

Critical Thinking About Creation, Evolution And the Age of the Earth

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Introduction

You Probably Have Brainwashers Disease

Think back to the worst teachers you had in school. They stand out in a negative way for one or more of the following reasons. First, they didn't know the subject so they couldn't communicate what they didn't know since it wasn't in their brain in the first place. Or, second, they knew the subject but they couldn't communicate effectively so what they taught fell onto the floor making a pile that just grew larger as the semester dragged on, every pearl of wisdom falling short of reaching your brain located only a few feet away. Just in case you might be wondering about that one teacher with the distracting habit of "jingling" coins in his pocket as he lectured - we will classify him in this group with poor communicators. Or, maybe, he knew the subject and even delivered it to your brain, but he gave the impression that he didn't care about your success, so you never opened the door to your brain when the mailman of knowledge came knocking. Perhaps this knowledge could have changed your life but you refused to let it in. For over 25 years hundreds of my students have told me they regret not having taken my classes earlier. For the first time since their formal education began they realize science is not boring – in fact it can be exciting and "had they known they would have majored in science or teaching." Any effective teacher has this amazing potential to change the direction of life of another human being!

The first and second problems of poor teaching we just mentioned can easily be remedied when a teacher decides to fill his mind with knowledge of the subject matter he teaches and decides to practice new and more effective communication skills. But a necessary prerequisite for any positive change is that they first of all **care** about becoming a better teacher or they won't decide to change. The effort we put forth in improving any area in our life is very much affected by how much we care about improving. If we don't care we usually don't put forth much effort, and change does not occur. It's part of human nature. I take special notice when any of my students demonstrate that they care about another student. For anyone to care about another person enough to put their own interests below the interest of another is a rare quality. These are the students whom I encourage to become teachers because they already possess the one essential ingredient that no university can effectively teach them and, yet, is the most essential ingredient in the recipe that all good teachers are made from – that they care about people. A good teacher knows the subject and is able to deliver the package of knowledge to the door of your brain in such a way that **you open the door for the mailman, eager to find out what he brought you.** The people in

your life whom you believe care about you have earned the privilege of entering your mind and affecting your life. The statement that **“no one cares how much you know until they know how much you care”** is old but true. Perhaps as old and as true as the Bible verse that hangs on the door to my office where I teach (Hebrews 10:6-7). My primary goal is to change your life by changing the way you think. I cannot affect your life if you won't let me in.

I care about what you believe because, like many of my students, you may have the same “disease” that they have. Like a computer virus, people get infected without their knowledge, and their thinking process becomes altered. I call it “brainwasher’s disease.” I have noticed that when people are asked to state what they believe, they cannot make a defense as to why their belief is any better than other beliefs. After thinking about this for over a decade, I am convinced that the reason why they cannot defend their position is because their position was produced by brainwashing, not critical thought. In other words, they didn't make up their own mind to believe this or that; they have borrowed beliefs from someone else who may have borrowed them from someone else!

Everyone can fall victim to this “disease” so my concern is for everyone, regardless of religious preference. Most of my students have had this disease all their lives, and it is very contagious. Have you been infected? Take this simple test to find out. How many years old do you think the earth is? Now that you have a number in mind, do you know the name of the method used to get that number? Do you know the assumptions involved with the method? Do you know why you accept those assumptions over the assumptions of the other 60 or more other methods of measuring the age of the earth? I have asked these questions of my students for over 10 years now and have found that just about everyone can't provide answers on the first day of class. Were you able to answer these questions? If not, welcome to the infirmary! What you will learn in this study will help put you on the road to recovery.

Brainwashing And Teaching Are Two Different Professions

Simply stated, brainwashing is learning only “what to think” (the conclusions or belief you think is true) and teaching is learning “how to think” (the process you used to arrive at that belief) so that the conclusions are the result of your own reasoning. A more general question to test to see if you have been brainwashed is to ask “can I make a defense for my position?” If the only defense for my position is something like “my pastor told me” or “it's in my textbook” or “that's what I saw on television,” then you have been brainwashed.

Please don't misunderstand me. **Brainwashing does not always involve false conclusions; it does always involve a lack of critical thinking** so you don't own the position. You have just borrowed it from someone or someplace. On the other hand, if you can defend your position by stating the method used, assumptions with the method and why you choose to believe

those assumptions, you own the position – the mark of an educated person. For 15 years I brainwashed visitors who came to Yosemite National Park, Griffith Park Observatory, and thousands of students at Santa Monica and Antelope Valley Colleges.

For example, I used to ask my geology students to tell me why the earth is 4.6 billion years old. In other words, I put them into a box where they had to defend a position that they could not reject by presenting this method of dating the earth as the only valid way to do so; no other method was presented for their consideration. Because of how I presented the material, I implied that no other method of dating the earth existed or mattered. How can anyone decide what to believe without choices?

In this study we will critically think through the case for creation and the case for evolution, as well as different dating methods so that when we are finished, you can make an informed decision that is your own. Notice that I do not expect you to reach the same conclusions as I have, unless you can make your own defense for the same conclusions. But everyone is not the same. One person will have a different bias than another, or a different ability to understand the same information, so we had best address those differences so they are less likely to sneak up on us. Biases have a devious way of working in the background of our thinking – like the part of our nervous system that is automatic. How often do think about digestion, or heart rate? As we will see, believers and unbelievers will approach the topic of creation with very different biases and abilities to understand.

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Does It Matter If You Are A Believer?

The answer is most definitely yes, but first of all lets define some terms. A believer is someone whom God the Father and God the Holy Spirit have a personal relationship with. And the **only** way anyone can have this relationship is by knowing the right person – Jesus - not doing the right things. When it comes to where you will spend eternity, it won't be what you know but **whom** you know that counts. Only through the blood of Christ – His sacrifice on the Cross – has the Father's wrath been satisfied. Consider these verses:

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me." ²

"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter.

***"Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.'"** ³*

Note that many will be fooled into thinking that doing the right things will get them into heaven. Jesus will set them straight, but unfortunately for them, it will be too late to change their destiny. Be careful to distinguish the difference between just having an intellectual knowledge of who Jesus is – it is a personal, life changing knowledge, a relationship with **Him** that they never had. The good works happen after the relationship with Him has begun.

*“For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, **it is the gift of God; not as a result of works**, so that no one may boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for **good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.**”⁴*

An unbeliever is someone who does not have this relationship with God. I was once an unbeliever but now I am a believer. Please allow me to illustrate this change with an analogy.

Let’s return to the idea of knowledge being delivered as a package to the door of your mind. When the postman arrives, you have the choice of opening the door and taking the package or not. Consider the previous verses in red. These are the words of Jesus. The package delivered to your door is the knowledge of what those verses say. And He considers this package so important that He delivers it Himself – He is the postman. He knows that you know that He is at the door. If you decide not to open the door, He patiently waits outside - Jesus will not break down the door and force you to accept the package. The package is a gift called the Gospel (which means Good News) and it is totally free – you don’t even pay for postage. Imagine someone coming to your door with the deed to your house marked “mortgage paid in full” and they gave it to you as a gift, not expecting to be paid back for paying-off your mortgage. Wouldn’t you be foolish to reject this gift?

Perhaps a better example would be the President of the United States coming to personally deliver your presidential pardon. He is so eager to commute your death sentence that he delivers the paperwork himself! When you die (that’s the terminal disease we all have) your soul will leave your body and spend eternity in hell or in heaven. If you open the door and accept the pardon, your soul will be with God in heaven for eternity – a much better place than Hell. Do you think that the gravity of the situation of receiving a presidential pardon would elicit a response of “thanks, I will think about it?” I don’t think so! Jesus wants you to acknowledge with heartfelt conviction that you are a sinner and cannot save yourself from the wrath of God the Father, who is not only loving but also just, and therefore must punish sin. He wants you to know that His Son Jesus paid that debt in your place when He was crucified. Once you understand this, the response to your pardon will be more like this: “Wow, I can be released from prison today and all of my crimes will be completely erased!” Be aware that God cannot be fooled because He knows the intentions of your heart. Out of gratitude you would thank Him and call Him Savior and Lord. A president of Princeton once said

“As a young man I accepted Christ and the gift of eternal life. All the rest of my life has been simply a P.S. to that day, saying, ‘Thank you, Lord, for what you gave to me then.’”

I was only about seven years old when my Sunday school teacher - Mrs. Candow - gave me a postcard size painting of Jesus showing Him knocking on the door to a house. It has hung in the various buildings that I have called “home” for the past 43 years. And for the first 34 years I failed to notice a curious thing about it; the door doesn’t have a handle for Jesus to use. He won’t come in without consent from the owner; it must be opened from the inside. I kept Jesus outside the door to my life for 34 years. He must be very, very patient to have been standing there for that long. And all during that time, those who walked by my house looking in from the outside saw Jesus there on my doorstep, but they misunderstood why He was there. They probably thought He was there because I was a Christian. After all, they saw me go to church each Sunday, not just on Christmas and Easter. And I was one of those “good little boys” who always got candy from the sweet older ladies in my neighborhood. But although I looked like a Christian on the outside I wasn’t one on the inside, where it counts. I didn’t have a relationship with Jesus at that time. At that time I was one of those who would insist that heaven was something that I deserved because I thought myself good enough. Thank you Jesus for your patience!

I don’t know who delivers your mail, but this I do know: the most important package that you will ever receive at any time in your life is the one being delivered to your door right now by Jesus. It contains a gift that is beyond measure in value and one that you can’t get from anyone else. It is an invitation to get to know the creator of this universe. Notice how this relationship begins:

*“Behold, I stand at the door and knock; **if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me.**”⁴⁵*

He won’t knock down the door or force you to take it; you must want it and demonstrate that you want it by opening the door. And I am certain of one more thing; if you accept the invitation with eagerness, your life will be forever changed for the better. You will live differently because you will care about people the way Jesus cares about people. This package of knowledge from God, brought to your door by Jesus will definitely change your life if you accept it with eagerness and expectation. A student asked me just last week why the following verse is on my office door:

“And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.”⁴⁶

I placed it there because it states a very important point about Christianity: when you hear Jesus knock and respond to this knock by **coming to him** at the door and **believing that he really does exist** and you invite Him in, God will

reward you because you are earnestly seeking him. But why should you open the door to someone who has a package that could change your life? After all, do you really want a changed life? Maybe your life is just fine. But consider this. Because God cares about you more than any person possibly can, and demonstrated His love by dying on the cross in your place, isn't it obvious that whatever changes are in the future for your life must be for the better, certainly not for the worse?

But what does becoming a believer have to do with biases and abilities to understand? Believers have one major advantage that unbelievers don't have in understanding the case for creation: they have the Holy Spirit inside of them interpreting and guiding their understanding of what the Bible says. No other group of human beings can comprehend the Holy Scriptures in the way God intended. And since the information about creation, the Flood and the age of the earth are found in the Bible, no other group is better able to understand God's perspective on these subjects. Notice how the Bible describes the different abilities of believers and unbelievers (the natural man) with respect to understanding God's Word:

*“Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but **the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God, which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words. But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised. But he who is spiritual appraises all things, yet he himself is appraised by no one.**”⁷*

The word “understand” is translated from the Greek word ginosko (Strong's 1097) which means to “allow,” “feel,” “be resolved” or “be sure” in addition to “understand” as it was translated here. Notice that the natural man (unbeliever) “cannot understand (allow, feel, resolve, or be sure of) the things of the Spirit” – he doesn't have a choice in the matter. But what if he studies diligently? No, he will only understand when he becomes a believer and the Spirit of Truth lives in him. What does the following sentence convey?

I have no idea what this sentence says.

Foolishness! Actually, I typed “I have no idea what this sentence says.” using a special symbol font. Unless you know those special symbols, you wouldn't understand. In a similar way, an unbeliever can read the words of the Bible, but he will not get the understanding of that verse that the believer gets through the Spirit. Unbelievers who become believers acquire a whole new understanding of everything – it's quite remarkable and must be experienced to be believed. **God gives the ability to understand His Word to those who become His children – amazing!** But even though unbelievers will think the verses we will study are foolishness, the unbeliever will be challenged to defend his position, and for that reason alone, this study will be

of benefit to him as well. Of course, if the unbeliever, from his heart, confesses his sins to Jesus, asking for forgiveness, and is truly repentant and truly wants to know God, God is faithful to grant his request. This is my hope for every unbeliever. Do it now before your life on this earth is brought to an end, and the ability to choose God is no longer possible.

But even though the believer has the ability, through the Spirit, to understand the Bible, the Spirit does not force the believer to think God's thoughts – the believer always has the freedom to make choices. And sometimes he chooses to believe what the world believes. In a sense, I am putting this believer on trial. Will the evidence in his life convict him of hypocrisy in the first degree? I am an “ex-con,” found guilty 15 years ago of brainwashing thousands of unsuspecting students. And God got my attention and convicted me. For the first 25 years of my life I called myself a Christian but I taught evolution and an old earth as facts – I never even wondered about what God thought.

It is hard for a Christian to believe in creation and a young earth because the popular conclusion, the one taught in schools and in the media, is evolution and an old earth. The Bible clearly teaches that God created this universe out of nothing. He spoke it into existence. The Bible does not teach evolution. And the only way to get the age of the earth from the Bible is by using genealogies, resulting in an age in the thousands of years, not billions. But what about someone who is not a Christian – can he be accused of hypocrisy as well? He cannot, and for a very good reason: he does not have the ability to choose between creation and evolution because creation is spiritually appraised, and he cannot understand spiritual things. He cannot be tried for the crime of hypocrisy anymore than a horse can be tried for standing on 4 feet instead of 2. It is his nature to believe as he does, accepting human wisdom above Godly wisdom. If he were to accept the creation of the universe as stated in the Bible, he would be choosing to take a foolish position. And no one – Christian or not – chooses to be a fool.

Everyone should be able to defend what he or she believes. This is especially true of Christians who, by believing in creation and a young earth, are considered by many to be “off their rocker” to believe such nonsense. There was a time when I ridiculed those who believed in a literal six-day creation, a world-wide Flood and a 6,000 year old earth and now I am a defender of all three. For 36 years of my life I didn't take the Bible seriously but for the past 15 years I have been living to glorify Christ, holding the Bible in highest esteem. When Jesus Christ became my Lord and Savior in 1988, my understanding of the past began a radical transformation. This study is a summary of how God has changed my thinking about the past.

I have also noticed that those who believe in evolution have the mindset that their method of thinking about the past is better (after all, it is science) than any method that uses the Bible (after all, it's faith and foolishness). Until the credibility of their position can be lowered in their minds, they won't be receptive to any other view. **Anyone who does not believe in creation can begin to think of creation in a more positive light when they**

begin to see the assumptions with what they believe. And most people don't think their view has assumptions because they were brainwashed instead of taught! Or, if they know the assumptions, those assumptions are certainly better ones than the assumptions that result from believing the foolishness of the Bible. Since the assumptions with evolutionary thinking are never taught in textbooks, I believe it is the Christian's responsibility to make them known because no one else has the motivation to do so. At least once a semester I counsel a student who has the complaint that one of their professors is "pushing evolution in class" and they feel it is wrong for them to learn such heresy. I tell them that there is no better way to learn how the world thinks than to be in such a class. And unless they know how people think, how can they effectively explain the assumptions of evolution and an old earth? This student doesn't need to believe evolution or that the earth is billions of years old but he does need to understand the reasoning used to conclude such things! Just as Christians study how Satan operates so they can be prepared to defend themselves when he attacks, the same is true when it comes to evolution. Christians need to know the evidence used to support evolution and the assumptions embedded within evolutionary thinking.

You might be thinking something like "the age of the earth is a minor matter, something that Christians can disagree with one another about." I agree with this point of view. But, does your defense of your position involve the Bible at all? Do you believe in creation or evolution? Is your defense of creation or evolution Biblically based or based on the wisdom of the world? **Is your defense based upon the words of men who weren't there and don't know everything, or the words of God who was there and knows everything? If you can't make a Biblical defense for creation and make a rational case against evolution, then this study will help fuel the energy of your discussion with those who hold the evolutionary view.** Why can I make such a statement? Because for 15 years I taught my students what to think and they sat there, almost asleep, in a state of mental hibernation. Then, through the grace of God, I stopped brainwashing and began teaching. Wow, did that make a difference in the classroom! Although defending their position is new for most students, they rise to the challenge and come out of hibernation.

When I lecture on the assumptions of evolution and dating rocks, and show them articles that contradict what their textbook says, they are "all ears." Why? No one wants to be "sold a bill of goods." No one wants to be brainwashed when they realize that they can think for themselves before making a conclusion. Furthermore, when they realize that the conclusion reached by the author of their textbook is only one of several possible conclusions from the same evidence, they get really interested in **thinking**. For a teacher, this is like winning the lottery!

Given the choice, most people would rather be given all the evidence so they can make up their own mind of what to believe rather than be forced to make the only conclusion possible from limited evidence that is one sided. From a spiritual perspective, the most exciting thing about this kind of teaching is

that, once someone sees that what they thought was fact is really only one conclusion that can be made from the evidence, then they begin to doubt the conclusions that they were brainwashed into believing were true and begin to consider alternate conclusions, such as creation. The desire to know how everything in this universe got here is a subject that everyone deals with sooner or later.

Christians should be able to state and defend God's perspective to the question of origins, seasoning their position with salt, so that the person they talk with is challenged to think biblically. My goal for the Christian in this study is two fold: that he is prepared to defend the biblical case for creation and the age of planet earth with confidence and conviction; and the second is that he be able to expose the assumptions involved with evolution and an old earth.

My Testimony

I was once a person who claimed to be a Christian, but I was only going through the motions. I went to church every Sunday and thought of myself as good enough to please God – even good enough to get into heaven. But through the people God brought into my life, and a divorce, I was shown that being a Christian involved more than I thought. My first encounter with these “unusual people“ was back in the 1970's and early 1980's when I worked as a seasonal ranger naturalist for the National Park Service at a beautiful place called Glacier Point in Yosemite National Park.

Glacier Point is located at the end of a dead-end road, 37 miles by car from the most inhabited portion of the Park called Yosemite Valley. Although the road is rather long, it almost circles back on itself, gaining elevation and ends at the edge of the rim of the Valley 3,200 feet above the floor. Most visitors drive to Glacier Point to see the view – and what a spectacular view it is! Standing at the railing the cars below on the Valley floor can just barely be seen while peaks such as Half Dome and Cloud's Rest to the east seem almost near enough to touch because of their enormous size, event though they are actually several miles away. The beauty of this place is best seen at sunset when the reds, pinks and yellows of the setting sun are projected on the High Sierran peaks to the east.

Placing the Geologic and Human History of Yosemite in Perspective

Richard Balogh

Most people will agree that 100 years is a long time. But compared to the time that Yosemite's landscape has been evolving, 100 years represents less than one minute of one human lifetime. Since our lifetime does not span the millions or billions of years necessary for a landscape to evolve, man cannot grasp the relative importance of such large numbers. For example, if you were one billion seconds old, how many years old would you be? Most of the Park visitors asked this question by the author have replied five or ten years. But the real answer is 32 years. Similarly, when the geologic history of Yosemite is explained in terms of actual time, one does not appreciate the relative time spans involved. The following simplified geologic history of Yosemite presents the notion of geologic time in a way that may be easier to understand.

Since everyone is familiar with one year of time, let's condense the geologic history of Yosemite into just one year. If January 1 represents the time of formation of the oldest rock in the Park, then today's date is represented by December 31, just before midnight, and all the events in the formation of the landscape will take place some time in between. Since the oldest rocks in the Park were formed over 500 million years ago, we are condensing about 500 million years into one year and, as a consequence, each day represents more time than usual. In fact, one day represents 1.4 million years, one hour represents 58,000 years, one minute represents 970 years, and one second represents 16 years.

