Two Clocks (?)

A biblical time span of six thousand years (or so) versus the scientific view of billions of years is the widest discrepancy between science and the bible. The question arose long before this time because of the discontinuity between religious interpretation and scientific study as related to the formation of the cosmos. This dichotomy has had serious concerns from both sides; yet from a biblical perspective we are both advised and challenged to consider the creation as an act of God to show His glory and not only a feature of His handiwork, but to provide knowledge. Nothing here will solve the evolutionary scientific viewpoint debate as 'Science' is a religion all its own with concrete boundaries that cannot be breached by scientists within its ranks. The question most prevalent here is why do some biblicists not have a better biblical answer to the long ages postulated by science? Instead, religious writers have seemingly capitulated to science by constructing a gap of time between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2 to allow the billions of years as required by the philosophies of science.

The scientific viewpoint is principally two fold. Arguments from earth science such as geology and paleontology claim to require vast ages to explain rock ages, strata formations, and fossil ages with no actual calibration standard to support the philosophy of extremely old rocks and fossils. Now, astronomic observations of twentieth and twenty-first century optical and mathematical precision show vast distances and separation velocities of the galaxies which would take billions of years to result from a 'big bang' scenario. These primary philosophies fit together to support the evolution of the universe and everything within yet even the astronomical evidence lacks a calibration standard as will be argued below.

The theological view is that the whole of creation was completed in six literal days; this is not simply a viewpoint but allows no question as to the biblical interpretation when considering the language and logical chronology of the creation account and the entrance of rebellion against God into mankind through the first created humans. The scientific evidence for seemingly infinite distances and the attendant enormous expansions of distances between galaxies has become nearly irrefutable. Yet, God has challenged us to study the heavens to better know Him; not to confuse us.

Stated again, a biblical time span of six thousand years (or so) versus the scientific view of billions of years is the widest discrepancy between science and the bible. Hand in hand with the long age viewpoint sprouts the naturalistic evolution of plant and animal life; another dichotomy, another argument. In looking at the Genesis account some theologians have postulated the gap theory in time early in Genesis to hopefully reconcile the bible with that of science's long ages for the universe. A gap in time would seem like a possible solution but only if it squared with scripture which it does not. That failed attempt in effect discredits the biblical text and unwittingly supports evolution theory and places sin and death before the time of Adam. The gap theory, of course, was initially postulated to account for the age disconnect. It seems puzzling as to why theologians would distort the reading of Genesis when another more convincing argument is found in scripture to argue against an unfounded interpretation of scientific observation for the long ages.

The biblical account establishes that God knows the beginning from the end; certainly a fact that *time* is the operative principle. 'In the Beginning' also sets the starting point where time begins as it relates to the creation. It is inferred that God is outside the boundaries of time. Time, in Genesis, is divided into segments for the sake of chronological accounting where days are defined as a period of day(light) and night. Verse 1 starts the cosmological creation clock. In day one the heavens are created as is the earth. The earth at this time is not the ball of earth we live on today but was without form. Creationists scientists postulate from the writing that a very large mass of water originated here. Light and darkness

were established which infers that the laws of physics were put into place that included the electromagnetic spectrum and much more of physics. God saw it and declared it good; i.e.; complete and operational. This ended day one with the question being what would it have looked like at that time. Reading on, there would have been no sun, stars, galaxies. These he set in the firmament later in vs. 17 on the fourth day.

Reverting back to verse 6, the beginning of day 2, we find the word *then*. This word is repeated throughout the creation narrative. What is its implication? A time division could be intended to define for the first time, a day, or a sequential rendering between creation events could be intended; or both. We would agree that a time gap to lengthen the day longer than 24 hours is not needed or implied. The insistent teaching that the days are literal 24 hour days is not explicitly stated but twenty four hours is the established rotational periodicity of the earth even before the sun arrived on the fourth day. The sun, in fact, was to rule over the day and its reflected light for the night; i.e, to essentially establish the time scale of a full day.

So, let's also consider Ussher's biblicly based age of the earth at approximately 4004 years B.C. His time scale admittedly begins with the time of Adam and moves forward based upon biblical and historic events and is probably nearly accurate. The historical accuracy depends upon the witness of Adam or Seth or Moses but anything prior to Adam would have been handed down by God and the writings of early Genesis provide that revelation. Nothing prior to the time of Adam suggests a long gap of time in the creation events of the Genesis record.

