

MODERN RELIGIOUS
MYTHS
ABOUT GENESIS

Jonathan Gray

About the author

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HOW TO MISUNDERSTAND GENESIS

Well, this should prove very interesting! We are about to address some ideas, as well as ticklish questions, that often get Christians into hot water – but which the book of Genesis can help to clarify for us.

Here is a sampling of the questions we shall explore:

LAW AND GRACE

1. Were the Ten Commandments only for the Jews?
2. Is the Old Testament about salvation by law and the New Testament salvation by grace?

CREATION

3. Were the creation “days” long geological periods?
4. Were there other life forms and races of men alive before Adam?

“SONS OF GOD”

5. Who were the “sons of God” that intermarried with the “daughters of men” before the Flood?

THE FLOOD

6. Was the Flood of Noah just a local flood?

RELEVANCE TODAY

7. Does the book of Genesis have any relevance in the 21st century?

You are going to see how Genesis can be misunderstood... and also understood correctly. I do not propose to cover these issues exhaustively, but to address them briefly, to the extent that they relate to the book of Genesis.

An important caution

A private word before we go into this...

I am about to reveal to you some facts you may have never heard before, or understood.

Attitudes are influenced by parents and environment. And later we may find we've picked up some wrong ideas. That's often hard to face.

Sometimes I discover that I have been wrongly informed. That's nothing to be ashamed of. But an honest lover of truth will take such data into account – even if it requires a U turn in one's thinking.

Some information in this book may present such a challenge to you. But please don't get angry with me and throw this book across the room. You do want the straight, pure, untwisted truth, right?

So let's start at Square One, putting aside any preconceived ideas, to enquire where the evidence really does lead us. Then ask your Maker to help you deal with it honestly.

Are you ready to enjoy this? Let's get started...

Chapter 1

“SEED-PLOT” FOR THE BIBLE

A child can in one hour learn more from the first page of the book of Genesis than all the world’s philosophers have learned without it in thousands of years.

The name *Genesis* means *origin*. And it records the beginnings of all things with which we have to do.

It has been called the “seed-plot” of the whole Bible. Every major revealed truth is found here in germ form.

“The first”

Looking at Genesis purely from a shallow historical viewpoint, Genesis tells us of

- the first week of history
- the first man and woman
- the first garden
- the first surgical operation
- the first marriage
- the first clothing
- the first prophecy
- the first murder
- the first city
- the first musical instrument
- the first ship
- the first sin
- the first natural disaster

- the first rainbow

and so on.

The “seed-plot” of the whole Bible

Numerous topics of the Bible are first introduced in Genesis. Get to know Genesis and you will better understand the Bible as a whole, whether it concerns:

- Our present world mess
- Origin of the different races
- The love of God
- His plan of salvation
- The sacrificial system
- The tree of life
- The woman – serpent feud
- The Israeli-Arab feud
- Why we die
- The Ten Commandments
- Health laws
- Tithing
- Social relationships
- Family relationships
- Disaster preparation
- Definitions of words
- Symbols and their meanings

...or whatever. The list seems endless. You should be able to find more examples, yourself.

It is a biblical principle that the first occurrence of a word in the Bible generally helps us in fixing the meaning of the word. And here, again, Genesis shines.

For example, the first mention of the word “*image*” in the Bible is in Genesis 1:26 – “*And God said, Let us make man in our **image**, after our **likeness**.*” You will notice that word “*image*” is defined as “*likeness*”. Thus Jesus is described in the New Testament as the “*express image*” of God, because He exhibits the exact character *likeness* of the Father. Thus

again, in Revelation 13:14, the second beast power, in forming an *image* to the first beast, becomes a perfect *likeness* in character to that first beast power.

Genesis records the Lord's statement to Cain, "*the voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground.*" (Genesis 3:10) This metaphor in Genesis is the "seed-plot" for the symbolism of Revelation, which states, "*the souls of them that were slain cried with a loud voice, saying,... avenge our blood.*" (Revelation 6:9,10) Genesis is the pattern for the metaphor in Revelation.

You will be able to discover your own examples in Genesis. It is, indeed, the "seed-plot" of the whole Bible.

Genesis' history

As for the **historical statements** in Genesis – including its creation statements – these **have never been invalidated**.

The theory of organic evolution (which seeks to displace Genesis) still remains a hypothesis only, and one which has no starting point, since it fails entirely to account for the origin of life.

The theory of spontaneous generation (life suddenly appearing from no life) has been given up long ago, and even school children know that "life comes only from antecedent life."

Our sin and death problem

Genesis chapter 3 records the beginnings of sin (violation of the Creator's eternal law), its consequence (death), and the Creator's promise of rescue.

The whole of the human race was potentially in Adam, the first man, when he sinned, and thus the catastrophe involves all.

Every descendant of Adam is born with a bent to sinning - that is, with a tendency to do wrong, rather than a tendency to do right. To illustrate this, you never have to teach a tiny tot to do wrong – that comes naturally. But you always find yourself having to teach a child to do right.

Genesis records how, after they had violated divine law, our first parents felt guilt and shame and became subject to death. They were now stuck in a swamp of despair and rebellion, unable to extricate themselves.

The first prophecy: a Rescuer

But God informed them that He would not let them remain in a hopeless condition. He would send a Rescuer who would unite Himself to the human race, succeed where mankind had failed, pay the penalty of sin, then mercifully credit His victory to each member of the human race who would accept it.

This Deliverer would become the new head of the race. By uniting ourselves with Him, the defects of our inheritance from Adam are nullified.

The promise of this restoration through the Messiah is found in the first prophecy ever recorded – in Genesis 3:15.

God promised that someone termed “the seed of the woman” was coming to challenge the fallen being who had tricked Adam and Eve into sinning - the being who was termed the evil “serpent”.

Let’s look at this cryptic prophecy:

And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.” (Gen.3:15)

What does this mean? Let’s paraphrase it:

*There will be enmity between **Satan** (now symbolised by the Serpent) and a **Coming One** (termed the “**woman’s Seed**”). He will bruise the **Serpent’s head** (that is, he will ultimately destroy Satan). But, **Satan will bruise him in the heel** (wound him).*

The Rescuer will be the “seed of the woman” – human. And yet, in the fact that he is **not** called the seed of man, is the foreshadowing of a virgin birth – a child to be born without an earthly father.

According to the prophecy, this one coming to fight the “serpent” will himself be “bruised” in the foot, that is, suffer violence.

However, in the end, he will metaphorically crush the “serpent’s” head (destroy him).

Yes, all of this:

- the woman
- the “Seed”
- the “serpent”
- the feud between the “serpent” and the woman’s “Seed”
- the “Seed” bruised in the foot
- the “serpent” bruised in the head

All this comprised *the very first ancient prophecy*.

Later, the whole world would preserve this prophecy in its legends - even the pagan nations. Nearly all Jewish commentators, with isolated exceptions, receive this as real history, and agree that the prophecy was messianic in character.

For example, the *Targum Pseudo Jonathan* on Genesis 3:15 says the seed of the woman (interpreted as her faithful descendants) will smite the serpent’s head “and you will wound them in the heel. However from them there will be a remedy, but for you there will be none, and in the future they will make peace with the heel in the days of the king, Messiah.” (J.N.D. Anderson, “*The Resurrection of Jesus Christ*”, *Christianity Today*, March 29, 1968, p122)

Another Jewish source comments:

The Messiah shall restore the good state of the universe which is disturbed by the fall of man. (*Bereshith Rabba*, Ch. xii; *Bamidbar Rabba*, ch.xiii; Targum, Jer. i on Gen.3:15)

Later prophecies - 300 or more - would fill in the details, including the coming Messiah’s name... as well as the names of some of his ancestors... the town where he would be born... what he would accomplish... how he would die, and so on. Even the very time of his appearance. (Jonathan Gray, *Ark of the Covenant*. <<http://www.beforeus.com/abook.html> >)

Sacrificial system: a prophecy

After pronouncing this prophecy, God provided Adam and Eve with animal skin garments. The skins they now wore were not from a naturally dead animal as there had been no death until now; nor were the skins from an animal killed for food. (The use of animal food was sanctioned only after the Great Flood.) No, these were the skins of animals slain for sacrifice.

This is the inauguration of the system of sacrifices, planned to be, in years to come, a constant and vivid reminder of the terrible cost of sin.

This was the message: one day the innocent Deliverer will sacrifice his life to pay the penalty for man's wrong-doing. The Lord will "cover" man's sins with His own robe of right doing, so that man may be counted as though he had never sinned. There are a number of biblical passages which illustrate this concept of being covered in a clean garment by our forgiving heavenly Father. (Psalm 32:1; Isaiah 64:6; Zechariah 3:3-5; Revelation 19:8)

Adam and Eve's first two sons were Cain and Abel. At the close of the appointed season (the time for the sacrifices, which were part of a regular series), the younger brother brought a lamb as a sacrifice, according to instructions. However, Cain found the shedding of blood revolting and chose instead to bring an offering of fruit, a substitute.

Abel demonstrated faith in the Coming One. Cain refused. He argued, he disbelieved, he disobeyed. He thought that anything was good enough.

When Abel's offering was accepted and Cain's rejected. Cain flew into a rage - and his brother lay dead. (Genesis 3:21; Hebrews 11:4; 9:22; 12:24)

Subsequent biblical history tells of faithful patriarchs continuing the sacrificial ritual. In particular, Noah (Genesis 8:20) and Abraham (ch.22:7- 13).

The Messiah in Genesis

As we travel back through history we discover in existence this ancient prophecy concerning a coming Deliverer, or Messiah. Prophecies of that Deliverer span some 4,000 years.

We see this prophecy first pronounced, then enlarged upon in the following Genesis references, which we shall examine now:

- Gen.3:15
- Gen.12:3
- Gen.15:5-6
- Gen.22:2,8,14
- Gen.49:10

Gradually, more information is received concerning this coming person. The simple outlines of the first cryptic prophecy become progressively more detailed as some Supreme Mind renews and expands on this promise to mankind.

A prophecy: “For all nations”

In whatever manner came the divine call, it was direct and specific. “Abraham, I want you to leave Ur, for I plan to make of you a great nation through whom all nations of the earth will be blessed.” (Genesis 12:1-3)

It was probably after much family discussion, that Abraham and his close relatives moved south to Haran. In Haran, there was repeated this promise of a nation in which all other nations were to be blessed.

Perhaps it might be wondered why the eternal God would select a special people in the first place. Did He have no concern for other nations? Why the apparent exclusiveness?

Such an idea as this, that one nation should be destined by the Deity to be the vehicle of blessing to all nations, was totally foreign to the thinking of the ancient world.

For instance, Rome sought to spread her customs over the nations by means of the sword, but had no conception of being a blessing to the rest of the world. likewise with Greece, even though she governed more by the arts of peace. But here is something unique. A chosen people is formed for the purpose of blessing all nations through a foretold Deliverer. This was intimately linked into God’s plan to save as many of mankind as possible.

Abraham now moved south to Canaan, the land of modern Israel.

It is through Abraham's line that the promised "seed" who is to bless "all families of the earth" will come.

ALREADY TOLD IN THE STARS

And on a later occasion, Abraham is taught more fully the good news.
Just how fully is the subject of our next chapter.

Chapter 2

ABRAHAM AND THE STAR NAMES

According to Genesis, the Hebrew patriarch Abraham was told to go out, look up at the night sky and count off (list) the stars. Then from them, he was taught about the coming Deliverer. How do we know this? Read on...

Star charts go back thousands of years. In the earliest charts of the heavens, the stars were arranged into groupings (constellations), and over them were laid pictures of people, animals and other symbols.

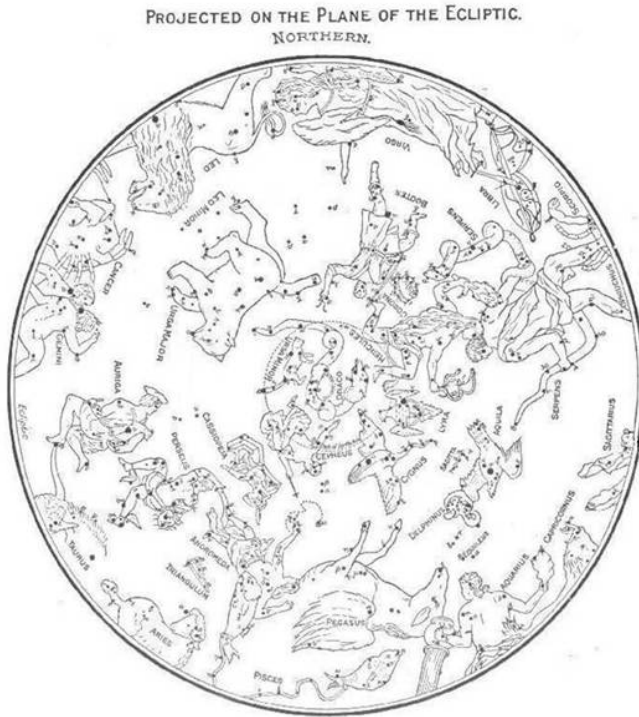
Among these, there are 48 (not just the well-known 12) which, in a belt 16 degrees wide, encircle the earth. If the stars could be seen in daytime, the sun would appear to move through this belt in the course of a year, in a path called the Ecliptic. It is this belt, with 12 months for its steps or stages, that we call the zodiac (from an ancient Hebrew word meaning *a way by steps*). The names of these star groups are all very ancient.

Now, look up at the night sky. What do you see? Stars, stars and more stars. But do you see those stars positioned neatly into the pictures that we have inherited today? Do you see those star signs so precisely laid out before your eyes? Not at all!

The star signs were not formed simply by joining the star dots. And, for that matter, from the relative positions of the stars, there would appear to be no reason for assigning the star pictures such meanings as “dying goat”, “virgin”, or “the fight for the crown”, or star names such as “the chief who cometh”, “this one comes to reign,” “the pierced”, and so on.

When you think about it, these are such unlikely symbols, unrelated to the star positions themselves, and such unlikely star names. So how did such meanings originate?

The truth is that these ancient pictures were carefully chosen and set in sequence to tell a story. The star markers were originally used as a memory aid, or a memorial of what were claimed to be prophecies that were already well known.



**12 basic signs
and 36 explanatory
signs (decans)**

The same story was told in all the world's great civilizations. The star charts give it in 48 pictures and hundreds of names.

The ancients believed that a serpent (representing Lucifer, or Satan) had hijacked Planet earth, but that a virgin's baby would fight the serpent, defeat him and restore life, peace and happiness to mankind. The star pictures and names told this story.

For thousands of years the revelation of a coming Deliverer was recorded very effectively in that wondrous book written in the sky.

Much later, the star sign book was forgotten by most people.

The counterfeit - astrology

Archaeology shows that the trend of history has been consistently one of cultural decline.

The ancient Chinese, for example, used scientific compasses which pointed due north and south. Later (after the original use was forgotten) these were preserved as magic, through which Chinese necromancers told fortunes.

The same degeneration befell the star chart. The figures were perverted into instruments of fortune-telling and objects of worship. This perversion began with Nimrod, shortly before 2000 BC.

Hebrew prophets denounced such astrology. But it is significant that *never* once do they speak against the names, emblems or stars themselves. Rather, there is a distinct statement that the Creator is the Author of their use as “*signs*... AND IT WAS SO.” (Genesis 1:14,15)

“*Was so*” tells us that the stars became “*signs*” at that very time. They were appointed to become a teaching mechanism, away back there in the beginning.

Gospel message in two locations

Names of stars, when translated into English, are most revealing.

STAR NAMES

BIBLE NAMES

The Deliverer

“The Seed”.....	“her Seed” (Gen.3:15)
“Ear of wheat”.....	“corn of wheat”
“The Branch”.....	“the Branch”
“The Heretofore & the Hereafter”.....	“which was, and is, and is to come”
“Who shall come down”.....	“The Lord will come down”
“The Coming One”.....	“He which cometh down”
“Ihesu”.....	“Jesus” (Yeshua)
“The Desired”.....	“The Desire of all nations”
“The Gloriously Beautiful”.....	“Beautiful and glorious” (Isa.4:2)
“The Dual-Natured One”.....	“form of God... likeness of man”
“The Virgin”.....	“the virgin”
“Naz-seir-ene”.....	“Nazarene”

"Who Comes To Save".....	"that cometh... to save" (Isa.63)
"The One Who Saves Mightily".....	"Mighty to save"
"The Sent Prince".....	"till Messiah the Prince"
"The Despised".....	"despised of men"
"Sin Offering".....	"offering for sin"
"Appointed to Die".....	Appointed to die
"The Cut Off".....	"cut off" (Isa.53; Dan.9)
"The Coming Lamb to be Slain".....	"Lamb slain from the foundation of"
"The Sheep Gentle and Merciful".....	"as a lamb" "merciful"
"The Ram".....	"a ram" (Gen.22)
"The Bull".....	"bullock" (Lev. 4 and 16)
"The Goat Sacrificed".....	"goat... for a sin offering"
"The Eagle".....	"as an eagle" (Deut.32:11)
"The Wounded".....	"was wounded" (Isa. 53)
"The Pierced".....	"pierced"
"The Self Sacrifice".....	"I lay down [my life] myself"
"The Price of the Conflict".....	"ye are bought with a price"
"Purchase".....	"purchased" by his blood
"The Redeemer".....	"Redeemer"
"The Atonement".....	"Atonement"
"Triumph By a Great Conflict".....	"through death might destroy him" (Heb.2:14)
"Bruised in the Heel".....	"shalt bruise his heel"
"The Strong One".....	"strong is the Lord"
"The Righteous One".....	"Jesus Christ the Righteous"
"The Gracious One".....	"the Lord God, gracious"
"HE Who Comes Forth as Light".....	"I am come a light to the world"
"Who Covers".....	"He shall cover thee"
"The Shepherd".....	"the shepherd"
"The Great restorer".....	"the Lord... shall be a restorer" (Ruth 4)
"The Healer".....	"by his stripes we are healed"
"The Pourer Forth of Water".....	"I will pour water..." (Isa.44:3)
"The Preserver".....	"preserver of men" (Job 7:20)
"The Mediator".....	"there is one mediator"
"Who Goes and Returns".....	"I go... I will come again" (John 14:2,3)
"The Lord Who Comes".....	"The Lord shall descend"
"The Quickly returning".....	"Behold I come quickly"
Rider on White Horse With Bow.....	"white horse... bow" (Rev.6:2)
He With The Sickle.....	"in his hand a sharp sickle"
"Who Shall Be Exalted".....	"shall be exalted"
"The Coming Judge".....	"cometh to judge the earth"
He With The Belt of Righteousness...	"his girdle [is] righteousness" (Isa.11:5)
"The Rod of Righteous Measurement".....	"rod" of righteous measure (Rev.11:1)
"Who Separates".....	"separate the sheep"
"The Punishing Lion".....	"Lion of Judah"
"The Scarlet Coloured".....	"apparel red... dipped in blood"
"Defeater of the Serpent".....	"Defeater of the Serpent"
"The Breaker".....	"the Breaker" (Micah 2; Psa.74)
"Who Bruises".....	"he shall bruise thy head"
"The Chief".....	"chief shepherd"
"The Leader".....	"shall lead them"

"The Prince of the Right Hand".....	the "right hand" of God (Psa.98 and 21)
"The Mighty".....	"the Mighty God"
"The Lord Omnipotent".....	"Lord God omnipotent"
"The King".....	"King"
"The Governor".....	"Governor" (Matt.2:60)
"Who Comes to Rule".....	"shall rule"
"Who Shall Have Dominion".....	"He shall have dominion" (Psa.72:8)

His people

"The Fold".....	"a good fold" (Eze.34)
"The Flock".....	"my flock"
"The Chosen of the Flock".....	"whom he hath chosen"
"The Fishes".....	"fishes"
"The Persecuted Woman".....	"persecuted the woman"
"The Struck Down".....	"shall fall... many days"
"The Weak".....	In Christ "we are weak" (1 Cor.4)
"The Afflicted".....	the "afflicted" (Isa.54:8)
"The People of the Coming Prince"	"the people of the prince that shall come"
"The Upheld".....	"uphold you"
Drawn by Bands.....	"drew... with bands of love"
"The Saved".....	"the saved" (Psa.21)
"Redeemed".....	"redeemed"
"Victorious".....	"victorious"
"Who Holds Fast".....	"hold fast"
"The Covered".....	"covered all their sins" (Psa.85)
"The Numbered".....	"the number...sealed"
"The Latter Flock".....	"the remnant"
"The Multitude".....	"a great multitude"
"Awaiting Him Who Comes".....	"waiting for the coming of" (1 Cor.1:7)
"The Freed Woman".....	"free... daughter of Zion" (Isa.52)
"Once Burdened".....	"we do groan, being burdened"
"The Delivered From All Evil".....	"deliver us from evil"
"The Enthroned".....	We'll sit on thrones (Rev.20)
"Rejoicers Over the Serpent".....	"Rejoice [over]... the devil" (Rev.12)

Satan the enemy

"Serpent".....	"serpent"
"Dragon".....	"dragon"
"Scorpion".....	"scorpions... the enemy" (Luke 10)
"The Evil Spirit".....	"evil spirit"
"Satan".....	"Satan"
"The Sea Monster".....	"that dragon... in the sea" (Isa.27)
"The Subtle".....	"subtle" (Gen.3:1)
"The Deceiver".....	"deceiveth the whole world"
"The Father of Lies".....	"a liar... the father of it" (John 8)
"The Serpent of Eve".....	"serpent beguiled Eve" (2 Cor.11:3)
"He On the Sides of the North".....	"upon the... sides of the north"
"The Enemy of the Coming".....	"to devour her child [when] born"
"The Chained".....	"...a chain"
"The Rebel Bound".....	"bound him"
"The Thrust Down".....	"cut down" (Isa.14)
"Cup Of Fiery Punishment".....	"cup... with fire"

"River of Fiery Judgment".....	"fiery stream... judgment" (Dan.7:9-11)
"The Humbled, Brought Down"...	"fallen... brought down" (Isa.14:12-15)
"The Punished Deceiver".....	"who deceived them.. lake of fire"
"Bruised in the Head".....	"shall bruise thy head"
"Treading Under Foot".....	"dragon shalt thou trample under feet" (Psa.91)
"The Abhorred".....	"abhorring unto all flesh"

NOW WAIT A MINUTE!...

...WHO COPIED WHOM?

Do you notice how both the Bible and the star charts are just about in perfect agreement with each other? So which came first? Did Bible writers copy from the star charts? Or were the star names copied from the Bible?

Many Christians assume that the star signs and star names are pagan in origin. However, as we compare the above two columns, it becomes clear that the names and symbols of both the Bible AND of the star maps *agree*.

Both faithfully portray the story of divine rescue. In symbolism and names, the stars tell the same story as the Bible – EVEN IN THE SAME PRECISE ORDER!

THIS ABSOLUTE AGREEMENT between the Bible and the star charts – *how shall we explain this?*

1. Did Nimrod the pagan rebel at the Tower of Babel invent them – and then later the Bible copied these “pagan” names and symbols?

OR

2. Did the people of God have them first, and someone put them into the star maps later?

If this is so, then WHEN were the “pagan” star maps CHANGED into Christian symbols and names?

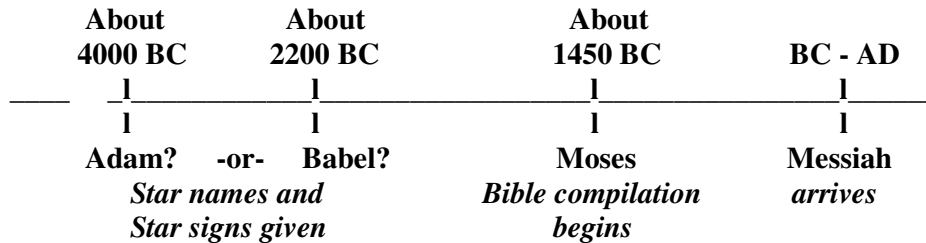
OR

3. Did they both – star names and Bible – originate from the same Source?

Okay, let's take these in turn.

1. DID NIMROD INVENT THEM?

This much is certain: The star names are older than the Bible.



It is significant that ancient Hebrew authorities declare that under Moses each tribe had one of the zodiac signs as its own. The 12 signs of the zodiac are associated with the 12 tribes of Israel. These signs were also on the standards of the 12 tribes as listed in Numbers 13.

This testimony is also borne out by the Scriptures. Genesis 49 and Deuteronomy 33 have the 12 zodiac signs in view. There is neither space nor time to enter into this subject here. But one may ask, DID ISRAEL UNDER MOSES COPY THESE FROM THE PAGANS? Indeed, no! There was nothing pagan in this.

Therefore we must ask:

2. DID GOD'S PEOPLE HAVE THEM BEFORE THAT?

There is substantial historical and archaeological evidence that the star symbols and names are much older than Babel.

But first let it be known that most of the names on the ancient star charts stemmed from Hebrew-Abrahamic-Noetic roots.