From January 1 to September 21, sediments were being deposited on the floor of a large inland sea that covered what is now the Sierra Nevada. At the end of this period, the layers of deposits accumulated to a thickness of approximately 11 miles. The weight of overlying layers compressed and lithified the sediments into rocks of various types – sandstone, claystone, and limestone, to mention only three. The top layers of this rock were pushed above sea level and folded during a period of five days, September 21 to September 26, and formed the ancient Sierra Nevada Range. Geologists believe this ancient range resembled the Appalachian Range of today in that the rocks were folded into northwesterly trending ridges. From September 26 to October 1, all the granitic rock of the Yosemite region cooled and solidified from a hot liquid state while covered with an estimated five miles of rock overburden. The granite slowly melted its way upward owing to its lighter density but never flowed as a liquid on the earth's surface. Only an occasional volcano, composed of a rock related to granite, hinted of the large mass of granite cooling below. Heat lost by the cooling granite changed the older sandstone, claystone, and limestone into quartzite, slate, and marble, respectively. Erosion was dominant from October 1 to November



About 30 minutes before sunset, one of the rangers would begin to give a “sunset talk“ to the many visitors waiting for the spectacular alpine glow to begin. My sunset talk was entitled “Placing the Geologic and Human History of Yosemite in Perspective.“⁸ I condensed the 500 million-year geologic history of Yosemite into one year of time in an attempt to make the long geologic history more understandable to visitors, most of who have no background in geology.

Each day of my imaginary year represents 1.4 million years, one hour represents 58,000 years, one minute represents 970 years and one second represents 16 years of real time in earth history. In my story, the oldest rocks in the Park began forming on January 1 and the glaciers left their marks during the last 17 hours of the year on December 31. The first white man entered the Yosemite area only nine seconds before midnight on December 31. I was particularly proud of this presentation and received many complements over the years. But there were a few visitors who didn’t like it because they argued that I was giving faulty information. These were the “unusual people.“

I remember talking with these people – perhaps only six over a ten-year period – who were convinced that the oldest rocks couldn’t be 500 million years old because, according to the Bible, the earth is only about 6,000 years old. I thought these people were nuts. **They were foolish for not believing what I thought was the truth!** I had a bachelor’s and master’s degree in geology and they were telling me that I was wrong! If I was wrong then all the books written on the geologic history of Yosemite were wrong. What was even more disturbing to me is that if they were right then much of what I learned at UCLA was wrong. Impossible! They were nuts and out of touch with reality. They were not people who simply made a mistake and saw their error – I could not convince them otherwise. A normal person would listen to reason. Like the lady who purchased several post cards from the gift shop, wrote on them, stamped them and put them all in the trash can. When I pointed out to her that our bear-proof trash cans look like mailboxes, she quickly realized her mistake and asked me to retrieve her mail. She was a normal person who listened to reason. She was not foolish, she accepted my instruction as truthful. But those people who thought the earth was only thousands of years old were foolish because they would not agree that I was right and they were wrong. Perhaps that is why they are so vivid in my memory.

In the early 1980’s one of my astronomy students at Antelope Valley College gave me a copy of a four-page publication called “Impact“ published by ICR (Institute for Creation Research) in El Cajon, California. It dealt with Joshua 10:12-13, which is an account of the sun and moon stopping in the sky for about a whole day. The student asked me to read it and explain how this could have happened. I reasoned that since the majority of the sun’s and moon’s apparent motion in the sky each day is due to the earth’s rotation (spin on its axis which causes day and night), the earth’s rotation would have

to stop in order for the sun and moon to remain stationary in the sky. In my mind, this was clearly not possible so the Biblical description must be in error.

He asked if I was a Christian and I replied that I was and that I had been attending church since the age of five.

Although I considered myself a Christian all my life, I don't think that God would have agreed with me. Through a painful divorce in the late 1980's, He got my attention. At this lowest point of my life God showed me my need for His Son to be my Lord and Savior. This was the beginning of my new life as a believer. I will never forget how Bill invited me to Valley Bible Church where I heard the gospel (the package that Jesus has for you) for the first time. Bill was also one of my astronomy students and later he and I team-taught astrophotography at Antelope Valley College for several years. I was amazed at the large number of Valley Bible Church members, like Bill, who worked as scientists and engineers in the aerospace industry. Most of the deacons at Valley Bible at that time were NASA engineers! Why was I amazed? Because these guys have a head on their shoulders (have you ever met a dumb rocket scientist?) and yet they believe that the Bible is true! I became involved with several ministries at Valley Bible and later became the advisor of the Christian Club at Antelope Valley College in the late 1980's.

One day a lady called me with a question. She knew that I taught geology and that I was the Christian Club Advisor. She wanted to know if I was a "theistic evolutionist." I was embarrassed to tell her that I had never heard that term before. She then wanted to know how I could believe the Bible and yet teach evolution. Boy, was I humbled! **The word "hypocrite" flashed before my eyes.** I had taught that evolution was true in all my classes for over ten years. But how could I keep teaching evolution if the account of creation in Genesis was the truth? God used that phone call to change the way I think and the way I teach. Could I defend what the Bible says about earth history? In short, did God write in the rocks what He wrote in the Book?

I went out to the local Christian bookstore and purchased my first book (of many) that defends Biblical creation, the Flood and a young earth. I did not read it with the humble attitude of "God, teach me the truth, my mind is open to consider your counsel." Instead I read it with a critical attitude of "what are the holes in their arguments so that I can have a basis for doubting it." Sure enough, I marked up almost every page with comments like "this is an assumption" or "how do we know this for sure" or "how can they doubt this fact because I learned in school that it is true." This book caused more doubt in my mind after I read it than before I read it. But as I read more books, I found some that pointed out some assumptions in the popular isotopic (also referred to as the radiometric) method I learned in school to date rocks – dates in the billions of years.

Now here I became very interested because **I never before viewed my college education as having assumptions.** Not only did they point out assumptions but also referenced articles in the scientific literature (like Nature, Science, Scientific American) where those incorrect assumptions were blamed for bogus dates. **Bogus dates! - No one ever pointed out those articles to me in seven years of college education!** For the first time I began to look at what I learned in school with a different kind of eye – a critically thinking eye. **Looking back at my college education, I can see**

now that I was brainwashed into thinking something was true because I was only shown evidence in support but never against that topic. In other words, I was taught what to think not how to think. I

was taught that the earth was billions of years old because the currently accepted method dates the oldest earth rock at billions of years old. That is “what to think.” I was never given the opportunity to doubt that age because I was never taught the assumptions and never given the opportunity to search the literature (as well as good common sense) to see if I was willing to accept those assumptions as believable. Since an assumption is something taken to be true but cannot be proven to be true, it is quite possible for someone to believe a particular assumption is true while someone else can disagree and believe it to be false. Furthermore, the age of the earth has not been estimated by only two methods, one giving thousands while the other giving billions of years, but has been estimated by over sixty different methods with results in between those two. And all those methods have assumptions as well!

In 1989, after reading several more creation books, I drove out to a small hill not far from the College to pray. This hill stands alone near the intersection of 90th Street West and Avenue A and has a spectacular view of the Antelope Valley. It is a good place to be alone – there is no one around for miles.



After I prayed I looked down and noticed a United States Geological Survey monument cemented into the bedrock at the top of the hill. Brass monuments such as these are known as “bench marks” and are quite common, especially on mountaintops. However, what caught my eye is that it was broken in half.



As I walked back to the car I remember thinking “how appropriate to see a broken benchmark symbolizing how God has broken my old way of thinking about the past.” Eleven years later, in 2000, I drove out to the same hill with my daughter and to my amazement, there is a large white cross right next to the same broken benchmark!

You are probably saying to yourself that the tops of hills are places where both benchmarks and crosses are commonly placed. Was this simply a coincidence or the providence of God? I have no problem accepting either explanation. But I can't help but smile whenever I think about it. Notice that before my divorce I called myself a Christian but refused to take the Bible seriously as a source of correct information. I attended church for 25 years but was a believer in name only. I was living for me, not for Christ. When I accepted Him as my Lord, the Bible became more important to me than any book because I realized that it is written by the author of the universe so it must be both authoritative and accurate.

Beware Of Becoming Proud

Some of my Christian colleagues have the opinion that an unbeliever can become a believer by reading such a defense as this one. Their reasoning is that it is the unbeliever's lack of reasonable explanations for creation, the Flood and a young earth is what keeps him from believing in God. Lacking a good defense, they say, is what keeps them from God. I do not hold to their view because, at best, it reduces belief in God to the intellectual level. No amount of human reasoning can do what only God can do. **A broken heart – not a proud intellectual one – is the prerequisite for God to act, and for a man or woman to be “born again.”**

If Jesus Christ is not your Lord and Savior, my prayer for you is that your heart will be broken so that you will be able to understand how awesome the God of the Bible really is and how wretched we humans are in comparison. **Becoming a believer is totally a work of God on our heart.** If what you read doesn't penetrate to your heart, it is merely knowledge that will puff-up and will not be used by God to change your life. With added knowledge, there is always the potential for boasting. Is boasting acceptable behavior?

*“Thus says the LORD, **“Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches; but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD who exercises lovingkindness, justice and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things,” declares the LORD.**”⁹*

Boasting about having “all the right answers” is not what God wants. Boasting about who God is and what He has done is appropriate and this will be the major theme of this study. Like the way our skeleton holds up the rest of our body, God's Word is the “backbone” for this defense.

How Will We Use The Bible?

Do you remember the last time that you used a dictionary? Since dictionaries are not the kind of book that people read just for fun, there was probably a specific reason you used it. Most likely, you were checking the spelling or meaning of a word. When you found the word you were looking for, did any thoughts of doubt enter your mind? Thoughts like “this word can't be spelled like that” or “this definition must be wrong” or “Mr. Webster must have made a mistake.” If you are like me, thoughts of doubt on the authority and accuracy of Noah Webster's most famous book wouldn't even cross my mind. If the dictionary says so, then it must be so. Are you prepared to argue with the dictionary? Would you agree with me that most people hold the authority of the dictionary in high esteem?

Now let's switch books to the Bible. When you read the Bible, do thoughts of doubt come to mind? Thoughts like “God couldn't have meant that” or “that doesn't apply to me” or “they must have translated this verse incorrectly.” Do you hold the authority of the Bible at least as high as the authority of the dictionary? I am not asking “should you” but “do you?” Do you believe that what the Bible says has as much authority and accuracy as what the dictionary says? **Do you accept the truthfulness of the Bible with the same confidence as you accept the truthfulness of the dictionary? If not, then you are placing the words of men above the words of God, and that is a dangerous position for a believer to be in. Who cares? Well, how can you defend anything in the Bible if you don't have confidence in the Bible's authority and accuracy?**

We will assume that the entire protestant Bible is true and trustworthy. We will assume that the original Hebrew (Old Testament) and Greek (New Testament) manuscripts are the inspired words of God, and that the New American Standard and New International Version are reliable English translations and, therefore, also the words of God. We will not defend this assumption here, but if you question this assumption, go to [link]. Although I would think that most believers would hold the Bible in highest esteem, there are several pit falls that we will mention so that we will be aware of them and not fall into them.

The first pit fall is spending energy looking for evidence to support the claim that the Bible is without error and Divinely inspired. Instead of putting this issue away, it continues as an open topic. In other words, instead of having complete confidence in the Bible's truthfulness and reliability, there is doubt.

Some people read creation material with this mindset: the Bible is true **because** it explains some discovery that is impossible to explain otherwise. For example, the discovery of human remains in dinosaur-age rock is consistent with biblical reasoning, since both were made by God on day 6 and buried in the Flood of Noah. But the same evidence is impossible to explain through evolutionary reasoning, since humans evolved about 60 million years after dinosaurs became extinct. Those who support the Bible might say that if this discovery is true, then the Bible must be true. It is as if the Bible needs more than it has to be deemed credible. In other words the Bible is on trial. Although a person on trial may or may not have committed the crime, (both are possibilities), when it comes to the possibility that God's Word may not be true, that possibility does not exist.

In this study we will not put the Bible on trial; I will not try to convince you that the Bible is true. Instead, we assume from the outset that God's Word is true and trustworthy. **We will try to understand what God said God did but we will not question the accuracy of what He said He did.** The Bible is a trustworthy tool for understanding the past. Imagine an auto mechanic who doesn't have confidence in the tools he is using to fix a car. How can he concentrate on fixing the car when his mind is preoccupied with the inadequacy of his tools?

The second pitfall is not interpreting Scripture properly. We will use this very straightforward and simple rule:

If the plain sense makes good sense seek no other sense.

NOT

If the plain sense disagrees with my opinion then I will seek a different sense, one that I am comfortable with.

This second pitfall is more common for individuals who already have an opinion to defend. But since God's ways are above our ways, we need to abandon our understanding and learn God's understanding. Consider this analogy. If a man living in the past, before 1890, were to hear of a bomb that explodes with the force of 100,000,000 tons of dynamite but weighs only a few pounds, he would think that such a bomb is fiction – nonsense! But today we know that such bombs are very real. The discovery of radioactivity in the 1890's made such a bomb possible.

If God is the source of all knowledge, doesn't it make good sense to listen to what He has to say instead of making His words sound like our words, and making His thoughts look like our thoughts?

We Are Following In The Footsteps Of Paul

If you were to write down everything you know about earth history your essay would be a mixture of natural information and Biblical information because everybody learns about history from both sources. Even in a home where the Bible is perhaps opened once a year, the first verse in the Bible – “[In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.](#)” – is a phrase known by almost everyone. When you finish your essay, it would be interesting to look it over and categorize information that is contrary to what Scripture teaches from that which is consistent with what Scripture teaches.

It might be quite a shock to you as a believer to discover that you have accepted human knowledge more confidently than God's knowledge when piecing together the puzzle of the past. After all, we are bombarded daily with human reasoning by what we see on television and what we read. Particularly in public schools, human wisdom is presented as superior to God's wisdom, and students are directed to memorize and believe it or else not graduate! I have known students who were ridiculed for bringing a Bible to school – my own son being one of them! Notice what Paul wrote to the believers at Colosse when they were being led away from God by human reasoning.

*“For I want you to know how great a struggle I have on your behalf and for those who are at Laodicea, and for all those who have not personally seen my face, that their hearts may be encouraged, having been knit together in love, and attaining to all the wealth that comes from the full assurance of understanding, resulting in a true knowledge of God's mystery, that is, Christ Himself, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. **I say this so that no one will delude you with persuasive argument.** For even though I am absent in body, nevertheless I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good discipline and the stability of your faith in Christ. Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude. **See to it that no one takes you captive through***

*philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ. For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority;“*¹⁰

And also to the Corinthians, Paul wrote

*“ We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.”*¹¹

The persuasive arguments, human philosophy, empty deception that Paul warned believers about in his day were different ones than we will deal with. But ours, like Paul's, are contrary to what Scripture teaches. We will be defending a literal six-day long ex nihilo (out of nothing) creation of the earth by God **against** the prevailing theory of evolution. We will be defending the global flood of Noah caused by God, lasting about one year, **against** the prevailing worldview of uniformitarianism. And we will be defending an age for the universe that is about 6,000 years **against** the prevailing worldview of 15 to 17 billion years.

In all three, the prevailing worldview is dramatically different from Scripture and does not give credit to God for what God said He did in the Bible. We will also deal with the arguments that interpret Scripture in such a contorted way that those who hold to such interpretations believe that there is no difference between what Scripture says and those world views. In other words, they don't see any problems. Evolution, uniformitarianism and an old earth are man's conclusions, not God's conclusions. And, sadly, many believers embrace these worldviews.

PART 1: How To Think About The Past

How Reliable Are The Words Of Moses?

Do you agree or disagree with what Jesus Christ teaches in the Bible? Isn't He the Truth as the verse above states? Aren't all "*treasures of wisdom and knowledge*" "*hidden in Christ*?" Would He give us incorrect information?

Since all the information about creation, the Flood and the oldest generations used to support a young earth is found in the Old Testament book of Genesis written by Moses, wouldn't it be interesting to see what Christ thought about the reliability of the words of Moses? Consider the following verses – all of them the words of Christ.

*“Do not think that I will accuse you before the Father; **the one who accuses you is Moses**, in whom you have set your hope. For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me, for he wrote about Me. **“But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?”**”¹²*

*“Some Pharisees came to Jesus, testing Him and asking, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any reason at all?” And He answered and said, **“Have you not read that He who created them from the beginning MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE, and said, ‘FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH?’**”
“So they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate.” They said to Him, **“Why then did Moses command to GIVE HER A CERTIFICATE OF DIVORCE AND SEND her AWAY?”** He said to them, **“Because of your hardness of heart Moses permitted you to divorce your wives; but from the beginning it has not been this way.”**”¹³*

*“so that upon you may fall the guilt of all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of righteous **Abel** to the blood of Zechariah, the son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar.”¹⁴*

*“For those days will be a time of tribulation such as has not occurred since **the beginning of the creation which God created** until now, and never will.”¹⁵*

*“And Jesus said to him, “See that you tell no one; but go, show yourself to the priest and **present the offering that Moses commanded**, as a testimony to them.”¹⁶*

*“ But he said to him, **‘If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets**, they will not be persuaded even if someone rises from the dead.”¹⁷*

*“But that the dead are raised, **even Moses showed, in the passage about the burning bush**, where he calls the Lord **THE GOD OF ABRAHAM, AND THE GOD OF ISAAC, AND THE GOD OF JACOB.**”¹⁸*

*“Now He said to them, “These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that **all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.**”¹⁹*

*“Then **beginning with Moses** and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.”²⁰*

*“As **Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness**, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up,”²¹*

*“**Did not Moses give you the Law**, and yet none of you carries out the Law? Why do you seek to kill Me?”²²*

*“And He answered and said to them, “**What did Moses command you?**”²³*

*“For this reason **Moses has given you circumcision** (not because it is from Moses, but from the fathers), and on the Sabbath you circumcise a man.”²⁴*

*“And **just as it happened in the days of Noah**, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man: they were eating, they were drinking, they were marrying, they were being given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. “**It was the same as happened in the days of Lot**: they were eating, they were drinking, they were buying, they were selling, they were planting, they were building; but on the day that Lot went out from Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. “It will be just the same on the day that the Son of Man is revealed. “On that day, the one who is on the housetop and whose goods are in the house must not go down to take them out; and likewise the one who is in the field must not turn back. “**Remember Lot's wife.** “Whoever seeks to keep his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it.”²⁵*

And what opinion did His disciples have about the truthfulness of Jesus?

*“Now we know that **You know all things, and have no need for anyone to question You**; by this we believe that You came from God.”²⁶*

And what opinion does Jesus have about those who do not believe His own words?

“He who rejects Me and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day. For I did not speak on My own initiative, but the Father Himself who sent Me has given Me a commandment as to what to say and what to speak.”²⁷ “Why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?”²⁸

Finally, what does Jesus say about those who belong to Him?

“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand.”²⁹



Occasionally I will ask you to make a personal decision based upon the preceding evidence. Wherever you see “The Thinker” (Auguste Rodin’s most famous work), I will ask you to answer a few questions. I have been a teacher for so long that the urge to ask questions is unquenchable. So, here is the first of many: Are you willing to accept the words of Moses as true, as Jesus did, even when they contradict what you believe to be true? If you are willing why are you willing?

Did The Miracles In The Bible Really Happen?

Think back to your last science class. Did the textbook have a chapter dealing with miracles? Did your teacher ever tell you about miracles? Why is the study of miracles absent from science education? When miracles are discussed at all in school, why are they considered more appropriate for a mythology class than for a science class? Here is what a leading evolutionary scientist says about science:

“Science, fundamentally, is a game. It is a game with one overriding and defining rule. Rule No. 1: Let us see how far and to what extent we can explain the behavior of the physical and material universe in terms of purely physical and material causes, without invoking the supernatural.”³⁰

I believe most scientists and science teachers would agree that a supernatural explanation for any observation of nature will not be found in leading science journals such as *Science*, *Nature*, *Scientific American*, etc. as well as in science textbooks. In fact, there are probably people who believe that the “supernatural” doesn’t exist at all; they would claim that everything can be explained in terms of “natural laws.”



Do you think it is possible for someone who trusts in Christ to

deny the existence of supernatural events in the past? Give an example of a supernatural event that this person couldn't deny.

Everything we hear or read about is filtered through our own personal preconceived biases then our brain files the information into the okay, sounds good to me – “believable file“ or into the “you must be kidding - unbelievable file.“ The Bible is a mixture of very ordinary believable information, such as “He went to Jerusalem,“ and very out of the ordinary hard to believe information like the accounts of miracles. Webster defines a miracle as,

“an event or effect that apparently contradicts known scientific laws and is hence thought to be due to supernatural causes, especially to an act of God.“³¹

Our view of Scripture, and therefore our view of God, is very much affected by our belief in the reality of miracles. Many people refuse to believe that the Bible is totally truthful because they don't believe that the accounts of miracles are accounts of real events. Who cares? Since Creation and the Flood were miracles, we should care. In fact, what hope do we have for the future if the miracle of Christ's resurrection didn't really happen? I believe that all of the Bible is true including the accounts of miracles. If anyone chooses the position that miracles could not be actual events, they are accepting the following assumption.³²

Assumption #1: God is not able to intervene in natural processes or, if He is able to intervene, He chooses not to intervene.

