Should God Relax?

Dear Culture Contrarians,

There has been a great deal of discussion about origins. While Darwin’s ultimate motive seems to have been a justification for the eradication of certain peoples (see Ham and Ware’s *One Race One Blood*), his writings certainly challenged the biblical concept of creation. His first book, published in 1859, *On the Origin of Species, The Preservation of Favored Races and the Struggle for Life* (yes, that is the full title), set the stage for his application of evolutionary ideas to mankind, which he did in his book *The Descent of Man*, published in 1871. It appears from his writings that Darwin’s real problem was bitterness toward God and his books allowed him to scientifically renounce his earlier faith.[[1]](#footnote-1) Not to be outdone by a biologist, geologist Arthur Homes published the first geologic timescale in 1913. Here was proof that the earth is 4.55 billion years old, give or take a few tens of millions of years. With the advent of carbon dating, invented by Willard Libby in the late 1940s and built upon the recent discovery of the Carbon-14 isotope’s half-life of 5,730 years, further challenges were given to the biblical timeline.

Rather than stand flat-footed and defend the biblical record, many evangelicals began to alter the normal meaning of language. Soon churches were learning about Theistic Evolution, the Gap Theory, and the Day-Age Theory. Since the interpreter cannot trust the biblical account of the past, serious readers should not trust the biblical predictions of the future. A virtual abandonment of normal language was applied to any problematic area exposed by the culture’s continually-blowing contrary winds. Nothing has been left untainted: blood atonement, male leadership of the church, marriage, divorce, sexual norms, etc.

I appreciate the groups that are providing scientific and historical apologetics for the biblical account. (We have one such group here in Dallas, Institute for Creation Research, 1806 Royal Lane, Dallas, TX 75229, <https://www.icr.org/> -- we recently took our upper school there for a full day. Another resource is Dr. Kent Hovind, <https://shop.drdino.com/> or Ken Ham, <https://answersingenesis.org/bios/ken-ham/>.) While apologetics are helpful, shouldn’t our faith be founded on Scripture?

God’s account of the creation is very clear and Genesis 1 and 2 provide the details of how God did it. What I find interesting, is that many believers choose to ignore some basic biblical facts: God is omnipotent, timeless, almighty, and omniscient. Why would He need to rest? The Hebrew actually uses two different words to describe this. In Exodus 20:11 “For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day.” “Rest” נוּחַ (*nûaḥ*) means he was in a state or process of restoring physical energy. I don’t know how an omnipotent being rests, but He did; perhaps with southern sweet tea and a cheese burger. Exodus 31:17 “It is a sign between Me and the children of Israel forever, for in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day He rested (same word as 20:11) and was refreshed.” Here is added a new term. God was refreshed נָפַשׁ (*nā·p̄ǎš*). This means God ceased from an activity, and that cessation resulted in rest and refreshment from a weary state.

The whole point of the creation work is this: like every good Father, God modeled how we are supposed to work and rest. Only a normal use of language makes the model meaningful.

My love to you all,

1. Ken Ham and Charles Ware, *One Race One Blood*, Master Books, Green Forest, AR, 2010, pages 80-81. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)