Since Shem's faithful line did not participate in the Babel rebellion, *their language was not confounded* at that time. This language (later termed

“Hebrew”) would therefore go back to Noah, and, of course, Adam. And, as we know, Adam’s language was given him by God.

Even the Egyptians, when speaking of the “sacred language”, and citing examples of it, quoted words that are HEBREW.

The Hebrew tongue, therefore, is the “sacred” language, divinely imparted.

This would explain why the nations of the whole world, in preserving their star charts, retained names and meanings which were derived from the original tongue – names which God gave BEFORE the Tower of Babel confusion of tongues.

Here, then, is the sequence of events borne out by the evidence:

**Gospel
Promise
Given**

I

1. STAR NAMES & SYMBOLS TELL GOSPEL – basically never altered

I

**Adam,
Enoch,
Noah**

2. ASTROLOGY COUNTERFEITS THE GOSPEL PROPHECY

I

Nimrod

3. BIBLE WRITTEN – NEVER ALTERED

I

Moses

4. MESSIAH ARRIVES

Features 6,000 years old

Land maps portray features for the benefit of contemporaries who will use them.

Because borders, districts and streets change over the years, one can usually discover for what time in history a map was prepared, by the features on it.

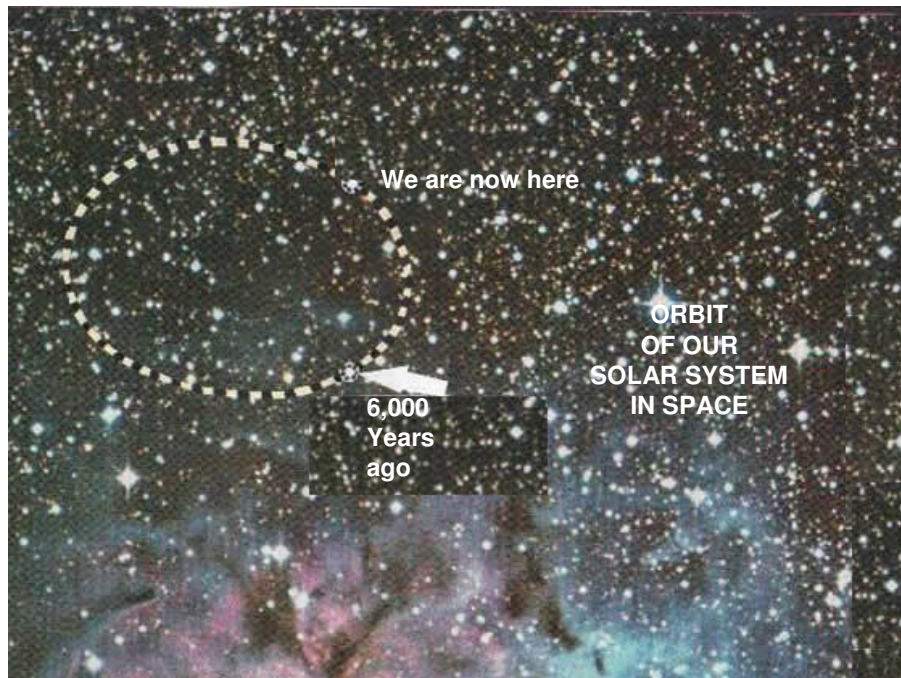
Similarly, maps of the sky reflect features that can date them. The face of the sky as seen from earth changes about 90 degrees in 6,000 years, as the earth and our solar system move through space in a huge orbit.

On the oldest sky charts:

1. The Southern Cross was visible in the Northern Hemisphere from 40 degrees N. latitude.
2. Alpha in Draco was the North Pole Star.
3. The star group Taurus opened the Equinoctial year, with the sun crossing that part of the sky in March. (It no longer does so. At that time of the year the sun is 90 degrees further around in the sky, in Aquarius.)
4. The summer solstice was in the first degree of Virgo.

Put simply, we have moved through space 90 DEGREES, or a quarter of a circle, since the earliest sky maps were recorded.

This means that the features on those maps are approximately 6,000 YEARS OLD.



This makes nonsense of any claim that the star maps and names originated with the pagans from Nimrod about 4,000 years ago. The truth is they are much older.

Many ancient authorities agree...

1. THE HEBREWS

It is important to remember that after the return of the Jews from Babylonian captivity, they were most particular to shun idolatry and everything heathen. In fact, they swung so far the opposite way that they became ultra-legalistic to follow the laws of Moses.

Yet, significantly, they did not regard the star signs as pagan.

Josephus, the famous first century Jewish historian, and the rabbis held that the star map symbols began with Seth (son of Adam) and Enoch. Josephus records the tradition of his own nation, supported by eight other Gentile authorities. (Josephus, Book I, chs. 1-3)

2. THE PHOENICIANS

Some have maintained that our alphabet was not invented until 1500 BC by the Phoenicians. However, archaeological research now shows that all the alphabets in the world had their origin from one and the same primitive alphabet, which had 25 letters, including seven vowels.

Have you ever wondered why, in the alphabet, the vowels are so irregularly distributed among the consonants?

These vowels were, according to Sanchoniathon the Phoenician and other ancient historians, so arranged as to express the places of the seven visible planets of the zodiac at the time the alphabet was invented. The twenty-five alphabet letters and twelve main zodiac signs were superimposed, the first two letters in Gemini, and so on, with the vowels unevenly spaced to represent the planetary positions at that time.

Distributing the seven vowels as representing the visible planetary positions, *as the ancients say they are to be taken*, the result is that we find the Moon (signified by “a”) in the first half of Gemini, Venus (“e”) in the first half of Leo, the Sun and Mercury (the two additional sounds of “e”) in the latter half of Virgo and the first half of Libra respectively, Mars (“I”) in the latter half of Scorpio, Jupiter (“o”) in the latter half of Aquarius, and Saturn (“u”) in the first half of Gemini.

The alphabet thus records “an exact notation of the actual condition of the heavens at an ascertainable date, which can occur but once in many thousands of years, and that date is the seventh day of September, 3447

before Christ!” (Joseph A. Seiss, *The Gospel in the Stars*. Grand Rapids, MI.: Kregel Publications, 1982, p. 23)

Now you know why the letters of the alphabet appear in the one fixed order, and why the vowels are distributed so irregularly among the consonants.

This date has been checked by astronomers and found to be correct. This date - 3447 BC - would place the existence of these star group symbols *over a thousand years before Nimrod*, but in the time of Enoch. Thus the star signs as we know them were already in use as early as that period.

3. THE EGYPTIANS

The Dendera Zodiac (sky map), now in the British Museum, reveals features of the sky that existed only as early as 3000 BC. It is therefore a copy of an earlier chart. Again, this is *about a thousand years before paganism began with Nimrod*.

4. THE GREEKS

About 150 BC, the poet Aratus described in detail the face of the starry heavens – not, however, as the people of his day saw it, but as it had been written down long in the past – the sky of approximately 4,000 years earlier. The sky chart details he memorialised were those of the time of Adam! – some *2,000 years before ever there was a Nimrod or a Tower of Babel*.

Did the pagans copy from the Bible onto the star maps?

When a critic suggested that the star signs were pagan in origin, I asked him, “Why are the same names and symbols found in the Bible?”

His reply was that, since the Bible would never copy from paganism, the pagans must have copied the names and symbols from the Bible onto the star maps at some time after the Bible was written.

Si I asked him, “Very well, then, when were the pagan star maps changed to copy Bible names and symbols?”

Did Christians change the star maps? Did the pagans themselves?

The truthful answer is: the star maps were NOT CHANGED to reflect Bible names and symbols... NEVER!

How can we know this? Because they were *never pagan* to start with. They have always been Christian (for the want of a better term) – *from the very time they were invented*. And basically they *have not been altered* to this day.

The Arabs are among the greatest astronomers and historians this world has seen. Albamazer, astronomer for the Caliphs of Granada, speaking of the star signs, says:

None of these forms from their first invention have varied in coming down to us, nor one of their words [names] changed, not a point added or removed.” (*Flores Astrologias*, written in Arabic and translated into Hebrew by Aben Ezra. A Latin translation is in the British Museum Library.)

Did you get that? The star maps we have today, with their figures and names, WHICH ALL TELL THE PLAN OF DIVINE RESCUE FOR MANKIND THROUGH A DELIVERER, have basically never been altered in 6,000 years!

Exceptions are noted in my book *Sting of the Scorpion*, pp. 44,45. (http://www.beforeus.com/shopcart_hc.html> Scroll down to Item No. 46)

Could it be that a supernatural hand has protected them since the time they were imparted? Could this be the same hand that has been protecting the Bible? And 6,000 years does take us back to the time of Adam, when the original promise of rescue was given.

SO...

3. DID BOTH ORIGINATE FROM THE SAME COMMON SOURCE?

Who has named the stars? - man, or God Himself?

Okay, says the critic (who says he is trying to protect Christianity from pagan ideas, and if that is his motive it is to be commended) – give me proof that it was God who gave the star signs and the stars their names.

We shall. But first let's note that beautiful biblical passage, Psalm 19:

*“The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament sheweth his handiwork. Day unto day uttereth **speech**, and night unto night sheweth **knowledge**. There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard. Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their **words** to the end of the world.”* (v.1-4)

“SPEECH”... “KNOWLEDGE”... “WORDS”. Here is a reference to ***the stars speaking*** and revealing knowledge and truth.

This may be a puzzling statement, until we realise that from the days of Adam, God's message and future program for mankind has been outlined through the stars for all to know.

Let me assure you that we are NOT talking about pagan ASTROLOGY and HOROSCOPE CASTING. ***But we are talking about a story told by the names of the stars and the constellation figures.*** It is a tragedy that many today, because of fears for the future, have turned to the occult to discover what may lie before them.

By a beautiful contrast to these powers of darkness, God, in whom there is light and no darkness at all, has revealed His plans in two beautiful volumes: (1) the Scriptures, His written revelation to mankind, and (2) before the Bible existed, the 48 constellations told the same story.

This is the **WHOLE POINT THAT PSALM 19 IS MAKING**, for it breaks up into two sections:

v. 1-6 – The Psalmist is speaking about ***the heavens*** – in the midst of which is the sun (v.4)

v. 7-14 – He is speaking about *the Scriptures* – and in the midst of them is “the Lord” and His attributes.

The Psalmist SETS ONE AGAINST THE OTHER, SAYING THAT THESE TWO VOLUMES ARE PERFECTLY MATCHED.

SO WHO NAMED THE STARS?

To Adam was given the privilege of naming the animals. (Gen.2:19,20)
However, in stark contrast to this, it was God Himself personally who gave the stars their names.

Psalm 147:4 – “***He calleth them all by their names.***”
Isaiah 40:26 says the stars were given their names at the time of Creation, when God brought forth their host in their numbers.

Obviously, God had a very special divine purpose in naming the stars.
And we shall discover that their purpose was to reveal to mankind His plan of rescue (salvation).

SOME EVIDENCE THAT GOD NAMED THE STARS

1. The MEANING of the star names is the SAME in EVERY NATION around the world, despite all the differences of language.

By way of illustration, let’s consider the group of stars known as the constellation of Virgo – “the virgin”. This was called

Virgo by the Romans
Bethulah by the Hebrews
Parthenos by the Greeks
Kanya by the Indians.

EACH ONE OF THESE NAMES MEANS “VIRGIN”.

The SAME applies to the *individual stars* within EACH STAR GROUP (CONSTELLATION).

If we stay with Virgo, the brightest star there is *Spica*, which is Latin for “Seed”. But the Hebrews called it *Zerah* which also means “Seed”. We could go through various other languages, ***all having the same star name meanings.***

There had to be a common source. And this common source must have been Adam. Before the Flood, and up until the Tower of Babel, there was only one language throughout the whole world. (Genesis 11:1)

Astrology has nothing to do with the ***names*** of the stars. It never has.

Adam was given the star names by God. These names were preserved by Noah into the new world after the Great Flood. Then they were carried with variations in all the new languages following the dispersion from the Tower.

Isn't it significant that **no** ancient authorities deny this fact? **Every one of them** of whom we know states quite plainly that God gave man these names and figures.

2. The names and figures reveal a prophetic knowledge.

God alone can tell the future.

Since the names clearly recorded the plan of salvation long before the events, only God Himself could be the source of this information.

It is perfectly proper to describe groups of stars as “signs”

Genesis 1:14 – “*And God said, let there be lights in the firmament of heaven... and let them be **for signs**, and seasons, and days, and years.*”

The Hebrew word employed here for “signs” is “*oth*”, which implies “a message bearer”, that is, “omen”, “portent” (*Strong’s Concordance; Pulpit Commentary*, etc)

Such a use began at Creation (v. 15 – “AND IT WAS SO.”)

We know that when we drive along a road and see a sign, this sign conveys information.



Likewise, these heavenly signs must obviously *convey information and give a message through their very names* which God has given them.

The constellations (signs) given by God Himself

It is also important to realise that these heavenly messengers, these celestial sign boards, have also by God been formed into groups of stars, which we call constellations.

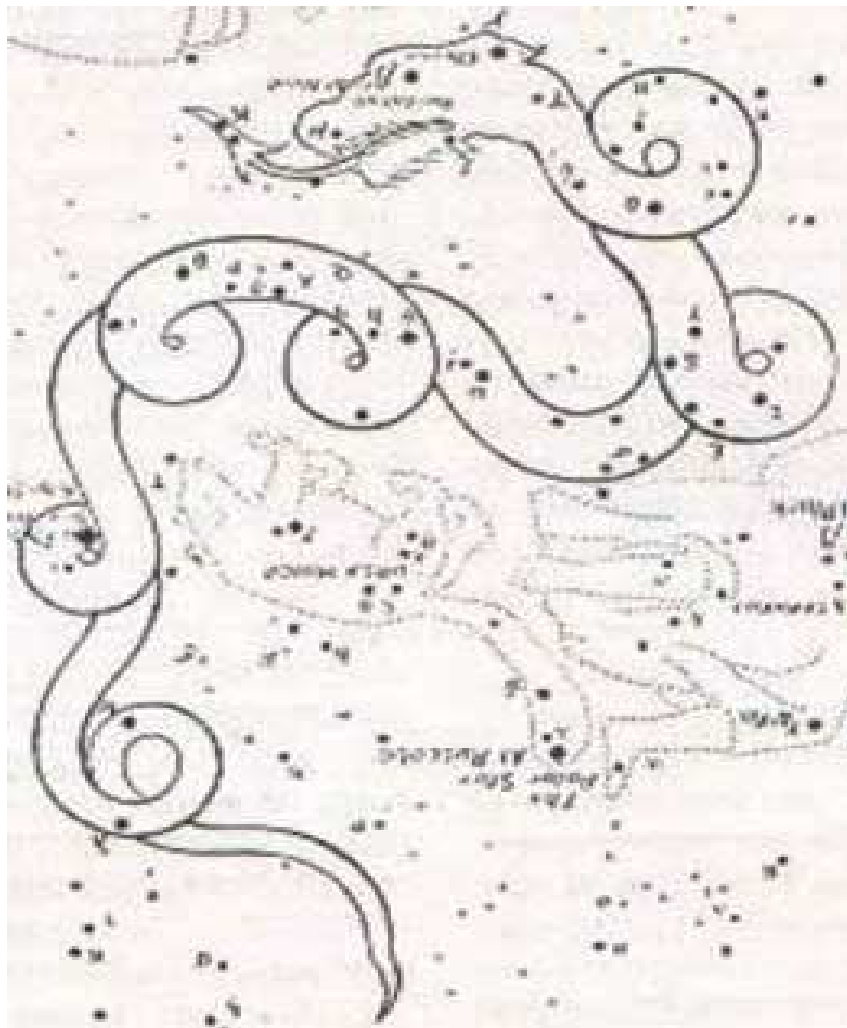
Isaiah 13:10 speaks of the stars of heaven, and the constellations thereof, and what God is going to do to them, and the sun and the moon, immediately prior to His return.

Job 9:8-9, speaking of God, says, “*Who alone spreadeth out the heavens,*” who made the constellations of the *Bear*, and *Orion*, and *Pleiades*, and the *constellations of the south*.

Here is a specific statement that God made not just the stars, but the star figures of the sky – of which three in particular are mentioned, as well as the fact that God made them as such.

It is worth noting that **the names of the star patterns were the same then over 4,000 years ago as they are today**. Not only the NAMES, but also the FIGURES that have been drawn around these groups of stars have remained the same down through the centuries of time.

Job 26:13 - God says that His hand formed the “*crooked serpent*”, that is, the “*fleeing Serpent*” (the star sign *Hydra*), which draws itself around one third of the stars of heaven. He is the Author of it, and by implication the Author of the whole system of figures of which Hydra is a part.



The crooked serpent constellation (Hydra)

God made not only the constellation or star group, **but the figure of the serpent associated with it.**

Amos 5:8 is an excellent statement that the Lord God made these star patterns and figures, these constellations and signs that are mentioned.

Psalms 19:4 - In the midst of the heavens God has set a dwelling place for the sun. This dwelling place for the sun is the band of 12 constellations through which the sun appears to pass in its annual circuit around the heavens – as pointed out in verse 6. This is called the zodiac, which means, simply, a way by steps.

Job 38:32 - God Himself states that it is He who brings forth these constellation signs season by season. (Mazzaroth = the 12 main signs).
“Can you bring out Mazzaroth [the signs of the zodiac] in their season?”

How the stars tell the Gospel

In Romans chapter 10, Paul is writing about those that preach the Gospel. peaking of the heathen, he asks, *“How shall they hear [the Gospel] without a preacher?”* (Rom.10:4)

In verse 18 he says, *“Have they [the heathen] not heard?”* His reply is, *“Yes, truly they have heard, for”* – he says – *“their sound went unto all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world.”*

What is the inspired apostle saying? Simply this: that the heathen around the world have all heard the message of the Gospel, and to support his claim, he has quoted Psalm 19.

Romans 10:18 – *“Their sound went unto all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world.”*

Psalm 19:4 – *“Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.”*

The “they” who are doing the preaching that Paul refers to is found in Psalm 19 to be very definitely the stars and constellations of the heavens.

Thus the story, whatever it is, is common to all languages and peoples, as the star names and constellation figures are the same around the world.

There is no speech or language, says the Psalmist, where their voice (the voice of the star messages) is not heard.

And the apostle Paul states clearly in Romans 10 that these stars are preaching the Gospel (verse 18).

This, then, is how the heavens declare God's glory and show forth the knowledge of Him.

Elsewhere, the Scriptures inform us that God's glory is His merciful character. (Exodus 33:18-19; 34:5-7) In showing forth God's plan of salvation (the Gospel), the stars are revealing His "glory", that is, His merciful character, His grace toward us.

The sun also

Notice also that it is the sun by day that is speaking to us as well. For in exactly the same way that the sun is the physical light of the world, so the Deliverer is "*that true light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.*" "*I am the light of the world,*" says Jesus.

Psalm 19:5 - The sun is as the "*bridegroom coming out of his chamber.*" This is in full keeping with the symbolism, because in the Word of God the Deliverer is the heavenly Bridegroom. John the Baptist noted this: "*He [Christ] that hath the bride [the church] is the bridegroom.*" (John 3:28-30. Compare Ephesians 5:25-32)

Malachi 4:2 - Again, the sun is used in reference to the Messiah.

Psalm 19:6 - As the sun's going forth is from the end of heaven and his circuit back unto the ends of it, so the Deliverer came forth from the divine throne in the heavens, came to earth, and returned to heaven, after His mission was accomplished. This "*strong man*" (verse 5) had run His race and defeated the enemy.

That mission He was to perform was outlined by all the "strong man" star figures along the path of the zodiac (which all refer to the God-man who was bruised in the heel by the serpent and who later crushes that serpent.) (For fully illustrated details of these figures see my book *Sting of the Scorpion*.)

THIS IS THE WHOLE POINT OF PSALM 19. There is a **beautiful parallel** between the heavens and their glory (symbolising the Messiah) and the Scriptures (the written Word of God).

The two revelations are set one against the other.

How God taught the Gospel to Abraham

Genesis 15:5 *“And he [God] brought him [Abraham] forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and TELL the stars, if thou be able to NUMBER them.”*

Our English words “*tell*” and “*number*” are a translation of the **SAME Hebrew word “*sephar*”**. “*Sephar*” means literally to “*mark*”, to “*list in sequence*”, to “*make a roll call*”, as with a name and a number, and to “*tell out*”, as you would with a story.

God is saying to Abraham, “I want you to list the stars in sequence, and tell the story of the stars.” And once Abraham has done that, God gives this rather cryptic statement: “*So shall thy seed be. And he [Abraham] believed in the Lord; and he [the Lord] counted it to him for righteousness.*” (verses 5,6)

Commonly, it is assumed that God was here promising Abraham a multitude of offspring which Abraham could neither name nor number. Now this interpretation is based on a later statement to Abraham to this very effect – Genesis 22:17.

But, common as is this interpretation for Genesis 15, it is **wrong**. Because we have the very plain word of Scripture that the word “**seed**” **there is singular**, and not plural. How do we know that? Galatians 3:16 – “*He saith not, And to seeds [plural], as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.*”

So after Abraham had listed the star names in sequence from constellation to constellation, the story was being told about Christ, and God said, “*So shall your seed {Christ, the Messiah} be.*”

You might ask, How do we know that Paul was referring to Genesis 15 and not to Genesis 22? This is quite plain:

1. In Genesis 22, it is specifically stated that Abraham would have a multitude of seed, like the stars of heaven and the sand of the sea shore.
2. Paul, on the other hand, states quite specifically that the seed is singular and not plural – so the reference must of necessity be to the Genesis 15 passage specifically.

3. If you look back further in Galatians chapter 3 – go to verse 6 – you will see that this is a direct quotation from Genesis 15:6 – *“even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.”*
4. On that occasion it was the **Gospel** itself that Abraham believed in, since, after he recited the names of the stars in sequence, he heard God say, *“**So shall your seed [the Saviour] be.**”* Hence Galatians 3:8 – *“...preached before the gospel to Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed.”*

It becomes quite obvious, then, that God preached the Gospel to Abraham as he listed the stars’ names and sequence from constellation to constellation.

This is why Paul in Romans 10:15-18 says that all men have heard the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ through the hearing of the Word of God that went to the ends of the world proclaimed **by the stars**.

Below we see some of the star names and their meanings, just as Abraham may have understood them as he looked up into the night sky and listed them off...

- * The Son
- * Who Shall Come Down
- * The Despised
- * Appointed to Die
- * The Lord Omnipotent
- * The Quickly Returning
- * Who Bruises the Serpent’s Head
- * Who Shall Have Dominion

Even today's heathen learn the Gospel from the stars

Dr Barry Setterfield, Australian scientist, reports the true story of a missionary who returned from the back country of Japan. She had just been to a place where no Christian missionary had previously penetrated.

Says Setterfield: “She began to tell the story of redemption, the story of the Lord Jesus Christ. And when she had finished, an old lady got up, very excited, and said, ‘I’ve known the story for a long time – and I’ve told my people about the Saviour. It’s all written there in the names of the stars, but I’ve never known HIS name – the name *Jesus* – before.’”

Who can say that is not wonderful? She believed the Gospel story in exactly the same way that Abraham did.

And the Scripture affirms in that same Galatians 3 passage that if we believe this message of the stars, we too will be blessed, as was Abraham. Verse 9 – “*So then, they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham.*”

The original zodiac message and the Holy Scriptures are identical in their message. They bear the stamp of the same eternal Spirit who has told us things to come.

In the next chapter we continue further prophetic information about the Messiah that is found in the book of Genesis.

Chapter 3

“SACRIFICE YOUR SON”

It was a searing hot afternoon in October that I tripped down the steps from an upper room in the old walled city of Jerusalem.

Pushing along through the bewildering maze of narrow streets with ancient cobble stones, I climbed some steps to a hawker's stand and stood there to order a falafel.

Then I ambled out through the Damascus Gate. Peddlers sat around, spreading out their wares hopefully. Four young Israeli soldiers in uniform - two of them girls — stood, rifles in hand, surveying the passersby.

I continued across the road and around the corner through the Arab bus station. Some buildings abutted the hill. The Calvary escarpment, some called it.

I gulped in the fresh, cool air. And the thought struck me that here I was, standing close to a place of sacrifice! This was the very mountain to which the famous patriarch Abraham had come to sacrifice his son Isaac.

Two great races, the Jews and the Arabs, trace their ancestry to Abraham.

Near the river Euphrates, on the fertile plain of Mesopotamia, stood the highly civilized and sophisticated city of Ur.

During the closing years of the 20th century BC, one of its better-educated and wealthier citizens was a man called Abram, or Abraham, a Semite.

Abraham was called to leave Ur and migrate to Canaan, present-day Israel.

And here, after a time, he was plunged into the greatest of traumas.

The citizens of Canaan regularly sacrificed their sons to their gods. Abraham had often told them that the Creator did not approve of such sacrifice.

Then suddenly the unthinkable happened. Abraham was faced with a divine command to do just that. That he was stunned would be an understatement. It was, after all, this very child of his old age from which the promised nation was to spring. Why then this?