Ever since man began his study of the universe he has observed the effects of a variety of natural laws, both physical and biological. Newton's Universal Law of Gravitation, for example, can describe the weight of a rock. For thousands of years the observation that life comes from life has been formalized as the Law of Biogenesis. Such laws are not only useful to understand the behavior of things at present but also have usefulness in planning for the future. For example, the placement of a satellite in its proper orbit involves the application of the Law of Gravitation and predicting that puppies come from dogs instead of from a mixture of chemicals in a test tube is expected from the Law of Biogenesis. In fact, we are so used to the steadfastness of natural laws that **we are more likely to conclude that we are hallucinating** than to accept the possibility that nature has behaved differently than normal.

In practice, an aerospace engineer, who designs a rocket, will analyze every part and every process according to natural laws — he will not design miraculous intervention into the rocket. Why not? - because miracles are not humanly predictable. I may inherit two billion dollars tomorrow - that would be a miracle - but only a fool would plan today's events on a miracle that has no guarantee of occurring tomorrow. Similarly, when a lawyer argues his case in court, he doesn't presume that his client will receive a presidential pardon if he is found guilty. The pardon, if it comes at all, is similar to a miracle - it is not humanly predictable.

Now let's direct our attention to the past. Scientists who deal with the past commonly **assume** that the same natural laws we observe today were acting

in the same way in the past. Scientists who are likely to make this assumption include astronomers who search for the history of stars, planets, and the universe; geologists who search for the origin of rocks and the earth itself; and biologists who search for the history and origin of life, to name but a few. **Doesn't it make good common sense to assume that natural laws we see operating today have done so, without exception, in the past?** This concept is commonly given the name "uniformitarianism" or summarized by the phrase that "the present is the key to the past". The Bible makes a clear statement against this kind of thinking:

*"Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with their mocking, following after their own lusts, and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For ever since the father fell asleep, **all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation.**" For when they maintain this, it escapes their notice that by the word of God the heavens existed long ago and the earth was formed out of water and by water, through which the world at that time was destroyed, being flooded with water. But by His word the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men."*³³

Would you agree with me that people who die today have a tendency to stay that way? Wouldn't you be quite surprised if someone dead for four days walked out of his tomb at the moment someone says "*come forth*"?³⁴ How about witnessing the parting of water in a river³⁵ or a sea³⁶ to allow people to walk on "*dry ground*" – wouldn't you be amazed? Or seeing someone walk on water³⁷ and an ax head rise to the surface of a river³⁸? Why would you be amazed? Because the good old reliable Law of Gravitation was either violated (not in effect, suspended) **or** some unknown force worked against the force of gravity to allow these events to happen. We have just discovered the very reason why miracles have occurred – **since miracles are unexpected, they get your attention and "scream" louder than any human voice "how could this be" and, more importantly, "who could do this?"**

I remember the time I spoke about miracles to the high school group at Valley Bible. A few days earlier I demonstrated a very effective experiment for my physical science class at Antelope Valley College and had some of the reagents left over, so I used them in my presentation on Sunday morning. We all sat in a circle with a clear liquid half-filling the wineglass on a tray placed on the floor in the center of the circle. After introducing the topic, I poured another clear liquid into the wineglass and told them that an example of a miracle would be for me to point to the wineglass and command the water to become wine. I pointed to it and it changed instantly into a deep purple liquid. I had their attention for the rest of the morning! I planned to tell them that it wasn't really water or wine at the end of my presentation, but when a student asked for a taste, I knew that "the jig was up".

There are loopholes in assumption #1. If God wants to alter the natural laws that He invented, or supply the force necessary to accomplish "the impossible", then who or what will keep Him from doing so? **The reality of the miracle does not hinge on my ability or your ability to explain how it could have happened!** It rests solely on the integrity of God's Word. The Bible contains the description of the miracle as well as the source of the credentials

of the One who did it. What is the common theme of the following verses?

*"I know that **You can do all things**, And that **no purpose of Yours can be thwarted.**" ³⁹*

*"Then the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah, saying, **'Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh; is anything too difficult for Me?'**" ⁴⁰*

*"And looking at them Jesus said to them, **'With people this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.**'" ⁴¹*

*"For **nothing will be impossible with God.**" ⁴²*

*"**He performs wonders that cannot be fathomed, miracles that cannot be counted.**" ⁴³*

*"**You are the God who performs miracles; you display your power among the peoples.**" ⁴⁴*

*"**Why should any of you consider it incredible that God raises the dead?'**" ⁴⁵*

*"**See now that I myself am He! There is no god besides me. I put to death and I bring to life, I have wounded and I will heal, and no-one can deliver out of my hand.**" ⁴⁶*

Let's not put God in a box by limiting what He can do. He is able to do anything that He desires to do, regardless of what we think. Not only is God capable of doing miracles, He also plainly tells us why He does them:

*"For the LORD your God dried up the Jordan before you until you had crossed over. The LORD your God did to the Jordan just what he had done to the Red Sea when he dried it up before us until we had crossed over. **He did this so that all the peoples of the earth might know that the hand of the LORD is powerful and so that you might always fear the LORD your God.**" ⁴⁷*

Notice that He did the miracle so that **we might know something** ; God is powerful and we should respect Him. This purpose includes **all** peoples of the earth, even the enemies of Israel:

*"Now when all the Amorite kings west of the Jordan and all the Canaanite kings along the coast heard how the LORD had dried up the Jordan before the Israelites until we had crossed over, their hearts sank [Hebrew melted] and **they no longer had the courage to face the Israelites.**" ⁴⁸*

Do you think all peoples include you and me? Of course it does! If Jesus Christ is our Lord, do we have an obligation to believe the miracles that He

did really happened? Unless we choose to be hypocrites, I believe we do have this obligation!

Jesus performed nine miracles involving transformation of matter or energy⁴⁹ and twenty-seven healings and raising from the dead⁵⁰ including His own. Notice the reactions to those people who were **eyewitnesses** to His miracles:

*“Therefore when the people saw the sign which He had performed, they said, **“This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world.”**”⁵¹*

*“**The men were amazed, and said, “What kind of a man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?”**”⁵²*

*“When they got into the boat, the wind stopped. And those who were in the boat **worshiped Him**, saying, **“You are certainly God's Son!”**”⁵³*

*“**For amazement had seized him** [Simon Peter] **and all his companions** [James and John] **because of the catch of fish which they had taken;**”⁵⁴*

*“This beginning of His signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory, and **His disciples believed in Him.**”⁵⁵*

*“Immediately the girl got up and began to walk, for she was twelve years old. And **immediately they were completely astounded.**”⁵⁶*

*“**They were all struck with astonishment and began glorifying God; and they were filled with fear, saying, “We have seen remarkable things today.”**”⁵⁷*

*“**But the news about Him was spreading even farther, and large crowds were gathering to hear Him and to be healed of their sicknesses.**”⁵⁸*

*“**And they were all amazed at the greatness of God. But while everyone was marveling at all that He was doing,**...”⁵⁹*

*“**Immediately he regained his sight and began following Him, glorifying God; and when all the people saw it, they gave praise to God.**”⁶⁰*

*“**Fear gripped them all, and they began glorifying God, saying, “A great prophet has arisen among us!”**” and, **“God has visited His people!”** This report concerning Him went out all over Judea and in all the surrounding district.”⁶¹*

*“**They were all amazed, so that they debated among themselves, saying, “What is this? A new teaching with authority! He***

commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey Him.“
Immediately the news about Him spread everywhere into all the surrounding district of Galilee.“⁶²

*“And He was casting out a demon, and it was mute; when the demon had gone out, the mute man spoke; and **the crowds were amazed.**”*⁶³

*“But they went out and **spread the news about Him** throughout all that land.”*⁶⁴

*“After the demon was cast out, the mute man spoke; and **the crowds were amazed**, and were saying, **“Nothing like this has ever been seen in Israel.”**”*⁶⁵

*“They were utterly astonished, saying, “He has done all things well; He makes even the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.”*⁶⁶

*“Fear gripped them all, and they began glorifying God, saying, “A great prophet has arisen among us!” and, “God has visited His people!”
This report concerning Him went out all over Judea and in all the surrounding district.”*⁶⁷

*“...and **the entire crowd was rejoicing** over all the glorious things being done by Him.”*⁶⁸

*“...and **he himself believed and his whole household.**”*⁶⁹

*“Therefore many of the Jews who came to Mary, and saw what He had done, **believed in Him.** But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them the things which Jesus had done. Therefore the chief priests and the Pharisees convened a council, and were saying, “What are we doing? For **this man is performing many signs. “If we let Him go on like this, all men will believe in Him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation.**”*⁷⁰

*“A large crowd followed Him, because they saw the signs which He was performing on those who were sick.”*⁷¹

Notice they all gained knowledge about Jesus that changed their life. And He did more miracles than those recorded in the Bible.

*“Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; **but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the**”*

*Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.*⁷²



What is your reaction to the miracles of Jesus? When you read about them, are you “amazed, completely astounded, struck with astonishment and filled with fear?” Are you ready to “worship Him, follow Him, believe in Him, glorify God, praise God and rejoice?”

If you call yourself a Christian but you do not believe that the miracles of Jesus were real events that occurred for the purpose of demonstrating that He is the Son of God and all nature is subject to Him, then you are thinking like the “natural man“ not like the “spiritual man.“

I urge you to honor God by believing that **the miracles recorded in the Bible are true just as they are written.** Don't dishonor God by thinking thoughts like

“He walked on water because He knew where the stones were.“

“The Red Sea parted because a wind came up and blew the water apart.“

“He really didn't feed 5,000 people – they all hid food in their baggy clothing.“

“The person wasn't really dead, he was only sleeping.“

“He didn't really heal those people, He simply gave them confidence.“

“The sun and moon didn't really stand still for Gideon, they were just covered by clouds.“

“He didn't really speak creation into existence over a few days time, instead He used evolution over a very long time.“

And there must be many more clever ways that man has explained away the awesome miracles of God. **Statements like these are to be expected from the natural man because miracles are foolishness to him and he cannot understand them. But the believer should thank God for choosing to demonstrate His power so that those who take notice of His miracles might be saved and that God be glorified.**

Do you recall how Thomas reacted to hearing of Jesus' resurrection?

*“So the other disciples were saying to him, “We have seen the Lord!” But he [Thomas] said to them, “Unless I see in His hands the imprint of the nails, and put my finger into the place of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe.”*⁷³

And how did Jesus respond to Thomas' unbelief?

*“Then He said to Thomas, “Reach here with your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand and put it into My side; and **do not be unbelieving, but believing.**” Thomas answered and said to Him, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus said to him, “Because you have seen Me, have you *believed?* **Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed.**”⁷⁴*

Jesus makes it clear that believing without seeing is a good thing. I didn't see God create nor did I see the Flood cover the earth, but I believe both events happened. Notice how God defines faith:

*“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, **the conviction of things not seen.** For by it the men of old gained approval. **By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible.**”⁷⁵*

Consider this statement: “There is a place in Yosemite National Park where a lot of water once flowed uphill. The evidence in the rocks is clear – water once did this amazing thing!” Do you believe me? Water is supposed to flow from high places to low places by the force of gravity. People fall down, not up. Now, if I had the reputation of a joker or liar, you would have no faith in the truthfulness of my statement. However, if you do believe my statement, then you honor me as being worthy of your faith that my statement is true, even though you haven't seen this place. In the same way, **when you believe what God said God did in His Word, you honor Him.**



How much of the Bible do you believe is true? That is, how much of the Bible do you have faith in? If you have faith that only a part is true, then what are your reasons for believing the other part(s) are not true? Can you think of any verses from the Bible that support your position or is your position supported from other sources?

By the way, the place in Yosemite mentioned previously does exist⁷⁶ and hundreds of thousands of people drive by it every year. It was part of the research done for my masters degree at UCLA and can easily be explained by natural laws. Had I tried to explain the evidence by miraculous intervention, I would still be in school!

Christ Is Much More Than Lord And Savior



Do you think all miracles have equal “weight”? In other words, is there a miracle that is more important than the others? If so, what was it and who did it? Recall that Jesus, the disciples, Pharaoh's magicians, and others, did miracles recorded in the Bible.

The most important miracle must be creation of the universe because without it, none of the other miracles could occur. There would be no water to part or

turn into wine, no people to heal or raise, no sun to stand still or back up in the sky, etc. And who performed this miracle? The answer may seem obvious at first since the famous first verse of the Bible tells us that “**God created the heavens and the earth.**” But to be more specific, **the creator of the universe is our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!** Before He saved us, He created the **atoms** in our bodies and the mechanism to **order** those atoms (DNA). He even created our souls – the spiritual essence that is necessary for our bodies to be alive – the part of us that leaves our body upon death is the same part that will spend eternity in heaven with Jesus or without Him in hell. Look carefully at the following verses.

*“giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light. **For He [Father] rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son [Jesus], in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. He [Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by Him [Jesus] all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities--all things have been created through Him [Jesus] and for Him [Jesus]. He [Jesus] is before all things, and in Him [Jesus] all things hold together. He [Jesus] is also head of the body, the church; and He [Jesus] is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself [Jesus] will come to have first place in everything. For it was the Father’s good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him [Jesus], and through Him [Jesus] to reconcile all things to Himself [Jesus], having made peace through the blood of His [Jesus]’ cross; through Him [Jesus], I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven.**”⁷⁷*

*“in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He [Father] appointed heir of all things, through whom also He [Jesus] made the world. And He [Jesus] is the radiance of His [Father’s] glory and the exact representation of His [Father’s] nature, and **upholds all things by the word of His [Jesus]’ power.** When He [Jesus] had made purification of sins, He [Jesus] sat down at the right hand of the Majesty [Father] on high,”⁷⁸*

“All things came into being through Him [Jesus], and apart from Him [Jesus] nothing came into being that has come into being.”⁷⁹

“And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:”⁸⁰

“The universe was built by the Creator to be his own property; to be the theatre on which he would accomplish his purposes, and display his perfections. Particularly the earth was made by the Son of God to be the place where he would become incarnate, and exhibit the wonders of redeeming love.”⁸¹

It is the Father's desire to save us through belief in the One who created not just us but everything in the Universe! Awesome thought! The One who created us values us enough to die for us so that we can spend eternity with Him! Jesus is the reason for **everything and everyone**. He owns us, that is why He is our Lord. **He is not just your Lord because He saved you by dying on the cross, He is your Lord because He made you possible by creating all there is!**

"You alone are the LORD. You have made the heavens, The heaven of heavens with all their host, The earth and all that is on it, The seas and all that is in them. You give life to all of them And the heavenly host bows down before You."⁸²

And He owns everyone else as well, and that is why He has authority to send everyone's soul to wherever He wants. Those who do not believe are not exempt from the Judgment and its consequences. And who will be the Judge? The only one who is qualified to lay claim to our body and soul – Jesus Christ.

"I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, ..."⁸³

"...God will judge the secrets of men through Christ Jesus."⁸⁴

"Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent, because He has fixed a day in which He [Father] will judge the world in righteousness through a Man [Jesus] whom He [Father] has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him [Jesus] from the dead."⁸⁵

Notice that the proof to all men that Jesus is worthy to be Judge is the miracle of Jesus' resurrection.

"The Jews then said to Him, "What sign do You show us as your authority for doing these things?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews then said, "It took forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?" But He was speaking of the temple of His body. So when He was raised from the dead, His disciples remembered that He said this; and they believed the Scripture and the word which Jesus had spoken."⁸⁶

But Jesus is not only creator of the universe, Savior of souls and judge, but He will also bring to an end the physical universe that He created in the first place.

"Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away."⁸⁷

"But by His word the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men."⁸⁸

*“But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which **the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.**”⁸⁹*

Do you recall that *“in Him [Jesus] **all things hold together**”* and He *“**upholds all things by the word of His [Jesus]’ power**”*? When He decides to end His creation, it will be done because He has the power and authority to do so. A very awesome thought!

If you don’t believe that miracles are true then the credibility of the divine nature of Jesus vanishes into mortality. If He wasn’t raised from the dead, according to His own prophecy then our faith has no value. As Paul puts it

“and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain.”⁹⁰

Here are some interesting questions to ponder: If God is able to do whatever He desires, then **why did He choose to make Christ**

- v The first born of creation?⁹¹
- v Creator of everything physical and spiritual?⁹²
- v Sustainer of all things?⁹³
- v The only one to raise Himself from the dead?⁹⁴
- v The head of the church?⁹⁵
- v The judge of all creation?⁹⁶
- v The one who will destroy everything physical?⁹⁷

The answer is this

*“...so that **He Himself will come to have first place in everything. For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him,**”⁹⁸*

*“But I want you to understand that **Christ is the head of every man, and the man is the head of a woman, and God is the head of Christ.**”⁹⁹*



Does Christ have the place in your life that the Father intends Him to have? Do you place Him first, above everything and everybody? Is your relationship with Christ obvious to everyone who knows you?

The Problems With Humanly Acquired Knowledge

The dictionary definition of knowledge is,

*“the state or fact of knowing; often as opposed to intuition, belief, etc.”*¹⁰⁰

Notice that the definition is more general than what the stereotypical “scientist” does. That is why the word can be added to social and computer to get “social science” and “computer science.” When your **conscience** bothers you its because you **know** something. In the New Testament, the word translated as “knowledge” is “gnosis” (Strong’s 1108) which means science. At the first or second meeting of a new semester I ask all my students “do we know all there is to know about geology (or astronomy if it is an astronomy class)? They invariably answer “no, of course not.” Then I ask them to defend their answer. Usually their defense will include something like “if we knew all there was to know we would be able to predict earthquakes,” or “weather forecasts would always be accurate” or “the explosion of a star wouldn’t surprise us.” Their reply is correct, and I then add that journals such as *Science, Nature, Scientific American*, etc., wouldn’t be in business if we knew everything since they are in the business of reporting about new discoveries. Then I ask this question: “If the total amount of all there is to know about geology (or astronomy) is represented by the distance between my two hands (say three feet or about one meter), how much of this distance - all there is to know - do we now know at the present time?” Now here is where it gets interesting because the response of the class is usually quite varied. The optimists space their hands one or two feet (30 or 60 centimeters) apart while the pessimists use their fingers spaced an inch (two to three centimeters) or less in answer to this question. But after a while someone usually replies with something like **“we don’t know how much we do know because we don’t know how much we don’t know.”** Wow, reward that person for **thinking critically!**

Physical, chemical and biological scientists collect knowledge about nature for the purpose of making conclusions. Think of a conclusion as the output humans produce after thinking about the input (knowledge). Notice that the human brain is the one doing the concluding. Let’s use a simple example to discover three problems with this process. My students identify the names of minerals by first observing the physical properties of the minerals. Physical properties they examine include color, luster (does it reflect light like metal does, or like glass does), hardness (how easily it scratches), cleavage (how it breaks naturally along weak atomic bonds), and several others. Then, using the results of these observations and the mineral identification tables in their textbook they eventually get the mineral’s name. If it has a metallic luster, it will be on a different page than those having a glassy luster. And those with a metallic luster and a brassy color are in a separate list from those with a metallic luster and a gray color. And minerals with a metallic luster and brassy color that are harder than glass are separated from those minerals with the same luster and color but will not scratch glass. Do you see that the list of possible mineral names becomes smaller and smaller with each piece of knowledge collected? By using this organized method, students can determine the name of a mineral (conclusion) from collecting knowledge (observations). Do students **always** get the right mineral name? The answer is “no” for several good reasons.

Human Limitation #1: knowledge may be incorrect leading to incorrect conclusions. The general statement “garbage in equals garbage out” simply describes this possibility. In our example, a student may judge a mineral’s luster incorrectly, or not push hard enough on the piece of glass to determine the actual hardness of the mineral.

