

Parson to Person

(GUEST SPEAKER: RUSS MILLER)

Today we are blessed to have a returning friend, Russ Miller, as our guest. Russ will challenge us, as always, to recognize the accuracy of science when its questions are properly framed within a Biblical understanding of the universe. Such science begins with truth, allowing God to establish not only the content of truth, but its parameters and standards. The Bible does both.

Science that begins outside a Biblical worldview will almost inevitably pick and choose evidence while claiming to be honest and fair. For example, the overwhelming preponderance of detail in geology points to sudden, high-speed catastrophic global events in the past, yet the worldview of most scientists does not require them to face these evidences. The Bible, however, insists that we “commend ourselves in all things,” especially in our thoughts and speech, with such traits as “patience,” “purity,” “knowledge,” “longsuffering,” and especially by being “true” though “[regarded] as deceivers” (II Corinthians 6:4–8).

One of the demands this makes upon the believer is that we insist upon honesty in arguments. This is often called “good faith” and it is seldom even addressed anymore. It is absolutely crucial that born-again believers understand what “good faith” means in thought processes. One of the most important aspects of “good faith” is that we be forthright and transparent about what standard we are using for truth.

Born-again believers understand that “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom” (Proverbs 1:7). This impacts whether we are willing to explore all evidence, including young-earth evidence.

Sadly, as Russ has reminded us before, it is most often (not always) old-earth scientists who make the mistake of proceeding with their investigations as if the question of worldview doesn’t matter. A born-again believer, however, understands that “those who are perishing” are using “minds the god of this age has blinded” (II Corinthians 4:3–4), and that all people “knew God” yet “did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts” (Romans 1:21).

Given all this, and in anticipation of Russ’s reminders about the scientific evidence that is routinely ignored by those who disbelieve the Bible, I would like to ask a question that may be peripheral to the science, yet will be directly relevant to the born-again believer who is interested in the science:

What did the apostles of the Lord Jesus believe about the age of the earth?

Lest you think it’s a silly question, consider the genealogies of the Lord Jesus in Matthew and in Luke. Recall that while those two gospels were written before Pentecost and thus before the beginning of the Church Age, their teaching belongs to born-again believers in our dispensation. Thus we are intended to take instruction from the line-by-line chronologies—that’s what those lists of names are, to the ancient-near-eastern mind, chronologies—even when they appear to reach into what science would call the “prehistoric” past.

So Matthew, whose genealogy appears to focus on the royal line of the Lord Jesus, takes us back to the time of Abraham, which the best conservative chronologies put in the 1830s BC by connecting him with known Egyptian, Sumerian, Elamite and Hurrian rulers in Genesis 14. Furthermore, Luke’s genealogy of Jesus dares to take us all the way back to Noah and his pre-Flood ancestors, which correlates with the Table of Nations in Genesis 10.

You should know, as a born-again believer who is interested in truthful, honest, “good faith” science, that the Table of Nations in Genesis 10 is the oldest and most accurate, undisputed record of mankind’s earliest descendants. Genesis 10 lists the immediate descendants of Ham, Shem, and Japheth and traces them

down through afterbears identifiable even in modern secular history like Aram, Assyria, Uruk, Cush, Sheba, Akkad, Nineveh, and more.

In so doing, Genesis plants a clear, hi-def marker in the earliest identifiable portions of the recorded history of the universe. Genesis 10 has never been debunked. It can only be accepted, or dismissed. The apostles of the Lord Jesus took it as accurate.

Let me make the point even more succinct. For the born-again believer who is interested in the truth about the earth, including its earliest history, Jesus' lineage in Luke 3 is a piece of data. His lineage in Matthew 1 is also a piece of data. Their correlation to the only known extensive and accurate Table of Nations is a piece of data. Finally, the worldview they underwrite (the Biblical Worldview) is the only sure way to be certain the evidence is truly being assessed "in good faith."

Taken together, these pieces of data point to a young earth, whose centuries number exactly as those counted within the lifetimes of the characters named in the Genealogies and the Table of Nations.

This is not myth. It is not fable. It is not legend, allegory, story or even "narrative." It's the true and accurate witness borne by God about the world He created.

Candlelight Family, we insist on testing the evidence by the Bible. That is the highest standard in "good faith" argument.

Russ Miller will help us do that today.

Take the opportunity to thank him for blessing us once again!

Pastor Jason