New theology advocates are in full agreement with the atheists and evolutionists, that our world is billions of years old.

But the Christian turns to the Bible; and we are fortunate to also have the Spirit of Prophecy. When did life begin on our planet? When did sin begin? When did Creation Week occur? When did the Sabbath first begin? When will it end,—or will it always be kept in the future?

All of these questions will be answered in this present research study. —And all of it will direct our minds to the fact that the Bible Sabbath is very important to our Creator, and it should be very important to us today!

— SECTION ONE —

HOW OLD IS THE SABBATH?

Here are 20 passages which clearly show that Genesis 1 and 2 is correct in regard to the origin of the seventh-day Sabbath—and when it first came into existence:

1884. ST Feb. 28, 1884—“The Sabbath was instituted at creation, when the foundations of the earth were laid, when the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy.”

1885. RH June 9, 1885—“God has given us His commandments, not only to be believed but to be obeyed. The great Jehovah, when He had laid the foundations of the earth, and dressed the whole world in the garb of beauty, and filled it with things useful to man, when He had created all the wonders of the land and sea, instituted the Sabbath and made it holy.”

1888. GC 455—“Against this argument it was shown that the Sabbath and its observance were more ancient and widespread, even as old as the world itself, and bearing the sanction both of angels and of God. When the foundations of the earth were laid, when the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy, then was laid the foundation of the Sabbath.”

1890. RH July 15, 1890—“When the foundations of the earth were laid, then was laid the foundation of the Sabbath, and the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy. . . God gave His law, and in the fourth precept of the Decalogue is His Sabbath, the very day on which we have turned aside from worldly business in order to observe it as a memorial of the creation of the heaven and the earth.”

1890. PP 336—“The Sabbath institution, which originated in Eden, is as old as the world itself.”

1893. ST April 24, 1893—“It [the Sabbath] is the commandment which He [God] made when the foundations of the earth were laid, ‘when the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy.’ Away back in the world’s history, before there were any people distinguished as Jews, He laid the foundations of His law, when He laid the foundations of the world.”

1894. ST Jan. 8, 1894—“The institution of the Sabbath was made when the foundation of the earth was laid, when the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy. . . It is the memorial of God’s creative power, the reminder of His exalted work.”

1894. ST Oct. 1, 1894—“In this reference to the law of Jehovah [1 John 2:7] He carries the mind back to the commandment which is a memorial of the creation of the world, when by His work on the six days, and His rest on the seventh, God laid the foundation for the Sabbath. When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy, God placed the fourth commandment in the bosom of the Decalogue.”
1894. *ST Nov. 12, 1894*—“The Sabbath was made for all mankind, and was instituted in Eden before the fall of man. The Creator called it ‘My holy day.’ Christ announced Himself as ‘the Lord of the Sabbath.’ *Beginning with creation, it is as old as the human race, and having been made for man it will exist as long as man shall exist.*”

1896. *5MR, 1896*—“How shortsighted is the policy that is being brought in by the rulers in the land to restore to the man of sin his lost ascendancy! They are manifesting wonderful zeal in taking this spurious sabbath under the care and protection of their legislatures; but they know not what they are doing. They are placing upon a false sabbath divine honors, and when this is fully done, persecution will break forth upon those who observe the Sabbath that God gave in Eden as a memorial of His creative power.”

1898. *TM 135, 136*—“Human philosophy declares that an indefinite period of time was taken in the creation of the world. Does God state the matter thus? No; he says, ‘It is a sign between Me and the children of Israel forever; for in six days [not six indefinite periods of time; for then there would be no possible way for man to observe the day specified in the fourth commandment] the Lord made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day He rested, and was refreshed.’ Please read carefully the fifth chapter of Deuteronomy. God says again, ‘Remember [do not forget] the Sabbath day, to keep it holy . . For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it.’