Human Limitation #2: since knowledge is incomplete, conclusions made from incomplete knowledge can be wrong. In our example, what if I give them a mineral that is not listed in their textbook? After all, there are thousands of minerals out there. If they come up with a name, it will always be wrong because they don’t have all the thousands of possible choices in their textbook. Here, I am reminded of a story about a man who sees another man at night under a streetlight down on his hands and knees obviously looking for something on the ground. The first man asks the second “what are you looking for?” and the second man replies “The jeweler down the street repaired my wife’s ring so I picked it up earlier but when I got home, it wasn’t in the bag. I must have dropped it on the way home – will you help me look for it?” After both men look for some time without success, the first asks the second, “why are we only looking in this area – you could have lost it anywhere between the jewel’s shop and home?” The second man replies “we are looking here because it is the only place with light to see by.” One of my favorite quotes comes from Mark Twain:

“There is something fascinating about science. One gets such wholesale returns of conjectures out of such a trifling investment of facts“ ¹⁰¹

Without complete knowledge it is possible that several conclusions can be made from the evidence collected. Which one is the true one?

Human Limitation #3: conclusions can be influenced by biases of the people involved. In our example, there are usually a few students who mistakenly conclude that the unknown mineral is pyrite (commonly known as “fool’s gold”). When I see their incorrect answer, I ask them about the hardness test they were supposed to have done. The mineral in question does not scratch glass but pyrite does scratch glass – what hardness did they get? After questioning them, it turns out that they either didn’t do the hardness test or did the test quickly, without much thought, or didn’t believe the results of that test because they “already knew it was pyrite.” The mineral is chalcopyrite which resembles pyrite but will not scratch glass. They jumped to a false conclusion because they had a bias in favor of pyrite.



Is it possible for an unbelieving geologist, astronomer or biologist to conclude that God as described in Genesis created the universe and all it contains? Does he have a bias that will keep him from coming to this conclusion? Do you recall what the Bible says about how an unbeliever regards spiritual matters? (see footnote 6 if you cannot decide).

Some Scientific Mistakes

Astronomers believe that stars ‘live’ for billions of years — much longer than many human lifetimes. We therefore have not seen a single star change through its entire “life“ to witness this belief. A good analogy is to imagine that we are insects that live for only a few weeks who are trying to piece together the life history of the trees we see all around us. We observe that trees come in a wide variety of sizes and from this evidence we reason that if we could observe a single tree live through its entire lifetime, it would start small, grow taller, and finally die falling on its side. In a similar way, astronomers have deduced the stages in the “lives“ of stars from the evidence they have observed. In general, stars don’t change much. But once in a while we can observe an exploding star - a supernova - which is supposed to be one of the late stages in a star’s “life.“ Up until we observed the last two supernovas (1987 and 1993) we thought we knew what kind of star the progenitor should be - the kind of star that should supernova. Notice what Astronomy Magazine says about these two progenitor stars:

*“Astronomers found that like the 1987 supernova, the supernova in M81 [observed in 1993] contradicted their ideas about which massive stars will explode as supernovae.“*¹⁰²

Ordering information does not automatically guarantee that the order is correct. If we knew all there is to know about stars, observations would never contradict our understanding.

Just about everyone has heard of Brontosaurus but relatively few know that Brontosaurus, as such, never existed. When O. Marsh discovered the first body skeleton, it lacked a skull. Marsh found a dinosaur skull three miles away from the skeleton and assumed that it belonged to that body. Later, more complete skeletons were discovered with the head attached and now we know that Marsh put the head of an Apatosaurus on the body of a Diplodocus. Consider this: if you were a fly on his pack and witnessed the initial discovery of Brontosaurus, wouldn’t you have every right to question the assumption that the head and body once belonged to the same creature? If more complete skeletons had not been discovered, Brontosaurus would still be accepted as a real dinosaur.

Nebraska man (*Hesperopithecus harold cooki*), discovered in 1922, was hailed as the first ape-man discovered in North America. What was the evidence? – a single molar tooth! This double page sketch in the Illustrated London News¹⁰³



shows the conjecture that was inspired by this tooth.

Mark Twain how right you are! Notice the optimism in the following excerpts from the original article that appeared in *Science*¹⁰⁴:

*“It is hard to believe that a single small water-worn tooth, 10.5 mm. by 11 mm. in crown diameter, can signalize the arrival of the anthropoid Primates in North America in Pliocene time. **We have been eagerly anticipating some discovery of this kind, but were not prepared for such convincing evidence...**It looks one hundred per cent. anthropoid...We may cool down to-morrow, but it looks to me as if the first anthropoid ape of America had been found by **the one man entitled to find it, namely Harold J. Cook...it resembles the human type more closely than it does any known anthropoid ape...**“*

For six years Nebraska man rested comfortably on its branch of man's evolutionary tree until more teeth were discovered in 1928 but these were attached to a skull - the skull of a pig! The pig, or peccary, was thought to be extinct for the last 15,000 years. But to add insult to injury, the “extinct” peccary was found in 1975, living in herds in Paraguay!¹⁰⁵ If the 1928 discovery had not been made, Nebraska man would still be our ancestor. Recall how science works – conclusions drawn from a discovery are accepted on the faith that future discoveries won't contradict those conclusions. By the way, before the second discovery, Nebraska man was used as evidence in support of man's evolution in the famous 1925 Scope's Trial.

Unlike Nebraska Man, Piltdown Man was actually a hoax. In 1912 an ape-like mandible (jaw) and human-like skull fragments were found in a gravel pit near Piltdown, England, by Charles Dawson (a medical doctor and amateur paleontologist) who brought them to the attention of Arthur Woodward, then Director of the Natural History Museum of London.

*“The actual remains were locked away for safe keeping, but plaster casts were circulated to the major museums. The now familiar plaster reconstruction in brown and white took a prominent place in the British Museum of Natural History, while **for the next forty-one years it sat in its vitrine sanctuary with toothy grins literally hundreds of thousands of visitors filed past paying homage to their alleged ancestor.** Needless to say, objections to man's ape ancestry made in the pulpit were effectively silenced. **A whole generation grew up with Piltdown Man in their textbooks and home encyclopedias; who in their right mind would question the veracity of the Encyclopedia Britannica?**“¹⁰⁶*

In the forty-one years of Piltdown Man's credibility it is estimated 500 articles were written about him.¹⁰⁷ The hoax was finally exposed in 1953 when the

original bones were tested for the amount of fluoride absorbed by the bones from the soil. The jawbone was judged to be no older than about the year it was discovered; the skull fragments had enough fluoride to be a few thousand years old, but not the publicized age of 500,000 years. Further tests discovered that the bones had been treated with iron salts to make them look old and scratch marks were detected on the teeth indicating that they had been filed. Furthermore, way back in 1916 a dental anatomist who examined the original jawbone noticed that the teeth were worn down far more than their apparent youthfulness would allow. He reported this at the time¹⁰⁸ but this bit of investigation was ignored.

Some have made this argument: science is self-correcting in that the truth will eventually be discovered, so there is no problem. But the problem is all the incorrect conjecture until the truth comes to light – this could take a generation or more of time, as Piltdown man took. And how do we finally decide that the truth has been found? It would be easier if conclusions came with gongs or buzzes, like the answers on game shows, to testify to their accuracy.

I am of the opinion that everyone has bias that can affect most if not all that they do. Where would you “file” a story about the discovery of a living dinosaur? In the culture I live in, filing it in the “hard to believe drawer” of the mind would be common among Americans because our system of public education teaches as fact that dinosaurs became extinct about 60 million years ago. So, since we have been “conditioned” about the age of dinosaurs, what will we think about any conclusions that do not agree with our current mindset? As we will see later, fossils have been discovered alive that “should have been extinct” millions of years ago! They are called “living fossils” (sounds oxymoronic, doesn’t it?) and their discovery shakes the very foundation of dating any rock by the fossils it contains.



If the “fossil” is still alive, then it certainly cannot be extinct and is useless for dating rocks. How many other living fossils have yet to be discovered? How would you go about proving that a fossil organism is extinct at the present time? How would you go about proving that a fossil organism became extinct at some time in the past? Isn’t it interesting that we make conclusions based upon the lack of evidence that they are still alive rather than proof of their demise? How could someone prove that dinosaurs became extinct 60 million years ago? Can any one prove that dinosaurs are alive somewhere on the earth today?

There is a place in Yellowstone National Park called Specimen Ridge where there are twelve layers of petrified trees, one above the other. In each layer the trees are vertical in the growing position. The original explanation is that each layer represents a forest that grew there in the past and was subsequently buried and petrified. Then, after Mt. St. Helens erupted divers went into Spirit Lake and noticed that when the floating trees became waterlogged, each tree sank to the bottom of the lake **root end down** in the

growth position and became buried that way.¹⁰⁹ So, thanks to Mt. St. Helens, we have an explanation for Specimen Ridge that explains why the trees there have few limbs and short roots – they were blown off a mountainside in the past and accumulated in a lake over a relatively short, not long, period of time. Notice that the new one thanks to a new discovery has replaced the old explanation.

I really enjoy reading about science and spend much of my time doing so. But how the discoveries are presented as well as the conclusions reached by the author of the article are very much affected by the author's biases. So, in addition to reading *Science*, *Nature*, *Scientific American*, etc., I also read *Creation ex nihilo*,¹¹⁰ *Technical Journal*,¹¹¹ and *Creation Research Society Quarterly*¹¹² which have a bias in favor of a biblical conclusion. I believe the safest way to reach your own conclusions is to first separate the discovery from the author's conclusions. This is not always easy, particularly when reading textbooks, because authors are very good at making conclusions look like discoveries.

Isn't it obvious that a rock with a dinosaur bone in it is dinosaur age? No it is not! The discovery is the bone but its age is a conclusion. And, if you have been brainwashed into thinking that all dinosaur bones must be older than 60 million years, then you accept the "age" as having the same weight as the discovery itself! This is very sad. Who would dare argue with a college professor, a textbook, a museum display or National Geographic? If you think the earth is about 6,000 years because your parents or pastor told you so, or the Bible says so, or the Institute For Creation Research has proven so, then you have also been brainwashed! God gave us a brain to be used for more than storage and retrieval. A computer can store and retrieve better than your brain can. Notice that God encourages thinking!

"But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good; abstain from every form of evil."¹¹³

First we are to carefully examine and then decide if what has been examined is good or evil, followed by embracing it if it is good or abstaining from it if it is evil. This involves thinking, not just accepting! How much of what you "hold fast to" have you actually thought about?

What Does God Think About Man's Knowledge?

God condemns any knowledge that is contrary to His knowledge. Consider the following verse:

"We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ,"¹¹⁴

The English word "**speculations**" is translated from the Greek word "logismos" (Strong's 3053) which means "computation, reasoning, imagination or thought." It is from another Greek word "logizomai" (Strong's 3049) which means "to conclude, esteem, reason, reckon, suppose, think on." The English word "**captive**" is translated from the Greek word "aichmalotizo" (Strong's 163) which means to **lead away** captive like a prisoner of war. In this study we will identify the "enemy thoughts" and lead them away from our thinking so

that understanding of the past is consistent with God's thoughts about the past. The English word "obedience" is translated from the Greek word "hupakoe" (Strong's 5218) which means "attentive hearkening" (hearken, also spelled harken, means to hear, to pay attention to and to heed).



How can you recognize the "speculations" and "lofty things", those "enemy thoughts", that have been "raised up against the knowledge of God" unless you first know the "knowledge of God!" That is why we will be using verses from the Bible whenever possible. In Part 2 we will be finding out what God says about Creation, the Flood and the age of the earth so that we can destroy human speculation that is contrary to God's word. Are you hearkening attentively?

Since most people, including myself, have been brainwashed to believe that the enemy's thoughts are true, it will not be easy to take them captive. We have used them to defend our worldly view of earth history for all of our lives. Do you recall how I had such a difficult time giving up what I learned at UCLA? I lived with those thoughts and taught them to thousands of people before taking them captive. Here are some other verses condemning human knowledge.

*"For it is written, **"I WILL DESTROY THE WISDOM OF THE WISE, AND THE CLEVERNESS OF THE CLEVER I WILL SET ASIDE."***¹¹⁵

*"For the wisdom of this world is foolishness before God. For it is written, **"He is THE ONE WHO CATCHES THE WISE IN THEIR CRAFTINESS"***¹¹⁶

*"Therefore behold, **I will once again deal marvelously with this people, wondrously marvelous; And the wisdom of their wise men will perish, And the discernment of their discerning men will be concealed."***¹¹⁷

*"The wise men are put to shame, They are dismayed and caught; Behold, **they have rejected the word of the LORD, And what kind of wisdom do they have?"***¹¹⁸

The Advantages Of Acquiring God's Knowledge

Reasoning from the Bible makes good sense because instead of relying on the words of men who weren't there and don't know everything, it relies on the words of God who was there and knows everything. God claims to have been there when the earth was created and even before:

*"Before the mountains were born Or You gave birth to the earth and the world, Even **from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.***¹¹⁹

*"The **eternal God** is a dwelling place, And underneath are the **everlasting arms**; And He drove out the enemy from before you, And said, 'Destroy!'"¹²⁰*

*“And when the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, to **Him who lives forever and ever**, the twenty-four elders will fall down before Him who sits on the throne, and **will worship Him who lives forever and ever**, and will cast their crowns before the throne, saying¹²¹*

*“**From everlasting I was established, From the beginning, from the earliest times of the earth.** “When there were no depths I was brought forth, When there were no springs abounding with water. “Before the mountains were settled, Before the hills I was brought forth;”¹²²*

Notice the various statements describing the eternity of God listed in Table 1.

Everlasting God	Ge 21:33	I am the first, I am also the last	Isa 48:12
as I live forever	De 32:40	One Who lives forever	Isa 57:15
eternal God	De 33:27	everlasting King	Jer 10:10
everlasting arms	De 33:27	from the beginning	Jer 17:12
From everlasting even to everlasting	1Ch 16:36	rule forever	La 5:19
The number of His years is unsearchable	Job 36:26	everlasting kingdom	Da 4:3
abides forever	Ps 9:7	...Him who lives forever... ...everlasting dominion...	Da 4:34
From everlasting to everlasting	Ps 41:13	From the days of eternity	Mic 5:2
are on high forever	Ps 92:8	Are You not from everlasting	Hab 1:12
You are from everlasting	Ps 93:2	His ways are everlasting	Hab 3:6
abide forever	Ps 102:12	His eternal power	Ro 1:20
Your years will not come to an end	Ps 102:27	eternal God	Ro 16:26
endures forever	Ps 111:3	the King eternal	1Ti 1:17
everlasting kingdom	Ps 145:13	who alone posses immortality	1Ti 6:16
will reign forever	Ps 146:10	YOUR THRONE, O GOD, IS FOREVER AND EVER	Heb 1:8
everlasting Rock	Isa 26:4	eternal Spirit	Heb 9:14
Everlasting God	Isa 40:28	who has been from the beginning	1Jo 2:13
from the beginning	Isa 41:4	dominion forever and ever	Re 1:6
from eternity I am He	Isa 43:13	Him who lives forever and ever	Re 4:9,10 and 10:6 and 15:7
I am the first and I am the last	Isa 44:6		



Is there any doubt in your mind that God is not limited by time? He existed when all events of the past occurred and

He will be present when all events of the future will occur. He didn't miss anything because of not being there at the same time as the event.

Here is a verse that can be correctly interpreted in light of this truth about God:

“For a thousand years in Your sight Are like yesterday when it passes by, Or as a watch in the night.”¹²³

“But do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day.”¹²⁴

God sees time like we see the newspaper. Just as we can view one page of the newspaper in its entirety, God sees all of time at once. **These verses do not redefine a day as a thousand years!** Notice the word “like” in both verses.

But even though He has been around for all time, how do we know that He was present at the right place to observe something take place? Consider the following verses:

“And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.”¹²⁵

“The LORD looks from heaven; He sees all the sons of men; From His dwelling place He looks out On all the inhabitants of the earth. He who fashions the hearts of them all, He who understands all their works.”¹²⁶

“You have placed our iniquities before You, Our secret sins in the light of Your presence.”¹²⁷

“Naked is Sheol before Him, And Abaddon has no covering.”¹²⁸

“For He looks to the ends of the earth And sees everything under the heavens.”¹²⁹

“For His eyes are upon the ways of a man, And He sees all his steps. “There is no darkness or deep shadow Where the workers of iniquity may hide themselves.”¹³⁰

“Sheol and Abaddon lie open before the LORD, How much more the hearts of men!”¹³¹

“But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain You, how much less this house which I have built”¹³²

““But who is able to build a house for Him, for the heavens and the highest heavens cannot contain Him? So who am I, that I should build a house for Him,

except to burn incense before Him?“¹³³

“For the eyes of the LORD move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His. You have acted foolishly in this. Indeed, from now on you will surely have wars.”¹³⁴

“O LORD, You have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; You understand my thought from afar. You scrutinize my path and my lying down, And are intimately acquainted with all my ways. Even before there is a word on my tongue, Behold, O LORD, You know it all. You have enclosed me behind and before, And laid Your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is too high, I cannot attain to it. Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend to heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there. If I take the wings of the dawn, If I dwell in the remotest part of the sea, Even there Your hand will lead me, And Your right hand will lay hold of me. If I say, “Surely the darkness will overwhelm me, And the light around me will be night,” Even the darkness is not dark to You, And the night is as bright as the day. Darkness and light are alike to You.”¹³⁵

“Am I a God who is near,” declares the LORD, “And not a God far off? “Can a man hide himself in hiding places So I do not see him?“ declares the LORD. “Do I not fill the heavens and the earth?“ declares the LORD.”¹³⁶

“However, the Most High does not dwell in houses made by human hands; as the prophet says: ‘HEAVEN IS MY THRONE, AND EARTH IS THE FOOTSTOOL OF MY FEET; WHAT KIND OF HOUSE WILL YOU BUILD FOR ME?’ says the Lord, ‘OR WHAT PLACE IS THERE FOR MY REPOSE? ‘WAS IT NOT MY HAND WHICH MADE ALL THESE THINGS?’ “¹³⁷

“Woe to those who deeply hide their plans from the LORD, And whose deeds are done in a dark place, And they say, “Who sees us?“ or “Who knows us?“¹³⁸

“It is He who reveals the profound and hidden things; He knows what is in the darkness, And the light dwells with Him.”¹³⁹

“so that your giving will be in secret; and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you.”¹⁴⁰

But just because He was there in time and place, couldn't He distort or lie about what He observed? Consider these verses:

“God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent; Has He said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?” ¹⁴¹

“Also the Glory of Israel will not lie or change His mind; for He is not a man that He should change His mind.” ¹⁴²

*“For the LORD your God is the God of gods and the Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God who **does not show partiality nor take a bribe.**”* ¹⁴³

*“The Rock! His work is perfect, For all His ways are just; **A God of faithfulness and without injustice, Righteous and upright is He.**”* ¹⁴⁴

*“Therefore, listen to me, you men of understanding. **Far be it from God to do wickedness, And from the Almighty to do wrong.**”* ¹⁴⁵

*“**Shall one who hates justice rule? And will you condemn the righteous mighty One.**”* ¹⁴⁶

*“**Who shows no partiality to princes Nor regards the rich above the poor, For they all are the work of His hands?**”* ¹⁴⁷

*“Behold, God is mighty but **does not despise any; He is mighty in strength of understanding.**”* ¹⁴⁸

*“The Almighty--we cannot find Him; He is exalted in power And **He will not do violence to justice and abundant righteousness. Therefore men fear Him; He does not regard any who are wise of heart.**”* ¹⁴⁹

*“For the **LORD is righteous, He loves righteousness; The upright will behold His face.**”* ¹⁵⁰

*“**He loves righteousness and justice; The earth is full of the lovingkindness of the LORD.**”* ¹⁵¹

“My covenant I will not violate, Nor will I alter the utterance of My lips. Once I have sworn by My holiness; I will not lie to David.” ¹⁵² *“To declare that the LORD is upright; He is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in Him.”* ¹⁵³

*“**The LORD is righteous in all His ways And kind in all His deeds.**”* ¹⁵⁴

*““I have not spoken in secret, In some dark land; I did not say to the offspring of Jacob, ‘Seek Me in a waste place’; **I, the LORD, speak righteousness, Declaring things that are upright.**”* ¹⁵⁵

*“**Thus says the LORD, “What injustice did your fathers find in Me, That they went far from Me And walked after emptiness and became empty?”**”* ¹⁵⁶

*“Opening his mouth, Peter said: “I most certainly understand now that **God is not one to show partiality**, but in every nation the man who fears Him and does what is right is welcome to Him.”¹⁵⁷*