Yet, ever loyal, the patriarch sorrowfully set out with Isaac on a journey to Mount Moriah. His heart was breaking. How could he reveal to his son the purpose of this trek?

Isaac helped him gather wood for a fire. And then came the question: "But dad, where's the lamb for the burnt offering?"

The old man simply stared at him, trembling. Never had Isaac seen such a strange look on his father's face. At length the old man replied, "God will provide Himself a lamb, son."

And eventually came the moment to break the news.

Was Isaac shaken? More likely he was filled with horror. But from infancy there had been instilled into him a total commitment to God's way. And Isaac believed in the integrity of his father. He understood that the direction must have come from God.

He was full of sadness at his separation from his father. But he was willing.

Though strong enough to resist his aging parent, the lad cooperated. Soon he lay bound on the altar. His father embraced him and wept. Then, with a trembling hand, he raised the knife.

"Abraham, Abraham!" The urgency of the voice held his arm.

"Do not lay your hand on the lad or do anything to him; for now I know that you reverence God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." (ch.22:11,12)

Then it was that Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in the bushes. He took it and offered it instead of his son.

Was this incident a capricious whim on the part of God? Not at all. It was a graphic object lesson to the father of the selected nation — intended to impress on him and his posterity the reality that God Himself would some day make an agonizing sacrifice of a Precious One in order to deliver mankind.

"God will provide himself a sacrifice... in the mount of the Lord it shall be seen.(Gen.22:8,14)

Could this be a prophecy that, one day in the future, the Messiah, God's Son, would himself be sacrificed as an innocent lamb on this very mountain, Mount Moriah?

And centuries later, a well-known person would declare, *"Abraham rejoiced to see my day, and was glad."* (John 8:56)

About 370 feet (114 metres) north of old walled Jerusalem, outside the gate, is the highest part of Mount Moriah. And there, cut into the cliff, is the skull shape - "the place of the skull", Calvary, or Golgotha, according to which language you speak. This is where Jesus Christ was crucified.

By faith, Abraham looked forward to that future One in whom all nations would be blessed.

Thus began the nurturing of a race, the intended vehicle of this purpose.

Jacob's prophecy

Abraham's grandson Jacob is later given a prophecy that the Messiah will come through the son named Judah. More specifically:

"The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be." (Gen-49:10)

The essence of this prophecy is that the Sceptre of authority and tribal independence shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between

his feet, until Shiloh (that is, the “Man of Peace”) comes - and to him will be the obedience (the submission, the homage) of the peoples.

To put it another way, government functions shall not pass from the tribe of Judah, it shall not cease from being a state, until Shiloh comes. HE SHALL APPEAR BEFORE the Jewish state shall be utterly destroyed.

That Shiloh is the coming Messiah was recognised by almost all Jewish expositors.

- * The Targums, or Chaldee Paraphrasis of Jerusalem, renders this prophecy “until the time when King Messiah shall come.” (E.C. Ettmann, *Messianic Evidences*, Melbourne, Australian Presbyterian Women’s Missionary Union, undated, p.18)
- * Onkelos (60 BC): “until Messiah comes, whose is the kingdom.”
- * The Talmud: “Shiloh is reckoned among the names of Messiah.”
- * The Targum Pseudo Jonathan on Gen-49:11a states: “How noble is the King, Messiah, who is going to rise from the house of Judah.”

The nation of Judah never lost its “tribal staff” or national identity during the 70 year captivity in Babylon. It still possessed its own lawgivers or judges even while in exile (Ezra 1:5,8).

Two signs to occur soon after Messiah’s coming would be

- 1- removal of Judah’s sceptre or identity
- 2- suppression of her judicial power.

The first stage of the sceptre’s removal occurred when Herod the Great, a foreigner, took the throne. Some time later, the Sanhedrin lost the power to pass the death sentence.

- * The Talmud itself admits that “a little more than forty years before the destruction of the Temple, the power of pronouncing capital sentences was taken away from the Jews.” (*Talmud*, Jerusalem, Sanhedrin, fol.24, recto.)
- * Rabbi Rachmon says: “When the Sanhedrin found themselves deprived of their right over life and death, a general consternation took possession of them; they, covered their heads with ashes, and their bodies with sackcloth, exclaiming ‘Woe unto us, for the sceptre has departed from Judah, and the Messiah has not come!’”

Finally, in 70 AD, the Jerusalem Temple was destroyed by the Romans, Judah lost her autonomy and national life; the sceptre of ecclesiastical sway departed from Judah, and the Jewish people were banished from the

Holy Land as a result of the wars of 70 and 135 AD. For nearly 2,000 years they became a scattered people.

According to this prophecy, the Messiah would have to come before the destruction of the Temple and the final exile of the Jews.

Did he, and had they somehow missed him?

Prophecies beyond Genesis

As time continues beyond Genesis, more details are revealed by the Supreme One to different writers in succession. Each new prophet is like a painter who uses the brush to put in details – until at last the word painting is finished and the full picture of the coming Deliverer stands out perfect and complete.

Yes, if you didn't know it, the whole life story of this Promised One – including the precise time he would appear – was written down hundreds of years in advance.

Messages received by the prophets were recorded in a document that we know as the Old Testament. Evidently, the Creator loved mankind so much that He was setting out to win their obstinate and self-centred hearts.

The whole human race knew of this coming Messiah. In fact, some nations, as their cultures degenerated, retained the seed of this prophecy within their pagan mythology. And today we find it echoed quite grotesquely. But the core of the original prophecy given to our first parents is still perceptible. (Jonathan Gray, *Stolen Identity*. <<http://www.beforeus.com/stolen-id.php> >)

Chapter 4

MORE MESSIANIC SYMBOLISM IN GENESIS

The Messiah Redeemer shines forth from every page of the book of Genesis. Students of the Bible will recognise these examples:

- Adam, head of the human race, was made in *the image of God*. In his original state, before sin intruded, he spoke face to face with God. In this he was a type, or symbol of Christ, who is the image of God and *Head of a new race*. (Hebrews 1:3. Romans 5:14)
- Adam fell into a deep sleep and had his side opened, before receiving his bride. Likewise, it was necessary for Christ, as it were the “second Adam”, to have *His side pierced* (with a Roman spear at His crucifixion) and experience the *sleep* of death before He could claim to Himself His symbolic *bride* - the rescued ones. (Ephesians 5:31,32.)
- Abel was *murdered*, as Christ later would be.
- Noah’s family was saved from the global destruction on account of his own personal right living, just as those who are *rescued* from the coming destruction will be so *on account of the Messiah’s right living*.
- Isaac, the only son of Abraham, was offered up on the altar of sacrifice – but ultimately spared alive, just as God’s only Son, the Christ, was offered as *a sacrifice*, and *rose from the dead*.
- Joseph, betrayed and hated by his brothers, but later exalted, ultimately blessed those responsible for his afflictions. The Messiah, *betrayed* and *hated*, is now *exalted*. He *prayed for forgiveness against those who crucified Him*.

We might also note

- the sacrifice whose skins ***clothed*** Adam and Eve (Genesis 3:21 – compare Isaiah 64:6; Zechariah 3:3-4; Revelation 3:18; 19:8)
- the Ark which ***carried*** Noah and his family ***through*** the waters of ***judgment to safety***
- the ladder of Jacob’s dream, which ***united earth with heaven***
- the ***bread and wine*** brought out by Melchizedek (Genesis 14:18 – compare Mark 14:22-24)

All these and more typified the wonderful work and Person of the Deliverer.

It was the Son of God (later to become human flesh) who, in the book of Genesis:

- * sought Adam and Eve in the garden after they sinned.
- * appeared to Abraham
- * wrestled with Jacob.

“No man hath seen God [the Father] at any time; the only begotten Son,... He hath declared [or revealed] Him.” (John 1:18)

“And [they] did all drink the same spiritual drink; for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.” (1 Corinthians 10:4)

Chapter 5

WHAT ABOUT LAW?

We have just discovered that the Gospel of Jesus Christ the Messiah is embedded strongly in Genesis. Today there is much discussion about the relationship of the Gospel to the law of God. And the question is commonly asked, was the divine law given only to the Jews, for Jews only? Or was it known as the standard for right and wrong, from the beginning of time?

Firstly, let's note these biblical references:

- “Sin is the transgression of the law.” (1 John 3:4)
- “Where no law is, there is no transgression.” (Romans 4:15)
- “The wages of sin is death.” (Romans 6:23)
- “**Death reigned from Adam to Moses.**” (Romans 5:14)

You see, there could be no death without sin.
And there could be no sin without the law.

Adam lived 2,500 years before ever a Jew existed. Since **death** reigned from Adam to Moses, then **the law** existed and was known before the Hebrews (which includes the tribe of Judah, from which comes the popular term Jews).

If the law existed since Adam, then it is for all Adam's descendants – and that includes you and me. The law of God is eternal.

From the time of Adam, the law was already in operation, for it was already dealing death to sinners – even though it was not officially written. (Similarly, before the Messiah “came”, the rescue He provided

was already in operation, for it was already granting resurrection life to repentant men.)

When the Hebrews, led by Moses, gathered at Mount Sinai, the law was given a definitive publication, but it was already operating in the world, and was already known to men.

Indeed, Paul says *"just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned"* (Romans 5:12). In other words, all have violated God's law – commencing with Adam.

It is often thought that at Sinai God set up something new, a new administration of law, which had not been in force previously. We have seen from Paul that this was not the case, for the law was in operation in the Garden, and in the period between the Fall and Sinai.

We can also turn to passages in the books of Genesis and Exodus before Sinai and see that people knew the law before it was written down in the time of Moses.

The Ten Commandments in Genesis

Every one of the Ten Commandments is mentioned as being applicable before they were codified on Mount Sinai.

Commandment 1: WORSHIP NO OTHER GODS

"I am the Almighty God; walk before me and be blameless." (Gen. 17:1)
"Put away the foreign gods that are among you, purify yourselves." (Gen. 35:2)

Commandment 2: USE NO IDOLS FOR WORSHIP

"Put away the foreign gods that are among you, purify yourselves... So they gave Jacob all the foreign gods [idols] which were in their hands, and the earrings which were in their ears and Jacob hid them." (Gen. 35:2,4)

Commandment 3: DO NOT CURSE GOD'S NAME

Interestingly, those called of God are not to be cursed either, *"And I will curse him who curses you."* (Gen. 12:3)

Commandment 4: REMEMBER THE 7TH DAY SABBATH

"And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made." (Gen. 2:2-3)

Commandment 5: HONOUR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER

"Adam, the son of God" (Luke 3:38): "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and eaten from the tree of which I [your Father] commanded you, saying, You shall not eat it of it: Cursed is the ground for your sake." (Gen. 3:17) Notice that later a blessing of land (the opposite from this curse) is promised for those who obey this particular commandment to honour one's father and mother. (Ex. 20:12; Deut. 5:16)

Commandment 6: DO NOT KILL

"Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him...And He said, 'The voice of your brother's blood cries out to Me from the ground. So now you are cursed from the earth.'" (Gen.4:8,10)

Commandment 7: DO NOT COMMIT ADULTERY

"His master's wife cast longing eyes on Joseph, and she said, 'Lie with me.' But he refused...'How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?" (Gen. 39:7-9)

Commandment 8: DO NOT STEAL

"So my righteousness will answer for me...everyone that is not speckled and spotted among the goats, and brown among the lambs, will be considered stolen, if it is with me." (Gen 30:33) "With whomever you find your gods, do not let him live. In the presence of our brethren identify what I have of yours and take it with you. For Jacob did not know that Rachel had stolen them." (Gen 31:32) "How then could we steal silver or gold from your lord's house. With whomever of your servants it is found, let him die." (Gen 44:8-9)

Commandment 9: DO NOT LIE

"Then the serpent said to the woman, You will not surely die...The woman said, The serpent deceived me, and I ate. So the Lord God said to the

serpent: Because you have done this [lied to the woman], You are cursed." (Gen.3:4,13-14)

Commandment 10: DO NOT COVET

"So when the woman saw...a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate." (Gen 3:6) "Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually." (Gen 6:5)

The argument that no one knew of or kept the Ten Commandments prior to Mount Sinai, we now see to be simply not the case.

Worth thinking about

A couple of facts worth noting are these:

Firstly, Genesis records that God said of Abraham:

"Abraham obeyed My voice and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws." (Genesis 26:5).

And there is no way that Abraham kept God's laws and commandments unless he knew what they were.

Secondly, it has been reported that Ethiopia has more people who keep some version of the seventh-day Sabbath of the book of Genesis than any other country on earth. Notice how long they claim to have been observing it:

W. W. Oliphant, an African church leader in the early years of the twentieth century, says that the "Sabbath in Ethiopia [has] been kept from the days of Nimrod, about 2140 B.C. (read Gen. 10:8,10), that is 700 years before the birth of Moses. . . . Africans or Ethiopians had been Sabbath observers from the days of Nimrod." (Quoted in Bradford C.E. *Sabbath Roots, The African Connection*. L. Brown and Sons, Barre (VT), 1999, p. 26).

Hence, if Ethiopians were keeping the Sabbath in 2140 BC, they obviously knew about it and probably the other commandments. Thus it appears that Africans were familiar with the idea of a seventh-day Sabbath 700 years *before* the public recitation of the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai.

This makes total sense when we read in Genesis that God set apart the Sabbath, the very next day after creating humans.

The following historical analysis has been published by the Presbyterian Church:

The division of time into weeks... [is a] singular measure of time by periods of seven days [that] may be traced not only through the sacred history before the era of Moses, but in all ancient civilizations of every era, many of which could not possibly have derived their notion from Moses... Among the learned of Egypt, the Brahmans of India, by Arabs, by Assyrians, as may be gathered from their astronomers and priests, this division was recognized. Hesiod (900 B.C.) declares the seventh day is holy. And so also Homer and Callimachus. Even in the Saxon mythology, the division by weeks is prominent. Nay, even among the tribes of primitive worshipers in Africa, we are told that a peculiar feature of their religion is a weekly sacred day, the violation of which by labor will incur the wrath of their god. Traces of a similar division of time have been noticed among the Indians of the American continent.

Now, on what other theory are these facts explicable than upon the supposition of a divinely ordained Sabbath at the origin of the race? ("The Christian Sabbath", tract number 271, Presbyterian Board of Publication)

We have seen that God revealed every one of His Ten Commandments as valid before Mount Sinai.

Will anyone dare say that these Ten Commandments are only for the Jewish race? Are the rest of us permitted to lie, cheat, and commit adultery? Are only the Hebrews to observe these ten moral principles?

Since the Ten Commandments were given to our first parents, they are applicable to the whole human race.

That's worth thinking about.

Law and grace

Which of these charts do you think is true?:

Old Testament period	I	New Testament period
Only law existed	I	Only grace exists

OR

Old Testament period	I	New Testament period
Both law and grace	I	Both law and grace

What does Genesis answer?

*“Noah found **grace** in the eyes of the Lord.” (Gen.6:8) “And the Lord was with Joseph... And Joseph found **grace** in His sight.” (Gen.39:2,4)*

The Lord of the Universe says, *“I change not.”* (Malachi 3:6) There will not be some people in eternity who were saved by the law and others saved by grace (undeserved mercy). Salvation has always been by God’s grace through His Son, *“the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world”* (Revelation 13:8) – not by any individual’s own good deeds.

God’s ten-point character reference - the standard for our lives - has never changed. Neither has His grace been lacking when a person has turned from his own ways, to walk in God’s paths. Both are eternal – both His royal law and His wonderful grace.

People were not saved in Old Testament times by the law and in our day by God’s grace. This would make for a divided heaven – some extolling their own works and others the merits of Christ.

It is because God’s law is eternal and unchangeable and demands the life of the law-breaker, that grace becomes necessary if sinners are to be saved. God’s grace (undeserved favour) was taught in the sacrificial

system of the Hebrews, in which an innocent victim died in the place of the sinner. *The Jewish Encyclopedia* thus comments:

In every sacrifice there is the idea of substitution: the victim takes the place of the human sinner. (*The Jewish Encyclopedia*, art. "Atonement, Day of")

"Even as David [in the Old Testament] also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works" (Romans 4:6) – that is, counted right, not by one's works but by God's grace. It was always so.

Then, in the New Testament the law of God continues. "Sin is the transgression of the law." (1 John 3:4) "By the law is the knowledge of sin.... Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law.... Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good... [But] The carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be." (Romans 3:20,31; 7:12; 8:7) But when we allow the Spirit of Christ into our hearts, He puts His laws into our hearts (Hebrews 10:16), so that "we love God, and keep his commandments" (1 John 5:2-3), "that the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh but after the Spirit." (Romans 8:4)

Jesus said, "Think not that I am come to destroy the law... Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law." (Matthew 5:17-18. And that prompts me to ask, has heaven passed away? Has earth passed? Then... has the law passed?

In the end times, the faithful are described thus: "Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus." "Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city." (Revelation 14:12; 22:14)

Yes, as sinners, each one of us is under the condemnation of the law. Our sinless Saviour became our Substitute, taking upon Himself this condemnation and suffering the penalty for us. That is what grace is.

Then, when we surrender to Him, allowing His Spirit into our lives, He imparts to us His transforming power to overcome our sinful habits. That is, we become obedient to the holy law, no longer hostile toward it. We become like Him, reflecting His likeness.

Chapter 6

HOW LONG WERE THE CREATION “DAYS”?

I met the leader of a church group whose adherents are known for their visits from door to door, enthusiastically sharing what they are taught.

“How long were the days of Creation?” I asked him.

“Well, we’re not sure,” he replied. “But they were long periods; perhaps each one was 7,000 years long.”

“What happened during those long days?”

“Animals lived and bred and died, generation after generation, just as now.”

“So when the Bible speaks of “days” in Genesis chapter 1, it doesn’t really mean “days”?”

“Oh, no, of course not!”

Although all are welcome to join in, this chapter is applicable to those who believe in God, and Christians in particular. When the Bible says that God “spoke” creation into existence “and it was done”, **many try to put their own limitations on God** – like, “We can’t do it, so God can’t do it either.”

I know, I know. The nineteenth century evolution theory was hammered into us as school children and is still taught in all places of learning.

Consequently, some of us try to reconcile evolution with God and the Bible. So the “days” of Genesis 1 are stretched to mean thousands,

millions, and even billions, of years. This idea is often called “theistic evolution”.

It is fair to say that theistic evolutionists do not derive their belief about man’s origin from Scripture. Instead they take the teachings of evolution as their absolute standard for truth in this area.

But be aware of this. The first principle of evolution theory is that purposeless material processes can do all the work of biological creation **because no other cause was available**. Let’s face it. Evolution theory is fundamentally **based on atheism**.

But when you push the evolutionist for hard evidence that his theory is true, he doesn’t have a snowball’s chance of proving it. Contrary to popular myth:

- (a) Evolution theory (as many scientists acknowledge) **contradicts** known scientific laws. And please answer how DNA information could have evolved.
- (b) Contrary to Darwin’s earlier expectations, fossil evidence **does not support** evolution theory. Not even with one indisputable example.
- (c) This is being kept an in-house secret, but most dating systems **do not prove** the earth is old, but rather that it is very young.

And have you heard about the discovery that is frightening paleontologists out of their wits?

Okay, stop right there. Why are we not being told these things? If you only knew, it’s because careers, reputations and financial grants are at stake. Would you be surprised at the immensity of this multi-million dollar cover-up?

Please do yourself a favour and catch up with the latest scientific discoveries. If you need some help, may I recommend:

1. *The Discovery That’s Toppling Evolution*.
(<http://www.beforeus.com/evol.php>)
2. *The Great Dating Blunder*.
(http://www.beforeus.com/shopcart_ebooks.html>)

What do “days” really mean?

Anyway, where were we? With the Genesis’ “days” of creation.

We’ve all heard of the renaissance awakening and of the Protestant Reformation. One of the major achievements of the Reformation was the rediscovery of the Bible after the superstition and suppression of the Dark Ages.

The Reformers were insistent that the Bible explained itself. This meant that it was in no need of an external key for interpretation — whether that key be the Pope, the church councils, philosophy, or any other human authority.

Scripture's clarity and perspicuity became the norm of the day; its reading from within its own context was paramount. External meaning must not be superimposed on it, as had been the practice under medieval Catholicism. The Bible was to be read in its literal and grammatical sense.

Martin Luther, accordingly, argued for the literal interpretation of the creation account: "We assert that Moses spoke in the literal sense, not allegorically or figuratively, i.e., that the world, with all its creatures, was created within six days, as the words read." (Martin Luther, *Lectures on Genesis: Chapters 1-5, Luther's Works*. St. Louis, MO: Concordia Publishing House, 1958, 1:5)

Later, Luther in commenting on the phrase "evening and morning" stated that the creation day "consists of twenty-four hours." (1:42)

The other Reformers understood the creation “days” in the same way.

This literal and grammatical interpretation was the norm for biblical understanding more or less into the nineteenth century.

As the evolutionary concept of long time periods for the earth filtered its way into peoples’ thinking, some Christian writers started to *reinterpret* the Genesis “days” of creation in a non-literal manner. The impetus for this was not found in the Bible itself but in the new evolutionary uniformitarianism which depended on long periods of time.

The day-age theory

Thus was spawned an attempt to **compromise** the Creation account with the evolution theory. Claims such as the following were heard:

THE CLAIM: The "evening and morning" of each "day" in Genesis 1 were the beginning and end of geologic eras.

IN REALITY: If we allow the Bible to define its own terms, we see that each day is defined as "evening and morning" – a normal day. "Evening and morning" are simply the dark part of a 24 hour period, followed by the daylight part. The insertion of this phrase tells us what the writer meant by the word "day".

It is all very literal language. Notice the consistency of literalism in this verse: *"And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days and for years."* (Gen.1:14)

If the "days" are "ages," then **what are the years?** If a day is an age, then **what is a night?** The whole passage becomes ridiculous when one tries to "reinterpret" the word "day."

Also, there is no scripture anywhere else in the Bible to support the theory that each creation day is actually a long period of time (or an "age"). Truth is determined by God, and not by popular opinion.

God's power does not need millions of years

An ancient record states that *"By the word of the Lord were the heavens made: and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth...For **he spake, and it was done**; he commanded, and it stood fast."* (Psa.33:6,9)

This was an instantaneous event. Just as a nuclear explosion instantly turns **matter into energy**, so at Creation God spoke, turning **energy into matter**. As you probably know, matter is energy vibrating at a different speed. Physical matter that we see today is the result of **sound** resonating energy into form.

No matter what half-informed people may say, the book of Genesis has turned out to be very scientific.

It tells us: *“And God said, Let there be... and there was.”*

The time issue is very important. Only an infinitely powerful, supremely intelligent God can create in a very short time. **The more power and intelligence operating in creation, the less time** was necessary.

Why, then, do many find it hard to believe God when He tells us that He created the first living things, including human beings, fully functional in a short time?

We have an example of this *instantaneous* power in the **miracles of Jesus**. Jesus’ method of creating loaves and fishes (or carbon atoms when water was turned into wine, or new tissues when people were instantly healed) was essentially the same as when He was creating stars and animals in the first place.

He who can make complex matter (bread) out of nothing in an instant did not need to sit back for billions of years and let death and accident, suffering, brutality and randomness do His creative work.

Why, then, do so many deny Him the power to have created our first ancestors directly from dust, in the first place? Why do they rather believe that **their** ancestral mother and father were part-animals, brutally clubbing each other in a bleeding, dying world that took aeons to emerge painfully from some primordial slime?

If that scenario was true, then there was no real “Fall” and no original goodness for this world to be restored to.

What about dinosaurs?

The day-age theory rests on the assumption that man did not live with dinosaurs and other extinct animals. So there had to be a long, earlier age for these to have lived. And why? Simply because the evolution theory tells us so. But what happens to this theory when we discover that man did in fact live with these creatures, and even wrote about them in Scripture (as in Job 40:15)? (For evidence of dinosaurs in historical times, see

my book *Surprise Witness* chapter 18. <<http://www.beforeus.com/second.php>>)

“Day” = “1,000 years”?

IT IS CLAIMED: Psalm 90:4 indicates that the creation “days” are not literal but stand for long periods/epochs/ages of time.

IN REALITY: Psalm 90:4 reads: “*For a thousand years in Thy sight are LIKE yesterday when it passes by, or [literally “and”] AS a watch in the night.*”

This comparative particle, rendered into English either as “like” or “as”, serves not only the expression “yesterday” but also the expression “as a watch in the night.” It applies to both phrases.

This demonstrates that the comparison is **not** between a “day” being like 1,000 years. A thousand years with God are “like” yesterday, that is, the day that has just passed, or “like” “a watch in the night.” (A watch in the night was usually of about four hours – not a day.)

Psalm 90:4 is merely saying that **to God a long time is as a fleeting moment**. It has nothing to do with defining the meaning of “day” in Genesis 1.

By contrast, Genesis 1 describes God creating this world and setting the rhythm of the week. Genesis 1 describes how the creation “days” set the norm for subsequent days in the weekly cycle of time. (We shall discover clear evidence of this a little later.)

