BOOK 3

I Asked God

QUESTIONS ABOUT CREATION & LIFE

A collection of answers to commonly asked questions about creation and life

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About this series

I Asked God is a series of Q&A books to help you answer some common questions about Christianity which you may think there is no point in asking, do not know whom to ask, or perhaps have previously asked but did not receive satisfactory answers.

The Q&As are not meant to form a theological research paper. They are compiled from theological research, supplemented with personal experiences of grace on the part of the compiler, and edited by theologically trained and God-fearing Christians who are careful not to add to or subtract from the Word of God.

The first book, *I Asked God 5 Questions*, is about how God transformed the life of Herman Chang Yao Wah, who had five tough questions that no one seemed to be able to answer.

The second book, *I Asked God Questions About Salvation*, provides the answers to 3 foundation questions and 17 commonly asked questions about salvation.

In this third book, you will find the answers to 14 commonly asked questions about creation and life.

We hope this series will serve as an effective and practical resource to tidy up seekers' and believers' thoughts, and help Christians defend their faith in a gentle and respectful manner when sharing the gospel with others.

Upcoming titles in this series are:

- *I Asked God Questions About Church & the Bible*
- *I Asked God Questions About God*
- *I Asked God Questions About Faith*
- *I Asked God Questions About Election*

Question #2

According to science, our Earth is billions of years old. But according to the Bible, it is only about 6,000 years old. How do we reconcile this and God's creation?

> But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day.
>
> 2 Peter 3:8 NIV

To answer this question, let us discuss these six key issues:

1. Age of the Earth

According to the Bible:
The Bible begins with Genesis 1:1: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth", followed by descriptions of how God created the earth in six days and rested on the seventh.

The first human Adam was created by God on the sixth day.

The Bible documents the genealogy from Adam to Noah (Genesis 5:1–29); and through Shem, it continues to Abraham, whom God made the father of modern Israel (Genesis 11).

In Matthew 1, the genealogy continues to run to Joseph and Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ.

By adding up the years of genealogy from Adam to Jesus and from Jesus to our present day (AD 2000+), it would be around 6,000+ years.

Hence, it has been suggested that the Earth is approximately 6,000+ years old.

According to science:

Scientists, on the other hand, believe that the Earth is billions of years old based on carbon dating and other radiometric dating methods.

The Christian proponents feel that the scientific measuring methods are erroneous because:

Firstly, carbon dating can only measure up to thousands of years, instead of the commonly believed period of "millions and billions of years". Anything over 50,000 years should theoretically have no detectable carbon-14 left for carbon dating.

Secondly, other radiometric dating methods are also unreliable in deriving ages from such measurements, so unprovable assumptions must

Question #11

Is there a standard for moral values? If yes, who sets it, and is it absolute or relative?

Every human society that has ever existed has had a moral code. It can be found in all contemporary communities as well as in the chronicles of ancient nations.

No matter how far apart these nations are in terms of time, geography, cultural development or religious beliefs, their morality is surprisingly similar. There were sporadic aberrations, but these were often transient.

As a result, morality does have a "standard" shape and seems to exist anywhere that humans have built communities.

If morality is left to blind chance to "evolve", then morality will have no objective basis. There will be no right or wrong. Then every human culture would have very different moral values.

The fact that morality is "objective and absolute" points to the existence of a Maker who imbued mankind with moral character.

> So I always take pains to have a clear conscience toward both God and man.
>
> Acts 24:16

Hence for moral values, there is an acceptable standard – it is absolute, and is set by God, who is the creator of man.

God has set clear laws, rules and regulations; with some being quite detailed in their requirements.

As a side note, upholding moral standards must be differentiated from the intolerance of people who fail to uphold moral standards.

God shows this: He sometimes punishes harshly, but also forgives softly. This is so because God sees our hearts and knows who are truly sorry and who are not.

Modern moral standards are blurred because we confuse tolerance with forgiveness by calling immorality acceptable.

But "acceptable" does not nullify the deep unchangeable and universal sense of moral values set and planted by God in the hearts of all mankind.