*“For **there is no partiality with God.**”¹⁵⁸*

*“Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God;” for **God cannot be tempted by evil**, and He Himself does not tempt anyone.”¹⁵⁹*

*“If you address as **Father the One who impartially judges** according to each one’s work, conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay on earth,”¹⁶⁰*

*“so that by two unchangeable things in which **it is impossible for God to lie**, we who have taken refuge would have strong encouragement to take hold of the hope set before us.”¹⁶¹*

But even though He was there at the right place and at the right time, perhaps He didn’t understand what was happening? My two dogs watch me make coffee every morning but do they understand what I am doing? Consider these verses:

*“He counts the number of the stars; He gives names to all of them. Great is our Lord and abundant in strength; **His understanding is infinite.**”¹⁶²*

*“There is no one holy like the LORD, Indeed, there is no one besides You, Nor is there any rock like our God. “Boast no more so very proudly, Do not let arrogance come out of your mouth; **For the LORD is a God of knowledge, And with Him actions are weighed.**”¹⁶³*

*“But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; **for God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.**”¹⁶⁴*

*“then hear in heaven Your dwelling place, and forgive and act and render to each according to all his ways, whose heart You know, **for You alone know the hearts of all the sons of men,**”¹⁶⁵*

*““As for you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father, and serve Him with a whole heart and a willing mind; **for the LORD searches all hearts, and understands every intent of the thoughts.** If you seek Him, He will let you find Him; but if you forsake Him, He will reject you forever.”¹⁶⁶*

*““For **He knows false men, And He sees iniquity without investigating.**”¹⁶⁷*

*“**With Him are wisdom and might; To Him belong counsel and understanding.**”¹⁶⁸*

“Can anyone teach God knowledge, In that He judges those on high?”¹⁶⁹

*“Behold, God is mighty but does not despise any; **He is mighty in strength of understanding.**”¹⁷⁰*

“With whom did He consult and who gave Him understanding? And who taught Him in the path of justice and taught Him knowledge And informed Him of the way of understanding?”¹⁷¹

*“Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth Does not become weary or tired. **His understanding is inscrutable.**”¹⁷²*

*“It is He who made the earth by His power, Who **established the world by His wisdom; And by His understanding He has stretched out the heavens.**”¹⁷³*

“Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!”¹⁷⁴

*“in whatever our heart condemns us; for God is greater than our heart and **knows all things.**”¹⁷⁵*

Finally, if God is not limited by time or location or ability to understand what He observes, and always tells the truth, wouldn't He be the **perfect witness** of any event in the past? But maybe the God of the Bible has changed. After all, the verses we have read were written 2,000 or more years ago. That's a long time to be aware of everything! Consider the following verses:

“But He is unique and who can turn Him? And what His soul desires, that He does.”¹⁷⁶

*“The counsel of the LORD **stands forever**, The plans of His heart **from generation to generation.**”¹⁷⁷*

*“Lamedh. **Forever, O LORD, Your word is settled in heaven.**”¹⁷⁸*

*“I know that **everything God does will remain forever**; there is nothing to add to it and there is nothing to take from it, for God has so worked that men should fear Him.”¹⁷⁹*

*Yet He also is wise and will bring disaster And **does not retract His words**, But will arise against the house of evildoers And against the help of the workers of iniquity.”¹⁸⁰*

*“Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth **Does not become weary or tired.** His understanding is inscrutable.”¹⁸¹*

*“**For I, the LORD, do not change**; therefore you, O sons of*

Jacob, are not consumed.“¹⁸²

*“In the same way God, desiring even more to show to the heirs of **the promise the unchangeableness of His purpose,** interposed with an oath,”¹⁸³*

*“Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, **with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.**”¹⁸⁴*



Would you rather believe the words of God who was there and knows everything or the words of men who were not there and don't know everything? Is the integrity of God's word higher than the integrity of man's word? If the Bible and journal article deal with the same subject (such as the origin of the earth), which one will you choose to believe and why?

As a student I remember taking a class at UCLA taught by Dr. Willard Libby, a 1960 Nobel Prize winner for his invention of carbon fourteen dating, and his wife, who worked on the first nuclear reactor. Even other UCLA professors attended the class to learn as much as possible from these two remarkable people. But as famous as these two people are, they pale in comparison to God. In order to make the point in the box above as clear as possible, let's take a Biblical science test. The test has only about fifty questions, but they are not true false or multiple choice. The professor giving the test is God and the student is Job. The test begins with God speaking to Job.

*“Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind and said, **“Who is this that darkens counsel By words without knowledge?”***

“Now gird up your loins like a man, And I will ask you, and you instruct Me!

*“**Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding,***

Who set its measurements? Since you know. Or who stretched the line on it? “On what were its bases sunk? Or who laid its cornerstone,

When the morning stars sang together And all the sons of God shouted for joy?”¹⁸⁵

About half way through, God gives Job a chance to give some answers. Here is how Job replied:

Behold, I am insignificant; what can I reply to You? I lay my hand on my mouth.

“Once I have spoken, and I will not answer; Even twice, and I will add nothing more.”¹⁸⁶

At last the test was over but Job's score was no better and Job's concluding comment was no different.

“Then Job answered the LORD and said,

“I know that You can do all things, And that no purpose of

Yours can be thwarted.

*'Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?
"Therefore I have declared that which I did not
understand, Things too wonderful for me, which I did not
know."*

*'Hear, now, and I will speak; I will ask You, and You
instruct me.'*

*"I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear; But now my
eye sees You;*

Therefore I retract, And I repent in dust and ashes." ¹⁸⁷



Are you at the place where Job is? Are you willing to ask God for understanding? Are you willing to be instructed by Him? Do you see God as Job sees God? Do you fully believe that God's understanding of the past is infinitely better than your understanding? That His understanding is infinitely better than the sum of all human understanding for all time? If so, then you know how to think about the past.

Summary Of How To Think

As we look at what the Bible says about Creation, the Flood and the age of the earth in part 2, we need to keep in mind our rationale for how to think so that we can defend what we take to be true. We can summarize the preceding material into three statements. I have also included a verse relating to each.

- The words of Moses are true because Jesus Christ said so.
¹⁸⁸"But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?" ¹⁸⁹

- The miracles in the Bible are also true and testify to God's total control over creation.

"You are the God who performs miracles; you display your power among the peoples." ¹⁹⁰

- God is a reliable witness of all events in every location and through all time. Therefore, we will believe the words of God who was there and knows everything instead of the words of men who were not there and have only limited knowledge and are swayed by bias.

"Behold, I am insignificant; what can I reply to You? I lay my hand on my mouth. "Once I have spoken, and I will not answer; Even twice, and I will add nothing more." ¹⁹¹

Part 2: What To Think

Why Are There Different Stories From The Same Evidence?

Everyone has wondered how the universe formed. Some entertain thoughts of Biblical creation, while others don't. Recall that some people believe the things of God are foolishness so they will limit their thinking to unbiblical causes, while others will consider all causes (1 Cor. 2:12-15, or see page 6 of this paper). Cause and effect seem like a reasonable way to think. Even miracles are effects – very unusual ones – that can be caused by God, Satan or some unknown source. I find it fascinating that we all have the same evidence – the observable universe – but we don't all share the same belief in what or who or how or when this universe was caused.

One significant reason as to why there is disagreement is illustrated by the story of two men looking for a lost ring back on page 32. Recall that the man who lost the ring is looking for it under the streetlight (the only place where he has light to see by) thereby restricting his search area. The other man realizes that there are more places to look, and can expand his search. This second man illustrates the Christian who considers all things (the entire street in our story) and therefore has more to choose from. That is why *“he who is spiritual appraises all things.”*¹⁹⁰ This person is able to choose the biblical scenario while the other will not because he believes the biblical scenario is foolishness. Probably the single most common misconception people have is the notion that evolution better explains the evidence than creation. This misconception has been caused by presenting only the evolutionary interpretation of the evidence in schools and other places (brainwashers disease) and by the “you must be nuts to believe the Bible“ mentality of most people. As we will see, the biblical explanation is more reasonable than the evolutionary explanation, assuming that the Bible is true.

Our first step is to assume something foundational to our topic; that the universe is an effect that had a cause. You may think that all effects have a cause but this is not so. If God is eternal, as we have seen from Scripture, then He wasn't caused. If something is caused, there must have been a time prior to the cause when that something did not exist. And since God is eternal, this period of time never existed. If the universe is eternal, like God, then looking for its cause is meaningless, so let's assume that the universe in which we live had a beginning.

Where Did Matter Come From?

We are taught that all matter is composed of atoms and those atoms have a tendency to combine in various ways to make molecules that makeup solids, liquids and gasses. Water is composed of two elements (hydrogen and oxygen) stuck together in the ratio of two hydrogen atoms for each single oxygen atom, so the chemical formula is H₂O. Common table salt is composed of the elements sodium and chlorine that alternate one after the other to make a crystal of salt. Geologists refer to table salt by its mineral name “halite“ while

chemists call it “sodium chloride“. Over one hundred different elements have been discovered over the years. A chart called “The Periodic Chart of the Elements“ that hangs on the wall of every science classroom usually represents them. Elements that react in a similar way are placed in the same column on the chart. For example, right below sodium in the chart is the element potassium. Since it is in the same column as sodium, it reacts like sodium and, when combined with chlorine, makes the mineral “sylvite“ or “potassium chloride.“ Like sodium chloride, this substance has alternating atoms but of potassium and chlorine, the same complexity of order that halite has. The potassium it contains gives this substance a bitter and salty taste. It is mixed with sodium chloride and sold as “low sodium salt“ in stores. So why should we care? Because the matter we commonly deal with has two important characteristics: it is composed of atoms; and those atoms may be ordered. Glass is an example of a solid where the atoms are not ordered. In the case of living things, the order of the atoms is very complex.

Before we look more closely at the order of the atoms, let’s address the question of where they came from in the first place. Some would quickly reply “the big bang made them.“ Let’s assume for now that the big bang occurred. Much has been written about the early history of the universe back to the moment of the “bang,“ but relatively speaking, very little has been written about “before the bang.“ Scientists are comfortable with atoms (and the particles that comprise them such as protons, neutrons and electrons) and with energy but when you ask them a question like “where is the cosmic chicken that laid the cosmic egg?“ they don’t have much to say. Perhaps this is where science and religion and philosophy share the same domain. If there was a time when there was no mass and no energy, how was mass and energy caused? In other words, what caused the big bang?

“If we imagine the universe shrinking backward, like a film in reverse, the density of matter and energy rises toward infinity as we approach the moment of origin. Smoke pours from the computer, and space and time themselves dissolve into a quantum ‘foam‘. ‘Our rulers and clocks break’, explained Dr. Andrei Linde, a cosmologist at Stanford University. ‘To ask what is before this moment is a self-contradiction’¹⁹²

There are several theories being considered by astronomers and physicists today – inflation, chaotic inflation, string, quantum – but all of them fail to answer our question, or they describe a universe that is eternal and therefore had no beginning.

This is how the Bible answers the question of where matter came from:

*“By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the **word of God**, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible.”¹⁹³*

*“By the **word of the LORD** the heavens were made, And by the breath of His mouth all their host.”¹⁹⁴*

*“For when they maintain this, it escapes their notice that by the **word of God** the heavens existed long ago and the earth was formed out of water and by water,”¹⁹⁵*

*“**All things** came into being through Him, and apart from Him **nothing** came into being that has come into being.”¹⁹⁶*

It can easily be deduced from Scripture that God simply spoke all matter into existence. This truth alone makes God far superior to any person, thing, energy or force. This is an obvious miracle. Do you recall the purpose of miracles?

*“that all the peoples of the earth may **know** that the hand of the **LORD** is mighty, so that you may **fear** the **LORD** your God forever.”¹⁹⁷*



Do you fear the One who created this universe? Consider the most impressive task ever done. How does speaking the universe into existence compare with that task? Recall that Jesus is the One who did this. Also recall that Jesus will be the judge of everyone at the end.

Recall that God is eternal but created the universe at a moment in time. There was a beginning to this universe and it began when God spoke it into existence. When that happened will be the topic of our last meeting.

Order Is Important

Consider this thought an experiment. If a live mouse is placed into a blender (with the cap on so that none of the mouse could leave) and the blender is then turned on for a minute, the mouse will not be the same – it is now out of order. Since nothing could leave the blender, every atom in the mouse must still be there. But even though all the atoms in the mouse are there, if they are not in the right order, the mouse will act differently, to say the least. So, order is an essential part of being a mouse. Just as a Boeing 747 has more than four million parts and none of them flies, they must be placed in the correct order for flight to occur, so planes must also be ordered to do what they do. The cells in our body have a nucleus containing a large molecule called DNA. The order of atoms in DNA molecules carries all the information needed to construct the organism. One human DNA molecule would be about three feet long if it was straightened out from its spiral shape. How much information is contained in human DNA? Consider this quote,

*“Physics books may be complicated, but...the objects and phenomena that a physics book describes are simpler than a single cell in the body of its author. And the author consists of trillions of those cells, many of them different from each other, organized with intricate architecture and precision-engineering into a working machine capable of writing a book...**Each nucleus...contains a digitally coded database larger, in information content, than all 30 volumes of the Encyclopedia Britannica put together. And this figure is for each cell, not all the cells of the body put together.**”¹⁹⁸*

How much paper would you need to write down the order of the atoms in halite? Only one sentence is needed, since it is simply sodium-chlorine in all three dimensions (length, height, width) of a salt crystal. Compare this amount of order with **30 volumes** of books!

If I write a letter, is the information in the ink? If it was only in the ink, I could simply spill some ink onto a piece of paper, let it dry and send it to you! The information in the letter is found in the **order** of the ink. The ink simply serves as the substance to be ordered to convey information. I could convey the information of “I love you” in written form, in magnetic form (an audio or video tape or computer drive), in spoken form, in the form of radio waves (a cell phone) or visual form by mouthing the words without speaking them!

In other words, **information is not tied to any particular element or method of transmission. In a sense information is independent of physical things.** Einstein viewed the nature and origin of information as one of the profound questions about the world as we know it. The point is that the information written in the DNA is not the product of DNA. The DNA is a chemical record of the information that could be recorded in many different ways. Therefore, a very important question to ask is how the information got there! Did God put it there or did this information (30 volumes worth) accumulate by evolution over many generations of natural selection?

Order In The Creation Scenario



Here is some food for thought. Since the type of matter used to store information is irrelevant, perhaps information exists apart from matter. The first verse in the book of John is *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”* The Greek word translated as *Word* is “logos” which means not only something said but includes the thought as well (Strong’s 3056). Words and thoughts have information. Isn’t it interesting that information was in the beginning?

In the first chapter of Genesis, the phrase *“then God said”* followed by the creation of something appears eight times in the New American Standard Bible (emphasis mine).

Gen. 1:3 ¶ ***Then God said, “Let there be light”***; and there was light.

Gen. 1:6 ¶ ***Then God said, “Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.”***

Gen. 1:9 ¶ ***Then God said, “Let the waters below the heavens be gathered into one place, and let the dry land appear”***; and it was so.

Gen. 1:11 ***Then God said, “Let the earth sprout vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees on the earth bearing fruit after their kind with seed in them”***; and it was so.

Gen. 1:14 ¶ ***Then God said, “Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years;***

Gen. 1:20 ¶ ***Then God said, “Let the waters teem with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth in the open expanse of the heavens.”***

Gen. 1:24 ¶ ***Then God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures after their kind: cattle and creeping things and beasts of the earth after their kind”***; and it was so.

Gen. 1:26 ¶ ***Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”***

Since living things contain an enormous amount of information, and they were fully functional at the moment of creation, God must be the source of the information they contain. The biblical scenario does not involve long periods of time for natural selection to somehow increase the complexity of living things. Such thoughts are from the mind of men, not from the mind of God.

Read the following verses and decide who is speaking, what is he doing and when is he doing it?

Prov. 8:22 *“The LORD possessed me at the beginning of His way, Before His works of old.*

23 *“From everlasting I was established, From the beginning, from the earliest times of the earth.*

24 *“When there were no depths I was brought forth, When there were no springs abounding with water.*

25 *“Before the mountains were settled, Before the hills I was brought forth;*

26 *While He had not yet made the earth and the fields, Nor the first dust of the world.*

27 *“When He established the heavens, I was there, When He inscribed a circle on the face of the deep,*

28 *When He made firm the skies above, When the springs of the deep became fixed,*

*29 When He set for the sea its boundary So that the water would not transgress His command, When He marked out the foundations of the earth;
30 Then I was beside Him, as a master workman; And I was daily His delight, Rejoicing always before Him,
31 Rejoicing in the world, His earth, And having my delight in the sons of men.“*

We read a few verses before that:

Prov. 8:12 *“I, **wisdom**, dwell with prudence, And I find knowledge and discretion.*

13 “The fear of the LORD is to hate evil; Pride and arrogance and the evil way And the perverted mouth, I hate.

14 “Counsel is mine and sound wisdom; I am understanding, power is mine.“

Webster defines wisdom as

“the faculty of making the best use of knowledge, experience or understanding“

So we know that Jesus (the Creator) worked with wisdom while He created. If you were given the task of constructing something exceedingly complex, would you first seek wisdom? Would you make use of wisdom as you constructed? The biblical source of matter and its complexity is God.

Order In The Evolution Scenario

How much information can random chance produce? Could random chance produce the information found in living things? Let's do a simple demonstration to get a feel for this question.

Write the letters “COMPLEXITY“ on ten small pieces of paper and place them in a hat and mix them up. Then draw them out of the hat one at a time and place them in the order drawn on the table. Do the letters spell COMPLEXITY? Not likely because the chances of doing so are 1 in 10 factorial (1 chance in $10 \times 9 \times 8 \times 7 \times 6 \times 5 \times 4 \times 3 \times 2 \times 1$) or 1 chance in 3,628,800. Would you care to imagine the probability of selecting letters to correctly spell all the words in 30 volumes of Encyclopedia Britannica?

But the evolutionary literature is quick to inform us that natural selection dramatically improves those odds. Imagine that each letter is a genetic characteristic like the shape of a bird's beak. If this bird is able to get more food by virtue of its different beak then it is better able to survive and be more likely to pass those special beak genes onto the next generation compared with birds having normal beaks. Over many generations this process is supposed to be the way that evolution works: preserving the good traits while removing the bad ones. Read the article below in light of what we just did.

“To test the theory of life-history evolution, Ender Reznick and Heather Bryga of UC Riverside removed guppies from the Aripo River in Trinidad where the natural predators were cichlids, another species of fish that preys primarily on adults. They transplanted the guppies into a tributary of the Aripo River where there were previously no guppies and where the primary predators were killifish, which prey primarily on the young. After 11 years, corresponding to 30 to 60 generations of the guppies, they found that the transplanted guppies began to reproduce about nine days later on the average – at 76.1 days of life rather than 67.5. They also produced fewer progeny per brood and the young were slightly larger. To demonstrate that these changes were caused by inheritance rather than local conditions, the group captured fish at each site and bred them in the Riverside laboratory. They found that the fish continued the reproductive behavior exhibited in the wild, indicating it was genetic in origin and that predation was the most important factor.”¹⁹⁹



What kind of evolution is illustrated here? They began with guppies and ended with guppies. This demonstrates variation in guppies but not guppies changing enough to be reclassified as a different organism. What would be necessary to change guppies into something that would no longer be classified as a guppy? Would the environmental influences need to change? Would simply having enough generations produce enough of a change?

This is an example of microevolution where variation within the same kind of organism is observed. Biology textbooks usually use the peppered moth to illustrate this kind of evolution. When the trees in London became darker from pollution in the late 1800's, birds ate more of the lighter colored ones because they were more easily seen against the darkened trees. When the pollution problem lessened, the number of light colored moths increased. But, again, we started with moths and ended with moths. Studies of many generations of fruit flies show variation, but no one would question that the end result is still a fruit fly.

A biblical example of this kind of evolution (although humanly directed) is found in Genesis chapters 30-31 where Jacob tends the flocks owned by his father-in-law Laban. After separating the pure white goats and sheep from the others (these other colored goats and sheep were Jacob's wages for tending Laban's flock), Jacob was left in charge of the pure white flocks of Laban. A commonly held belief of the time was that the characteristics of the offspring were influenced by what the animals saw when they mated. So Jacob made something to encourage offspring that were not pure white, so that his wealth might increase.