IT IS CLAIMED: 2 Peter 3:8 says “one day is with the Lord as a thousand years.” So each day of creation could be a thousand years, or perhaps even millions of years.

IN REALITY: Before leaping, please look. Context is crucial. You will see that the rest of the verse says quite the opposite, that “. . . and a thousand years as one day.” This cancels out the argument that the “day should be stretched to mean a thousand years”!

Peter is writing about those who shall come in the last days (verse 3) and who will scoff at the promise of the Second Coming of Jesus Christ (verse 4). Their philosophy is summed up as “*All things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation*” (v.4).

Now this is describing the philosophy of the evolutionist – it is called uniformitarianism (the uninterrupted uniform sequence of progressive evolution).

Peter reminds his readers that such people are ignoring history, because, for starters, God did not use uniformitarian processes in the global Flood which caused “*the world that then was*” to perish (vv.5,6). Neither will the Lord use uniformitarian processes at the Second Coming (v.7).

What he says in verse 8 is therefore a comment that God can accomplish in one day what appears to take a thousand years to accomplish with uniformitarian processes. And “*a thousand years as one day*” simply tells us that, to God, a long time is as a fleeting moment. God is above and outside our time.

It has nothing to do with the length of the creation days in Genesis chapter 1.

It seems best to let 2 Peter 3:8 make its own point and not to use it for something which is topically, contextually, and linguistically unrelated.

IT IS CLAIMED: In the book of Daniel “days” represent symbolically longer periods. So why not in Genesis?

IN REALITY: Biblical prophecy is, indeed, a fascinating topic. Some prophecies are written in straightforward, every day language – with the forecast of coming events quite obvious. But there are also prophecies in which symbols are used.

For example, in the book of Daniel are prophecies which speak of beasts that rise up out of the sea. Daniel says that in a vision of the future, “*four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another. The first was like a lion, and had eagle’s wings... And behold another beast, a second, like to a bear, and it raised itself up on one side, and it had three ribs in the mouth of it between the teeth of it... After this I beheld, and lo another, like a leopard, which had upon the back of it four wings of a fowl: the beast had also four heads: and dominion was given to it.... And*

behold a fourth...and it had ten horns...The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth.” (Dan.7:3-7,23)

When Daniel gives his prophecies in symbols, the same principle applies to the time periods in those prophecies. In this case, just as a beast symbolises a kingdom, so does a “day” in prophetic symbolism denote a year of history. (Numbers 14:34; Ezekiel 4:6)

Daniel’s symbolic context is **different from the straightforward historical context of Genesis 1**. There is nothing predictive in Genesis 1. The latter is a prose-record of the past and not apocalyptic prophecy of the future. Nothing warrants a departure from the plain meaning in the Genesis creation account.

“Yom” = 24 hour day

IT IS CLAIMED: The Hebrew word *yôm*, translated into English as “day” could mean a period longer than a literal 24 hour day. It can also mean a period of time (Judges 14:4) and in a more general sense "a month [of] time" (Genesis 29:14), "two years [of] time" (2 Samuel 13:23;14:28; Jeremiah 28:3,11). In the plural form it can mean "year" (1 Samuel 27:7), a "life time" (Genesis 47:8), and so forth. So it could mean a longer period in Genesis chapter 1.

IN REALITY: Yes, it is true that the Hebrew word *yôm*, which is translated “*day*” in Genesis chapter 1, can be used to express time in a general sense - and is translated “*time*” 65 times in the Authorised Version of the Bible. However, it is translated “*day*” nearly 1,200 times and its plural form *yamim* is translated “*days*” about 700 times. This indicates that the normal meanings of *yôm* and *yamim* are “*day*” and “*days*” respectively (either a 24 hour period, or the daylight portion of that period).

So is there any way to know for certain how the writer intended *yom* to be understood in Genesis chapter 1?

Yes, we can know. You see, there are language and context rules to guide us in every instance as to whether “day” means 24 hours or a longer period. We shall examine these now.

Language rules

(a) WHEN IS IT NOT A 24 HOUR DAY?

QUESTION: When is the Hebrew term *yôm* **not** to be understood as a 24 hour day?

ANSWER: The extended, non-literal meanings of the term *yôm* are always found in connection with:

- * prepositions,
- * prepositional phrases with a verb,
- * compound constructions,
- * formulas,
- * technical expressions,
- * genitive combinations,
- * construct phrases, and the like.

In other words, extended, non-literal meanings of this Hebrew term have special linguistic and contextual **connections which indicate clearly** when a **non-literal** meaning is intended.

(b) WHEN IS IT A 24 HOUR DAY?

On the other hand, **if such special linguistic connections are absent**, the term *yôm* does not have an extended, non-literal meaning; it has its normal meaning of a literal **day of 24 hours**.

QUESTION: So how is the term *yôm*, "*day*", used in Genesis 1?

ANSWER:

1. In Genesis 1, the term *yôm* is **always joined to a numeral**. In Genesis 1:5 it is a cardinal and elsewhere in Genesis 1:1 - 2:3 it is always an ordinal. We will pay attention to this below.
2. In Genesis 1, the term *yôm* is **never combined with a preposition**, genitive combination, construct state, compound construction, or the like. It always appears as a plain noun.
3. In Genesis 1, the term *yôm* is **consistently defined by** a temporal phrase in the preceding sentence, "**and there was evening and there was morning.**" This clause serves in a defining function for the word "day."

MEANING OF "DAY" WHEN LINKED TO A NUMBER

In Genesis 1, we find the six creation "days" are in each instance joined with a numeral in the sequence of one to six.

The writer uses **the following two features together** to make clear to us what he means:

- * **a numeral** with day ("*first day*", and so on), and
- * **boundary terms** ("*evening and morning*")

He says, literally:

- "*There was evening and morning, day one.*" (Gen.1:5)
- "*There was evening and morning, day two.*" (v.8)
- "*There was evening and morning, day three.*" (v.13)
- "*There was evening and morning, day four.*" (v.19)
- "*There was evening and morning, day five.*" (v.23)
- "*There was evening and morning, day six.*" (v.31)

In English, each of these passages is translated as "**The evening and the morning were the first day [second day, etc.].**"

There is ***no sign or hint*** within Genesis 1 itself that the author, who defined "day" as "evening and morning", could possibly mean long aeons of time. His language is plain and simple.

Let's compare Genesis 1 with other texts where **"day"** is preceded by a number:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>* "The evening and the morning were the FIRST day." - from the Hebrew <i>'echad</i> (Gen.1:5)</p> | <p>"On the FIRST day of the month, were the tops of the mountains seen."
"The FIRST day of the month, the waters were dried up." (Gen.8:5,13)</p> |
| <p>* "The evening and the morning were the SECOND day." - from the Hebrew <i>shaniy</i> (Gen.1:8)</p> | <p>"...when he went out on the SECOND day, behold two men of the Hebrews strove together." (Ex.2:13)</p> |
| <p>* "The evening and the morning were the THIRD day." - from the Hebrew word <i>sheliyshiy</i> (Gen.1:13)</p> | <p>"And it was told Laban on the THIRD day that Jacob was fled." (Gen.31:22)
"And be ready against the THIRD day." (Ex.19:11)</p> |
| <p>* "The evening and the morning were the FOURTH DAY." - from the Hebrew word <i>rebiy'iy</i> (Gen.1:19)</p> | <p>"On the FOURTH day, Elizur... did offer..." "And on the FOURTH day ten bullocks..." (Num.7:30 ; 29:23)</p> |
| <p>* "The evening and the morning were the FIFTH day." - from the Hebrew <i>chamiyshiy</i> (Gen.1:23)</p> | <p>"...on the FIFTH day nine bullocks."
"On the FIFTH day Shelumiel... did offer..." (Num.29:26 ; 7:36)</p> |
| <p>* "The evening and the morning were the SIXTH day." - from the Hebrew word <i>shishshiy</i> (Gen.1:31)</p> | <p>"...on the SIXTH day they gathered twice as much bread... He giveth you on the SIXTH day the bread of two days." (Ex.16:22,29)</p> |

When the word *yôm*, "day," is employed together with a numeral, which happens 150 times in the Old Testament, it always refers to a literal day of 24 hours.

WHEN "EVENING AND MORNING" ARE LINKED TO THE WORD "DAY"

When each creation "*day*" is defined as consisting of "*evening*" and "*morning*", it is a literal "day." It cannot be made to mean something else.

The term for "*evening*" (Hebrew *'ereb*) stands for the complete dark part of the day. The corresponding term "*morning*" (Hebrew *bqer*) stands for the entire period of daylight.

***ALL OTHER MENTIONS OF “DAY”
IN CHAPTER 1 ARE LITERAL***

In verse 14 the one plural use in the phrase "*for days and years*" similarly refers to literal days - just as the "*years*" are likewise understood as literal years.

The word "*day*" in Genesis 1 is also found in verses 5 and 16. "And God called the light '*day*' (*yôm*)" (v.5) and God made the "greater light to govern the *day*" (v.16). Verse 5 refers to the daylight part of the 24 hour period in contrast to the "*night*" part (vs. 16). We are told here that both "*day*" and "*night*" make a "full day." That's a 24 hour day. **There is no other kind of “day” hinted at.**

IT IS CLAIMED: In Genesis 2:4 the Hebrew word *yôm* (“day”) means only a period of time (the creation “week”). Therefore it must be a period of time in Genesis 1.

IN REALITY: Compare the following two texts in our English Bible which are similar in function – Genesis 2:4 and Numbers 7:84. Each is a summary of the narrative which precedes it:

“...in the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens.”
(Gen.2:4)

“This was the dedication of the altar, in the day when it was anointed.” (Num.7:84)

In Genesis 2:4 the word “*day*” (*yom*) is **used to refer to the six previous days** mentioned in chapter 1. In Numbers 7:84 the word “*day*” (*yôm*) is **used to refer to the twelve previous days** mentioned the earlier verses of Numbers 7.

Notice that twelve different princes successively anointed the altar on twelve different days:

- “*the first day*” (v.12)
- “*on the second day*” (v.18)
- “*on the third day*” (v.24)
- “*on the fourth day*” (v.30)
- “*on the fifth day*” (v.36)
- “*on the sixth day*” (v.42)
- “*on the seventh day*” (v.48)

- “on the eighth day” (v.54)
- “on the ninth day” (v.60)
- “on the tenth day” (v.66)
- “on the eleventh day” (v.72)
- “on the twelfth day” (v.78)

No one insists on making the first day, second day, etc., in Numbers chapter 7 into twelve long periods of time. If “day” ever means a period of time, it is always obvious from the context. Context is king. Context must always be considered.

In Genesis 2:4, firstly, the noun *yôm* is **joined to the preposition** *be* to read *beyôm*, and secondly, it is **used in a construct relation** with the infinitive form of *'asah*, “to make.” It reads literally, “in the day of making.” - which serves as a general summation of time.

If “ages” were meant, it could have said so

The Bible tells us nothing of any “ages” in creation, though **Hebrew is not short of such words**. If God had meant us to understand “age”, He should have used, for example, the Hebrew *olam* which means “long, indefinite time”.

God is able to say what He means. When God chose to say “day” He meant a day. Exodus 20:10 reconfirms this: “*For in six days the Lord made the heavens, and the earth, the sea, and all that in them is.*”

God says all creatures were created in six days and that those days were week days as we have now.

IT IS CLAIMED: This repeated phrase “evening and morning” is just a poetic form used for emphasis or to divide the periods.

IN REALITY: Let the Bible interpret itself. Compare how Moses uses the same word “**evening**”(Hebrew: *'ereb*) elsewhere.

- “And the dove came in to him **in the evening.**” (Gen.8:11)

- “*The people stood by Moses **from the morning unto the evening.***” (Ex.18:13)

This is clearly an actual, literal evening.

What about “**morning**” (Hebrew: *boqer*)? Although this is not always translated in English as “*morning*”, it always has the idea of “*early in the day*” or “*as the sun is rising*”. Here are some typical examples:

- “And Abraham rose early **in the morning.**” (Gen.22:3)
- “And ye shall let nothing of it remain **until the morning.**” Here the Israelites were given directions about the leftover meat from the previous night’s Passover meal. (Ex.12:10)

Sabbath passages confirm 24 hour day

Now notice how God Himself defines the days of Creation week. God has rewritten the Genesis record of Creation in one of the Ten Commandments.

Turn to Exodus 20:9-11:

*"Six days thou shalt labour and do all thy work, but **the seventh day** is the Sabbath of the Lord your God.... For **in six days** the Lord made the heavens and the earth ... and **rested on the seventh day**; therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it" (made it holy).*

Here, in this fourth commandment, nothing could be clearer than that the six creation days and the one rest day of the Lord that followed are identical in duration with the six work days and the one rest day of our seven day week.

Let’s say that another way. It is clear from the strong wording that God used in this commandment (written with His own finger on a tablet of stone – Ex.31:8), that **the “days” of God’s Creation week are exactly equivalent to the “days” of man’s week.**

Also, it says that God rested (ceased) – PAST tense. Nowhere does the Bible say we are now in a long 7,000 year or millions-of-years-long Sabbath. The Sabbath was made to be a regular 24 hour day, the same

length as the other six days of creation.

IT IS CLAIMED: The relationship of the Fourth Commandment is but an "analogy" or "archetype" in the sense that man's rest on the seventh day ought to be like God's rest in creation. It is not necessarily an identical period of time.

IN REALITY: Exodus 31:15-17, which is again spoken by God Himself, says that the weekly Sabbath for God's people is based on **imitation and example**, for "in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, but on the seventh day he ceased from labour, and was refreshed" (verse 17). It is a **divine precedent** that is to be followed. God says, "I God worked for six days and rested on the seventh, and therefore you should do the same." He set the pattern for mankind's working week.

God was refreshed because He had delight in His completed work of creation. Humankind will also be refreshed and have delight when the Sabbath as the "seventh day" (verse 15) is observed.

The "sign" nature of the Sabbath in Exodus 31:15 reveals that the Sabbath keeper **follows the divine Exemplar**. He Himself kept "the seventh day" which humans who belong to Him will imitate. They will do so **in the same rhythm of the literal weekly cycle** of six literal workdays followed chronologically and sequentially by "the seventh day" as a day of rest and refreshment as their Creator had done during creation week.

Hebrew scholars agree

There is no way in which the Hebrew text of Genesis 1 can mean anything other than what a fresh-faced child, picking it up for the first time with no preconceptions, has always seen as obvious.

The following is an extract from a letter written in 1984 by Professor James Barr, who was at the time Regius Professor of Hebrew at the University of Oxford. Please note that Professor Barr did not claim to believe that the book of Genesis was necessarily true. He is just telling us, openly and honestly, **what the language means**.

He says:

Probably, as far as I know, there is no professor of Hebrew or Old Testament at any world-class university who does not believe that the writer(s) of Gen. 1-11 intended to convey to their readers the ideas that (a) creation took place in a series of six days which were the same as the **days of 24 hours** we now experience (b) the figures contained in the Genesis genealogies provided by simple addition in chronology from the beginning of the world up to later stages in the biblical story (c) Noah's Flood was understood to be world-wide and extinguish all human and animal life except for those in the ark. Or, to put it negatively, the apologetic arguments which suppose the "days" of creation to be long eras of time, the figures of years not be chronological, and the flood to be a merely local Mesopotamian flood, are not taken seriously by any such professors, as far as I know.

There are many **theologians** (as opposed to Hebrew language experts) who insist on long days. But it is hardly likely to be the text itself which leads them to this conclusion. Rather, it is almost certainly the desire to accommodate and harmonize opinions and world views (in this case, the idea of long geological ages) which arise from outside Scripture.

However, this view is distinctly at odds with the **consensus of world class Hebrew linguists**, who (although some incidentally reject the principle of plenary inspiration) nevertheless insist that the "days" of creation in Genesis chapter 1 *were intended by the writer to mean ordinary solar days.*

Lexicons agree

A lexicon is a type of dictionary that examines words, in their form, history and meaning.

The most widely recognized (a) Hebrew lexicons and (b) dictionaries of the Hebrew language published in the twentieth century affirm that the designation "day" in Genesis 1 is meant to communicate a 24 hour day.

One prestigious lexicon informs us that Genesis 1:5 is the first scriptural entry for the definition of "day of 24 hours" for the Hebrew term *yôm* ("day"). Holladay's Hebrew-English lexicon follows suit with "day of 24

hours." The Brown-Driver-Briggs lexicon, the classical Hebrew-English lexicon, also defines the creation "day" of Genesis 1 as a regular "day as defined by evening and morning."

Lexicographers of the Hebrew languages are among **the most qualified of Hebrew scholars**. They are expected to give great care in their definitions and also usually indicate alternative meanings, if there is warrant to do so in given instances. None of the lexicographers has departed from the meaning of the word "day" as a literal day of 24 hours for Genesis 1.

Dictionaries agree

Magne Saeboe writes in the acclaimed *Theological Dictionary of the Old Testament* that the "day" (*yôm*) in Genesis 1 has a literal meaning in the sense of "a full day." He does not entertain another meaning or alternative.

Ernst Jenni, an acclaimed Hebrew scholar of the twentieth century, states in the most-widely used theological dictionary of the Hebrew language that the meaning of "day" in the Genesis creation account is to be understood in its literal meaning as a "day of 24 hours in the sense of an astronomical or calendrical unit of time."

There is no way out of this. In Genesis chapter 1, a "day" means "a 24 hour day"! This is **unanimously** declared by Hebrew experts to be the plain meaning of the text.

OBJECTION: How is it possible to have literal days before the creation of the sun and moon on the fourth day of creation?

ANSWER: The fact that the sun and moon's light was not appointed to rule the day and the night until the fourth day of creation does not make the first three days indefinite periods of time. – for we read that **on the first day of creation God created light**. (Gen.1:3-5)

The rotating earth would therefore pass through the same day-night cycle on the first three days of creation as on the other days.

The radiation of light does not depend upon the sun or moon. All light emanates from God Himself. He is capable of radiating light from Himself, or darkness (the absence of light) by withholding that divine light. God also dwells *“in thick darkness”* (1 Kings 8:12); *“He made darkness his secret place.”* (Psalm 18:11); *“Clouds and darkness are round about him.”* (Psalm 97:2)

Thus, by radiating His light, or withholding it, He could produce light or darkness upon anything He has created.

To help us understand this a little, we might recall the divine presence that was in the pillar of cloud that separated the fleeing Hebrews from the pursuing Egyptians in the time of Moses. The same cloud that bathed the Hebrews in light also covered the Egyptian army in darkness.

So *“God said, Let there be light: and there was light.... And God divided the light from the darkness. And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening [the dark part of the day] and the morning [the light part of the day] were the first day.”* (Genesis 1:3-5)

The very language chosen by the writer points to a 24-hour day.

2 major problems if The “days” were “ages”

The creation of vegetation with seed-bearing plants and fruit trees took place on the third day (Genesis 1:11-12). Much of this vegetation needs insects for pollination. Insects were not created until the fifth day (v.20).

So if the “days” of creation were long ages, we are faced with two problems.

1. INTERDEPENDENCE

If the “days” were not 24 hour days but long “ages”, then how would plant life (created on Day 3) survive if insects (upon which plant life depends) were not created until Day 5? If the survival of those types of plants which needed insects for pollination depended on them to generate

seeds and to perpetuate themselves, then wouldn't there be a serious problem?

Here's one example. Each species of yucca plant has its own species of pronuba moth.

The flower is so constructed that it can be pollinated only by this particular moth – and this moth cannot lay eggs that will survive unless it first pollinates the yucca flower.

The yucca flowers in a given locality ***do not bloom every year.*** Meanwhile the moths remain dormant in the pupa stage.

But ***at the identical moment*** the buds open, ***at that same precise moment*** the pronuba moths break out of their cocoons beneath the sand, struggle up into the air, and immediately go through a specific order of events which has to be exact for the yucca plant to survive.

Let's take a hypothetical date. On August 14, 2006, at precisely 8.15 am, Yucca Species FX opens its flowers. Again, at some distance away, on August 14, 2006 at 8.15 am, Pronuba Moth species FX breaks out of its cocoon below ground, pushes up to the surface, flaps its wings, then heads straight to the new yucca flowers – so that both species can survive.

Now, please tell me, how did ***the yucca plant which was created to need the Pronuba moth – how did it survive until Day 5, if these days were long ages?***

Would you just stop reading for a moment and think of

1. the intricate, complimentary, parallel design of each, and
2. the split-second timing between these two identical shapes in widely different types.

This two-fold independent, yet inter-dependent, phenomenon tests the "days = long ages" theory to breaking point.

Do you see the problem? The type of plant life dependent on this type of pollination process without the presence of insects **could not have survived** for these long periods of time, if "day" were to mean "age" or "aeon."

2. ALTERNATELY LONG AGES OF DARKNESS AND UNBROKEN SUNLIGHT

In addition, consistency of interpretation in the 'day-age theory' would demand a long age of darkness ("evening") and a long age of light ("morning") during each of the six long periods. This would quickly be **fatal both to plant and animal life.**



It seems that the creation "day" is expected to be understood as a literal day and not as a long period of time whether ages, periods, or aeons.

"Evening and morning" in Genesis chapter 1 are like all other days that have followed since.

The conflict is not over "facts" but over ways of thinking. One needs to realise that Darwinian evolutionists employ rules of thought which are

profoundly **atheistic**. To accept as true their theory regarding origins is a disastrous error. It is not compatible with Creation. **Compromise is impossible.**

Chapter 7

WHY A 6 DAY CREATION?

QUESTION: If God is all-powerful, why did He need six days to create everything? Couldn't He have done it all in an instant?

ANSWER: Have you ever asked yourself, how did we get our week? Our 365¼-day **year** is based on one orbiting of the earth around the sun. The **month** comes from one circuit of the moon around the earth. The **day** comes from the earth turning a complete revolution on its axis. But where does the 7-day **week** come from?

The week is a period of seven days, having no reference whatever to the celestial motions - a circumstance to which it owes its UNALTERABLE UNIFORMITY.... And AS IT FORMS NEITHER AN ALIQUOT [aliquot means in mathematics "forming an exact proper divisor"] PART OF THE YEAR nor of the lunar month, those who reject the Mosaic recital will be at a loss, as Delambre remarks, to assign it an origin having much semblance of probability.' (*Encyclopaedia Britannica*, 11th ed. Vol. 4, p. 988, col. 1, art., "Calendar")

The mean length of the synodic month - the interval time between one new moon and the next - is now 29 days, 12 hours, 44 minutes, and 2.8 seconds, or 29.530588 days. The mean length of the tropical solar year - the interval of time between one vernal equinox and the next - is now 365 days, 5 hours, 48 minutes, and approximately 46 seconds, or 365.242199 days.

These two measures of time, singly or in combination, cannot be divided by the number seven without a fraction remaining. Thus the seven day

week is not an aliquot part of either the tropical solar year or the synodic lunar month.

There is no natural cycle to give us the week. The 7-day week is purely arbitrary. Yet all nations observe it.

So how did this come about? The only historical explanation we possess is in the book of Genesis. God mapped out six days in Creation so as **to establish the pattern** of the week marked off by the seventh day as a Sabbath, **for His created beings to follow**. Why? So that we would remember Him as our Creator and be physically and spiritually refreshed on a regular basis by communing with Him.

The book of Genesis explains the origin of this seventh day rest.

Some well-meaning people cling to the assumption that the Sabbath (“rest”) day began with the Jews and is only for them. However, Genesis 2:3 proves otherwise. It records God not only as *ceasing* from His six days of creating, but also “*sanctifying*” (*making sacred*) the seventh day.

This calls for a clear mind. Think now. How could Adam have known about this dedication of the seventh day as sacred unless God had told him? Remember, Adam was the custodian of Tablet 1 of Genesis, the contents of which were **revealed to him by God**.

When God said, “Adam, I am sanctifying the seventh day for a holy use,” we may ask: was this for God’s use, or for man’s? Jesus himself gives the answer: “The Sabbath was **made** for MAN.” (Mark 2:27) Did you notice that? The Sabbath was *deliberately made* – and made for mankind’s benefit.

And He told Adam. And Adam recorded it.

Picture the scene on that first seventh day. All is serene, perfect and flawlessly beautiful. Creation is now completed. From His speaking of everything into existence, the Creator now “rests”, or ceases. And He looks upon it with joyful, delighted satisfaction.

Now He introduces our newly created parents to what He has done. God is enjoying His creation. He calls it “very good.”

Then the great Exemplar says, “I am setting apart *this* day. I am showing you how to enjoy this seventh day every week. From my example, you

will henceforth regularly enjoy what I have made for you.”

Can you imagine Adam and his bride NOT wanting to keep it sacred *every* week?

That first historic week is the subject of Tablet 1 (Gen.1:1 to 2:4).

WEEK AND SABBATH KNOWN BY ALL NATIONS

Ten generations later, we find Noah still marking off time by the 7-day cycle (Gen.8:10,12), doubtless the same weekly cycle given to his ancestor Adam.

