim that standard geology's dating of the Earth is consistent with a high view of Holy Scripture and sound Christian doctrine. Its challenge to young-Earth creationism is daunting--not only scientific but biblical, theological, philosophical and apologetical as well. It is the best book I know on this topic." (John W. Cooper, Ph.D., professor of philosophical theology, Calvin Theological Seminary)"The long-awaited return of Dave Young's Christianity and the Age of the Earth has finally come and in a wonderfully new version. Young and coauthor Ralph Stearley present us with a unique scholarly treatment of geology's relationship to a

key issue of biblical interpretation. They relate well the historical engagement of theology and geoscience with comprehensive support for the establishment of Earth's great antiquity. Every church library, Christian high school and college, seminary and bookstore should have this volume available as an essential reference." (Dr. Jeff Greenberg, professor of geology, Wheaton College, Wheaton, Illinois)

Davis A. Young (Ph.D., Brown University) is Professor of Geology Emeritus of Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan. His books include *John Calvin and the Natural World*, *The Biblical Flood: A Case Study of the Church's Response to Extra-biblical Evidence*, *Portraits of Creation: Biblical and Scientific Perspectives on the World's Formation* and *Science Held Hostage: What's Wrong with Creation Science and Evolutionism*. Ralph F. Stearley (Ph.D., University of Michigan) is professor of geology and chairman of the department of geology, geography and environmental studies at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan. His current research interests include the history of paleontology and stratigraphy and Christian reactions to evolutionary thought.

The strength of this work is its clear-headed scientific review of (primarily) geological evidence for the age of the earth. It is written by Bible-believing Christians who want to help other Christians clear their heads from a misguided, literalistic reading of Genesis that requires them to believe in a very young (roughly 6,000 year old) earth. In addition to a level-headed review of the scientific evidence, which they present in clear fashion, they also make a plea to their fellow Christians to avoid the pseudo-science young earth creationism that may feel good when presented within a tightly guarded Christian subculture but that ultimately brings embarrassment on Christians who try to engage the best scientific research of our age. Christians who want to engage the questions of Biblical interpretation, creation, evolution, and the age of the earth will be well served by this book, as will non-Christians who want to understand the position of serious, non-fundamentalist Christians. This book will be even more helpful when it is paired with other studies that address the interpretation of Genesis with more literary sophistication. Bible-believing Christians may still feel conflicted when they have been persuaded scientifically that the earth actually is very, very old. Studies by Old Testament scholars like John Walton, Tremper Longman, and Pete Enns will help explain that Genesis was never meant to be a scientific statement clarifying the age of the earth anyway. This book's value will be maximized when it is read in tandem with studies such as those.

A very scholarly work on the question of the Bible and its relation to the geologic record. A must

read for anyone interested in the historic development of our understanding of geologic time whether a Christian or not. The investigation of geologic time was started by a fundamental question - why do basic observations of nature not conform to the creation story as understood in the sixteenth century? The book explains in detail as to how the idea of the earth only being 4 to 6,000 years came to be and why this is not a correct interpretation of the creation story. What is remarkable is that it was this question that spurred on the development of our understanding of modern geology.

If you've encountered the creationist movement, but you have this strange feeling that science in its myriad forms cannot so off base about the age of the earth, read this book! Davis Young and Ralph Stearley do an awesome job putting geological concepts in layman's terms in their reviews of various observations and reasonings why the earth is ancient, not young. And they are Bible-believing Christians! The book ends with a principle believers and non-believers can benefit from: Natural sciences make observations about nature. If you believe that God is responsible for nature, then the truth of God's nature is for us to observe. That truth is just as important as the truth of the Bible.

This was far more detailed and complex than I needed, but still a good read, though I skipped some of the more technical explanations.

The first thing to mention about this book is that the reader should probably have at least an average handle (and tolerance) of geology. I would say that about 90 - 95% of this book is scientific history and jargon. At times, I felt that large sections of the book could have been summed up by the phrase "the earth is old." Having said all that, I gave it a 4-star rating because I knew that that was the purpose of the book. The authors really bring the point home that almost all of today's scientific evidence points to an ancient earth. What I did really like about the book was the other 5 - 10% that addressed the need for Christians to educate themselves and not be afraid of potential conflict between science and faith. The Bible does not point to a really young earth (6,000 - 10,000 years). A close exegesis of the first chapters of Genesis can reveal that the Bible does not claim to give the exact age of the earth in any direction. What I took away from the book was that science can be a tool to gain insight into Scripture, but only Scripture itself can be the final authority. We must know what Scripture says and understand it from the viewpoint of the audience for which it was written at the time. Good Book. Tough Read.

Great book for a Christian defense of old earth.

I like it.

The two authors are extremely thorough in their writing, evidence and organization. And their Christian Faith is solid. They masterfully prove the truly ancient age of our planet. Religious folk should not feel encroached but enlightened by this fantastic book.

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