“ Then Jacob took fresh rods of poplar and almond and plane trees, and peeled white stripes in them, exposing the white which was in the rods. He set the rods which he had peeled in front of the flocks in the gutters, even in the watering troughs, where the flocks came to drink; and they mated when they came to drink. So the flocks mated by the rods, and

*the flocks brought forth striped, speckled, and spotted. Jacob separated the lambs, and made the flocks face toward the striped and all the black in the flock of Laban; and he put his own herds apart, and did not put them with Laban's flock.*²⁰⁰

He also succeeded in making his flock stronger and Laban's flock weaker.

*“Moreover, whenever the stronger of the flock were mating, Jacob would place the rods in the sight of the flock in the gutters, so that they might mate by the rods; but when the flock was feeble, he did not put them in; so the feebler were Laban's and the stronger Jacob's.”*²⁰¹

All this was done with God's blessing and may have been a miracle since nonwhite goats and sheep are caused by a recessive gene, the dominant gene causes white. Notice what Jacob saw in a dream.

*“And it came about at the time when the flock were mating that I lifted up my eyes and saw in a dream, and behold, **the male goats which were mating were striped, speckled, and mottled.** “Then the angel of God said to me in the dream, ‘Jacob,’ and I said, ‘Here I am.’ “He said, ‘Lift up now your eyes and see that **all the male goats which are mating are striped, speckled, and mottled;** for I have seen all that Laban has been doing to you.”*²⁰²

Perhaps Jacob's success should be attributed to God, not the sticks, since God knew that all the males carried the recessive gene that presented itself generously so that Jacob's flock would grow in number, according to God's plan.

In our analogy of ordering letters, this process of natural selection could be illustrated by changing our process of selecting letters. Put all ten letters back into the hat and mix them up. Reach in and draw a letter. If it is a “C” then keep it but if it is not a “C” then return it to the hat. Eventually the “C” will be drawn. Do the same until the “O” appears, and then the same again until the “M” appears, and so on. Repeat this process and the word “COMPLEXITY” will appear. And it will appear much sooner than the way we drew them before because on the average it will take about 550 draws to get the word “COMPLEXITY.” When the correct letter “C” is kept, that is analogous to the bird keeping the advantageous beak. The “O” could represent a different shape to wings, and the “M” to a longer tongue, etc. Eventually, all these advantageous traits result in a different animal – represented by the word “COMPLEXITY.” Drawing letters and keeping each one, as we did the first time, would require, on the average, 30,628,800 separate draws (probability of 1 to 3,628,800 x 10 draws per word) to get “COMPLEXITY” whereas doing it the second way using natural selection would require, on the average, 550 separate draws. That means that natural selection improves our chances of getting the right result by about 55,700 times. At this point, natural selection looks pretty good. Consider this quote:

“Complex Adaptive Systems learn as they grow. Genetic mutations are chancy, but natural selection and the evolution of complexity are not. Natural selection preserves the gains and eradicates the mistakes. A monkey randomly typing will never produce Hamlet; but a monkey that learns, or a computersystem that holds all correctly sequenced letters and disregards the rest (a la natural selection), will peck out “TOBEORNOTTOBE“ in a matter of minutes. Does this happen at the cellular level? It does! It happens at all levels...”²⁰³

Does Microevolution Lead To Macroevolution?

We have seen that microevolution is a reality and can be demonstrated. If we assume that God created “ex nihilo“ (out of nothing as Heb. 11:3 states), is it possible that through natural selection or through human intervention (as we saw with Jacob), microevolution has occurred during the time from the creation until now? The answer must be yes. But can we extend the concept of microevolution to also result in macroevolution, where a different organism develops? If once upon a time there was only blue-green algae, and it evolved into humans, we are no longer talking about microevolution. “Fish to philosopher, molecules to man“ involves dramatic changes. Some would wave their hands and say that all that is needed is enough time for microevolution to act.

“Time is in fact the hero of the plot. The time with which we have to deal is of the order of two billion years. What we regard as impossible on the basis of human experience is meaningless here. Given so much time, the “impossible“ becomes possible, the possible probable, and the probable virtually certain. One has only to wait: time itself performs the miracles.”²⁰⁴

If I run a 10 minute mile in January, and a 9 minute mile in February, and an 8 minute mile in March, and keep improving at the same rate each month thereafter, I will run the mile in zero minutes by October. You know that this statement cannot be true because you know that there is a limit to how fast I can run. Is there a limitation to how much microevolution can change an organism?

*“A wide spectrum of researchers – ranging from geologists and paleontologists, through ecologists and population geneticists, to embryologists and molecular biologists – gathered at Chicago’s Field Museum of Natural History under the conference title: Macroevolution. Their task was to consider the mechanisms that underlie the origin of species...**The central question of the Chicago conference was whether the mechanisms underlying microevolution can be extrapolated to explain the phenomena of macroevolution. At the risk of doing violence to the positions of some of the people at the meeting the answer can be given as a clear, NO.**”²⁰⁵*

Francisco Ayala (Associate Professor of Genetics at the University of California) was quoted at the conference as saying

“...but I am now convinced from what the paleontologists say that small changes do not accumulate.”²⁰⁶

Macroevolution has never been observed experimentally. It has only been inferred from the fossil record, which will be our next topic. Notice how this encyclopedia describes evolution.

*“Evolution is the process by which all living things have developed from primitive organisms through changes occurring over billions of years, a progression that includes the most advanced animals and plants...**Because evolutionary events in the past are not amenable to direct observation or experimental verification, the process of evolution over the course of earth’s history must be inferred.**”²⁰⁷*

This is a fair definition. In my opinion it should be in every school textbook, along with a discussion of what inference involves – that’s critical thinking!

Natural Selection Plus Circular Reasoning Equals Macroevolution

Years ago biologists explained the process of sight in very general and uncertain terms. In fact most of the major processes were “black boxes“, a way of saying that “we really don’t know step by step on the molecular level how the process works.“ But with the advent of molecular biology, the detailed steps involved with seeing something have been revealed. Part of the process causing sight goes like this:

“When light first strikes the retina a photon interacts with a molecule called 11-cis retinal, which rearranges within picoseconds to trans-retinal. (A picosecond is about the time it takes light to travel the breadth of a single human hair.) The change in the shape of the retinal molecule forces a change in the shape of the protein, rhodopsin, to which the retinal is tightly bound. The protein’s metamorphosis alters its behavior. Now called metarhodopsin II, The protein sticks to another protein, called transducin. Before bumping into metarhodopsin II, transducin had tightly bound a small molecule called GDP. But when transducin interacts with metarhodopsin II, the GDP falls off, and a molecule called GTP binds to transducin. (GTP is closely related to, but critically different from, GDP.)...[this continues for 4 more paragraphs]”²⁰⁸

This is an example of a molecular mechanism that is irreducibly complex. This means that each part interacts with others and all parts are necessary for the end result to occur. No part is unnecessary or redundant. Imagine this situation: an organism without sight eventually develops sight (as described in the manner above) through natural selection. And to simplify the situation, let’s assume that sight requires only ten molecular steps (actually there are more than ten that are known). If each letter in the word COMPLEXITY now represents one of these molecular steps in the process of

sight (no longer complete traits as before), then, in an average of 550 draws, sight should occur – right? However, why would any of the first nine letters COMPLEXIT (the first nine biochemical steps) stay in the population when they need the tenth one to cause sight?

In other words, unless you know beforehand what biochemical steps are necessary, and can keep all of them in the organism until the last one shows up, sight will not occur. Natural selection not only preserves the advantageous traits but also removes those that are not beneficial. Recall in the quote above, regarding the monkey who could type TOBEORNOTTOBE, there was a condition: “...***a monkey that learns, or a computer system that holds all correctly sequenced letters and disregards the rest.***” How can a monkey learn something that never existed before? And how would a computer know what letters to disregard and what letters to keep **unless the computer was programmed beforehand to check each letter against the actual Hamlet text?** This looks like circular reasoning to me: the end result must be known before natural selection can produce the same result. We will see circular reasoning again when we examine fossils. Now that you know what to look out for – **beware!** I have no doubt that God could cause those first steps to linger in the population until such time that the last one appears. But the Bible doesn’t make even the slightest reference to such a thing, so we had best not say God does something that we don’t have evidence to support.

Evolution would have us believe that the information comes from the ordering of atoms. Therefore matter composed of atoms grouped into molecules is in control of information. Information, under the evolutionary scenario, develops slowly, very slowly, requiring many generations to result in a new characteristic, such as sight. But in the creation scenario information is first and then atoms are ordered. The evolution and creation scenarios are opposite on this point. Notice this statement from Dr. Linde:

*“...as Dr. Linde points out, there is a chicken-and-egg-problem. Which came first: the universe, or the law governing it? Or, as he asks, **If there was no law, how did the universe appear?**”²⁰⁹*

That is a great question! And the Bible has a great answer, God is the source of all laws, all matter and all order to matter.



So what do you believe? Did matter originate in the beginning from God or from the cosmic chicken before the big bang? Does the complexity of matter testify to the handiwork of God or to random mutations, refined by natural selection? Which one makes more sense to you – atoms then information or information then atoms? It makes good sense that before a builder can build a house (arrange the pieces so that a house results), he needs a plan, blueprints, and information!

PART 2: GOD WROTE IN THE ROCKS **WHAT HE WROTE IN THE BOOK**

Biblical Extinction

Four chapters in Genesis are devoted to the Flood - double the number of chapters devoted to creation! Five New Testament passages also refer to the Flood as a real historical event (Matt. 24:37-42, Luke 17:26-27, Heb. 11:7, 2 Pet. 2:4-5 and 2 Pet. 3:5-7). If God really did what He said He did, then our understanding of earth history must include this event. God was not simply a spectator to the Flood, He caused it! Consider the following verses,

*“Now the earth was corrupt in the sight of God, and the earth was filled with violence. God looked on the earth, and behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way upon the earth. Then God said to Noah, **“The end of all flesh has come before Me; for the earth is filled with violence because of them; and behold, I am about to destroy them with the earth.”**²¹⁰*

*“Behold, I, even **I am bringing the flood of water upon the earth, to destroy all flesh in which is the breath of life, from under heaven; everything that is on the earth shall perish.**”²¹¹*

*“**All flesh that moved on the earth perished, birds and cattle and beasts and every swarming thing that swarms upon the earth, and all mankind; of all that was on the dry land, all in whose nostrils was the breath of the spirit of life, died. Thus He blotted out every living thing that was upon the face of the land, from man to animals to creeping things and to birds of the sky, and they were blotted out from the earth; and only Noah was left, together with those that were with him in the ark. The water prevailed upon the earth one hundred and fifty days.**”²¹²*

Since God exterminated all animal and human life on the earth’s surface by causing a worldwide flood, what would have happened to all those organisms? As Ken Ham, a popular creationist speaker put it “*you would expect to find billions of dead things, buried in rock layers, laid down by water, all over the earth .*”



What do you think happened to the remains of all those animals and plants? There are only three possibilities. Their remains were eaten by fish or by land animals before they perished, or they rotted as they floated in the water, or they were buried in the sediment deposited by the moving water of the Flood.

Notice that God specifically identifies those living things that will all die, except for the ones in the ark: ***“from man to animals to creeping things and to birds of the sky.”*** We assume that during the Flood some plants and marine organisms also died and were buried.

Description of the Flood

*“In the six hundredth year of Noah’s life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on the same day all **the fountains of the great deep burst open, and the floodgates of the sky were opened.** The rain fell upon the earth for forty days and forty nights.”²¹³*

Notice that there were two sources of water - subterranean and atmospheric. The duration of the Flood, from the beginning of rainfall in Noah’s 600th year, 2nd month, 17th day (Gen. 7:11) to the time when he left the ark in Noah’s 601st year, 2nd month, 27th day (Gen. 8:14) was over a year. The water depth is unknown except that:

*“The water prevailed more and more upon the earth, so that **all the high mountains everywhere under the heavens were covered.** The water prevailed fifteen cubits higher, and the mountains were covered.”²¹⁴*

We don’t know how high the highest mountains were then but if they were all covered, it must have been a worldwide flood. There isn’t enough water on earth to cover the highest mountains on earth today. But consider this: if the current earth’s surface had no irregularities at all (smooth like a billiard ball), the earth’s surface would be covered uniformly by the water on earth now to a depth of **over two miles (about 12,000 feet)**! So, at the time of the Flood, mountains less than about 12,000 feet would have been underwater assuming a flat and shallow ocean floor. That’s a lot of water! Perhaps at the close of the Flood or after the Flood, mountains rose to their current height.

*“He established the earth upon its foundations, So that it will not totter forever and ever. You covered it with the deep as with a garment; **The waters were standing above the mountains.** At Your rebuke they fled, at the sound of Your thunder they hurried away. **The mountains rose; the valleys sank down To the place which You established for them.** You set a boundary that they may not pass over, So that they will not return to cover the earth.”²¹⁵*

I believe the Flood to be of worldwide extent because:

- Water covered all the high mountains **everywhere** (Gen. 7:19)
- What constrained the water if it was a local flood?
- Why would Noah have to build an ark if the Flood was only local?
- How could “*all flesh that moved on the earth perish*“ (Gen. 7:21-23) in a local flood?
- Since local floods occur today, hasn't God broken His promise (Gen. 8:21, 9:11, 9:15) to never again produce such a catastrophe?

The Preflood World

Let's start with the preflood climate. Since tropical fossils are found widely distributed on all continents, we assume that the climate was warm. The typical latitudinal zonation of climates – warmer equator and colder poles – that we have now may not have existed before the Flood. If tropical plants like ferns were fossilized where they grew, then the Antarctic continent was experiencing a tropical (warm, humid) climate to account for such fossils in coal deposits found there. However, they could have floated there to be deposited instead of growing there. There may have been only one large continent (geologists call it Pangea which means “all land“), as this verse implies.

*“Then God said, “Let the waters below the heavens be **gathered into one place**, and let the dry land appear“; and it was so.”²¹⁶*

If the water was gathered into one place the land could have also been in one place. However, even if the preflood world had only one continent, the lack of climatic zonation on this super continent is a challenge to explain.

“...there is little evidence that climatic belts existed in the early history of the earth, yet climatic zonation, both latitudinal and vertical, is clearly apparent in all parts of the earth today. This anomalous situation is difficult to explain. It is impossible to reconstruct a super-continent which could lie entirely within one climatic regime. Any rotating planet, orbiting the Sun on an inclined axis of rotation must have climatic zonation. It is obvious, therefore, that climatic conditions in the past were significantly different from those in evidence today.”²¹⁷

Perhaps the atmosphere had such a thick cloud cover (after all, it rained for 40 days and 40 nights, Gen. 7:4,12) that sunlight could not reach the ground to heat it as it does now. Sunlight does not heat air directly since air is transparent. The sun heats the ground and the ground heats the air. Since this process takes time, there is a lag time between when the sun is highest at noon each day and the hottest time of the day one or two hours later. The

same is true for the month when the noon sun is highest at the summer solstice in June while the hottest month is July or August in the United States. It takes time for the sun to heat the ground and for the ground to heat the air.

As we travel to the poles, the sunlight is spread out over more area of the ground and, therefore, heats the ground less and in turn heats the air less. That is why climates on the equator are warm (having more direct sunlight) and climates near the poles are cold (having less direct sunlight). But all of this depends on the sunlight reaching the ground, which would be absent if a thick cloud cover existed before the Flood. Rain may have not fallen before the Flood because,

*“This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made earth and heaven. Now no shrub of the field was yet in the earth, and no plant of the field had yet sprouted, **for the LORD God had not sent rain upon the earth**, and there was no man to cultivate the ground. **But a mist used to rise from the earth and water the whole surface of the ground.**”^{e218}*

And the rainbow covenant would lose much of its significance if rainbows were seen before the Flood.

*“I establish My covenant with you; and all flesh shall never again be cut off by the water of the flood, neither shall there again be a flood to destroy the earth.” God said, “This is the sign of the covenant which I am making between Me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all successive generations; **I set My bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a sign of a covenant between Me and the earth.** “It shall come about, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow will be seen in the cloud, and I will remember My covenant, which is between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and never again shall the water become a flood to destroy all flesh. **“When the bow is in the cloud, then I will look upon it, to remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.”** And God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant which I have established between Me and all flesh that is on the earth.”^{e219}*

However, the mist may have been limited to the days of creation (note wording above) and it is possible that rain fell before the Flood. If the atmosphere had a complete cloud cover, rain could fall and yet rainbows would not be visible because the sun needs to be shining directly on raindrops to produce a rainbow. This is consistent with the earliest reference to anyone seeing the Sun, Moon or stars in Gen. 15:5, after the Flood, when God asks Abram to count the stars as a measure of his descendants.

A close look at genealogies in Genesis reveals two interesting things: human life spans were much longer than today; and life spans show a dramatic decrease following the Flood. Adam lived contemporaneously with eight generations of his ancestors!

“Is not wisdom found among the aged? Does not long life bring understanding?”²²⁰



Compare what you could do in a 70-year life span with a life span 13 times as long - 910 years! Consider the hundreds of inventions produced in the single brief life of Thomas Edison or stacks of musical masterpieces created by men like Mozart (who died at age 35), Bach (died at 65) and Beethoven (died at 57). Not only was there more time available to live, but also, the potential of tremendous knowledge shared directly between eight generations.

Notice the accomplishments of preflood man:

- Adam and Eve worked in the garden and took care of it (Gen. 2:15).
- Adam named each living creature (Gen. 2:19).
- Abel kept flocks and Cain worked the soil (Gen. 4:2).
- Cain built a city (Gen. 4:17).
- Jabal was the father of those who dwell in tents and have livestock (Gen. 4:20).
- Jubal was the father of all who play the harp and flute (Gen. 4:21).
- Tubal-Cain forged all kinds of tools out of bronze and iron (Gen. 4:22).
- Noah built the ark according to God’s instructions (Gen.6:22) so he must have been quite a craftsman.



When you visualize preflood man, do you think of brutish “ape-men“ only capable of grunting, or do you think of civilized men? Where did this notion come from? From the minds of men who were not there and don’t know everything. Since man evolved through natural selection it makes good evolutionary sense to think of our ancestors in this way.

*Why did human life spans drop so dramatically after the flood?
Here is some food for thought:*

- The seasons began (Gen. 8:22) replacing a warmer and more uniform climate under the vapor canopy making it more difficult to keep warm, raise crops and raise animals.
- There was more radiation reaching the surface to cause more genetic mutations than before the Flood.
- There was less oxygen pressure so healing of wounds was less rapid after the Flood.
- There was a change of diet from vegetation before the Flood (Gen. 1:29-30) to meat after the Flood (Gen. 9:2-3).
- God made animals afraid of man (Gen. 9:2) so food may have been harder to get and larger animals may have been more aggressive toward man.
- The human gene pool was much smaller after the Flood than before. Perhaps those characteristics conducive to longevity were not as prominent in Noah's family than in his ancestors.

Similar arguments can be made for animals that left the ark to repopulate the earth. Perhaps some of them became extinct because they could not compete in the post flood world.

...now boarding the bat kind in pen number...

God gave detailed ark building instructions to Noah. If we assume the length of a cubit as 17.5 inches (the so called "Egyptian cubit"), then the ark was 437 feet long, 73 feet wide and 44 feet high. There is no evidence that anyone built a larger ship until 1858!

"Since the standard railroad stock car contains 2,670 cubic feet effective capacity, the Ark had a volumetric capacity equal to that of 522 standard stock cars. Since a standard stock car can carry 240 sheep, the Ark could have carried over 125,000 sheep. The average size of all animals is certainly less than that of a sheep and there are less than 18,000 species of land animals alive today (that is, birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians)".²²¹

It had a window on the roof, door on the side, and three decks. Notice how God described its contents:

"You shall take with you of every clean animal by sevens, a male and his female; and of the animals that are not clean two, a male

and his female; **also of the birds of the sky, by sevens, male and female, to keep offspring alive on the face of all the earth.**^{“222}

*“But I will establish My covenant with you; and you shall enter the ark-- you and your sons and your wife, and your sons’ wives with you. “And of every living thing of all flesh, you shall bring two of every kind into the ark, to keep them alive with you; they shall be male and female. **“Of the birds after their kind, and of the animals after their kind, of every creeping thing of the ground after its kind, two of every kind will come to you to keep them alive.** “As for you, take for yourself some of all food which is edible, and gather it to yourself; and it shall be for food for you and for them.” Thus Noah did; according to all that God had commanded him, so he did.*^{“223}

Notice why animals were taken into the ark – **“...to keep offspring alive on the face of all the earth“**. And this verse **“...that they may breed abundantly on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth.**^{“224}



Who selected the actual animals that went on the ark? How did the animals get to the ark? Who shut the door to the ark after it was loaded? The answer is God! He alone knows the genetic information in every living thing so He can make the best choice. And He has the ability of getting any thing any where at any time. A great One to have around for those really big jobs!