Among ancient nations, we find a universal division of time into weeks and a very general notion that the **seventh day** was particularly **holy**. Both have existed very widely through the world in all ages. (George Stanley Faber, *Origin of Pagan Idolatry*. London: F. & C. Rivingtons, 1816. Vol. 1, pp.234-236)

We find examples in the writings of Hesiod, Homer, Callimachus, Linus, Porphyry, Aulus Gellius, Lampridius, Lucian and the legends of Apollo and Jupiter. “The very names indeed of the days, differing in different nations, yet always amounting to the number seven, prove the universality of a mode of computation, which prevailed alike among the Indians, the Egyptians, the Celts, the Sclavonians, the Greeks and the Romans.” (*Ibid.*, p.236)

Philo declared that the Sabbath was a festival, “not of this city, or of that city, but of the universe.” (*Ibid.*)

I have in my possession a *Chart of the Week* which shows that the seven-day week was known from earliest times. It was prepared by Dr Mead Jones of London. *Hayden’s Dictionary of Dates* refers to Dr Jones as “a profound scholar”.

In a clear way this chart gives the weekly cycle in 160 languages. These languages, whether Asiatic, African, Oceanic, native American or European, all have a seven day week, and all commence on the same day of the week, Sunday. They all close their week on the same seventh day.

And 108 of these languages, going back into the earliest mists of time, still name the seventh day as the Sabbath.

Faber, a brilliant historical researcher, draws his conclusion: “A practice so general, a practice which may be carried back at least as high as the deluge, could not have been borrowed from the Jews. As Abp. Usher justly observes, the heathens had their knowledge of God and the Sabbath by tradition from the first fathers, who lived before the Dispersion.” (*Ibid.*)

There is no historical explanation for the **origin of the seven day week**, except the precedent found in the book of Genesis.

Love to God, love to man

Genesis chapter 2 brings to view two institutions introduced by God before the fall of man. They are the Sabbath and marriage. These are historical foundations of the Ten Commandments.

The divine law is summed up into two divisions – our duty to God (commandments 1-4), and to man (commandments 5-10). This two-fold division of the Ten Commandments is the natural outgrowth of the conditions described in the first two chapters.

In each of these two divisions there is one positive commandment:

- * “*Honour thy father and thy mother.*” – the family
- * “*Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.*” – the Sabbath

The fact that both of these commandments were initiated before man fell, demonstrates the permanence of these and their associated laws.

NOT BECAUSE OF ITS OWN ENERGY, BUT HIS

Did the Creator just set everything going, then leave it to carry on under its own power?

While you sleep at night, does your heart keep beating by its own independent energy? Does your breathing happen because your body is in control?

Indeed, that's an interesting question.

The truth is this. Although the act of Creation was finished, yet **His energy is still exerted** in upholding the objects of His creation.

The mechanism that has once been set in motion continues to act. But it is not by its own inherent energy, that the pulse beats and breath follows breath. But every breath, every pulsation of the heart, is an evidence of all-pervading care from Him *“in whom we live, and move, and have our being.”* (Acts 17:28)

It is not because of inherent power that year by year the earth produces the bounties and continues her motion around the sun.

With a continuing interest in Creation, the Monarch of the universe *“upholds all things by the word [energy] of His power.”* (Hebrews 1:3)

Chapter 8

WAS A PRE-ADAM WORLD DESTROYED?

“Right, Bobby, do you see that horizontal stick over there? We’re going to blindfold you. You’ll walk toward it. And then step over it.”

“Okay,” said Bobby. “That’s a piece of cake.”

Mentally he judged the distance and carefully started walking. Then, as he lifted his leg high to step over it, the other kids roared.

Bobby pulled away the blindfold, looked around, but there was no stick there.

Such games we used to play as children. It was just a silly party game. But everyone enjoyed it.

As soon as Bobby’s eyes had been covered, the stick had been pulled away. Bobby imagined something that wasn’t there.

It is quite easy to imagine something that is not there.

We shall see an example of that in this chapter.

Last night I was relaxing on the couch, after a hot afternoon. And my eyes fell upon a magazine. A popular Christian magazine, actually. In it, this question was asked, “Does Scripture account for the age of reptiles [dinosaurs]?”

It answered that there “could have been millions or billions of years” of time **between the first two verses** of Genesis chapter 1.

I put down the magazine and went for a glass of water.

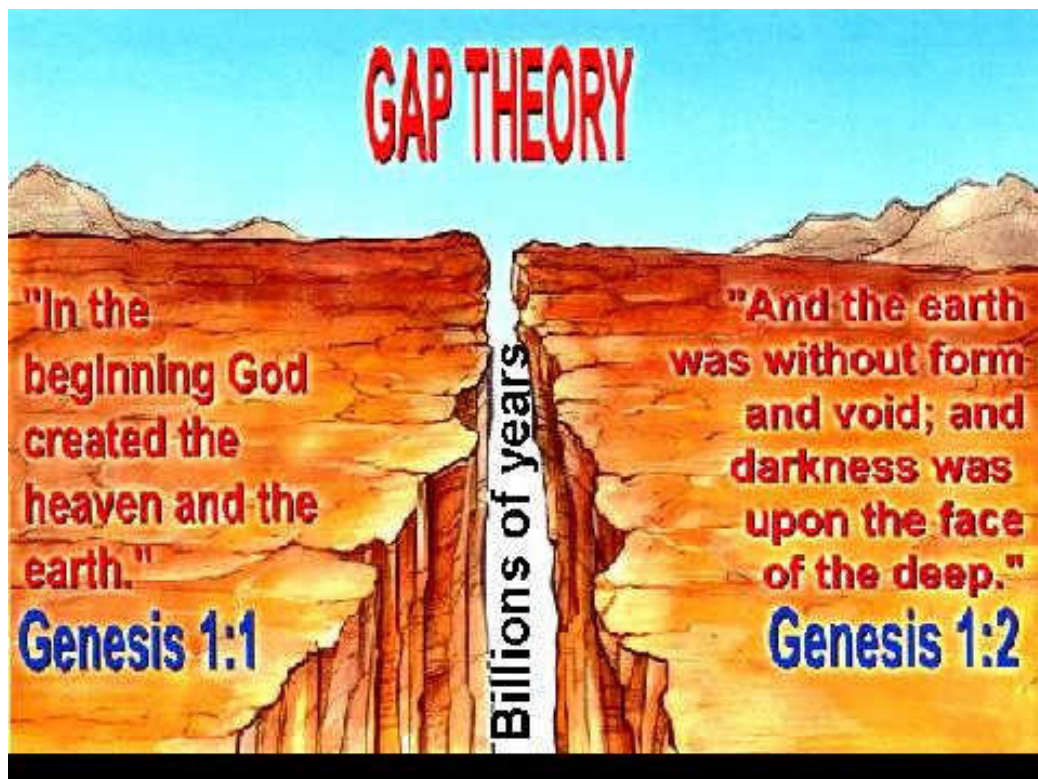
Yes, I was familiar with this theory. It is variously known as ruin-and-construction, or the **“gap” theory**.

A view held by some Christians today is that the original creation of the world by God, as recorded in Genesis 1:1, took place billions of years ago. Human and non-human forms, including dinosaurs lived on this previous world – which accounts for the fossils present in the geologic strata.

It is suggested that when Satan rebelled against God and was cast from heaven with his followers, a cataclysm occurred on earth, turning it into the “waste and void” of Genesis 1:2.

Some gap theorists say that the cataclysm **terminated** the geologic ages, after which God “re-created” in six literal days. Others allege that the cataclysm occurred first, to be **followed** then by the geologic ages, after which God “re-created.”

Whatever the variation, the theorists place **a vast time gap** between the first two verses of Genesis.



The reason for the theory

What is the reason for holding this theory? Answer: The theory is based on an assumption that the earth is billions of years old.

The dominant theory taught in schools today is that life has evolved upward by mutations (DNA accidents) from mud to man. But for such a process of evolutionary accidents to happen, it is claimed, would require enormous time. Evolution, assuming it were possible, could not occur unless the earth was billions of years old.

And don't the earth's features look old?

So was born the Genesis gap theory. It is another attempt by some well-meaning Christians to harmonize the Bible with the supposed millions of years of evolution.

Such an attempt is understandable. After all, we've been exposed to the evolution theory. So we go along with the assumption that the fossils (including the remains of dinosaurs in the earth's rock layers) were deposited during long aeons of time. But how to harmonize this with the Bible? Easy! The gap theory comes to our rescue!

Questions we should ask

Stop right there! I have a quiz for you. Let's test our world knowledge IQ:

- Has man, superbly intelligent, conquered our environmental problems?
- Have we found how to live in peace with the rest of the world?
- Have scientists got rid of cancer, diabetes and heart failure that are killing us?
- Have our theorists got our economic and financial systems working well?
- Can our cleverest scientists prevent crop failures, food shortages and famine?
- Have our smartest brains now confirmed the earth is billions of years old?

If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, think again. In case you didn't know, **man's earth dating is** in a mess just as big as about

everything else he's done. What I am saying is this: you cannot afford to place your trust in the so-called learned men of this world. They have got just about everything wrong.

Despite this, someone will still ask, don't we already have EVIDENCE beyond any reasonable doubt that our planet is BILLIONS of years old? Haven't our scientists perfected dating systems that prove this?

Of course, radiometric dating answers everything! We should all know that.

What the dating systems really show

Sure. And I'm Julius Caesar. Okay, we won't go into that here. But if you honestly want fact after solid fact, with enough hard boiled evidence to convince you, it is in my book *The Great Dating Blunder*. (http://www.beforeus.com/shopcart_hc.html)

The shocking truth is that *most* dating systems do not prove the earth is old at all, but that it is surprisingly young.

Why billions of years?

Despite this, we're repeatedly told that the earth is billions of years old... in the schools, by the media, and in nature films. It's taken for granted.

Now let me tell you this. Although there are numerous natural processes available for use as dating "clocks", only relatively few are selected.

Why is this? Why are only those which suggest a vast age (billions of years) selected for use? Why are those which give a younger age for the earth (millions or thousands of years) never used?

Why do men react favourably to any indication that the earth is "very old", but unfavourably to any evidence that it may be "young"?

Most folk do not realise that THE VERY EXISTENCE of the long geological ages is based on the assumption of evolution.

As we have already noted, billions of years are necessary if evolution took place. Evolution –assuming it can happen - definitely needs that

time. On the other hand, if the earth is not so old, then evolution could not have occurred. There was simply not enough time. It's as simple as that! Yes, the TIME FACTOR is absolutely crucial!

The evolutionist needs a magic wand to make it "work". That magic wand is "billions of years".

If the earth is only thousands of years old, then there is obviously no time for the slow evolutionary process to have occurred.

On the other hand, to realise that Creation is the only alternative, makes some people feel very uncomfortable.

The scandalous cover-up

It may shock you to discover that a monstrous cover-up is in full swing concerning the dating issue. That's right. There is a deliberate attempt to keep you and me from finding this out. Here is one evolutionist who admits the deceit going on:

"... the accepted dates are actually selected dates. This whole blessed thing is nothing but 13th-century alchemy, and it all depends upon which funny paper you read." (Robert E. Lee, "Radiocarbon: Ages in Error" *Anthropological Journal of Canada*, vol.19-3, 1981, pp.9-29)

Yes, it was the evolution THEORY that spawned the ASSUMPTION of a billions-of-years-old earth. It's an assumption based on a theory.

Then, based on that assumption comes another theory – the gap theory. It starts with the assumption that science has proved the earth to be billions of years old. I'm sorry to say this, but a theory based on an assumption is no more than a "powder puff" theory. Just think about this now. ***If my first assumption is wrong, then how can my theory ever be right?***

We should be really worried about any theory based on the assumption that our earth is billions of years old.

There are two reasons for this gap theory:

1. Lack of knowledge about how fossils and dinosaurs fit in with recent history.
2. Trust in man's changing theories (like evolution), over the word

of God.

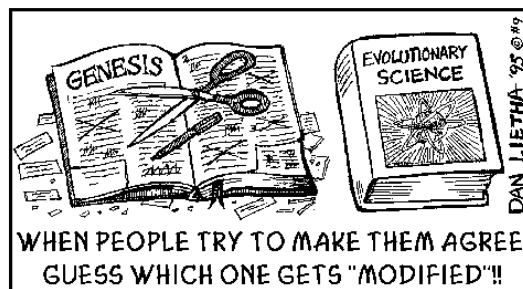
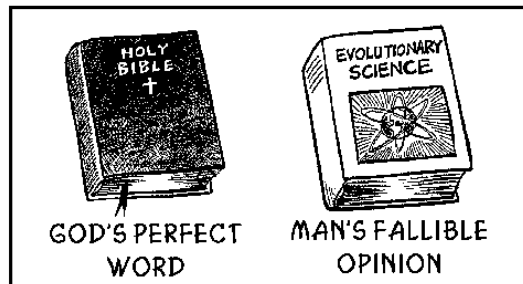
Facts versus theories

There's nothing wrong with the **FACTS** of geology. After all, rocks are solid objects which can be studied. But **THEORIES** are something different. We must be **careful to distinguish** between the scientific **facts** of geology and the **theories** of geologists (like how long ago the rocks were formed).

For example, in eight separate tests, scientists dated samples of rock – and arrived at ages of 160 million to 3 billion years. These specimens, from Kaupelehu, Hualalai Volcano, Hawaii, were later found to have formed in a lava flow only 168 years earlier, in 1801. (*Science*, vol.162, p.265. *Journal of Geophysical Research*, vol.73, p.4601. *American Journal of Science*, vol.262, p.154)

The huge public scam being perpetrated is exposed in my book *The Great Dating Blunder*. (<http://www.beforeus.com/shop_cart_ebooks.html>)

And that brings us back to the “gap” theory. Many who say they believe in the awesome power of the Creator eagerly receive the **suppositions** of geologists as the standard by which to interpret the sacred record.



Science cannot ignore revelation

There are some things that God has not revealed to man. *“The secret things belong unto the Lord our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever.”* (Deut.29:29)

Human science cannot search out the secrets of the Most High. His creative power is as incomprehensible as His existence.

We might just as easily explain human techniques to an ant and expect the ant to understand us. The intellectual capacity is different.

A flood of light has been poured upon the world in science and art. But when professedly scientific men treat upon these subjects from a merely human point of view, they will assuredly come to wrong conclusions.

If we leave the Word of God and seek to account for His creative works upon scientific principles alone, we are drifting without chart or compass upon an unknown ocean.

Why? Because the Creator and His works are so far beyond our comprehension, that we are unable to explain them by natural laws alone.

Please keep this in mind as we address some claims raised by various promoters of “Christian evolution”.

A time gap between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2?

IT IS CLAIMED: There is a time-gap between what happened in Genesis 1:1, and what happened in verse 2. Into this gap – extending for billions of years – we can place all the major geological events that have shaped the world.

IN REALITY: Here is what these two verses state: *“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep.”* (Gen.1:1-2)

Always bear in mind that the meaning of a word is controlled by its context. You will notice that verse 2 begins with “*and*” - “**And** the earth

was without form, and void.” This is circumstantial to verse 1, which immediately precedes it.

The most straightforward reading of the verses shows verse 1 to be a subject-and-verb-clause, with verse 2 containing three "circumstantial clauses" - that is, three statements *further describing* the circumstances introduced by the principal clause in verse 1.

In the Hebrew original the conjunction *waw* ("and") at the beginning of verse 2 is a "*waw* copulative," which compares with the old English expression "*to whit*" ("*to explain further...*").

This grammatical connection between verses 1 and 2 thus rules out any time gap. To insert a time gap here is most unnatural. It is not at all suggested by the plain meaning of the text.

Verse 2 is in fact a description of the state of the originally created earth: "**AND the earth WAS without form, and empty**" (Genesis 1:2).

This **WAS** the presently existing condition and does **not** represent a change of state or condition. There are **no** words in the immediate or surrounding text which would suggest that **WAS** should be rendered **BECAME**.

NO GAP IMPLIED

So please do not look for a GAP or for anything else between two verses.

As one reads the Bible, its Author wants one to read the verses, not between the verses. That is, we must read Genesis 1:1 and then read Genesis 1:2. Do not try to read between these verses, because there is nothing there! A man who reads between the verses can make the Bible say anything he wants.

But if you read only the verses just as they are, you will better understand what the writer intended.

Read God's Word, not the GAPS! Do not look for secret messages that are not even there!

“Became” empty?

IT IS CLAIMED: In Gen.1:2 it says, “*And the earth WAS without form, and empty.*”

The same Hebrew word *hayetha* (translated “was” in Gen.1:2) is used in Gen.19:26, saying that Lot’s wife “*became* a pillar of salt.”

So the “was” could mean, “*became* (or “*had become*”) formless and empty.”

Later the Lord took six days to fix the world back – not a creation but a “reconstruction”.

IN REALITY: If you compare the Lot’s wife text with the Creation text, you will NOT find any parallel. The **context** of the Lot’s wife story definitely tells us to translate the Hebrew word to mean “became”. Not so with the **context** of Genesis 1.

Context is king.

The verb *hayetha* of Genesis 1:2 is translated “was” in all the standard translations because that is its meaning. And “**was**” **simply means** “**existed**”. Nothing more.

The English word “*was*” is the most natural and appropriate translation for the Hebrew word used here and translated into English as “was”. That is why it is rendered this way in most English versions (as well as in the LXX – the Greek translation of the Hebrew by 72 Hebrew scholars in the 3rd century BC).

EFFECT TO CAUSE

Something else. In reading these first two verses of Genesis, we need to understand the Hebrew thinking pattern.

In English, we think from cause to effect. Hebrew thinking is the opposite of this. Hebrew thinking moves from effect to cause.

Once we understand this, the sequence of Genesis verses 1 and 2 can be taken to mean only one thing:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>A “In the beginning God
 CREATED the heaven
 and the earth.” (Gen.1:1)</p> | <p>This is the
EFFECT
(the final result).</p> |
| <p>B GOD SPEAKS and
 a formless emptiness
 is replaced by each new
 wonder that He produces.
 (Gen.1:2 to 2:3)</p> | <p>This is the
CAUSE
that produces A</p> |

In other words:

- A: Genesis 1:1 is the opening statement. This sums up the event *in general terms*.
- B: Then (in the rest of the chapter) we learn HOW God did it. “God said... and it was.” This is *the explanation in detail* of the steps God took in this verse 1 event.

SUMMARY (Genesis 1:1)	DETAIL (Genesis 1:2-31)
<p>“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * <i>How it starts:</i> formless and empty * Day 1 - Light * Day 2 – Atmosphere and water * Day 3 – Land and vegetation * Day 4 – The luminaries visible * Day 5 – Fish and birds * Day 6 – Land animals and man * <i>How it ends:</i> “And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good.”

You might say, “I went to town today.”
(equivalent to Gen.1:1)

“And the town was very busy. And we did this...
and this... and this...” (equivalent to the rest of
Genesis chapter 1).

Or you might say, “I was working at
Victor’s garage this week.” (equiv-
alent to Gen.1:1)

“And his garage was hot and dusty. But I did
this... and this... and this... And by Friday the
place was clean and fresh.” (equivalent to the rest
of Genesis chapter 1)

THIS CONSTRUCTION METHOD IS COMMON

This is a method of explanation commonly used in the Bible, as we shall
see from the following examples:

1. Genesis 1:1 - “*In the beginning
God created the heaven and the
earth.*”

THEN: Immediately after this, in verse 2, **God stops to explain** to us what the early earth was like at first. “It was formless and empty.”

2. Genesis 2:11-14 gives the names
of four rivers: “*The name of the
first . . . where there is gold* “

THEN: Immediately after verse 11 there comes a break in the action (v.12). Instead of immediately continuing with the other three rivers, **God stops to describe** what that gold was like. (“*And the gold of that land is....*”)

3. Jonah 3:3 – “*So Jonah arose, and went unto Nineveh.*”

THEN: Immediately after verse 3 telling us that Jonah went to Nineveh, but before he enters the city (v.4), there is a break in the action and the city of Nineveh is described: “*Now Nineveh WAS an exceedingly great city.*” (v.3) Before continuing the action **God wanted to stop and tell us what kind of a city Nineveh really was.** (It would be silly to translate the verse this way: “*Now Nineveh became a great city.*” It was already a great city, even before Jonah arrived there!)

Let us now compare all these examples, and some others:

1. Genesis 1:1 - In the beginning God created the heavens and the **earth**.
Genesis 1:2 *Now the **earth** was without form and void.*
2. Genesis 2:11 - The name of the first is Pison; that is it which compasseth the whole land of Havilah, where there is **gold**.
Genesis 2:12 *Now the **gold** of that land is good.*
3. Jonah 3:3 - Jonah went to **Nineveh**.
Jonah 3:3 *Now **Nineveh** was an exceedingly great city.*
4. Zechariah 3:1 - And he showed me **Joshua** . . .
Zechariah 3:3 *Now **Joshua** was clothed with filthy garments and stood before the angel.*
5. 1 Samuel 4:14 - And the man came in hastily and told **Eli**.
1 Samuel 4:15 *Now **Eli** was ninety eight years old, and his eyes were dim.*

You see, this is a normal Bible procedure. Let’s observe these again:

Gen.1:1	verse 2
“God created the heaven and the earth .”	Then the earth is described.
Gen.2:11	verse 12
“...where there is gold .”	Then the gold is described.
Jonah 3:3	verse 3
“and went unto Nineveh .”	Then Nineveh is described.

Zech. 3:1
 “And he showed me **Joshua**.”

verse 3
 Then **Joshua** is described.

1 Sam.4:14
 “The man came in... and told **Eli**.”

verse 15
 Then **Eli** is described.

So Genesis 1:2 is God’s perfect description of the early earth on the first day of creation! What was the earth like at that time? It was without form and void!

"*Without form*" simply means **UNFORMED**! You see, the earth **existed** UNFORMED. The word “*was*” means “*existed*”. It needed to be formed and shaped and prepared for man! It was also "void" which means devoid of life, empty or UNFILLED. The earth at this point was very empty (no plants, no animals, no people.). The original earth was not ruined and spoiled but it was UNFORMED and UNFILLED!! In other words, it was UNFINISHED!

The expression "unformed and unfilled" does not mean that the earth was imperfect. The earth was perfectly created, but it was not yet finished. It was not yet complete.

The Hebrew expression *tohu wabohu* (translated “*without form and void*”) means literally “*empty and formless*.” It does **not** say that the Earth was chaotic, under a curse of judgment. It was simply empty of living things and without the features that it later possessed, such as oceans and continents, hills and valleys - features that would be essential for man’s well-being. In other words, it was not an appropriate home for man.

This emptiness was only the first state of a series of stages leading to its completion.

In 1948, M. Henkel, a graduate student at the Winona Lake School of Theology, wrote a master’s thesis on “Fundamental Christianity and Evolution.” During the course of his research, he polled 20 leading Hebrew scholars in the United States, and asked each of them if there were any exegetical evidence that would allow for a gap between Genesis 1:1 and Genesis 1:2. They unanimously replied—No! (Henkel, 1950, p. 49, n. 30). This situation has not changed.

The attempt to render Genesis 1:2 as “the earth *became* without form and void”, so as to squeeze a gap between verses 1 and 2, is, to say the least, **artificial and strained**.

THE SCIENTIFIC METHOD

There is but one way to approach the Scriptures, which is the scientific method. This may be safely stated as follows:

**When the plain sense of Scripture makes common sense,
seek no other sense.
Therefore take every word
at its primary, ordinary, usual literal meaning,
unless the facts of the context indicate clearly otherwise.**

Please read it again. This is the rule for understanding the relationship between verses 1 and 2 of Genesis chapter 1.

EXODUS SAYS: ONE CREATION, NOT TWO

And if that is not enough, the following verse in Exodus should settle the issue. It tells us that there were not two creations, as the gap theory requires, but just one:

*"Six days thou shalt labour and do all thy work, but **the seventh day** is the Sabbath of the Lord your God.... For **in six days** the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that in them is; and **rested on the seventh day**; therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it."* (Ex.20:9,11)

Note that this verse in Exodus covers both Genesis 1:1 and 1:2.

- * ***In six days*** God made "heaven and earth" (Genesis 1:1),
- * and "*the sea, and all that in them is*" (Genesis 1:2 onward).

There is no room for a gap, because this statement in Exodus covers both Genesis 1:1 and the verses after it ... all in the same six days!

Exodus 20:11 tells us that the very time when God **created "the heaven and the earth"** (the same event as Genesis 1:1) was **in the "six day" period** – not some period before then!

Let's read both passages again:

Genesis 1:1 – "*In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.*" Then in verses 2 to 31 this simple introduction is enlarged upon.

Exodus 20:11 - “*For **in six days** the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that in them is.*” (Ex.20:11)

You see, both passages are speaking of the same event. It all occurred in 6 days.

Is God able to say what He means?

Well, we have discovered that the most obvious literal interpretation of Genesis would suggest that there never was an earth before we got here. So for the gap theory to be true, you would have to believe that God is unable to say what He means.