Yet with the living oracles before them, those who claim to preach the Word present the suppositions of human minds, the maxims and commandments of men. They make void the law of God by their traditions. The sophistry in regard to the world’s being created in an indefinite period of time is one of Satan’s falsehoods. God speaks to the human family in language they can comprehend. He does not leave the matter so indefinite that human beings can handle it according to their theories. When the Lord declares that He made the world in six days and rested on the seventh day, He means the day of twenty-four hours, which He has marked off by the rising and setting of the sun.

“God would not present the death sentence for a disregard of the Sabbath unless He had presented before men a clear understanding of the Sabbath. After He had created our world and man, He looked upon the work that He had done, and pronounced it very good. And when the foundation for the earth was laid, the foundation of the Sabbath was laid also. ‘When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy,’ God saw that a Sabbath was essential for man, even in Paradise. In giving the Sabbath, God considered man’s spiritual and physical health.”

1898. *ST April 7, 1898*—“If man had always obeyed the fourth commandment, there would not now be an infidel or an atheist in our world. All would recognize and honor the power of the Creator. How vain will be the resistance of humanity against God. By His infinite power He called the earth into existence. With a word He could depopulate it, and return it to its original state, and with a word raise up a new race of beings.”

1898. *RH Aug. 30, 1898*—“The Sabbath was given to all mankind to commemorate the work of creation. The great Jehovah, when He had laid the foundations of the earth, when He had dressed the whole world in its garb of beauty, and created all the wonders of the land and sea, instituted the Sabbath day and made it holy. When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy, the Sabbath was set apart as God’s memorial. God sanctified and blessed the day in which He had rested from all His wondrous work.”

1888 Materials, 1680—“After creating the world in six days, God rested on the seventh, making that day a memorial of His creation. While the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy He sanctified and blessed the seventh day.”

1900. *Letter 7, 1900*—“Our work, under God’s management and direction, has placed us where we can be distinguished as God determines in doing a special work in the world.

“Seventh-day Adventists are to be a people
who keep the commandments of God. They are to be distinguished from the world by their observance of the seventh-day Sabbath. This day is God’s memorial of creation. And the fourth commandment, which enjoins its observance, is the only one which points to God as the Creator of heaven and earth. Satan’s work is to obliterate the memorial of creation. And in these days of intellectual skepticism, if we are not guarded, we shall imbibe skeptical ideas, and the Sabbath command, stating definitely who God is, will be overlooked and ignored.

“What is life? a standing memorial of the only true God. The work of creation can never be explained by science. What intellect is there that can explain the science of life? Can we wonder that the materialist has no place for the existence of God? The fourth commandment declares to the whole universe, to the worlds unfallen, and to the fallen world that God created the world in six days and rested on the seventh. The evidence there given does not leave standing-room for skepticism.”

1904. Ms. 12, 1904—“God created the world in six days, and on the seventh day He rested. And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it He had rested from all His work’ (Genesis 2:3). The Lord gave the seventh day to man as a day of rest and worship. It is His memorial of creation, bearing witness to the power of the everlasting God, who in six days created the heavens and the earth.”

1911. ST Jan. 31, 1911—“When the law was given to Israel, the Sabbath was made especially prominent. It had been instituted in Eden as a memorial of God’s creative works. After He had wrought six days, God rested on the seventh; and blessed and sanctified that day, setting it apart as a day of rest and worship for mankind . . . The Sabbath should stand before the people in its moral power, answering its original design—to keep in remembrance the living God, the Creator of the heavens and the earth.”

1912. ST July 9, 1912—“The seventh-day Sabbath is a memorial of the creative power of God . . .

“What greater contempt could be cast upon the Lord God, the Creator of the heavens and the earth, than is cast upon Him by ignoring the Sabbath, which He instituted, sanctified, and blessed, that it might ever be a memorial of His power as Creator?”

1912. ST Sept. 3, 1912—“The prohibition of God in the garden of Eden was disregarded by Adam and Eve, and the most terrible consequences resulted. The Lord is placing the same test upon the human family today, and proving them by bringing to their attention the Sabbath, which is a memorial of God’s creative power. In this memorial God testifies to the world and to heavenly intelligences that He made the world in six days, and rested . . . on the seventh day.”

