**Questions for Lesson 28: The Age of Things**

1. What assumptions are all scientific dating methods based upon?
    **Answer:** Uniformitarianism--the idea that the present is the key to the past (see lesson 27).

2. Is the assumption of uniformitarianism a good one?
    **Answer:** No! Many things are known to have happened in the past that are not going on today (see lesson 27), and many more are possible.

4. Is the age of the earth important to the message of the Bible?
    **Answer:** No. The plan of salvation is not related to this.

5. Why have religious people wanted to suggest that the age of the earth is relatively young?
    **Answer:** The major reason has been that modern leaders of the creationist movement in the United States have been from denominations that teach dispensationalism. Their theology says that the history of the earth is made up of roughly 1,000-year periods ending with the Rapture, Armageddon, etc. For more on this, see Ronald L. Numbers' book *The Creationists* (see bibliography in the back of this guide). There is also an appendix on dispensationalism in the back of this guide. Some have felt that the earth being more than 6,000 years old supported the theory of evolution in some way, but this is not the case.  No amount of time helps the major challenges that naturalistic evolution faces.

6. Is the age of the earth important to the theory of evolution?
    **Answer:** No! Undirected, chance, opportunistic evolution could not occur in 100 billion years as we saw in the anthropic principle in program 5.

7. What assumptions have to be made to determine the age of the earth biblically?
    **Answer:**  a)  That there are no undated verses in the Bible.
             b)    That there are no missing people in the genealogies.
            c)  That no historical period is missing from the Bible.
            d)  That genealogies are always given in the right order.
            e)  That the purpose of the genealogies was a chronological purpose.

8. Are there any undated verses in the Bible?
    **Answer:** Yes! The most important of these is Genesis 1:1, which is undated and untimed. To assume it is part of the creation week, you have to assume it is a summary of the chapter.  It is not written as a summary, but as a  series of historical events. Another undated event is the length of time that Adam and Eve were in the Garden.

9. Are genealogies always complete in the Bible?
    **Answer:** No! Even when numbers are used, there are inconsistencies. Compare Matthew 1:1-17 with Luke 3:23-38. Compare Ezra 7 with 1 Chronicles 6. These are not errors. The purpose of the passages is not to reveal chronology. It is only to show

ancestry/lineage.

10. Why is Matthew's genealogy from Abraham to Christ different from Luke's?
**Answer:** Because Matthew is a Jew writing for a Jewish audience and using Jewish symbols (14 is twice 7 for example meaning double completeness). Matthew 1:1 uses a typical description of Jewish descendency. Luke is a Greek writing for a Greek culture, so he won't use Jewish symbols.

11. Did Adam have a belly button?
**Answer:** The point of this question is to ask if God could have created the cosmos full grown, just as Adam may have appeared to be 30 years old only one second after his creation. Certainly God could do the creation any way He wants. The question is more one of His nature. Can God lie, mislead, give us evidence that will mislead us? In 1987 we saw a star explode (Supernova 1987A). We watched the explosion, saw the materials move out from the explosion which we can still see going on. We saw the remnant nucleus pulsate as our models suggested it should. That star is 160,000 light years away! That means if God created the cosmos 6,000 years ago He had to make a video image to send to us from 6000 light years out in space so we would think that explosion took place 160,000 years ago. That seems to this author to be deceptive. Go back to program 23 for the discussion of whether God is a magician or an engineer for more on this. I would say that Adam did not have a belly button because that would indicate he had an umbilical cord which doesn't seem to be true.

11. What are the basic sources of conflict between science and religion?
**Answer:** a)  Bad science.
 b)  Bad theology.
 c)  Both of the above--which has often been the case historically.