But since God tells us plainly that all land animals were made on day 6, along with man, then, if the text means what it says, we must logically conclude that dinosaurs lived with man, not millions of years before, followed by a time gap..

IT IS CLAIMED: Genesis 1:2 says that "the earth was *without form*" - that is, *tohu*. Isaiah 45:18 says that God did NOT "create" the earth *tohu*. (It says, “God did not create the earth in vain.” The word translated "in vain" in Isaiah 45:18 is the Hebrew word *tohu*.)

So, there you are, if God did not create the earth *tohu*, then the earth must have **become** "*tohu*" by some sort of cataclysm.

IN REALITY: Let’s read the entire text: “*For thus saith the Lord that created the heavens, God himself that formed the earth and made it: he hath established it, **he created it not in vain [tohu], he formed it to be inhabited: I am the Lord, and there is none else.***” (Isa.45:18)

The first clause above in bold type, “*he created it not in vain*”, is **explained** by the second, “*he formed it to be inhabited.*” Isaiah is speaking of **GOD’S PURPOSE in creating the earth**. He did not create the world for it to be empty! No, He created it to be formed and filled, a suitable abode for His people.

The immediate context has to do with Israel and God's promises to His people. Isaiah reminded his listeners that just as God had a purpose in creating the earth, so He had a purpose for Israel. Just as God created the earth not (to be forever) without form, but to be inhabited, so God, through His power, likewise will accomplish His purpose for His chosen people, Israel.

The "gap" theorist misses the point altogether when he argues that because Isaiah says God did not create the world *tohu*, it must have *become tohu* at some later time. Isaiah 45:18 is about God's *purpose* in creating. But Genesis is speaking of a *different* matter - **the original state of** creation.

In Genesis, two delightful Hebrew words, *tohu* and *bohu*, are usually translated "*without form and void*", that is, "*formless and empty*" (Gen.1:2). They imply that the original universe was created unformed and unfilled - and that it was, during six days, formed and filled by God's creative actions.

IT IS CLAIMED: Jeremiah says, "the earth, ...lo, it was **without form, and void:** and the heavens, and they had no light.... The fruitful place was a wilderness, and all the cities thereof were broken down." (Jer.4: 23,26) The phrase "*without form and void*", shows that there **was** a pre-Eden cataclysm which destroyed the original creation of Genesis 1:1.

IN REALITY: The Hebrew words *tohu* and *bohu* ("*without form and void*") are in themselves neutral words. They do not tell us anything about the cause of formlessness. This has to be gleaned from the context.

As an analogy, we might think of a word like "blank," in reference to a computer screen. It can be blank because nothing has been typed on the keyboard, or it can be blank because the screen was erased. The word "blank" does not suggest, in itself, the reason why the screen is blank.

Some other factor has to decide the meaning. In the case of a written record, it must always include the context. Context is king.

And what does the context of Jeremiah 4 tell us?

The context of Jeremiah chapter 4 makes it clear that the whole chapter is describing a *future* coming destruction, **not a prehistoric destruction**.

The prophet saw a vision. "I beheld" (past tense when he is writing). But was this a vision of the past or of the future? Jeremiah himself tells us: "*For thus hath the LORD said, The whole land **shall be** desolate; yet will I not make a full end.*" (Jer.4:27) This event is **a prophecy of the future**.

Jeremiah is not interpreting the meaning of Genesis 1:2. Not at all.

By contrast, Genesis 1:1-2 is an event in the past. Its simple, straightforward meaning is that when God at the beginning created the earth it was initially formless, empty, and dark, and God's Spirit was there above the waters. It was through His creative energy that the world was then progressively "formed and filled" during the remaining six days of creation.

Consider the analogy of a potter making a vase. The first thing he does is get a ball of clay. What he has is good, but it is **unformed**. Next, he shapes it into a vase, using his potter's wheel. Now it is no longer formless. He then might dry it, apply glaze, and fire it. Now it is ready to be filled - with flowers and water. At no time could one of the stages be considered evil or bad. It was just not finished - unformed and unfilled. When it was finally **formed and filled**, it could be described as "**very good**."

IT IS CLAIMED: God embarked on a re-creation after the first earth was made empty. Psalm 104:30 shows that God **had to renew** the face of the earth.

IN REALITY: Let's read this verse: "*Thou sendest forth thy spirit, they are created: and thou renewest the face of the earth.*" (Psalm 104:30) There is not a hint that this verse is speaking of the Creation event. Rather, its theme is God's greatness. He takes away life (v.29) and gives life (v.30). Food for his creatures (v.14) is continually renewed as the seasons and days come and go (vv.19-22). This is a Psalm of God's continual care for His creatures. "*Thou renewest the face of the earth.*" **This renewing occurs before our eyes day after day, season after season.**

That is the context in which verse 30 is set. And context determines how we should understand the verse. Again, remember, context is king.

The forcing of this text to prove that Creation in Genesis 1 was instead a “re-creation”, is an unnatural interpretation.

IT IS CLAIMED: Noah brought some of every kind of animal into the Ark (Gen.6:19-20). If dinosaurs had existed until that time, they would have been on the Ark – and still would have existed in large enough numbers to be documented throughout man’s history.

But since **dinosaurs were unknown** in Noah’s time, or during history, they must have been in some previous world before Adam and Noah.

IN REALITY: Yes, they were on the Ark. And, yes again, they have existed in large enough numbers to be documented throughout man’s history. It is apparent that the claimant is unaware of this.

Throughout history since? If you were not aware that dinosaurs have been recorded right through history, even into our own day, I invite you to get hold of our book *Surprise Witness*, and read chapter 18. Or you might watch our DVD, *What Happened to the Dinosaurs?* Anyway, the evidence is there. Heaps of it.

With such evidence, there is no need, nor excuse, to invent a theory about a previous “dinosaur age” before the creation of man.

OBJECTION: How could Noah fit monstrous 60 foot dinosaurs onto the Ark?

IN REALITY: Just suppose you were Noah. In order to preserve an oak tree, would you need to take a fully grown oak into the Ark? Surely an acorn would have sufficed?

Why not the same with animal specimens, too? Bearing in mind the purpose for preserving them, young, healthy ones for post-Flood breeding were undoubtedly selected, rather than the largest of each species. And think of the creatures that could have gone on as eggs – tortoises, lizards, - and yes, and even dinosaurs. The beauty of eggs is that the creature forming inside has all the food with it that it needs. You wouldn't have to be as old as Noah to work that out. For that matter,

A pre-Adamic race and “replenish”

IT IS CLAIMED: God told Adam and Eve to “*replenish*” (*refill*) the earth. “...and God said unto them, *Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth.*” (Gen.1:28)

This implies it was once before filled with people, who had been wiped out – and needed to be re-filled.

IN REALITY: The Hebrew word translated “*replenish*” is *male*. The primary root meaning of this word is simply “*fill*” or “*fill fully or completely*” – not “*refill*”. And this is why many modern translations render it “*fill*”.

This Hebrew word occurs 306 times in the Old Testament and in **not one** of these 306 instances does it mean “*refill*”. In only one other place (Gen.9:1) is it translated “*replenish*” – yet still strictly with the original meaning to “*fill*”.

Very well, someone may ask, why does the King James Bible translate it “*replenish*” (which to us does mean “*refill*”)?

That's a fair question.

An examination of the Oxford English Dictionary shows that the English word “*replenish*” had the meaning of “*fill*” from the 13th to the 17th centuries. In no case, during those five centuries did it mean to “*refill*”. In 1611, when the King James Bible was published, “*replenish*” meant the same in English as the Hebrew word from which it was translated – simply, “*fill*” – and nothing more.

However, over the intervening years, the “*re*” of “*replenish*” has come to mean “*again*”. A modern reader not aware of this fact would erroneously read “*replenish*” as meaning to “*fill again*”.

There is an entirely different word in the Hebrew which means “*to fill again*”. This word is *shana*. If God meant for Adam to refill the earth, then God would have used this word *shana*, not *male*.

Hence the opening verses of Genesis describe **not a destroyed earth that needed re-filling, but an incomplete earth that needed FILLING.**



WAS ADAM THE FIRST MAN?

Occasionally someone asks me whether Adam was really the first man, since Genesis speaks of his son Cain going into another area and getting himself a wife. (“*And Cain went out from the presence of the Lord, and dwelt in the land of Nod, on the east of Eden. And Cain knew his wife, and she conceived...*” Gen.4:16-17)

CLAIM: There must have been a race of men already living when Adam appeared. Otherwise, **where did Cain (Adam’s son) get his wife?**

IN REALITY: We shall address the second part of this question shortly. But first it is important to understand that, according to the Bible, there was ***no race of men before Adam***. We have already discovered that the theory of a pre-Adamic race wiped out before Adam was created cannot be substantiated.

But in Adam's own time could there have been another separate race of men already alive? Is there any hint of this in the book of Genesis?

ADAM AND EVE THE VERY FIRST PEOPLE

The name "*Adam*" is a Hebrew word meaning "*man*." It also means "*red earth*". This is fitting, since the Bible says that Adam was the first man that ever lived (1 Cor.15:45 – "*the first man Adam*"). And he was formed from the earth.

We cannot brush aside this text, which emphatically tells us that "THE FIRST MAN [WAS] Adam."

The Bible is also clear on the fact that there was no death of man or animals until man violated spiritual laws.

We cannot ignore these theological boundaries imposed by Scripture itself. It informs us that when Adam sinned (violated the spiritual law), death came. And that **before Adam there was no death**. "*Death reigned FROM Adam.*" (Rom.5:14)

It also assures us that ALL of us are descendants of that first man Adam. "***ALL nations***" are "***of one blood***." (Acts 17:26) Or to put it another way, ALL of mankind is in Adam. "***As IN ADAM ALL die***..." (1 Cor.15:22)

In harmony with that, Genesis likewise states that all of us are descended from Adam's wife Eve. "***Eve... the mother of ALL living***." (Gen.3:20)

In summary, the ancient Scriptures declare:

- * Adam was the very first man ever.
- * Before Adam there was no death.
- * All people on earth are descended from Adam.
- * All people on earth are descended from Eve.

IMPORTANT SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERY: DNA testing has now backed this up. Through mitochondrial DNA examination it is possible to trace one's ancestry. Recent studies of mitochondrial DNA indicate that all human beings alive on earth today are descended from one and the same original woman... the original Eve, (See Book 1 of this trilogy, *The Weapon the Globalists Fear*, chapter 4.) This confirms Genesis – absolutely.

“CREATED” VERSUS “RE-MADE”?

IT IS CLAIMED:

In chapter 1, “God *created* man” (v.27). The Hebrew word used here is *bara* (create, to produce something from nothing).

But in chapter 2, **Adam was formed** from the dust of the earth (v.7). In this verse a different word is used – *asah* (form, or make). So Adam in chapter 2 is a different race from “man” in chapter 1. There is a difference between “created” (*bara*) and “made” (*asah*).

This is proof that other races of men were already alive on the earth when Adam was made.

IN REALITY: That might very well sound reasonable at first. But a closer investigation shows us that the words *bara* and *asah* are **used interchangeably** numerous times in the Old Testament. And in some places they are found to be in **synonymous parallelism**.

For example the very first chapter of Genesis says: “Let us **MAKE** (*asah*) man in our image...So God **CREATED** (*bara*) man in his own image.” (Genesis 1:26-27) You see, both words are used with the same meaning! Here are some other examples:

- “I will **do** (*asah*) marvels, such as have not been **done** (*bara*) in all the earth.” (Ex.34:10)
- “...the hand of the Lord hath **done** (*asah*) **this**, and the Holy One of Israel hath **created** (*bara*) **it**.” (Isa.41:20)
- Psalm 148:1-5 speaks of the “creation” (*bara*) of the angels. Yet when Nehemiah addresses the creation of angels (9:6), he employs the word *asah* to describe it.
- Genesis 1:1 speaks of God “creating” (*bara*) the earth. But when Nehemiah speaks of that same event (9:6), he employs the word *asah*.
- When Genesis 1:27 speaks of man’s “creation,” it uses *bara*. But one verse before that (1:26), it speaks of the “making” (*asah*) of man.
- In Genesis 2:4 the two words are used in the same verse: “*These are the generations of the heavens and of the earth when they were **created** [bara], in the day that Jehovah **made** [asah] earth and heaven.*”

- Nehemiah 9:6 uses the word *asah* for the creation of **everything contained in the universe**, including angels, the seas, and, indeed, the universe itself. “Thou art Jehovah, even thou alone; thou hast *made* [*asah*] heaven, *the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and all things that are therein*, the seas, and all that is in them, and thou preservest them all; and the host of heaven worshippeth thee.”

So you see, the word *asah* (*made*) means the same as “**created**”. Here are some other passages you can look up where *asah* refers to the creation of the heavens **from nothing**:

2 Kings 19:15 ; 2 Chron.2:12 ; Psa.33:6 ; 96:5 ; 115:15 ; 121:2 ; 124:8 ; 134:3 ; 136:5 ; 146:6 ; Prov.8:26 ; Isa.37:16 ; 44:24 ; 45:12,18 ; Jer.10:12 ; 32:17.

You can count on it, *bara* and *asah* are **interchangeable**.

The use of two different, interchangeable words (*bara* and *asah*) **does not indicate two separate creations** of humans with a time gap between. Not at all.

If one is to believe these Bible statements, there was no race of men before Adam:

- * Adam was **the first man** (1 Corinthians 15:45)
- * Until God made Eve to be his wife there were **no women on earth** for Adam to marry (Genesis 2:18).
- * His wife **Eve was the first woman** (Genesis 2:23)
- * Eve was "**the mother of all living**." (Genesis 3:20)

In particular, notice Genesis 2:18 – “*And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be **alone**; I will make him an help meet for him.*”

What does that tell us? Simply that there was until that moment no woman on earth – man was alone. So God created Eve.

But please tell me, if another race existed, wouldn't there already be women? And that would make nonsense of the Genesis statement that Eve was the very first woman on earth, the mother of all living. I'll go

with the plain statement of fact given in Genesis.

Where did Cain get his wife?

QUESTION: If Adam and Eve were the only people on earth, then where did their son Cain get his wife? The Genesis story only says that they had two sons.

ANSWER: This is an often asked question. However, we are not left to speculate. Genesis itself informs us that apart from their sons Cain and Abel, Adam and Eve “begat sons AND DAUGHTERS.” (Genesis 5:4) Of necessity, the first children would have to marry their siblings.

QUESTION: But wouldn't it be risky, marrying one's own sister?

IN REALITY: Yes, today, one can inherit a bad gene from one's mother. (Scientists call it deleterious.) But the father's copy of the same gene functions normally. The good version acts like a backup, effectively preventing any disease the bad gene might have caused. But the marriage of a brother and sister increases the chances of their children getting two copies of the deleterious gene as compared to reproducing with someone outside of one's own family. Both the brother and sister would have a copy of that bad gene, so there's a good chance their kid won't have a normal copy to work with. Multiply that by any other bad genes sprinkled among an estimated 50,000 active genes in humans, and there are bound to be some life-shortening problems.

However, when man first came from the hand of his Creator, the race was endowed with superior vitality and perfect health. The race was genetically pure at that time (everything spanking new and functioning perfectly). So the risk of mutations in offspring born from such a union, that exists today, would be virtually non-existent.

QUESTION: But surely there wasn't enough time for Adam and Eve to produce other children before Cain got married? After all, after killing Abel didn't Cain just go out and get himself a wife?

ANSWER: There is no evidence that, immediately after killing Abel,

Cain went out got married.

To the contrary, when you examine the record carefully, you discover that the time span of Genesis chapters 3 to 6 covers 17 centuries - all compressed into just 4 chapters. What we have here is a long period of time, punctuated by key events spread out during those many years.

So the notable events recorded of Cain's life (getting married, building a city) – it is unlikely that these were all immediate. But rather, that they occurred years apart.

As we shall see below, before Cain's death millions of people were on the earth. And before he married, it is likely that there were many thousands.

QUESTION: How many descendants could Adam and Eve have had in Cain's lifetime?

ANSWER: That's an interesting question. Oh, but first you will surely find this interesting:

The highest officially recorded number of children born to one mother is 69, to the first wife of Feodor Vassilyev (1707-1782) of Shuya, Russia. Between 1725 and 1765, in a total of 27 confinements in just 40 years, she gave birth to 16 pairs of twins, seven sets of triplets, and four sets of quadruplets. 67 of them survived infancy."

Egyptian Pharaoh Ramesses II lived for 96 years. It is believed that he had as many as 50 sons and 50 daughters, though only a few of them are known to us.

Bear in mind that these two persons had a greatly reduced lifespan compared to that of Adam and Eve.

By contrast, our first parents and their offspring possessed a far greater *vitality* of body and mind than we have now. This factor would encourage a prolific human population.

The climatic conditions of that original world, the abundance and accessibility of food supplies, of virgin soil and unlimited riches beckoning man to take possession: these were the most *ideal conditions* for population growth.

On a worldwide basis, five children per family is today considered average, with a female reproductive capacity of say, 30 to 35 years. Until recently, up to eight or a dozen children was considered the norm in many countries.

Population figures change rapidly. In just the one lifespan of many now living, world population has tripled. In 1930 it was 2 billion; in 1960 3 billion; in 1974 4 billion; in 1987 5 billion; and in 1995 6 billion.

Certainly the very much longer life spans in the original world must have facilitated a rapid population explosion. If the reproductive capacity of the pre-Flood woman was half her age (as is so for mothers today), then it would appear that 400 years of child-bearing per woman may not have been unusual.

On this basis, a family of 20 to 26 children does not seem unreasonable. Let's be conservative, and allow a family of just 20 children. If, as the ancient sources agree, there were ten generations of mankind up to the Flood, the population developed may have been something like this:

<i>Generation 1</i>	<i>2</i>
2	20
3	200
4	2,000
5	20,000
6	200,000
7	2,000,000
8	20,000,000
9	200,000,000
10	2,000,000,000

If we were to assume that pre-Flood families averaged 22 children, then the figure increases to almost 5 billion - the population just a few years ago.

From Genesis chapter 5 we learn that Adam was still alive when the eighth generation after him was born. This means that all those generations combined made up the total population living all at one time.

Remember that Cain also enjoyed this type of longevity.

To summarise the situation:

1. Cain and his siblings lived ten times longer than we do today – more than 900 years.
2. They enjoyed primeval vitality with no degeneration, so a woman's ability to bear children could continue for hundreds of years.
3. Adam and Eve's offspring amounted to thousands, no millions, during Cain's lifetime.

So did there have to be on earth another race of people other than Adam's, to supply a wife for Cain. Not at all!

Let's face it. Whatever the arguments for the ruin-then-reconstruction theory, or the man-before-Adam theory, the evidence is just not there.

* * * * *

In the next chapter we shall review quickly and simply thirteen reasons why this theory of a time gap between Genesis 1:1 and 2 does not fit the facts.

Chapter 9

BURNING QUESTIONS

Here, briefly, are the problems that plague the gap theory. Thirteen of them:

1. IT IS GRAMMATICALLY UNSOUND

The gap theory imposes an interpretation upon Genesis 1:1-2 which is unnatural, and grammatically unsound. (See the previous chapter.)

2. IT IS NOT SUPPORTED BY THE PLAIN MEANING OF THE TEXT

A gap between Genesis 1:1 and Genesis 1:2 is not at all supported by the plain meaning of the text. (See the previous chapter.)

3. IT IS NOT SUPPORTED BY ANY OTHER SCRIPTURE REFERENCE TO IT

If you search for any other scriptural reference to support the gap theory, you will be disappointed. You will find not one.

It is a clear **habit of Scripture** to refer to past events as an example of future judgment. If such a massive judgmental wipe-out of a previous world really occurred, then isn't it odd that **not a single reference** to it is ever made? If there was a world here before ours that was destroyed, then it would be **out of character for Jesus to ignore** so powerful a warning for us of future judgment. And especially since we were supposedly

going to find such a vast array of evidence for this previous judgment in our excavations (namely the fossil graveyards all over the world), surely it would be remiss not to mention this judgment. Especially since Jesus does refer us to allegedly “lesser” judgments like Noah’s Flood!

If we found evidence of such a previous world and yet God kept silent about it, there might always be a question in our minds as to why He never told us.

4. IT IS INCONSISTENT WITH GOD CREATING *EVERYTHING* THAT IS NOW ON THE EARTH IN SIX DAYS

Exodus 20:11 says, *"For in six days the Lord made the heavens and earth, the sea, and ALL THAT IS IN them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day, and made it holy"*.

Here the Bible tells us that ALL things now on earth were created in the six day creation week – the heavens and the earth (Gen.1:1) and the sea and ALL that is in them (the rest of creation). It was completed in six days.

“ALL” includes creatures whose fossil remains are seen today. The fossils, therefore, could not be from some previous era. NOTHING that we find on this planet was made **before** the six day creation of Genesis chapter 1. The above text, Exodus 20:11, says that quite plainly.

5. IT PUTS DEATH, DISEASE AND SUFFERING BEFORE THE FALL OF ADAM

The gap theory proposes that, at the end of the geological ages, Satan sinned, he was cast down to earth, and there was a great cataclysm. So the geological ages with countless deaths recorded in them would have occurred before either Satan or humans sinned, which is the opposite of what the Bible says.

Taking the WHOLE of the Bible to be authoritative, we can accept that before Adam there was no death.

- “Nevertheless death reigned **from Adam...**” (Rom.5:14)
- “For as **in Adam** all die...” (1 Cor.15:22)
- "Wherefore, as **by one man [Adam]** sin entered the world, and death by sin, and so **death** passed upon all men for that all have sinned.” (Rom.5:12)

From this we understand that there could not have been human sin or death before Adam. And as a result of Adam’s rebellion (sin), death and corruption (disease, bloodshed, and suffering) entered the universe. Before Adam sinned there could not have been any animal or human death.

Romans 8:22 teaches us that "**the whole creation groans and travails in pain together** until now" - and is, subject to decay and corruption because of sin.

The fossil record shows disease, decay, and death. To claim that death, disease and ferocity existed before Adam sinned, is to contradict the teaching of Scripture – the truth that **death came only after Adam sinned, and made man’s rescue necessary.**

Since there was no death of man or animals before Adam’s fall, then there could not have been millions of years of death (as evolutionists portray the fossil record) before sin.

We are informed that death will be removed once sin is removed.
(Rev.21:4,27)

6. THE GAP THEORY CLEARS SATAN AND SIN OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR DEATH

IT IS CLAIMED: Lucifer rebelled and was cast out of heaven at the end of the geological ages, just before the supposed pre-Adamic Lucifer’s flood.

IN REALITY: This raises a problem, because if there were geological ages with their fossils before Lucifer rebelled, then the death and

suffering recorded in the fossils must have been God's fault. As it happened before Satan's fall, Satan and sin cannot be blamed for it.

7. IT MAKES GOD'S CREATION METHODS CRUEL, BRUTAL, AND WITHOUT MERCY

The ways of evolution theory are cruel, brutal, ruthless and without mercy. The law of God is incompatible with the so-called law of evolution. If evolution is true, then it is one of the bloodiest, and wasteful ways to bring new creatures about.

Evolution requires suffering and death as an integral part of the very process that brought man into the world. To say that God used evolution is a contradiction in terms of God's character.



Thankyou Dan L. for letting me use this picture

To believe the gap theory, one would have to believe that God calls death "**good**" – when the Bible actually calls death an "**enemy**". "The last enemy that shall be destroyed is **death**." (1 Cor.15:26)

If one wishes to believe in evolution, he is free to make that choice, but he certainly should not associate a wise, powerful, loving Creator with such a monstrous system.

**8. THE GAP THEORY HAS GOD
GIVING US A NEW WORLD
COVERED IN DEAD FOSSIL DEBRIS
AND CALLING IT “VERY GOOD”**

This so-called “reconstruction of the earth” would tend to make God appear as a bit of a slob, unable to clean up his mess after destroying a previous world.



Just think about this. Why would God leave us a dirty (death and fossil filled) world to live in? You would not knock down a building leaving the debris there, and build another building on top of the trash. But this is exactly what this gap theory claims God did.

We are asked to believe that for millions upon millions of years the earth was **a raging cauldron of death, disease, violence, pain and suffering**. “And God saw everything that he had made. And, behold, [it was] **very good**. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.”(Gen.1:31)

So at the end of the six day Creation week God said that his Creation was "very good". Now why in the world would God call it "very good" if there were millions of fossils of dead animals lying around?

The Bible speaks of the bones and bodies of the dead as being "unclean". It uses expressions such as “defiled by the dead” (Num.5:2); “defile himself” (Lev.21:11); “whoso toucheth any thing that is unclean by the dead” (Lev.22:4). In about 30 other places bones are “unclean”.

If we are made unclean by touching or going near the bodies of the deceased, then how could God call the world "perfect" in Genesis chapter 1 if the very world He had made was corrupted by dead dinosaurs, mammals and humans? The answer is, it wasn't. Nothing died before Adam sinned.

