

VES and the Age of the Earth

Thank you for your inquiry concerning VES and the age of the earth. The following points express our (VES) position on the matter:

1. VES does not hold an "official" position (e.g young earth/old earth) on the age of the earth or the universe. We do not consider this issue to be a test for orthodoxy or Christian fellowship. In addition, members of our faculty hold different views on this issue. Our requirement for teaching at VES is agreement with the essential tenets of our doctrinal statement (which can be read online) and belief in the inerrancy of Scripture (as defined by the ICBI Statements).
2. The official VES creation statement affirms that the "days" of creation described in Genesis 1 are "six historic days". By this we mean that each creative day is real and historical and contains reference to literal creation events as Genesis describes them. Our emphasis on the historicity of creation does not preclude either young or old earth positions. However, we are strongly opposed to macroevolution of any form.
3. When dealing with secondary issues, like the age of the earth, we seek to approach these topics in a balanced way and in the spirit of charity and liberty, allowing each student and faculty member to form their own perspective on the age of the earth.

VES Doctrinal Statement on Creation

God is the Creator and Sustainer of the heavens and the earth and of every basic form of life according to the **six historic days** described in the book of Genesis (Gen. 1:1-2:3). The creation account is factual, historical, and is the foundation of our understanding of the created universe, God's power, and His glory (Psa. 19:1). Further, God exercises providential care for every life form in His creation (Mt. 6:25-33), and Christ is the conserving Cause of all things (Heb. 1:3; Col. 1:17). We reject theistic and naturalistic macroevolution as unbiblical, unjustifiable, and based on naturalistic assumptions. Further, by its denial of the biblical teaching on creation, it undermines essential doctrines of the Christian Faith (cf. Gen. 1:27; Mt. 19:4-6; Rom. 5:12-14; 1 Cor. 11:8-9; 15:45). We also believe in a literal, worldwide flood that destroyed the earth, animal life, and the human race, except for Noah and those he took in the ark with him (Gen. 6-9; Mt. 24:37-39; 1 Pet. 3:20).