*“Those that entered, male and female of all flesh, entered as God had commanded him; and **the LORD closed it behind him.**”^{“225}*

It is interesting to note that animals were taken into the ark in pairs by “kind“ (Gen. 6:20 and 7:14). This is the same Hebrew word for kind “miyn“ (Strong’s 4327, species) that is used in Gen. 1 where God creates them by their “kind.“ This word appears in seven verses in the first chapter of Genesis – five verses describing creation and two verses describing the Flood. It also appears in 11 other verses in the Old Testament and in every case it refers to animals. The following are taken from the King James Version and most verses refer to dietary restrictions,

- Lev. 11:14 vulture, kite
- Lev. 11:15 and De. 14:14 raven
- Lev. 11:16 and De. 14:15 owl, night hawk, cuckow
- Lev. 11:19 stork, heron, lapwing, bat, locust, bald locust, beetle, grasshopper
- Lev. 11:22 locust, bald locust, beetle, grasshopper
- Lev. 11:29 weasel, mouse, tortoise
- Deut. 14:13 glede, kite, vulture
- Deut. 14:18 stork, heron, lapwing, bat
- Eze. 47:10 fish

Notice that the birds and insects are subdivided into different kinds. So, using these verses as a rough guide, the meaning of kind (miyn) can have a broad meaning (like fish) as well as a more specific meaning (like lapwing, weasel, beetle). Each different kind would have different DNA. Only one pair of each kind was needed because microevolution (variation within a kind) would provide the diversity within that kind after the Flood in much the same way that the variety of dogs we know today are descendant of the wild dog.



Did dinosaurs get on the Ark? Dinosaurs were created on day six, along with man (Gen, 1:24-27), because they are “beasts” (KJ and NAS). There is no mention in the Bible of their extinction so they most likely boarded the Ark since “*every beast after its kind*” (Gen. 7:14) boarded the Ark. Does every mean some or all? It makes sense that juvenile dinosaurs of the large variety, such as the saurapods (the large kind that sneezed at the humans up in the tree in the movie *Jurassic Park*), went in the Ark instead of full-grown adults.

Did fish board the Ark? There is no mention of aquatic animals in the list of what **was to board** (Gen. 6:18-21, 7:2-4), in the list of what He **would destroy** (Gen. 6:7) and in the list of what He **did destroy** (Gen. 7:21-23). Although aquatic animals were not singled out for extermination, it is reasonable to conclude that many would have died in the Flood. The same argument holds for plant life.

Good Boats Don't Just Happen

Was the Ark sea worthy? Since God designed it and told Noah how to build it, you can bet the answer is yes! David Collins, a Naval Architect, evaluated the stability of the ark according to U.S. Coast Guard Regulations. He assumed that the ark's weight was 4140 long tons using cypress wood since “gopher wood” (Gen. 6:14) is unknown. A long ton is 2,240 pounds. He further assumed the total weight of animals at 100 long tons and 6,000 long tons for food (30 times the weight of animals for food and 30 times the weight of animals for water) totaling 10,240 long tons for the loaded ark. The fully loaded ark would have a draft (sink into the water) of 10.6 feet. He followed the same procedure used by modern naval architects and concludes:

“Noah's Ark was extremely stable. When God told Noah how to build it, He did a very good job. He made the Ark so stable that it would be fully safe whatever cataclysmic forces of the flood were hurled against it!”²²⁶

A more recent investigation by nine staff members of the Korea Research Institute of Ships and Ocean Engineering in Taejon, Korea, also evaluated the Ark's safety in “severe environments imposed by waves and winds during the Flood. They built 1/50-scaled models of several hull designs to confirm their theoretical analysis. They conclude:

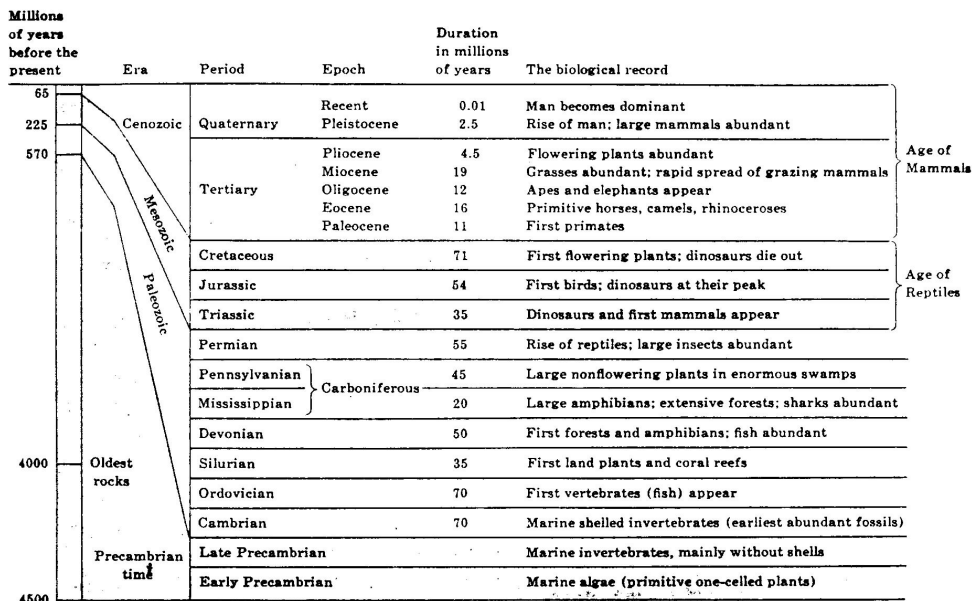
*“Total safety index, defined as the weighted averages of three relative safety performances, showed that **the Ark had a superior level of safety in high winds and waves compared with other hull forms studied. The voyage limit of the Ark, estimated on the basis of modern passenger ship’s criteria, revealed that it could have navigated through waves higher than 30 meters [90 feet].**”²²⁷*



Should we be surprised that the One who invented water also designed a sea worthy ship? Should we be surprised that the One who made all the animals also knows what they need for a year long cruise?

The Fossil Record

Every earth science textbook has a diagram like the one below, which is supposed to be a summary of earth history and the evolution of life.



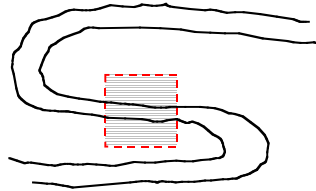
It is always a sketch or a table but never a photograph for a good reason – all of the fossil bearing layers of sedimentary rocks doesn’t exist in one place. This famous sketch is the result of piecing together information from many places with assumptions. So our first step to understanding this record is to review how it was developed.

Sedimentary rocks form in layers but those layers have boundaries. So if you could find sedimentary rock layers and follow a layer it would end at a fault or against an igneous or metamorphic rock or may simply end as the current eroded surface of the earth. A good local example is Vasquez Rocks visible from Highway 14. The next time you drive from the Antelope Valley to Los

Angeles, slow down to 80 miles per hour and look carefully at the rocks. Vasquez Rocks are visible for only part of the drive. They suddenly appear and then they suddenly disappear. So Vasquez Rocks is a part of earth history, just like pages 20-30 would be part of a book.

Now imagine that you are standing at a road cut where sedimentary rock layers are exposed and some layers contain fossils.

There is obviously an order to the deposition of layers. The one on the bottom must have been deposited before the one immediately above, and so on, to the top layer which is the youngest in this particular pile of layers. This is common sense reasoning that does not require verification by a witness. Of course, there is the possibility that God created them instantly that way, but if we confine our possibilities to the natural and not the supernatural, we can accept this common sense reasoning as fact. It is also possible that we are seeing only the part of a tight fold where the layers are overturned as shown in the gray box below. We will ignore this special case as well.



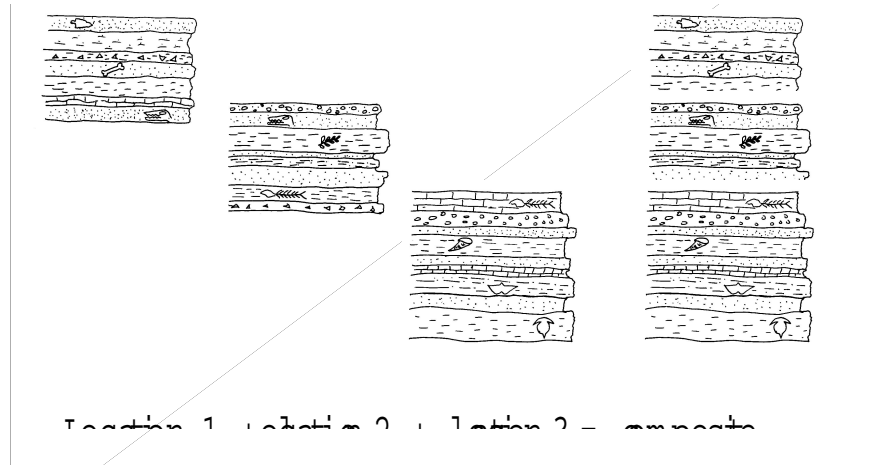
It is important to realize that the order of layers implies nothing about the length of time for deposition to occur. A geologist who is biased in favor of uniformitarianism would probably imagine that these layers took at least hundreds or thousands of years to be deposited whereas a creationist geologist would entertain the possibility that the very same layers were deposited over a span of hours, days, weeks or months. There is no way to prove which geologist is correct unless there was a witness to the event. Consider these questions: were there more layers on top of the pile at one time that may have been eroded away; and are there more layers below the lowest one that are unseen because they are buried from our view? In other words, what happened before the layer containing the fish was deposited and after the layer with the dinosaur head was deposited? It is like having 8 pages of a book and you want to read the whole thing. Could we find answers to these questions at another locality?

Here is an analogy of what we want to do. Imagine tearing out pages from a book, not one by one, but in groups of two or more pages at a time. Then throw the pile of pages in the air so that they come to rest on the floor all mixed up - out of page order. Now, pick-up one of the groups of pages - it is analogous to the rock layers in the road cut. Could rock layers in the road cut be part of a larger sequence of layers just like the group of pages is part of a larger sequence of the book? The book can be put back in order by using page numbers but what can be used for rock layers? The type of rock can't be used

because each type of rock - like sandstone, limestone, shale, etc. - repeats itself often - it's not unique enough. Also, it is rather common for the type of rock to change within the same layer as you trace it for a distance. In 1795, William "Strata" Smith used fossils as the criteria for matching layers from place to place.

Now imagine that we visit two other localities where some of the layers have fossils.

Notice that some layers at different localities have the same fossils. William Smith simply used common fossils to match layers.



Now we know the answer to those two questions – we have the layers that were deposited after the dinosaur head and before the fish. This kind of correlation using fossils has been done for about 200 years and the result is the textbook sketch we started with. The total thickness of all layers deposited in all of earth history is somewhere between 125 to 200 miles.

When the same fossils they contain match layers from two different localities, doesn't it follow that the two layers may represent the same type of habitat or ecosystem? Matching the same fish is a match of the marine ecosystem in which it lived and matching dinosaurs is a match of the same land ecosystem in which they lived.



As mentioned earlier, the Flood may have moved some organisms out of their ecosystem while others were buried where they lived, within their ecosystem.²²⁸ Imagine that a worldwide flood buries all life on earth right where they live - in their own ecosystem. Then imagine that parts of the earth's crust moved higher and other parts sank, as Psalms 104:5-9 describes. It is now your task to match layers by their fossils to determine the total thickness of sedimentary deposits worldwide. Wouldn't the rocks on the bottom come from the ecosystem that is lowest in elevation (deep ocean), followed upward by higher ecosystems (mid-ocean, shallow ocean) and ending at the top with land ecosystems since they are the highest? Examine the chart of earth history again - doesn't it show roughly the same sequence from bottom to top?

The creationists interpret the fossil record to be the result of the Flood. This fossil record formed in a matter of months, not hundreds of millions of years. Evolutionists believe that when the same fossil matches layers, **they must have been deposited at the same time.** Why is time an element in their interpretation? Because they view life as having started as simple - like algae - and through macroevolution life forms change and become extinct. **Instead of an earth where all living things were present at the same time, as creationists believe, evolutionists believe that life forms changed with time - the unfolding story of evolution.** The reason why dinosaurs aren't found in rocks younger than 65 million years is that they became extinct. Jay Ransom, in his book *Fossils In America* summarizes the evolutionist interpretation quite well:

*“FOSSIL BASIS FOR DOCTRINE OF EVOLUTION: once it was understood that each fossil represents a biologic entity, in **stead of a special divinely created life form**, it became **quite obvious** that plants and animals of each stratigraphic division had simply evolved from those of the preceding epoch through gradual adaptation. They were, in turn, ancestral to those that followed. A **sedimentary rock, therefore, can be no older than the youngest fossil in it.**”²²⁹*

A close examination of the earth history chart reveals terms like Paleozoic (ancient life), Mesozoic (middle life) and Cenozoic (recent life) which imply the change of life forms through time.

Macroevolution is **assumed** to have happened in order to match layers containing the same fossils and **conclude** that they were deposited at the same time. As pointed out in an earlier chapter of this paper, macroevolution is a belief, yet to be verified by the scientific method. If macroevolution did not occur then the correlation of layers from two localities in terms of time of deposition falls apart!

A big assumption in the evolutionist's reasoning is that once a life form becomes extinct in the fossil record, it does not appear in younger rocks, except by the reworking of older rocks through erosion. An embarrassing challenge to this assumption occurred in 1939 when the first of several "living fossils" was discovered. Such fossils were supposed to have become extinct millions of years ago but are now found alive and well!

Prior to 1939, rocks containing Coelacanth fossils (a fish) were dated no younger than **70 million years old** but in 1939 a living Coelacanth was caught off the coast of South America.²³⁰

Prior to 1948, rocks containing Metasequoia fossils (a redwood tree) were dated no younger than **20 million years old** but in 1948 living Metasequoias were discovered growing in China.²³¹

Prior to 1952, rocks containing Neopilina galathea fossils (a deep-sea mollusk) were dated no younger than **280 million years old** but in 1952 living specimens were dredged-up from the ocean floor off the west coast of Mexico.²³²

Prior to 1953, rocks containing Tuatara fossils (a lizard) were dated no younger than **135 million years old** but in 1953 living Tuataras were discovered in New Zealand.²³³

Prior to 1962, rocks containing Somasteroid fossils (an echinoderm) were dated no younger than **400 million years old** but in 1962 a living specimen was found in the Pacific Ocean off the southwest coast of Mexico.²³⁴

Prior to 1992, rocks containing Graptolite fossils (a strange sea creature) were dated no younger than **300 million years old** but in 1992 a living specimen was dredged off the sea floor near New Caledonia.²³⁵

In 2000 hundreds of new marine species were discovered on extinct underwater volcanoes in the Coral and Tasman seas bordering New Caledonia and Tasmania, some **believed extinct since the Mesozoic**.²³⁶



Where have these organisms been for millions of years that they have not been fossilized in younger rocks? **Could it be that the millions of years of time is a fallacy?** How do we know for sure that a particular fossil is now extinct? How do we know that it became extinct at a certain time in the past?

Part 2: What To Think About Humans and Dinosaurs

Brainwasher's Disease Starts Early In Life

Consider the following statements from three books written for children.

*"Dinosaurs lived millions of years ago, long before there were any people on earth."*²³⁷

*"No one has ever seen a living dinosaur."*²³⁸

*"No one has ever seen a dinosaur. The last dinosaurs disappeared about 60 million years ago, long before there were any people on the earth."*²³⁹

Perhaps you grew up reading the *Golden Encyclopedia* as I did. When you are a child it is difficult to argue successfully with the encyclopedia (or with adults). And why should anyone disagree with the encyclopedia? Let me give you one reason: the encyclopedias, like textbooks, are effective brainwashing tools, and people are not aware of this. They can think for you. Instead of allowing you to make your own conclusions, you tend to believe what it says. And what it says can be an opinion of the author or evidence that is one sided so if you do think about the subject, you can only make one conclusion since you were not given evidence to the contrary. Notice this verse:

*"Train up a child in the way he should go, Even when he is old he will not depart from it."*²⁴⁰

Let me paraphrase this verse: Train up a child in the opinion of others, and even when he is old he will not depart from them. Just as you "are what you eat" you "think as you have been taught." Can brainwasher's disease be fatal? Yes, faith in God can die. **Why would you believe in miracles when another explanation is easier to believe and you are in the minority to believe differently?** When children see that their role models believe in evolution, why should they believe differently?

Can the statements made by the three children's books be falsified? They cannot, so they are based on faith. They are opinions, not supported by evidence. So let's start the treatment. What do you see in the following photographs?



The first is a pictograph from the Grand Canyon. Mr. E. L. Doheny of Los Angeles, who sponsored the expedition in 1924, had visited this area as a young prospector in 1879. He and his party were among the first white men to venture into this wild place.

“The red sandstone contains a trace of iron. This iron, through the alchemy of unknown ages of time, forms a thin black scale on the surface of the stone, locally called the “Desert Varnish“. By taking any sharp point, such as a piece of flint, and cutting through this black surface, the red stone is revealed underneath, thus making a picture, without the use of pigment, which is practically imperishable. The only way one of these pictographs can disappear is to weather off. They show every sign of a great antiquity, and in the thirty years they have been known to the writer there is not the slightest change noticeable...The dimensions of the figure are as follows: Total height 11.2 inches; greatest width, 7 inches; length of leg, 3.8 inches; length of body, 3.9 inches; width of body, 3 inches; length of neck to top of curve, 3.5 inches; length of tail (approximately) 9.1 inches; length of neck (approximately) 5.’ inches...On the same wall were a number of other figures of goat-like creatures, serpents, and unknown forms. The most remarkable of these was a row of symbols, deeply incised, which resembled the Greek sign of Mars showing shield and spear, thus 4. The “desert varnish“ had commenced to form in the cut, indicating an unbelievable antiquity.”²⁴¹

The next six are from an archeological site discovered in 1944 by Waldemar Juisrud, a German hardware merchant in Acambaro, Mexico. They have been identified as Chupicauro, a civilization that flourished about 500BC to 500AD. Over 20,000 of these clay and stone artifacts have been discovered here and not one could be found to be a duplicate of another. They range in size from a few inches long to statues three feet high and four to five feet long. The dinosaur varieties identified by their shape include duck billed Trachodon, Gorgosaurus, horned Monoclonius, Ornitholestes, Titanosaurs, Triceratops, Stegosaurus Paleococincus, Diplodocus, Podokosaurus, Stuthiomimos, Plesiosaur, Leviathan, Maiasaura, Rhamphorynchus, Iguanodon, Brachiosaurus, Pteranodon, Dimetrodon, Ichthyornis, Tyrannosaurus Rex, Rhynococephalia and others that have not been identified. Go to www.bible.ca/tracks/tracks-acambaro.htm for more information.

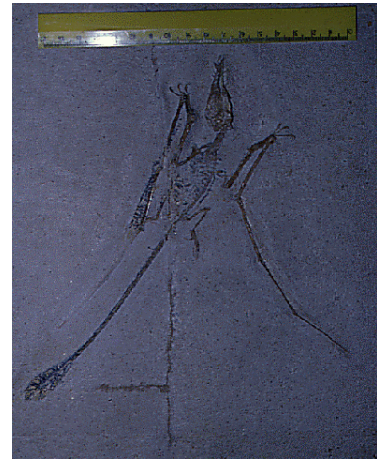
The last two are ceremonial burial stones from Peru and are probably at least several hundred years old. The same web address above has more information about them.

Paleocryptozoology

The relatively new science of Paleocryptozoology is revolutionizing our understanding of fossils. Paleocryptozoology is the comparative study of paleontology with archaeological artifacts and ancient records emphasizing common morphological features. If a fossil has something distinctive about it's anatomy, this feature can be looked for in written descriptions and petroglyphs, pictographs, paintings, coins, carvings, etc. to determine if it

lived at the same time as man, since man made a record of its existence. John Goertzen has written a fascinating paper about pterosaurs. Much of what follows is from his research.