If there were **tons of bones lying around** then this would not coincide with a perfect creation. Clearly, the animals whose bones comprise fossils today died sometime later.

So here is a question for the Christian who believes in this blood and suffering gap theory. If famine, disease and disaster resulting in death are “very good”, then why do Christians oppose these things? Why should they bother to help preserve an endangered species?

9. THE GAP THEORY'S FOSSIL CLAIMS ARE INCONSISTENT

The gap theory is logically inconsistent because it explains away what it is supposed to accommodate - supposed fossil evidence for an old earth.

IT IS CLAIMED: The "geological column" contains **fossils that accumulated over billions of years**, before Adam. Then God sent a flood and that first world became “without form and void”. **Fossils are evidence of that flood**. Then later God reshaped the earth, re-created all life in 6 literal days and made Adam.

IN REALITY: Just a minute! Do you see something wrong here? Either the **fossils** are the result of billions of years of slow accumulation – **OR** they are the result of rapid, catastrophic destruction. You can't have it both ways. One negates the other.

To put it another way, if all, or most, of the **sediments and fossils** were produced quickly in one massive worldwide pre-Adamic flood, then the main "evidence" of the earth being extremely old (that is, the assumed slow formation of the **sediments and fossils**) no longer exists.

The effects of such a catastrophic event that would leave the earth totally "waste and void" (gap theory terms) would eliminate any of the evidence used to prove the geologic ages in the first place.

If, as some gap theorists claim, the judgment was responsible for the formation of the fossil record, then the geologic column must have been formed rapidly contrary to the opinions of the evolutionary geologists. Thus there were no vast geologic ages in the first place.

The whole concept of the geological ages is based on the evolutionary assumption that things have continued the same in the past as in the present. Therefore there is no room in the geological ages system for the cataclysm interrupting the processes that gap theorists need. This is why no geologist would accept the gap theory.

10. THE GAP THEORY CONTRADICTS THE CREATION OF ATMOSPHERE ON THE 2ND DAY OF CREATION WEEK

The creation of atmosphere is absolutely necessary for the support of life.

Since the atmosphere of this planet was not created until the second day of Creation week (Gen.1:6-8), then prior to this creation week, we must accept a **life form** that can be sustained **without an atmosphere**. And that is impossible.

So you can forget about the notion that dinosaurs, other animals, or men existed prior to Creation week.

11. THE GAP THEORY CANCELS NOAH'S FLOOD EVIDENCE

The gap theory does away with the evidence for Noah's Flood.

If the fossil record was formed by a pre-Adam flood, then what did the global Flood of NOAH do? On this point the gap theorist is forced to conclude that Noah's Flood left virtually no trace. To be consistent, the gap theorist would have to defend Noah's Flood as merely a local event.

But I ask you, which makes more sense:

- (a) to claim that fossil remains were produced by a **totally speculative** pre-Adamic catastrophe, or
- (b) that fossil remains were produced by something that **God has already told** us about – a worldwide Flood in the days of Noah?

Notice now how Genesis ignores any pre-Adam flood and instead depicts Noah's Flood as a judgment upon the sins of **the whole earth** (Genesis 6).

- In Noah's Flood, "*all* the high hills, that were under the *whole* heaven, were covered" (Gen. 7:19)
- In Noah's Flood, the mountains were covered. (Gen. 7:20)
- In Noah's Flood, water flooded the earth for over a year (Gen.6:17 and 7:19-24).
- In Noah's Flood, only eight people, and air-breathing, land-dwelling animals with them on the ark, survived. (Gen.7:23).

Genesis records a catastrophe that destroyed all organisms that had the "breath of life in them" except for those preserved in Noah's ark. Jesus refers to Noah's Flood in Matthew 24:37-39, and the apostle Peter writes that, just as there was once a global judgment of mankind by water, so there will be another worldwide judgment by fire (2 Peter 3).

It is Noah's Flood that Peter uses to warn us of judgment to come on sinful humans. (2 Pet.3:2-14)

Sadly, in relegating the fossil record to some supposed pre-Adam flood, "gappists" have removed the evidence for God's judgment on Noah's violent pre-flood world. In keeping with Peter's use of Noah's Flood as a warning to us, the fossils buried by this Flood should be a visible warning to us all.



If a pre-Adam flood did this, then what did Noah's Flood do?

The historical event of Noah's Flood, recorded in Genesis, provides a more reasonable explanation for the presence of fossils – the huge numbers of dead flora and fauna buried in rock layers laid down by water all over the earth.

12. THE GAP THEORY IGNORES THE EVIDENCE FOR A YOUNG EARTH

The true gap theorist also ignores scientific evidence consistent with an age for the earth of less than 10,000 years.

There is much evidence for this - the decay of the earth's magnetic field; the quantity of helium in the earth's atmosphere; the amount of salt in the oceans; and much more. (See my book *The Great Dating Blunder*, chapters 4 to 6 <http://www.beforeus.com/shop_cart_ebooks.html>)

13. THE GAP THEORY UNDERMINES THE FOUNDATIONS OF THE GOSPEL

By accepting an ancient age for the earth (from a flawed interpretation of the earth's fossil-bearing strata), gap theorists leave the evolutionary system intact (which they say they oppose).

Even worse, they must also theorize that the following texts refer only to spiritual death:

- * *“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin, and so **death passed upon all men**, for that all have sinned.” (Rom.5:12)*
- * *“But the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, **lest ye die.**” (Gen.3:3)*

But this contradicts other Scriptures which tell us that Adam's sin led to **physical** death as well as spiritual death.

- * *“For **as in Adam all die**, so in Christ shall all be made alive.” (1 Cor.15:22)*

Here the death of the last Adam (the Lord Jesus Christ) is compared with the death of the first Adam. Jesus suffered physical death for man's sin, because Adam, the first man, died physically because of sin.

- * *“And the Lord God said, Behold the man is become one of us, to know good and evil: and now, **lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever:** Therefore the Lord God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken.” (Gen.3:22,23)*

This tells us that if Adam and Eve could have partaken of the fruit of the tree of life, they would have lived forever. However, God decreed that they should die physically because of their sin.

In placing on man the curse of physical death, God provided a way to redeem man through the person of His Son Jesus Christ, who suffered the curse of death on the cross for us. "He tasted death for every man" (Heb. 2:9). By becoming the perfect sacrifice for our sin and rebellion, He conquered death. He took the penalty that should rightly have been ours at the hands of a righteous judge, and bore it in His own body on the

cross. All who accept Jesus Christ into their lives as Lord and Saviour are received back to God to eventually spend eternity with Him.

That is the message of Christianity.

To believe there was death before Adam's sin destroys the basis of the Christian message, because the Bible states that man's rebellious actions led to death and the corruption of the universe (Rom.8:19-22). Thus, the gap theory undermines the foundations of the gospel.

These are valid reasons to reject it.

Untenable attempt to compromise with the evolution theory

The gap (or "ruin-reconstruction") theory is based on a very tenuous interpretation of Scripture.

Many sincere Christians have **invented reinterpretations of Scripture to avoid conflicts** with what they have been told are "scientific" ideas. The gap theory was one such reinterpretation designed to fit in with so-called "scientific" concepts that arose in the early 1800s and are still popular today.

However, in reality, the gap theory was an effective "anaesthetic" that put the church to sleep for over one hundred years. When the children who learned this compromise position went on to higher education, they were shocked to discover that this gap theory explained nothing. They thus accepted the only remaining "respectable" theory - evolution (which went hand in hand with millions of years). The results were usually disastrous for their faith.

Today, other compromise positions like "progressive creation" (year-day theory) or "theistic evolution" have, by and large, replaced the gap theory. The "gappists," by attempting to maintain a literal Genesis but adhering to the long ages (millions of years), opened the door for greater compromise in the next generation - the reinterpretation of the days, the notion that God used evolution, and so on.

We have discovered both the gap theory and the day-age theory to be textually disproven.

Each was an attempt to accommodate the evolution theory into the Bible account. However, they just won't fit.

The vanishing proofs of evolution

However, when you think about it, such compromises are not even necessary. At the time these compromise theories were developed, it seemed that the scientific evidence favoured evolution. With the advance of knowledge, particularly in paleontology and genetics, the whole ball game has swung the other way. (See our book, *Discovery That's Toppling Evolution*.)

Poor evolutionists. They keep coming up with proofs to put in school textbooks, and then their "proofs" keep vanishing. The evidence just keeps coming in to show that they are not really "proofs" at all.

At the same time, all of these gap theory, "progressive creation", or "theistic evolution" compromises by theologians are totally bankrupt.

Such positions may be acceptable in some churches, but the learned in the secular world will, with some justification, mock those who hold them - they see the inconsistencies. Evolutionists have little respect for promoters of the gap theory.

These compromise theories are unscientific, unscriptural, and absolutely unnecessary.

Worse, these half-baked speculations will actually turn away many non Christians because the compromises make it look like you can't trust the Bible (and you can!).

Creation account only a poetic allegory?

Another novel idea is that the creation account is not to be understood literally, at all. It is merely an allegory. We shall not spend more than a few moments on this. It suffices to state that:

- * Compared to the hymns in the Bible, the creation account is not a hymn.
- * Compared to the parables in the Bible, the creation account is not a parable.
- * Compared to the poetry in the Bible, the creation account is not a poem.
- * Compared to cultic liturgy, the creation account is not a cultic liturgy.
- * Compared to various kinds of literary forms, the creation account is not a metaphor, a story, a parable, poetry, or the like.

It is written in the style of literal history. Full stop.

What about the age of the universe?

The Bible does not tell us the age of the whole vast universe. But a here is a logical question that arises:

Is God eternal? Yes He is.

Then what was God doing for all eternity? He was creating other worlds. The Bible itself informs us that there are other worlds. (Hebrews 1:2; 11:3)

The Bible says there was rejoicing among other beings in the universe as this world was being created. (Job 38:4,7)

When our world became the “lost sheep” of the universe, Jesus left the other sheep to come seeking after this lost sheep.

To the rest of the universe, God’s plan to rescue men and men from sin and restore this planet back into His domain is a “spectacle” of wonder. (1 Corinthians 4:9) It is even a matter of discussion in the heavenly councils. (Job chapters 1 and 2).

Chapter 10

WHO WERE THE “SONS OF GOD”?

“...the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair, and they took them wives of all which they chose...There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown. And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.”
(Gen.6:2,4-5)

IT IS CLAIMED: The “sons of God” who intermarried with “daughters of men” in Genesis 6:1,2 were extraterrestrials.

Primitive Bible authors used the term “sons of God” only because they did not understand the technology.

The word “giants” is from the Hebrew word “*Nefilim*” (which means “*those who had come down from Heaven to Earth*”). These extraterrestrials mated with humans.

IN REALITY: There are two ways to approach this. Either the reader can ask, What did the author mean by a particular word or phrase? Or the reader can inject his own theory upon a passage to make it “say” what the reader wants. Most of the conflicting opinions on TV and on the Internet forget this one basic principle – that we should allow a document to explain itself. To deny it this courtesy is bad scholarship.

Fortunately, the Bible does explain itself, which makes understanding a passage so much easier. A prominent Bible writer, Isaiah, outlines this principle. He opens it with a question:

Whom shall he teach knowledge? And whom shall he make to understand teaching? [Answer:] them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts [those who, in eagerness to be taught, are as little children]. For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little. (Isaiah 28:9,10)

A lovable quality of little children is their insatiable desire to learn, rather than teach. That is the key. A wise reader, instead of imposing his preconceived ideas onto a passage, will search “here a little, and there a little”. Staying with his chosen subject, he will compare all of the relevant Bible texts until he grasps the “big picture” on that subject. And how that can spare him from later embarrassment!

Because the Bible instruction on all subjects is so wonderfully unified, you can use this formula for any subject at all. It works beautifully. It is foolproof. Even a passage that on first reading appears contradictory makes sense once the big picture is taken in.

Now, regarding the claimant’s translation of “*nefilim*” as “*those who had come down from Heaven to Earth*”. I am sorry to be a spoilsport, but this is not even implied by the biblical Hebrew. *Nephilim* is the plural of *nef-eel*’. And what does that word mean?... “properly, a *feller*, that is, a **bully** or **tyrant**: - giant.” (*Strong’s Concordance*)

Although the term “*giant*” may be used in a subsidiary sense, please get this, because it is important: The **primary meaning** of the word “*nef-eel*” is “*bully*” or “**tyrant**”. Please read that again.

This very same passage goes on to state that the children born of these marriages “*became mighty men which were of old, men of renown.*” What kind of renown? The literal Hebrew reads “*were the mighty, who from old, men of devastation.*” (Genesis 6:4)

“**Mighty**” and “**renowned**” for what? For their “*wickedness*”, and their thoughts were “*only evil continually.*” (vv.5,11)

Comparing this passage with another, we discover that Genesis speaks similarly concerning a post-Flood dictator named Nimrod. “*And Cush*

*begat Nimrod: he began to be a **mighty** one in the earth.”* (Gen.10:8)
 History shows Nimrod to have been a tyrant, who hunted down men.
 Genesis describes him as a “*mighty hunter*”. He was **mighty to do evil**.
 (Gen.10:9)

Neither here nor in our *Nefilim* account is there any hint of extraterrestrial activity. It was all human. (See below.)

Just a word on the translation of *Nefilim* as “*giants*”. This is likewise a correct rendering of the Hebrew. In the pre-Flood environment, all living things - human, animal, bird, insect, marine, plants and trees - were generally much larger in size than their counterparts today. In fact, a fresh look at the fossils led Weidenreich, of Manhattan’s American Museum of Natural History, to the belief that “gigantism and massive may have been a general or at least a widespread character of early mankind.” (*Time*, July 3, 1944)

Gigantism was natural. It did not require extraterrestrial input.

The Bible explains itself

The Bible provides its own explanation as to ***the identity of*** the persons called “***sons of God***”. But before we go into that, we should note that:

Firstly, the Bible states that humans were NOT the product of genetic juggling, but were a special creation of the Supreme God of the universe.

Secondly, the same source book for the “*sons of God*” expression – i.e. the Bible (Genesis 6:2) - refutes the “primitive” idea. It declares that mankind was created fully intelligent from the start (Genesis 2:19-20). Adam’s descendants were craftsmen and musicians (Genesis 4:21,22). And civilization, with schools of metallurgy, was already flourishing several hundred years ***before*** the chapter 6 intermarriage of the “*sons of God*” and the “*daughters of men*”.

The “primitive Genesis authors” notion is impossible if we grant that these earlier descriptions in this same book of Genesis are also true.

Thirdly, the origin of human beings cannot be explained simply by the cross-species breeding of humanoid space aliens and primitive ape-like creatures. Such claims might sound scholarly, but they show a distinct

lack of a basic knowledge of genetics. (See the “Genetic barrier” section, below.)

Fourthly, neither the context nor the syntax support an angels or extraterrestrials interpretation of Genesis 6. (See below.)

Fifthly, in the Bible, the term “*son/s of God*” is used in two ways: physically and spiritually. We shall address each of these usages, in turn.

“Sons of God” - physical meaning

In Luke chapter 3, is recorded the legal genealogy of Jesus, “*being (as was supposed), the son of Joseph, which was the son of Heli, which was the son of Matthat, which was the son of Levi...*” and so on. (Luke 3: 23-38) Each man is called the “son of” his earthly father, and so on, back to Seth who is termed “*the son of Adam*”. Then in verse 38 Adam is called “*the son of God*”. That is because Adam had no earthly father. His only father was God, who created him and gave him dominion over this planet Earth.

The Bible says God created other worlds (Hebrews 1:2; 11:3). And astronomers have recently discovered it to be true that indeed there are other planets orbiting their own stars, or suns. The first men (or “Adams”) of those worlds, with no other father but their Creator, would likewise be “*sons of God*”.

When we ask the question, “Why did God create this world?” the Bible answers, “*He created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited*” (Isaiah 45:18).

If God created this earth “not in vain” but “to be inhabited”, does it make sense to you that God would create countless other worlds just to be DEAD worlds?

With this in mind, we note that the book of Job records a series of celestial council meetings in which the “sons of God” assembled (Job 1:6; 2:1) – and who turned up, but Satan, from planet Earth. Why was this?

The answer is that in the beginning, Adam, the first man, had been given dominion over planet Earth (Genesis 1:28), but when Satan overcame our

first parents, the human race then fell under bondage to him. (*"Of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage."* 2 Peter 2:19) This enabled Satan to hijack Adam's dominion.

This is why Satan, instead of Adam, could represent Planet Earth in these meetings. (Job 1:6,7; John 12:31; 2 Corinthians 4:4) And we are informed that Satan remained "prince of this world" until the Messiah entered this planet and overcame him. Since then, it is the Messiah who represents mankind before God. (However, Satan, as de facto ruler, controls world leaders, until his kingdom is abruptly ended at the coming judgment.)

To put it simply, one sees these meetings as a sort of "united nations assembly" of the whole universe, in which the "sons of God" in attendance were representatives of other worlds.

Again, we are informed that when our planet was created and added to the universe of God, that "...*the morning stars sang together, AND all the sons of God shouted for joy.*" (Job 38:7) Here we see two groups of beings – the "morning stars" and the "sons of God".

We may ask, whom does the Bible identify as the "*stars*"? And the answer is: the *angels* (Revelation 12:4,9). In fact, the name of the fallen angel Lucifer means "*day star*". (See Isaiah 14:12, margin).

So the Scripture informs us that there were "*stars*" (angels) **AND** there were *also* "*sons of God*". (ch.38:7) So if the angels are the "*stars*", then who are these others, "*the sons of God*"? Who is this other group?

According to the Bible, *angels are NOT* called "*sons of God*" (see Hebrews 1:5). Therefore the "*sons of God*" who married "the daughters of men" in Genesis 6:2,4 were NOT angelic beings. As further confirmation, Jesus states that angels *do NOT marry* (Mark 12:25).

Genetic barrier

Something else to consider. Successful interbreeding between angels and humans to procreate fertile offspring would have been – we must face it – a virtual impossibility.

Firstly, the fact that angels were not created to marry and produce offspring strongly suggests that they were *NOT created with the organs*

of propagation. Thus, angels do not produce fertile offspring. And secondly, chromosomes and genes must BOTH match up, which is extremely unlikely – and does not occur even between animals and humans of the same planet!

Thus, an unbridgeable barrier exists between sexless spirit beings such as angels and human beings. It is ***genetically impossible for angels and humans to produce fertile offspring*** (or cats and rabbits, for that matter). It could not even occur by artificial insemination.

Simply put, each separate type has a distinct set of chromosomes which holds its genetic makeup. For example, cats have 19 pairs, rabbits have 22 pairs. Each parent donates a chromosome to make each pair. With most species, after fertilization, when the cell starts to divide, there would be an uneven number of chromosomes that needed to 'pair up.' The cell would die.

There are some rare exceptions. Domesticated horses have 32 pairs, and donkeys 31 pairs. Their offspring (mules) have 31.5. Mules are infertile. They cannot produce offspring. Like zedonks and tigons, it appears their chromosomes match up just enough to allow for interbreeding between similar species. And then full stop.

However, the location of a gene is not in the same place on the same chromosome between species. Chromosome A on a rabbit might hold the genetic codes for ear size, hair colour and bone configuration, but chromosome A on a cat might hold the genetic codes for vision, tail length and brain size. They could never match up.

There is, however, good reason to believe that genetic manipulation was going on in the pre-Flood world, just as occurs today. Genesis refers to the fact that “*all flesh*” was “*corrupted*” (Genesis 6:12). What God had created, both man and beast, was now corrupted by man. But to achieve this no extraterrestrial input was necessary. Neither does Genesis lend any support to such a theory.

“Sons of God” as a spiritual term

The Scripture says that the Messiah came to reconcile wayward man back to God. Further it assures us that:

1. God calls His people “**my son**” (Exodus 4:22.23).
2. Those who enter into a relationship with Him through the Messiah as their Rescuer receive “*power to become sons of God*” (John 1:12).
3. Thus, reconciled back to God through the Messiah, we are adopted as “**sons of God**” (Galatians 4:4-7).
4. Again, “*Now are we the sons of God*” (1 John 3:1,2).

When the Bible speaks about the sons of God, it means the spiritual followers of God: “*For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God*” (Romans 8:14).

From all this, it appears evident that the expression “*sons of God*” in the Bible applies not to angels, but always to humans (or their counterparts on other worlds) who look to God as their Father and live faithfully for Him.

The context in Genesis identifies the “sons of God”

Now, let’s examine Genesis chapter 6 in its context. This will help us to a correct identification of the “sons of God” found in Genesis.

After Cain murdered his brother Abel, then Seth was born, two distinct lines of humans developed – the line of Seth who worshipped God (the “sons of God”) and the line of Cain who served Satan.

Genesis chapter 4 gives us these two genealogies:

1. The line of Cain. This genealogy indicates several things about Cain’s descendants: city dwelling, technology and more murder. (Gen.4:16-24)
2. Then it switches to a second line of descendants – “*And Adam knew his wife again; and she bare a son, and called his name Seth: For God, said she, hath appointed me another seed instead of Abel, whom Cain slew. And to Seth, to him also was born a son; and he called his name Enos: **then began men to call upon the name of the Lord.***” (Gen. 4:25-26) This was a godly line of men.

This expression, that after Enos had a son “ *then began men to call upon the name of Lord*” – what does this mean? Does it mean that they *began* to “pray to God” then, or does it mean something else?

It cannot mean that the faithful began praying to God only after Enos was born. They would surely have been calling upon God from the start – and not wait till the third generation (Adam – Seth – Enos) to begin praying. So what is it really saying?

You will find that the Hebrew preposition rendered here as “*upon*” is very often rendered into English as “*by*”. The Hebrew of this verse more correctly reads, “*Then began men to call [themselves] by the name of the Lord.*”

The truth is that by this third generation, the line of Cain had become so entrenched in practising evil, that those in the faithful line of Seth began distinguishing themselves as separate, by stating, “*We are sons of the Lord.*” In loyalty to God, they classed themselves as the children of God, in contrast to the ungodly group, who walked without God in *the rebellious way of men*.

Thus, while Cain’s descendants were *sons and daughters of “men”*, Seth’s descendants were “*sons and daughters of God*”.

This meaning is significant - not only because it is a legitimate rendering of the Hebrew, but because of what follows it.

In the original books there no chapter divisions. So, following straight after Genesis 4:26 (“*Then began men to call [themselves] by the name of the Lord*”), the very next verses recall that “*God created man, in the likeness of God made he him: male and female created he them: and blessed them, and called their name Adam.*”(Genesis 5:1,2)

Then immediately follows this: “*Adam [likewise]... begat a son in his own likeness, after his image, and called his name Seth.*” (v.3)

So here is the lineage which is *separate from the line of Cain*:

- Firstly, God
- Then, Adam in God’s likeness
- Then, Seth in Adam’s likeness
- Then follows the genealogy of Seth to Noah.

This lineage of the faithful right from Adam to Noah (vv.4-32) is catalogued *immediately after* the description of the other line, the line of Cain.

Do you see how the faithful are NOT merely the children of Adam: they are termed the *children of God*. Made in HIS likeness, and HIS image.

These men, followers of the God of their fathers, called themselves by the name of God; they called themselves the sons of God.

Not only that, but each new son born in the family line, was so named that the meaning of each name progressively grew into a sentence. Here are ten generations with the meaning of each person's name:

Adam – “*Man*”
 Seth – “*Appointed*”
 Enos – “*Wretched*”
 Cainan – “*Mourner*”
 Mahalaleel – “*The Blessed God*”
 Jared – “*Shall come down*”
 Enoch – “*Consecrated*”
 Methuselah – “*By his death to bring*”
 Lamech – “*The oppressed*”
 Noah – “*Comfort*”

And if you examine this genealogy closely, you will notice that this sentence builds into a prophecy of the coming Messiah:

"Man is Appointed a Wretched Mourner, (but) the Blessed God Shall Come Down, Consecrated By His Death To Bring (to)The Oppressed Comfort."

That sentence is a precise prophecy of the life, death and purpose of the coming Messiah. The divine plan for mankind's salvation was spelled out over the course of 1,656 years of this genealogy, the last word being added over 2,000 years BEFORE the Messiah was born, in the very names of those who had begun to *call themselves by HIS name*.

This was in striking contrast to the materialistic and violent line of Cain's descendants.

Then immediately after listing this genealogy of the “sons of God” line, with no break in the narrative (remember, chapters did not exist) there follows this statement:

*“And it came to pass, when men began to multiply... That the **sons of God** saw the **daughters of men** that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose.”* (Gen.6:1,2)

You notice, it says, “*when **men** began to multiply.*” It is speaking about “men”, not extraterrestrials. Every little phrase in the context is telling us that the actors in this drama were humans, nothing more.

Any person who tries to tell you these were extraterrestrials is injecting his own wish into the record. And, as you are aware by now, that is poor scholarship.