1915. ST Jan. 19, 1915—“God gave men the memorial of His creative power, that they might discern Him in the works of His hand.”

—Do you realize the full significance of what we have just read? According to this, our special work in our world at this time in history is to defend the Bible Sabbath and obedience to the law of God, by enabling faith in Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour!

—SECTION TWO—
WHAT IS THE AGE OF THE EARTH?

Summary—We have learned that the Bible Sabbath did not exist prior to the creation of our world during Creation Week.

—But this fact also powerfully reveals the age of our planet! —The Sabbath is as old as our world. As mentioned earlier, it seems as if almost the whole world is in agreement with the new theology and the evolutionists, that our world is billions of years old. If that be true, then there is no Bible Sabbath!

In the preceding 20 quotations, it is shown that the Sabbath is as old as our planet.

In the following passages, we are clearly told that our world is only about 6,000 years old.

3 Spiritual Gifts, 91-93—“Infidel geologists claim that the world is very much older than the Bible record makes it. They reject the Bible record, because of those things which are to them evidences from the earth itself, that the world has existed tens of thousands of years. And many who profess to believe the Bible
record are at a loss to account for wonderful things which are found in the earth, with the view that Creation Week was only seven literal days, and that the world is now only about six thousand years old. These, to free themselves of difficulties thrown in their way by infidel geologists, adopt the view that the six days of creation were six vast, indefinite periods, and the day of God’s rest was another indefinite period; making senseless the fourth commandment of God’s holy law. Some eagerly receive this position, for it destroys the force of the fourth commandment, and they feel a freedom from its claims upon them."

2 Spirit of Prophecy, 93—“It was not for the Son of God to descend from His lofty mission to prove His divinity to Satan, nor did He condescend to explain the reason of His present humiliation, and the manner in which He was to act as man’s Redeemer. If the children of men would follow the example of their Saviour, and hold no converse with Satan, they would be spared many a defeat at his hands. Six thousand years has this archenemy been warring against the government of God, and continued practice has increased his skill to deceive and allure.”

Adventist Home, 539-540—“The great plan of redemption results in fully bringing back the world into God’s favor. All that was lost by sin is restored. Not only man but the earth is redeemed, to be the eternal abode of the obedient. For six thousand years Satan has struggled to maintain possession of the earth. Now God’s original purpose in its creation is accomplished. ‘The saints of the Most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom forever, even forever and ever.’ ”

Patriarchs and Prophets, 50-51—“The holy pair [Adam and Eve] were not only children under the fatherly care of God, but students receiving instruction from the all-wise Creator. They were visited by angels and were granted communion with their Maker, with no obscuring veil between. They were full of the vigor imparted by the tree of life, and their intellectual power was but little less than that of the angels. The mysteries of the visible universe—’the wondrous works of Him which is perfect in knowledge’ [Job 37:16] afforded them an exhaustless source of instruction and delight. The laws and operations of nature, which have engaged men’s study for six thousand years, were opened to their minds by the infinite Framer
Continued from the preceding tract in this series

and Upholder of all. They held converse with leaf and flower and tree, gathering from each the secrets of its life. With every living creature, from the mighty leviathan that playeth among the waters, to the insect mote that floats in the sunbeam, Adam was familiar. He had given to each its name, and he was acquainted with the nature and habits of all. God’s glory in the heavens, the innumerable worlds in their orderly revolutions, ‘the balancings of the clouds,’ the mysteries of light and sound, of day and night,—all were open to the study of our first parents. On every leaf of the forest, or stone of the mountains, in every shining star, in earth and air and sky, God’s name was written. The order and harmony of creation spoke to them of infinite wisdom and power. They were ever discovering some attraction that filled their hearts with deeper love, and called forth fresh expressions of gratitude.

“So long as they remained loyal to the divine law, their capacity to know, to enjoy, and to love, would continually increase. They would be constantly gaining new treasures of knowledge, discovering fresh springs of happiness, and obtaining clearer and yet clearer conceptions of the immeasurable, unfailing love of God.”