This leaves us with no logical argument that we are dealing with two clocks; a cosmological clock to allow a time gap to get creation done and a historical clock beginning with Adam. So now we insist that if God tells us to look at His heavens we should do so and believe what we see. Scientists are doing this with amazing instruments and logical deductions as to what they see and measure. A favorite advisory is this:

> The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament
> shows His handiwork. Day unto day utters speech, And night
> unto night reveals knowledge. Ps 19:1,2

Again the astronomical argument that insists upon long ages for the universe is that science began studying the cosmos with precision instruments and computer aided mathematics in the 20th century when galaxies, other than our own, began to be found and counted; galaxies not only very far away but also accelerating away from each other at enormous speeds of thousands of kilometers per second. Picture our own galaxy, The Milky Way, as a single raisin in a loaf of raisin bread and the bread is rising (as all good breads do) then the raisins would all be accelerating away from one another as the raisin bread expanded. This is the concept. When reading from Isaiah and the Psalms we find that God "stretches out the heavens like a curtain." This statement is reiterated so much that we should realize that God is trying to get our attention to the detail of stretching out the heavens.[1] Here the bible and science seem to agree and here is where vast ages of time are postulated by scientists and where the bible and science's conclusions diverge. Astronomers calculate that if time were reversed and the galaxies receded to their origins (big bang philosophy) as based upon their measured velocities and distances, the time to do so would be on the order of some billions of years. Here is the perceived

1 Is.44:24 - I an the Lord, who makes all things, Who stretches out the heavens all alone...
Is.45:12 - I have made the earth, And created man on it, it was I – My hands that stretched out the heavens...
Is.48:13 - Indeed My hand has laid the foundation of the earth, and My right hand has stretched out the heavens...
Is. 51:13 - And you forget the Lord your Maker, Who stretched out the heavens And laid the foundations of the earth...
Ps.104:2 - Who cover Yourself with light as with a garment, Who stretch out the heavens like a curtain.

dichotomy between science and the bible. Science, of course, does not worry about this disconnect. So, did God allow long periods of creation in the early verses of Genesis or does the stretching out of the heavens support a workable answer? As an event of creation, the stretching would be either an instantaneous or very rapid instant of time followed by the the normal resulting momentum to continue at the rates as measured by today's science. It would be a challenge to say that science is mistaken in their observations of an expanding universe although the extent and magnitudes involved are questioned even among scientists. We know from the bible that "He spoke, and it came to be; He commanded, and it stood firm" (Psalm 33:9). and, "By the word of the Lord the heavens were made." (Psalm 33:6). This agrees with Job 38:4 where it tells that the sons of God shouted for joy at the sudden appearance of the physical creation.

My conclusions have to be this: That the creation events in Genesis before the creation of the sun would have been contained within their stated days. The 24 hour argument is based upon word meanings and is probably correct. God used a daylight to daylight time scale for each day within the 6 and 7 day periods, whether time was needed or not but because of its intended standard for man's work day and work week. In addition, the earth's rotational periodicity of 24 hours from daylight to next daylight establishes the extent of a day. Without an unambiguous statement otherwise from scripture the creation timing is so miraculous as to make any argument seem trivial. The enormity of the miraculous creation events strongly argue that the stretching out of the heavens like a curtain is a watershed statement for the time and age question. Take for instance the creation of the moon about the earth. It was created for a purpose and therefore had to be given an initial velocity in some direction at some radius from the earth for the laws of physics (a created system) to carry the moon in its path forever until this day. Likewise the galaxies in the heavens were given an initial push; the motion of expansion inherent with the stretching out of the heavens. This display of God's handiwork continues its dynamic glory in concert with God's laws of physics. Here is where the scientist's time and age conclusions are mistakenly interpreted and at odds with the time scale of biblical revelation. Scientists calculate a theoretical time of collapse of the universe by running time backwards assuming that the outgoing and incoming velocities must follow the same equation. The stretching out of the heavens was no more or less miraculous than any other created event and would require no theoretical naturalistic expansion rate. The biblical stated stretching, however, results in the continued kinetic expansion just as observed and provides a continuous display of awe in the heavens. Science, within its evolutionary framework, must have the time of expansion of the universe to be computationally equal to its theoretical time of collapse. The theoretical time of collapse is calculated due to the measured distances and velocities and perhaps adjusted for gravitational effects. If the scientist does not know the rate of expansion (stretching out) or of its extent then a calculation for collapse time has no relevance to the age of the universe. Again science philosophy does not provide a calibration standard.

Unfortunately, inaccurate science leads to other discrepancies and theories that may have no basis other than their foregoing unproven hypotheses. One of these discrepancies might be the mysterious dark energy that supposedly supports the expansion of the heavens. In this case it is not dark energy at all but the kinetic energy of the original stretching of the heavens as authored by God; i.e.; that of the stellar masses being observed.