What happened was simply this: As time went on, the Sethite men, attracted and seduced by the ways of the Cainite women, intermarried with them. And the human race became so corrupted and violent that it appeared there would soon be no one left to serve God. It was becoming evident that soon there would no longer exist a faithful lineage through whom the promised Deliverer would be born into the human race. At this critical time God Himself stepped in and brought the Great Flood.

So here again is the natural sequence of events in Genesis:

- Gen.4:16-24 – The genealogical line of godless Cain, followed by
- Gen.4:25 to 5:32 – The line of faithful Seth, followed by
- Gen.6:1,2 – Eventual intermarriage between them.

As we have already noted, the overall context is always important, because it helps us understand what a difficult sentence is really saying:

Scene 1. *There were giants [**nefilim** = **tyrants, bullies**] in the earth in those days;*

Scene 2. *and also **after that**, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare **children to them**, the same **became mighty men** [mighty to do wickedness] which were of old, men of renown.* (Genesis 6:4)

Did you notice that first of all the **nefilim** (the tyrants, the bullies, the giants in evil were doing their thing in the earth. And this was BEFORE

the two groups described in the preceding two chapters started to fraternise and intermarry. There is no hint of extraterrestrials. The record simply tells us that “*There were **nefilim** [tyrants, giants in evil] in the earth in those days.*” These are the violent men in the line of Cain.

Then “*after that*”, when the “sons of God” (of the faithful Seth line) began to intermarry with the daughters of these tyrants, their children also went the same way of Cain, becoming mighty and renowned for *even worse evil*. Notice the vital connection between verses 4 and 5:

*... the same became **mighty** men which were of old, men of **renown**. And God saw that the **wickedness** of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was **only evil continually**.*
(Genesis 6:4,5)

Although *nefilim* can be translated correctly as *giants*, and although it is true that all life forms before the Flood (flora and fauna, including mankind) were much larger than now, that is not the focus of this passage.

The primary issue under discussion is a moral one. The subject is the gross wickedness of mankind [the primary meaning of *nefilim* being *tyrant* or *bully*], and the threat of man’s extinction unless the Creator intervenes. To repeat, the issue under discussion is a moral one.

And that is specifically stated to be the reason for the Great Flood (verse 13).

The bottom line on *nephilim*

The word *nefilim* is today bandied about almost with awe as though it were some sort of title for a particular race of beings (and behold, they’re even extraterrestrials!).

However, the burden of proof is on the claimant to prove it. Where is his evidence that the *nefilim* were extraterrestrials? There is ***no evidence that they were not human.***

The truth is, *nephilim* is nothing more than an ordinary noun in a sentence, which means *tyrants*, *bullies*, or *big people*. That’s all. But the author’s focus is not on their size but on their behaviour. The context in

Genesis makes it clear that these men were *giants, or champions, of violence*.

In all honesty, we cannot twist this into proving a pre-Flood mating of extraterrestrials with mankind. Such a notion can only be forced into the passage from the head of the reader. It is not in the text itself. Not anywhere. Sorry, but attractive as it might be to some, this extraterrestrial *Nefilim* theory cannot appeal to Genesis for support.

An honest treatment of this word requires that these *nephilim* were just what the word means: primarily “a *feller*, that is, a *bully* or *tyrant*.”

The Book of Enoch

The Book of Enoch is sometimes cited in support of the idea that “sons of God” intermarrying with “daughters of men” really means “fallen angels interbreeding with humans”.

The Book of Enoch circulating today is believed to have been written around 200 BC to 100 AD. It is a non-biblical book. No early book written by the prophet Enoch (3379 to 3014 BC) is known to have survived. However, Enoch’s name has been appended to this later book.

One should be extremely careful about accepting this book as an authority, since it contains some gross absurdities.

For example, it states that ancient giants were “300 cubits” (**525 feet**) *tall*. While one admits that gigantism was once a common or widespread feature of mankind (see Jonathan Gray, *The Lost World of Giants*. <<http://www.beforeus.com/giants.php>>), can you force yourself to believe that **men were the height of a 52 story building**? On this account alone, the Book of Enoch must be rejected.

A different translation of the Book of Enoch says those giants were even taller – “3,000 ells” (7:1-6) (R.H. Charles, *The Apocrypha and Pseudeipgrapha of the Old Testament*, vol. II. Oxford Press, 1997 ed.)

At one ell to 45 inches or 114 centimetres (Random House *Webster’s College Dictionary*), 3,000 ells would be 133,000 inches or 11,250 feet – that is, **over 2 miles high!**

Numerous other problems exist concerning this book:

- Parts of it contradict other parts
- It contains scientific errors
- It also contradicts the Bible

The apostle Jude did quote a statement by the prophet Enoch. There is no guarantee that the book we have today which is named after Enoch is in fact the same document. Enoch lived about 3000 BC. The book we possess today that carries his name has uncertain origins. And the points discussed above cast doubt on its authenticity. Over the years, many a pious fraud has gained acceptance by a credulous public simply because its author appended to it the name of some prominent biblical figure.

Chapter 11

JUST A LOCAL FLOOD?

My neighbour Brad breezed in with a question. “That flood of Noah,” he began, “do you really think it covered the whole planet. Might it have been just a local flood?”

“Maybe,” I responded. “Come to think of it, Brad, you might be able to explain something to me.”

“Sure.”

We both sat down. And I asked Brad, “If it was a local flood...” Well, why don’t I share with you some questions that came up? They included these:

1. Why would Noah spend more than a century building a vessel just to escape a local flood? Why couldn’t he just move?
2. If it were only a local flood, then why would Noah spend a century of planning and toiling, in constructing a huge ship to accommodate two of every known species to escape it? Could not those animals have been led out of the doomed valley to the nearest hills as easily as they were led to the Ark?
3. Even if all the animals in the valley were destroyed, were there not enough outside the valley to perpetuate their species?
4. Why were birds taken into the Ark? Are we to be so credulous as to believe that birds would not be able to fly away from the rising waters of a single valley?

5. Does it not border on the ridiculous that Noah should be divinely commanded to build a boat nearly half the length of the “Queen Mary” simple to float up and down that one flooded valley?
6. Could Noah have been so ignorant of the topography of southwestern Asia as to think that the Flood covered all the high mountains “under the whole heaven” when, as a matter of fact, it covered only a few foothills?

The double statement “*all* the high hills, that were under the *whole* heaven, were covered” (*Genesis 7:19*) is practically equivalent to a Hebrew superlative. It leaves no doubt that the writer is saying that the Flood covered the earth’s entire surface.

7. The Bible says that water covered the planet for *150 days*, and took *a further 7 months* to subside sufficiently for dry land to appear. (*Genesis 7:24; 8:13; - compare 7:11*) Even if the mountains were only hundreds of feet high, a twelve month flood could not pile up and remain in one local spot. Wouldn’t gravity cause the water to find its own level and cover the whole earth?
8. If the Ark finally landed thousands of feet up in the mountains of Ararat, as the story says, how could that happen in a mere local flood?
9. The stated purpose of the Flood was to wipe out a degenerate race. The entire human race outside the Ark was to be destroyed. (*Genesis 6:5-7, 11-13*) Their sin was not regional, but universal. The race was so utterly corrupt morally, and of all mankind only a handful were to be spared because they did not go along with the great sin drift. The Bible record is emphatic that Noah and his family were the only ones to escape. (*Genesis 6:17,18; 7:23; 9:19; 1 Peter 3:20; 2 Peter 2:5; Luke 17:27*) “All flesh... under heaven... every living substance that I have made will I destroy from off the face of the earth.” Destroying only a local portion of the race by a local flood – how would that have served the stated purpose?
10. According the record, God told Noah, “I will destroy them *with the earth*.” (*Genesis 6:13*) Another passage says that “*the world* that then was, being overflowed with water, perished.” (*2 Peter 3:6*) If not only all men, but *the earth also* were to be destroyed, wouldn’t the Flood obviously have to cover the earth?

11. According to Genesis, God promised there would be “no more such a flood again.”(*Genesis 9:11,15*) So if Noah’s was only a local flood, then how do we explain all the other “local” floods that have occurred since? Millions have perished in vast and destructive *local* floods in many parts of the earth.

For example, the aftermath of the 1883 Krakatoa explosion caused flood waters which destroyed 300 towns and villages with 36,380 people. Those flood waters rose 120 feet high.

The 1876 Gulf of Bengal hurricane aftermath would have to be called a deluge. A flood wave 35 feet high swept across 141 square miles of land, drowning 215,000 people.

After the mighty Thera disaster about 1470 BC, which swept across Mediterranean countries, Moses would have had to record that God had broken His word.

...UNLESS THERE WAS **ONLY ONE GREAT FLOOD**. AND THERE HAS BEEN NOTHING LIKE IT SINCE.

Throughout history **there have been local floods aplenty**. The whole Genesis account becomes ABSURD if Noah’s Flood was not worldwide.

Maybe they thought they were the sole survivors?

Brad had a suggestion to offer: “Maybe they **thought** it had been a total world wipe-out. Perhaps they **thought** they were the sole survivors.”

Perhaps. But, think now, how likely is that... really? Floods happened so frequently in Mesopotamia that one has the clear impression of a society that had come to terms with them, rather than regarding them as something so special that they gave the survivors the impression that they were the only beings left on earth. No, this Flood of Noah had to be SOMETHING DIFFERENT.

Legends of a Flood that had swept over the WHOLE world, covering hills and even mountains – these legends are distributed worldwide. Ancient peoples must have been as vulnerable to tropical storms, snowstorms, tornadoes and other seasonable disturbances as are we.

Surely they would not have been impressed by the mere overflow of a river to such a degree as to carry their experience to all parts of the world as the story of a cosmic upheaval.

Not enough water for a global Flood?

“I see your point,” said Brad. “But is there really enough water on earth to make a worldwide Flood? If all the clouds over the earth emptied themselves simultaneously, the earth would not be covered by even one foot of water.”

Yes, Brad was right. And even if all the ice stored on top of Greenland and Antarctica was released, the sea would rise by only about 150 feet.

Sure, that would drown thousands of towns and cities. But not the mountains. You still don’t have enough water.

We need to look elsewhere. And it is in our oceans. Did you know that about 71 percent of our globe is covered by water and 29 percent is dry land? In fact, the area of the Pacific Ocean alone is nearly 10 million square miles greater than ALL the continents and islands added together.

The average depth of the ocean is 13,000 feet – and the average height of the land is only 2,300 feet. So the ocean is, on average, $5\frac{1}{2}$ times deeper than the land is high. That means there is about 18 times more water below sea level than there is dry land above it. If all the land now above the sea were dumped into the ocean depths, it would fill only one eighteenth of the oceans.



Sea water volume is 18 times land volume

Again, if all the land were smoothed out (no mountains, no ocean basins), the water would completely cover it to a depth of $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles – 7,800 feet of water over the entire surface of the earth.

Now, it's an established fact that most of the earth's mountains are of recent formation – in historical times, that is. (See my book, *The Corpse Came Back*, chapter 19) There is good reason to believe that the pre-Flood mountains were not as high as today.

It is also agreed that sea beds can rise and continents sink. This being so there is no difficulty whatever in finding enough water, even for a universal flood. (See an article by Lt. Col. Davies, in *Journal of Transactions of the Victoria Institute*. London, 1930, p.95)

Sources of the Flood waters

Actually, the water which produced the Flood originated from THREE SOURCES.

1. UNDERGROUND BASINS

Huge amounts of water were locked under the earth's crust. These "*fountains of the great deep*" were "*broken up*" as the Deluge began. (Genesis 7:11)

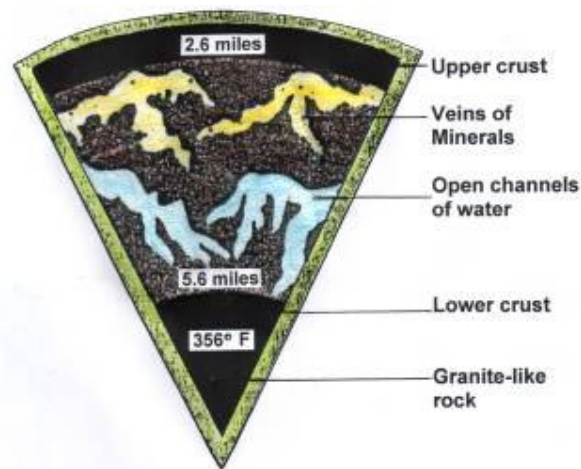
According to tests, "there is an additional, virtually inexhaustible supply of 'primary' water that is independent of rainfall. Like the geologists' juvenile water, it comes from the depths of the earth. Francis Hitching describes it thus:

Carried along underground channels, natural pressure forces it upwards towards the surface of the ground, often in places impossible to predict by geological methods.

Dowsers perceive this water as flowing through a vast network of vein-like faults in rock, occasionally rising even to the tops of hills in natural pipes, and then spreading out in a dome like the spokes of an umbrella.

In conventional geology books, there is nothing to support this. Nevertheless, inexplicable sources of water have occasionally been noted." (Francis Hitching, *World Atlas of Mysteries*. London: Pan Books, Ltd., 1978, p.95)

To their surprise, scientists drilling the world's deepest well near Kola in northern Russia found deep underground large open channels filled with hot, mineral-rich water. (*World Book of Science*. Year 1987, art. "The World's Deepest Well", pp.206-207)



2. THOUSANDS OF VOLCANOES

There is evidence that when the earth's crust was suddenly shattered, perhaps as many as 30,000 volcanoes erupted in unison, each giving off millions of gallons of water a day. Volcanoes expel water vapour as well as cinders.



3. WATER CANOPY

There is good reason to believe that an antediluvian water canopy enveloping the earth was precipitated at the time of the Deluge. It contained enough water to cascade as torrential rain over the whole earth for six weeks non-stop. (Gen.7:12) It was at this time that these waters entered our present oceans. (Jonathan Gray, *The Killing of Paradise Planet*, ch. 3; *Surprise Witness*, ch. 2)

This thermal water blanket exists no longer. The great masses of waters which destroyed the world are still lying in the depths of the expanded ocean.

Most of the planet still flooded

Come to think of it, the Flood waters never totally went away.

Before the Great Flood, the proportion of land area to water area was larger, perhaps very much larger, than now. At some time in the past, much of the present sea bottom was dry land. (See our book *The Killing of Paradise Planet*, chapter 1)

Late during the Flood, the crust of the earth was pushed up, raising land and pushing wider the ocean bed to receive the run-off water. This water covers large areas that were once land.

So it may be said that the waters of the Flood still lie over large portions of the earth.



Who doesn't love the sea, watching the waves race in, one after another, toward the shore, hearing them crash, seeing them splash over the rocks!

Now, whenever I am on a boat I gaze out over the restless blue... and ponder.

At least 30 percent of this huge mass of water was added as a result of the Great Deluge. Down there, under the boat, is land where people once walked and breathed. I am looking at the waters of Noah that never went away.

Can you imagine those men and women of Noah's day? Undoubtedly there were many who protested, "There's not enough water on earth to produce a worldwide Flood."

And they had more reason to say that than do we.

Some good people find the idea of a global Flood to be a problem, simply because it doesn't fit the evolutionary theory we've all been taught at school. We have been taught that the remains of fossils in the earth are evidence not of a Flood, but of slow evolutionary burial.

Fossils show something else

But the fossil *facts* do ***not*** show a progressive development of life forms from simple to complex, as the evolution theory leads us to expect. Not at all! Surprise of surprises.

Listen to Stephen Jay Gould, Professor of Geology and Paleontology, Harvard University:

The evolutionary trees that adorn our textbooks have data only at the tips and nodes of their branches; the rest is inference, however reasonable, ***not the evidence of fossils.***" ("Evolution's erratic pace", *Natural History*, Vol. LXXXVI – 5- May 1977, p.14)

The fossils buried in the planet's surface show SOMETHING ELSE. (See my books *Surprise Witness* and *The Discovery That's Toppling Evolution.*)

If a global Flood did occur...

1. *TRADITIONS*

If a global Flood did occur, there should be many cultural traditions of the flood story. There are.

2. *SEDIMENTS*

If a global Flood did occur, we should expect thick water-laid sediments to form most of the surface crust of the earth's land area. And they do.

You see, sedimentary rock is WATER-LAID ROCK – laid by silt deposition as moving waters slow down. And 75 percent of the earth's surface is covered by sedimentary rock. Which means that the major factor in the formation of the present surface of the earth has been *water movement ON A GLOBAL SCALE*.

3. *MOUNTAINS COVERED*

If a global Flood did occur, we should find evidence of marine fossils on mountain tops. We do. Evidently the mountains have been under water.

4. *RAPIDLY BURIED REMAINS*

If a global Flood did occur, there should be buried remains of all manner of life forms from both sea and land, of all climatic zones, found ***mixed up together*** – and evidences of violent, fast burial. There are.

5. *HUMAN RELICS BURIED AT ALL LEVELS*

If a global Flood occurred, we should find so-called “higher animal” skeletons (including man) at many different depths in the flood-produced rocks. We do. (See the astonishing evidence in *Surprise Witness*)

Could such phenomena have been caused by a series of local floods?

The following six phenomena raise interesting questions:

1. *PRESSURE AND FORCE*

Today, local floods are not known to be able to generate the type of tremendous pressure and force necessary to fossilise creatures in rock.

2. *GRAND CANYON*

The majestic Grand Canyon, with strata clearly laid down by water force, and packed with millions of fossils, is too gigantic for its cause to have been a local flood. There is compelling evidence that the Grand Canyon sandstone containing footprints was not deposited by wind, but by a catastrophic event involving water on a grand scale. (Andrew Snelling, B.Sc. (Hons), Ph.D. (Geology) and Steven Austin, B.S., M.S., Ph.D. (geology), in “Startling Evidence for Noah’s Flood.”, *Creation Ex Nihilo*, vol.15, no.1, Dec.1992-Feb.1993, pp.47-50)

3. *NO WORLD-WIDE INTERFACE*

Popular theory teaches that the land received its carcasses then sank under the sea for deposits of silt, etcetra, to bury them. After this, it arose to become land again. This cycle was repeated many times and each time a new layer formed. When an uplift raises the local sediments above water level, depositing stops. The soil build-up resumes and erosion begins. And this becomes a time gap – or an “inter-face” between two periods of sediment deposition.

BUT!!! There is *no* such worldwide inter-face, *except* at one spot - the very bottom of the strata pile.

Thus there is evidence of *no worldwide time gaps*.

Instead, the whole column (pile) of sediment layers (laid by water) is continuous from bottom to top.

NOW! Combine this with the fact that *every layer* in the column *was formed rapidly and catastrophically*.

THIS MEANS THAT *the entire **worldwide** column of layers with its fossils was formed RAPIDLY AND IN QUICK SUCCESSION, layer upon layer*.

I know this will upset somebody, but I have to say it. Our pet theories need to be overhauled!

Yes, it is true that there exist many local unconformities in local geological sites, but it is now known that there is no worldwide unconformity, except, as we noted, at the very bottom of the column.

The evidence that each layer was formed rapidly is derived from the fact that a single fossil may penetrate through several layers. Often such a fossil is well preserved. Which means the sediment layers formed around it *rapidly*, before decomposition could take place.

4. COAL BEDS

We all know how coal seams form. Trees grow in a swamp, die, fall over, and are buried by sediments, finally turning into coal, right? Wrong! Coal seams do not form that way.

There is no way that the vast coal beds on earth could have been laid down that way.

For example, in Australia there is a continuous coal seam from south of Wollongong, in New South Wales, to north of Brisbane in Queensland. This seam is 800 miles (1,250 kilometres) long, and up to 200 miles wide and very thick. Some swamp!

Trouble is, most of the trees in this coal seam are conifers, in other words, pine trees. When is the last time you saw a pine tree growing in a swamp? Pine trees do not grow in swamps.

Nor can a mere local flood explain it.

We're looking here at 1,250 kilometres of forest catastrophically buried by water! What kind of *local* catastrophe could explain sudden burial on

that sort of scale? (Bearing in mind that professional coal geologists today would acknowledge that coal *had* to form by rapid burial.)

5. ***PILLOW LAVA***

In the lava rocks of the earth's strata are "pillows" – clear evidence that the volcanic layers were formed under water.

6. ***HIGH WATER-LEVEL MARKS***

All over the world are marks of a former high water level in lakes and rivers – ancient high beaches and high river terraces. These testify to the time when a flooded planet was being marked by a receding flood level, as the waters drained back into the newly enlarged ocean basins.

There are indications of enormous, canyon-cutting flow-offs through the soft, flood-laid strata.

Every modern river is an "under-fit" stream, far too small to have produced its own canyon and valley sections or the extensive beds of alluvium through which it flows.

Practically all the earth's crust consists of sediments or sedimentary rocks obviously laid down under moving water (except for the few formed by ice or wind after the sedimentaries). This indicates that the whole surface of the earth has been under water fairly recently. In fact, 70 percent of the earth's surface is still under water. Even the mountain ranges are known to have been uplifted recently, geologically speaking.

The argument that 33 different Noah's Floods would be needed to produce our known coal beds, is answered in my book *Surprise Witness*".

Unparalleled violence

The Great Flood... We are speaking of an event that encompassed volcanic and tectonic activity on an unprecedented scale; as well as tidal waves, hurricanes, continents splitting apart and ocean basins enlarging.

Virtually every geological feature on earth was shaped by this interlinked complex of catastrophes.

It can be argued that the *facts* of geology (as distinct from certain interpretations of the facts) attest to a worldwide flood of water. Earth's scars speak of a catastrophe which is big enough to call our whole evolutionary theory into question.

The truth is, no single explanation except a global Flood can adequately explain all the geological phenomena.

EVERY SQUARE FOOT of the earth's surface must have been profoundly altered.

You and I today are witnesses that Planet Earth's original mild topography and pleasant climate has been replaced by vast oceans, rugged terrains and violent climates.

As Sylvia Baker puts it:

"How lightly we view the Flood! Yet the events of that year affect us still today. The whole climate of the earth was altered; the volcanic and earthquake activity that persists today began then. Man's life span was reduced to one tenth of its former span." (Sylvia Baker, M.Sc., *Bone of Contention*. Sunnybank, Queensland, Australia: Creation Science Foundation Ltd., 1986, p.32)

Wives – from where?

QUESTION: If there were three sons of Noah and they had wives and they went to different areas and they were the only survivors, where did the sons or daughters of Ham, Japheth and Shem find partners? There is a list of descendants but no mention of partners and where the partners came from. Are we to suppose incest with their parents?

ANSWER: As you are probably aware, our human race has suffered genetic deterioration over the past few thousand years. In fact, we are probably the sickest generation in history.

However, in the pre-Flood and early post-Flood centuries, before deterioration set in, the race was comparatively free of genetic

deformities. For this reason it was at that time safe to intermarry with close relatives and still have healthy offspring.

According to the chronologies, for five generations after the Flood, population multiplied within the same general locality. The immediate sons and daughters of Ham, Shem and Japheth would have married their cousins.

Large families were normal. Also longevity favoured rapid population increase.

Calculations taking into account all known factors suggest a population increase in just the first 8 generations to 2,500,000 people. (The bases of the calculations are given in my book *The Corpse Came Back*, pages 75-77.)

By the way, Brad was angry to discover that these astonishing facts are being suppressed by the mainstream educational cartel. But also excited to discover that the findings of modern physical science fit the Genesis Flood account like a glove.

Chapter 12

THE BEGINNING AND THE END

Genesis has special instructions for people living in the closing days of earth's history. (1 Cor.10:11)

1. **The first conflict** recorded was that between Cain and Abel – and it was over a matter of worship. This prefigures the final conflict – soon to take place – between those who worship God in the way that He has requested, indicated by the Scriptures, and those who worship in a manner determined by the traditions of men.
2. **The first confederacy** mentioned, that at Babel, which through its opposition to God finally resulted in confusion, is also a shadow of the end times. The book of Revelation predicts that in our day mighty organizations of earth symbolized as Babylon (confusion) will unite in rebellion against the rule of God. They will trample upon His law and bring upon themselves destruction. (Revelation chapters 17 and 18)
3. **As Abraham was called out** of Babylonia that he might learn the ways of the Lord, and **as Lot was led out** of Sodom before its destruction, so the Bible predicts a final message to the world, calling on all to separate themselves from those organizations symbolized by Babylon – lest through contamination with sin, they share the judgments of the rebels. (Rev.18:1-4)
4. **The Great Flood and the razing of Sodom** and its allied cities, occurring at times when violence filled the earth, and the imaginations of men's hearts were only evil continually, typify the final judgment of God and the end of man's rule on the earth.

The contrast

Just notice, if you will, the contrast between the first and last words of this wonderful Genesis book:

- *“In the beginning God created ...”* (Gen.1:1)
- *“So Joseph died,... and he was put in a coffin in Egypt.”*
(Gen.50:26)

- First of all God, the very embodiment of all life.
- Then, at the last, a coffin, symbol of death.

In such a way does our Maker, recording the entrance of sin, show its consequences.

He offers you and me LIFE. It is ours for the asking. But He alone can guarantee it to us, and only in the way acceptable to Him, through the Deliverer He has appointed.

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