Christian Temperance and Bible Hygiene, 7 / Counsels on Diet and Foods, 117 / 1 Bible Commentary, 1082—“Man came from the hand of his Creator perfect in organization and beautiful in form. The fact that he has for six thousand years withstood the ever-increasing weight of disease and crime is conclusive proof of the power of endurance with which he was first endowed. And although the antediluvians generally gave themselves up to sin without restraint, it was more than two thousand years before the violation of natural law was sensibly felt. Had Adam originally possessed no greater physical power than men now have, the race would ere this have become extinct.

“Their capacity to know, to enjoy, and to love, would continually increase. They would be constantly gaining new treasures of knowledge, discovering fresh springs of happiness, and obtaining clearer and yet clearer conceptions of the immeasurable, unfailing love of God.”

Fundamentals of Christian Education, 22-23 / 3 Testimonies, 138-139—“God endowed man with so great vital force that he has withstood the accumulation of disease brought upon the race in consequence of perverted habits, and has continued for six thousand years. This fact of itself is enough to evidence to us the strength and electrical energy that God gave to man at his creation. It took more than two thousand years of crime and indulgence of base passions to bring bodily disease upon the race to any great extent.

“If Adam, at his creation, had not been endowed with twenty times as much vital force as men now have, the race, with their present habits of living in violation of natural law, would have become extinct. At the time of Christ’s first advent, the race had degenerated so rapidly that an accumulation of disease pressed upon that generation, bringing in a tide of woe, and a weight of misery inexpressible.”

Counsels to Parents and Teachers, 467—“Never has the world’s need for teaching and healing been greater than it is today. The world is full of those who need to be ministered unto—the weak, the helpless, the ignorant, the degraded. The continual transgression of man for nearly six thousand years has brought sickness, pain, and death as its fruit. Multitudes are perishing for lack of knowledge.”

Story of Jesus, 183—“To this earth angels have come, with the message of redemp-
tion, and its hills and valleys have echoed their songs of rejoicing. Its soil has been trodden by the feet of the Son of God. And for more than six thousand years, in its forms of beauty and gifts for sustenance, the earth has borne witness of the Creator’s love.”

2 Testimonies, 171-172—“Satan has great advantages. He possessed the wonderful intellectual power of an angel, of which few form any just idea. Satan was conscious of his power, or he would not have engaged in a conflict with the mighty God, the everlasting Father, and the Prince of Peace. Satan closely watches events, and when he finds one who has a specially strong spirit of opposition to the truth of God he will even reveal to him unfulfilled events, that he may more firmly secure himself a seat in his heart. He who did not hesitate to brave a conflict with Him who holds creation as in His hand, has malignity to persecute and deceive. He holds mortals in his snare at the present time. During his experience of nearly six thousand years he has lost none of his skill and shrewdness. All this time he has been a close observer of all that concerns our race.”

Desire of Ages, 413—“For six thousand years, faith has built upon Christ. For six thousand years the floods and tempests of satanic wrath have beaten upon the Rock of our salvation; but it stands unmoved.

“Peter had expressed the truth which is the foundation of the church’s faith, and Jesus now honored him as the representative of the whole body of believers. He said, ’I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.’ ”

Great Controversy, 552 (Story of Redemption, 393)—“When they have been led to believe that the dead actually return to communicate with them, Satan causes those to appear who went into the grave unprepared. They claim to be happy in heaven and even to occupy exalted positions there, and thus the error is widely taught that no difference is made between the righteous and the wicked. The pretended visitors from the world of spirits sometimes utter cautions and warnings which prove to be correct. Then, as confidence is gained, they present doctrines that directly undermine faith in the Scriptures. With an appearance of deep interest in the well-being of their friends on earth, they insinuate the most dangerous errors. The fact that they state some truths, and are able at times to foretell future events, gives to their statements an appearance of reliability; and their false teachings are accepted by the multitudes as readily, and believed as implicitly, as if they were the most sacred truths of the Bible. The law of God is set aside, the Spirit of grace despised, the blood of the covenant counted an unholy thing. The spirits deny the deity of Christ and place even the Creator on a level with themselves. Thus under a new disguise the great rebel still carries on his warfare against God, begun in heaven and for nearly six thousand years continued upon the earth.”

