

There are many shades of belief, and a large variety of emphases, among those who accept and propagate the doctrine of a very young earth. Some of the most prominent and commonly held points of belief found among these people are listed below.

1. The doctrine of creation, including the age of the earth, is believed to be of major importance in any statement of Christian faith.

2. The word "day" in the Genesis account of creation is taken to refer only to literal 24-hour days, and must be understood in the light of a completely literal interpretation of Exodus 20:11. Any figurative interpretation of the word "day" constitutes a rejection of the principle of the verbal inspiration of the Scriptures.¹⁷

3. The earth was somehow provided with sufficient light to maintain order during the first three days of the "creation week," and then on the fourth day the sun, moon, and stars were created.¹⁸

4. No death, except that of plant cells, plant embryos, and certain kinds of invertebrates which are supposedly less alive than other animals, could have occurred before the Fall of man.¹⁹

5. The evidences for natural events and processes of the past are always in error if they point to an age greater than 15,000 to 20,000 years.²⁰

6. As a means of compensating for the lack of time for natural sedimentary processes, the Biblical Flood can be taken as sufficiently versatile to have produced nearly all the series of fossil-bearing sediments wherever they occur on the earth.²¹ Furthermore, it is proper for Christians to formulate many hypotheses for explaining how the Flood formed these sediments, even though the hypotheses may border on the imaginative and not be comparable to observed natural phenomena.

7. The order of fossils in the strata of the earth has no systematic arrangement as to earlier species versus more recent species, and no fossils are being formed today.²² The separation of certain forms of fossils from others, which is observed in some series of strata may be partially due to the fact that the lower ones were living farther down; for example, on the sea bottom, at the time of the "mass burials" which are attributed to the Flood. This condition has been called "ecological stratification" by some proponents of the Flood view of geology.²³

8. The earth was created with all of its parts and contents possessing an "appearance of age." Therefore, scientists have no way of determining whether or not observed ages of minerals, rocks, strata, etc. are real or only apparent. However, many young-earth creationists recognize the difficulties of applying the "appearance of age" idea to the fossils of the earth, and hold that they are true relics of organisms which were once alive.²⁴