Historical Sketches of the Foreign Missions of Seventh-day Adventists, 133—“A cunning and cruel foe attends our steps, and is working every moment, with all his strength and skill, to turn us from the right way. Ever since he succeeded in overcoming our first parents in their beautiful Eden home, he has been engaged in this work. More than six thousand years of continual practice has greatly increased his skill to deceive and allure. On the other hand, he who once yields to temptation becomes spiritually weak, and yields more readily the second time. Every repetition of sin blinds his eyes, stifles conviction, and weakens his power of resistance. Thus while the power of the human race to resist temptation is continually decreasing, Satan’s skill and power to tempt are continually increasing. This is one great reason why the temptations of the last days will be more severe than those of any other age.”

Great Controversy, 11-12—“The great controversy between good and evil will increase in intensity to the very close of time. In all ages the wrath of Satan has been manifested against the church of Christ; and God has bestowed His grace and Spirit upon His people to strengthen them to stand against the power of the evil one. When the apostles of Christ were to bear His gospel to the world and to record it for all future ages, they were especially endowed with the enlightenment of the
The Sabbath Linked to Our World

Spirit. But as the church approaches her final deliverance, Satan is to work with greater power. He comes down 'having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.' Revelation 12:12. He will work 'with all power and signs and lying wonders.' 2 Thessalonians 2:9.

For six thousand years that mastermind that once was highest among the angels of God, has been wholly bent to the work of deception and ruin. And all the depths of satanic skill and subtlety acquired, all the cruelty developed, during these struggles of the ages, will be brought to bear against God's people in the final conflict. And in this time of peril the followers of Christ are to bear to the world the warning of the Lord's second advent; and a people are to be prepared to stand before Him at His coming, 'without spot, and blameless.' 2 Peter 3:14. At this time the special endowment of divine grace and power is not less needful to the church than in apostolic days.'

Great Controversy, 518—'The great controversy between Christ and Satan, that has been carried forward for nearly six thousand years, is soon to close; and the wicked one redoubles his efforts to defeat the work of Christ in man's behalf, and to fasten souls in his snares. To hold the people in darkness and impenitence till the Saviour's mediation is ended, and there is no longer a sacrifice for sin, is the object which he seeks to accomplish.'

1 Manuscript Releases, 61-62—'Those who are destroying the earth have had a long probation. For six thousand years God has borne with the ignorance and wickedness of men. In every possible way He has tested and tried them, seeking to lead them to return to their loyalty, and be saved. But they refuse to listen to His entreaties. War and bloodshed have been, are still, and will continue to be.

'War is popular. To kill and destroy is in the sight of the world to be brave, worthy of a reward.

'The time is near when Jesus will take the kingdom and possess the kingdom under the whole heavens.'

Great Controversy, 656—'For six thousand years the great controversy has been in progress; the Son of God and His heavenly messengers have been in conflict with the power of the evil one, to warn, enlighten, and save the children of men. Now all have made their decision; the wicked have fully united with Satan in his warfare against God. The time has come for God to vindicate the authority of His downtrodden law. Now the controversy is not alone with Satan, but with men. 'The Lord hath a controversy with the nations;' 'He will give them that are wicked to the sword.' "

Great Controversy, 659-660—'For six thousand years, Satan's work of rebellion has made the earth to tremble.' He has 'made the world as a wilderness, and destroyed the cities thereof.' And 'he opened not the house of his prisoners.' For six thousand years his prison house has received God's people, and he would have held them captive forever, but Christ has broken his bonds and set the prisoners free.

"Even the wicked are now placed beyond the power of Satan; and alone with his evil angels he remains to realize the effect of the curse which sin has brought."

Great Controversy, 673-674—'Satan's work of ruin is forever ended. For six thousand years he has wrought his will, filling the earth with woe and causing grief throughout the universe. The whole creation has groaned and travailed together in pain. Now God's creatures are forever delivered from his presence and temptations. 'The whole earth is at rest, and is quiet: they [the righteous] break forth into singing.' Isaiah 14:7. And a shout of praise and triumph ascends from the whole loyal universe. 'The voice of a great multitude,' 'as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings,' is heard, saying: 'Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.' Revelation 19:6.

"While the earth was wrapped in the fire of destruction, the righteous abode safely in the Holy City. Upon those that had part in the first resurrection, the second death has no power. While God is to the wicked a consuming fire, He is to His people both a sun and a shield. Revelation 20:6; Psalm 84:11.

"'I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away.' Revelation 21:1. The fire that consumes the wicked purifies the earth. Every trace of the curse is swept away. No eternally burning hell
will keep before the ransomed the fearful consequences of sin.”

Patriarchs and Prophets, 342—“The great plan of redemption results in fully bringing back the world into God’s favor. All that was lost by sin is restored. Not only man but the earth is redeemed, to be the eternal abode of the obedient. For six thousand years, Satan has struggled to maintain possession of the earth. Now God’s original purpose in its creation is accomplished. ‘The saints of the Most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom forever, even forever and ever’ (Daniel 7:18).”

—SECTION THREE—
THE FUTURE OF THE SABBATH

As we have already learned, in agreement with the Bible, the Spirit of Prophecy is quite clear that our Bible Sabbath did not exist prior to Creation Week. It was during those seven literal days, our world was formed (Gen 1).

We are never told anywhere that the Sabbath existed anywhere else in the universe prior to that time. We are not told that anyone outside of our planet is keeping it now.

—But we are definitely told that the redeemed will keep it throughout all eternity. We are also told that the “heavenly host” will also observe it throughout eternity. This is what we would expect, since it will be the special last-day test for our world. The Sabbath will have become the special memorial of Christ’s victory in the great controversy with Satan!

6 Testimonies, 368—“God teaches that we should assemble in His house to cultivate the attributes of perfect love. This will fit the dwellers of earth for the mansions that Christ has gone to prepare for all who love Him. There they will assemble in the sanctuary from Sabbath to Sabbath, from one new moon to another, to unite in loftiest strains of song, in praise and thanksgiving to Him who sits upon the throne, and to the Lamb forever and ever.”

Early Writings, 217—“I was shown that the law of God would stand fast forever, and exist in the new earth to all eternity. At the creation, when the foundations of the earth were laid, the sons of God looked with admiration upon the work of the Creator, and all the heavenly host shouted for joy. It was then that the foundation of the Sabbath was laid. At the close of the six days of creation, God rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had made; and He blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because that in it He had rested from all His work. The Sabbath was instituted in Eden before the fall, and was observed by Adam and Eve, and all the heavenly host. God rested on the seventh day, and blessed and hallowed it. I saw that the Sabbath never will be done away; but that the redeemed saints, and all the angelic host, will observe it in honor of the great Creator to all eternity.”

Desire of Ages, 769-770—“When there shall be a ‘restitution of all things,’ which God hath spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began’ (Acts 3:21), the creation Sabbath, the day on which Jesus lay at rest in Joseph’s tomb, will still be a day of rest and rejoicing. Heaven and earth will unite in praise, as ‘from one Sabbath to another’ (Isaiah 66:23) the nations of the saved shall bow in joyful worship to God and the Lamb.”

Signs, Nov. 12, 1894—“The Sabbath was made for all mankind, and was instituted in Eden before the fall of man . . . Beginning with creation, it is as old as the human race, and having been made for man it will exist as long as man shall exist.”

Oh, my friend, you and I are very important in God’s plan at this hour in earth’s history! He is relying on us to promote the Sabbath truth and share the wonderful news that, through the enabling grace of Jesus Christ His Son, we can keep the ten commandment law.

The fact that the Bible Sabbath will be so important throughout out all eternity, shows its deep importance now. For it is to direct the minds of all to their Creator. —And this, at a time when most people deny His very existence!

—vf