*“An example of a distinct morphological feature is the **tail vane** of some rhamphorhynchoid pterosaurs. Also, it could be a **distinctive skull** like that of a Dimorphodon... For Scaphognathus crassirostris, the distinctive feature is a rhamphorhynchoid pterosaur with a **head crest**. Scaphognathus crassirostris is the only long-tailed pterosaur presently known from the fossil record with that feature... Paleocryptozoology could suggest a total revolution in the understanding of the geologic column where the **age** of the strata is determined by the fossils found in it. Thus far I have found about two dozen species of extinct animals, all thought to be extinct for millions of years, but almost certainly accurately observed by man in the recent past. Therefore the entire idea of the geological succession of many of the layers of strata (different ages), based on index fossils, may soon be untenable.”²⁴²*



A fossil of *Rhamphorhynchus*, an early pterosaur.
Learn

more about them at this excellent web site

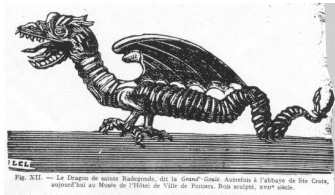
<http://www.ucmp.berkeley.edu/diapsids/pterosauria.html>

Here is a description that agrees with the anatomy of these pterosaurs

Most written records of flying reptiles in the middle east are rather generic and contain little distinguishing detail. However, Prosper Alpin, a European scientist who wrote a natural history of Egypt during the years 1581-4, has provided a masterful account. Alpin did not observe these animals but recorded the following account:

...there is nothing for sure about the basilic, but we have heard talk, nevertheless, that there is a small serpent, as long as a palm branch, and thick like a small finger. It has a small piece of skin, like a crest, on its head and, in the middle of the back, two scales placed on one side and the other which serve as wings in order to advance more quickly. Large numbers of people have said that these serpents live in large quantities close to certain lakes in which the Nile has its source. People don't travel close to those lakes because of the well-known danger these serpents represent ... That is what is said by the Egyptians who travel in Ethiopia and in Nubia .

The most remarkable facet of this description is the crest and small piece of skin on the head. Alpin's description of the tail, "thick as a finger," is precisely how paleontologist Malcolm Browne described the tails of rhamphorhynchoid pterosaurs . The length, "as long as a palm branch," is correct for this pterosaur we are considering according to the fossils that are known. Many of the ancient reports of these animals place them near water: lakes, swamps, or rivers, corresponding with Alpin's record. Even more ancients speak of these animals being dangerous (like Alpin's informants). It seems obvious that the French scientist was slow to believe what he heard: these animals were unheard of in Europe by this time, but, as he states, he verified these sightings with large numbers of eyewitnesses (very likely with a great deal of independence).²⁴³



There is an interesting Biblical connection here. To indicate a winged reptile Latin writers used the term "basilic". In the *Symmachi* version of the Greek Septuagint text for Isaiah 30:6, the Greek word "*basilisk*" is used for "flying serpent". This translation is correctly made in almost every Bible version except the mistaken NIV.²⁴⁴

The Hebrew word for the same creature is "saraph" (Strong's 08314) which occurs in seven Old Testament verses, five of them verses describe them as flying. It means "burning, i.e. (figuratively) poisonous (serpent); specifically, a saraph or symbolical creature (from their copper color): fiery (serpent), seraph." The interesting thing about Isaiah 30:6 is that the context is Egypt!

*"The oracle concerning the beasts of the Negev. Through a land of distress and anguish, From where come lioness and lion, viper and flying serpent [saraph], They carry their riches on the backs of young donkeys And their treasures on camels' humps, To a people who cannot profit them;"*²⁴⁵

The same word is used to describe serpents in the wilderness.

*"He led you through the great and terrible wilderness, with its fiery serpents [saraph] and scorpions and thirsty ground where there was no water; He brought water for you out of the rock of flint."*²⁴⁶

And the same word for the serpents that the Lord sent to bite the people.

*"The LORD sent fiery serpents [saraph] among the people and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died."*²⁴⁷

Notice that the 1581-4 description above states that they are dangerous to humans and live in great numbers! Five out of the ten written accounts describe them as poisonous!

Bochart (writing in c.1650) was an outstanding scholar, competent in Greek, Hebrew, Arabic, and Latin and wrote, perhaps, the most outstanding study of biblical animals ever penned. After arguing that the flying serpents of Isaiah 14:29 and 30:6 were still alive, he relates several accounts

If on your travels you encounter the serpent with wings who circles and hurls himself at you, the flying snake, hide yourself because of its reputation. Lie down when the snake appears and guard yourself in alarm for that snake's manner is to go away calm, considering it a victory...

There are winged and flying serpents that can be found who are venomous, who snort, and are savage and kill with pain worse than fire,...²⁴⁸

Could the reference to fire refer to the pain of its bite rather than to actual flames?

The formations in which Rhamphorhynchoid pterosaur fossils are found are the Triassic and Jurassic. We are talking about 144 million years ago.



What are you inclined to believe? Did humans and dinosaurs live at the same time only hundreds or thousands of years ago or are they separated by millions of years? Could humans have acquired the knowledge of dinosaurs by observing them first hand? Perhaps God made them both on day 6 of the creation week – an old and wise belief.

Dragons

If one cares to look for them, there are thousands of instances where land dragons, water monsters and flying serpents have made an impression on mankind, some of them less than a century ago. An excellent resource on this subject, and a “must read“ book on biblically accurate history, is Bill Cooper’s book *After The Flood*. The internet edition is at <http://www.revelationwebsite.co.uk/index1/after/>. Much of what follows is taken from chapter 10 of his book.

Flying reptiles, like the pterosaurs described above were a feature of Welsh life as late as the early 1900’s.

“The woods around Penllin Castle, Glamorgan, had the reputation of being frequented by winged serpents, and these were the terror of old and young alike. An aged inhabitant of Penllyne, who died a few years ago, said that in his boyhood the winged serpents were described as very beautiful. They were coiled when

*in repose, and “looked as if they were covered with jewels of all sorts. Some of them had crests sparkling with all the colours of the rainbow“. When disturbed they glided swiftly, J ‘sparkling all over’, to their hiding places. When angry, they “flew over people’s heads, with outspread wings, bright, and sometimes with eyes too, like the feathers in a peacock’s tail“. He said it was “no old story invented to’ frighten children“, but a real fact. His father and uncle had killed some of them, for they were as bad as foxes for poultry. The old man attributed the extinction of the winged serpents to the fact that they were “terrors in the farmyards and coverts“.*²⁴⁹

“As late as August, 1614, the following sober account was given of a strange reptile that was encountered in St Leonard's Forest in Sussex. The sighting was near a village that was known as Dragon's Green long before this report was published:

*‘This serpent (or dragon as some call it) is reputed to be nine feete, or rather more, in length, and shaped almost in the form of an axletree of a cart: a quantitie of thickness in the middest, and somewhat smaller at both endes. The former part, which he shootes forth as a necke, is supposed to be an elle [3 ft 9 ins or 1 14 cms] long; with a white ring, as it were, of scales about it. The scales along his back seem to be blackish, and so much as is discovered under his belie, appeareth to be red... it is likewise discovered to have large feete, but the eye may there be deceived, for some suppose that serpents have no feete ... [The dragon] rids away (as we call it) as fast as a man can run. His food [rabbits] is thought to be; for the most part, in a conie-warren, which he much frequents ... There are likewise upon either side of him discovered two great bunches so big as a large foote-ball, and (as some thinke) will in time grow to wings, but God, I hope, will (to defend the poor people in the neighbourhood) that he shall be destroyed before he grows to fledge.’*²⁵⁰

"One of the locals set his two mastiffs onto the monster, and apart from losing his dogs he was fortunate to escape alive from the encounter, for the dragon was already credited with the deaths of a man and woman at whom it had spat and who consequently had been killed by its venom. When approached unwittingly, our pamphleteer tells us, the monster was:

‘...of countenance very proud and at the sight or hearing of men or cattel will raise his neck upright and seem to listen and looke about, with great arrogancy an eyewitness account of typically reptilian behavior.“

Scotland's famous Loch Ness Monster is only one of many aquatic monsters that have been observed. A loch is a lake or bay of the sea usually narrow and nearly surrounded by land.

“Loch Lomond, Loch Awe, Loch Rannoch and the privately owned Loch Morar (over 1000 ft deep) also have records of monster activity in recent years. Indeed, there have been over forty sightings at Loch Morar alone since the end of the last war, and over a thousand from Loch Ness in the same period.“

Water monsters reports are not limited to the British Isles. The following is an account from medieval Italy in the year 1484.

“There was found within a great river [i.e. the Po in Italy] a monster marine, or of the sea, of the form or likeness which followeth. He had the form or making of a fish, the which part was in two halves, that is to wit double. He had a great beard and he had two wonderfully great horns above his ears. Also he had great paps and a wonderfully great and horrible mouth. And at the both [of] his elbows he had wings right broad and great of fish’s armour wherewith he swimmmed and only he had but the head out of the water. It happed then that many women laundered and washed at the port or haven of the said river [where] that this horrible and fearful beast was, [who] for lack or default of meat came swimming toward the said women. Of the which he took one by the hand and supposed to have drawn her into the water. But she was strong and well advised and resisted against the said monster. And as she defended herself, she began to cry with an high voice, “Help, help!“ To the which came running five women which by hurling and drawing of stones, killed and slew the said monster, for he was come too far within the sound, wherefore he might not return to the deep water. And after, when he rendered his spirit, he made a right little cry. He was of great corpulence more than any man’s body. And yet, saith Poge [Pogius Bracciolini of Florence] in this manner, that he, being at Ferrara, he saw the said monster and saith yet that the young children were accustomed for to go bathe and wash them within the said river, but they came not all again. Wherefore the women [neither] washed nor laundered their clothes at the said port, for the folk presumed and supposed that the monster killed the young children which were drowned.”²⁵¹

Mr. Cooper also discusses the instances when flying dragons, described very much like pterodactyls, were observed in large numbers before bad weather. Of course, animal behavior in general is affected by changes in weather and even months before earthquakes. In the dry Antelope Valley where I live, sea gulls are only seen before storms. I am always looking for strange animal behavior that may warn of an earthquake since the San Andreas Fault is only seven miles from Lancaster.

Here is some advice given to Danish king Frotho as he is about to fight with a giant reptile:

“...wreathed in coils, doubled in many a fold, and with a tail drawn out in winding whorls, shaking his manifold spirals and shedding venom ... his slaver [saliva] burns up what it bespatters yet [he tells the king in words that were doubtless meant to encourage rather than dismay] ...remember to keep the dauntless temper of thy mind; nor let the point of the jagged tooth trouble thee, nor the starkness of the beast, nor the venom there is a place under his lowest belly whither thou mayst plunge the blade“

Behemoth and Leviathan

Do you recall the science exam God gave Job? In that exam two animals are described. The first is behemoth, which means large animal. God begins His description with this statement:

*“Behold now, Behemoth, **which I made as well as you...**”²⁵²*

It sounds like God is referring to something that Job was familiar with. Also notice that God made both of them.

Most bibles link it with a hippopotamus, rhinoceros or elephant in the commentaries and notes. I would agree that the closest match to behemoth from **now living animals** would be those two. But, if we expand our search to all animals, including dinosaurs, the match becomes much better. Consider the traits of Behemoth found in chapter 40 of Job:

- He eats grass like an ox (v.15)
- His strength is in his loins (v.16)
- His power is in the muscles of his belly (v.16)
- He bends his tail like a cedar (v.17)
- His bones are like tubes of bronze (v.18)
- His limbs are like bars of iron (v.18)
- He is first in the ways of God (v.19)
- He is not alarmed when a river rages (v.23)
- He cannot be captured when he is on watch (v.24)

Consider the tail of Behemoth in comparison to the tails of the hippopotamus, rhinoceros and elephant. Doesn't a large saurapods dinosaur, like the one in the movie *Jurassic Park* that sneezed on the humans in the tree, fit the description better?

Chapter 41 of Job describes Leviathan. Again, the commentaries and notes tell us that this creature is a crocodile. But do crocodiles

- Sneeze flashes of light? (v.18)
- Issue smoke from their nostrils? (v.20)
- Issue flames from their mouth? (v21)
- Have under parts like sharp potsherds? (v30)

If you are having difficulty with the smoke and fire, consider this. Do you think that a bug that gives off light (firefly), an eel that can shock a man (electric eel) or a bug that can produce a chemical as hot as boiling water and shoot this liquid at an enemy (Bombardier Beetle) **is hard to believe if they were not all alive today?** Recall that

*“You alone are the LORD. You have made the heavens, The heaven of heavens with all their host, The earth and **all** that is on it, The seas and **all** that is in them. You give life to all of them And the heavenly host bows down before You.”²⁵³*

I wonder if God smiled when He made Leviathan and thought something like “here’s one that will impress them!”

*“Lay your hand on him; Remember the battle; you will not do it again! Behold, your expectation is false; Will you be laid low even at the sight of him? **No one is so fierce that he dares to arouse him; Who then is he that can stand before Me?**”²⁵⁴*



Do you believe that Behemoth and Leviathan refer to real creatures?

If so, when do you think they lived? Now that you can make a choice, you are on the road to recovery from brainwasher’s disease. Don’t stop thinking!

Part 2: What Is The Age Of The Earth?

Most people probably have the opinion that the earth is around 4.6 billion years old because they have been brainwashed into believing so. Actually, the age of earth has been “measured” dozens of ways with the Biblical genealogy method being the youngest at about 6,000 years. If the thickness of a sheet of paper represents one year, a stack of 6,000 would be roughly up to your knees while a stack of 4.6 billion would be 268 miles high. These two ages – one the oldest of them all and the other the youngest of them all – differ by a factor of about one million times! How can they be so different, with advocates on both sides claiming to be right? The answer is that each group believes different assumptions. **If someone has really thought about the question, they will have thought about the assumptions involved with their method of choice and they will have made the decision to believe those assumptions.** That’s if they have really thought about the question and have not simply been brainwashed. As we will see, faith in a particular method rests upon accepting the assumptions of that method, and every method of dating the earth has assumptions. So, let’s put our thinking caps on and look at each method with a critical mind.

Age Dating Using Radioactivity

As time passes, radioactive elements (parents) decay to form other elements (daughters) because radioactive atoms have unstable nuclei. They decay at a known measurable rate called a half-life, which is the time for one half of the parent to decay into daughter. If the daughter is also radioactive, it will decay with its own half-life to form another, and so on, until a stable daughter element is reached which is not radioactive and will not change further. Several different parent-daughter combinations are used in dating rocks, probably the most widely known is uranium-lead. Uranium 238 (parent) turns into lead 206 (daughter). Actually, there are 13 intermediate radioactive daughter elements between uranium 238 and lead 206, but in practice, only the amount of parent and stable daughter (lead 206 in this example) are used to determine age. As you can see from the simplified drawing below, the amount of parent decreases while the amount of daughter increases as the rock gets older. One half-life is 4.51 billion years for uranium 238 to lead 206; other parent-daughter combinations are also used and each one has its own half-life time.

Measuring the relative amounts of parent and daughter, and knowing the half-life, the rock's age can be calculated. For example, if a rock has equal amounts of uranium 238 and lead (Pb) 206, then the rock is one half-life old or 4.51 billion years old.

Assumption 1



How do I know there was no daughter element in the rock to begin with?

If there was initial daughter, the rock would appear older than it is. John G. Funkhouser and John J. Naughton, writing in the *Journal Of Geophysical Review*²⁵⁵ tell how they dated the Kaupulehu lava flow in Hualalai, Hawaii, that was known to have erupted in 1800-1801, and obtained ages that are clearly unreasonable. A series of radiometric dates obtained using potassium 40 (solid parent), which decays to argon 40 (gaseous daughter) yielded results of a minimum of 160 million years to a maximum of 2.96 billion years for a 170-year-old lava flow! Put another way, would someone who weighs about 150 pounds believe a scale showing their weight to be 1.3 million tons? The authors attribute this major discrepancy to argon 40 being present in the molten magma as it cooled:

“... therefore, such gases [argon] represent a portion of the environment in the magma chamber.”

Steven Austin used potassium-argon dating on a lava dome in Mt. St. Helens that solidified in 1986. Using the whole rock gave an age of 350,000 years and dating only the feldspar and glass from those rocks yielded an age of 2,800,000 years. Since the article was written in 1996, the lava was only 10 years old!

“These ‘ages’ are, of course, preposterous. The fundamental dating assumption (‘no radiogenic argon was present when the rock formed’) is questioned by these data. Instead, data from this Mt. St. Helens dacite argue that significant ‘excess argon’ was present when the lava solidified in 1986.”²⁵⁶



It isn't often that rocks of known age are dated. The reason is obvious: why spend several hundred dollars to find out the age of a rock when the age is already known? So, what kind of rock is dated? A rock of unknown age, of course. But what check do you have that the radiometric date is accurate? A different parent-daughter pair is measured for the same rock and, if all results agree, then the age is accepted as true. Do you see any problems with this kind of thinking?

David Seidemann, writing in the *Geological Society Of America Bulletin*²⁵⁷ tells of how rocks from drill cores obtained from the floor of the Pacific and Atlantic oceans were dated using the same potassium (K) argon (Ar) method that also resulted in major discrepancies. Not only did samples from the same rock chip vary from 12.3 to 22.8 million years of age but also fossils found in sediments in the drill cores indicate an age of 40 million years.²⁵⁸ How do they explain the difference?

*“K-Ar dates of these rocks may be subject to inaccuracies as the result of sea-water alteration. Inaccuracies may also result from the presence of excess radiogenic argon 40 trapped in rapidly cooling rocks at the time of their formation. Because of the problems involved **caution must be used in interpreting the meaning of conventional K-Ar dates for the deep-sea rocks**”.*

On page 1661, Seidemann makes the following statement:

*“In summary, potassium is added to deep-sea basalts as the result of submarine weathering. . . **One would not expect uniform addition of potassium to basalts**, but would expect the extent of its addition to any given part of the basalt to be dependent on variables such as grain size, the extent of fissuring, and the proximity to a potassium source’*
(emphasis mine)

Other articles, in addition to Seidemann’s, throw considerable doubt on the reliability of dates obtained from deep-sea rocks. By the way, if the age of ocean crust is thrown into question, then so is the rate of continental drift since dates of oceanic crust are used to obtain drift rates.

Assumption 2



After the lava or magma cooled, how do I know if any parent or daughter entered or left the

If parent entered the rock or if daughter left the rock, it would date younger than it should. But if parent left the rock or if daughter entered the rock, it would date older than it should. Uranium and lead are both soluble in water, lead turns to a gas when heated and argon is a gas that can easily leave a rock.

Changing our focus from rocks of the ocean floor to moon rocks, consider this statement from an article by Everly Driscoll in *Science News* entitled “*Dating Of Moon Samples: Pitfalls and Paradoxes*”:

*“Much controversy during the past two years has centered around the interpretation that should be given to the ages of lunar material - ages yielded by studying its radioactive history. **If all the age-dating methods (rubidium-strontium, uranium-lead, and potassium-argon) had yielded the same ages, the picture would be neat. But they haven’t. The lead ages, for example, have been consistently older.**”²⁵⁹*

He goes on to describe how Leon T. Silver from the California Institute Of Technology was able to remove 3 to 11% of the lead when the sample was heated to 550 degrees centigrade for one hour and 50% in one hour at 970 degrees centigrade. Driscoll’s article concludes:

*“In the experiment with lead, most of the variation in the ages of the samples can be explained by merely adding or subtracting volatile lead. **If indeed parents and daughters are moving about on the lunar surface this way, this could be confusing the interpretation of the ages.**” (emphasis mine)*

It is also interesting to note that

*“...by separating material 36 microns and smaller from the larger stuff, Silver found a **200-million year shift** in the apparent age of the Apollo 11 soil.”*

So, we are left wondering if the size of the rock used for analysis can change the results.

Returning back to earth, when three different radiometric dates yielded ages with a 1.5 billion year discrepancy for the same rock sample, J. L. Kulp and W.R. Eckelmann conclude:

*“The process of lead removal during the life of a radioactive mineral appears to be **rather common**, particularly among the older samples.”²⁶⁰*

Assumption 2 may be more significant to your health than you think. The high public concern about radon 222 gas as a health hazard began in December, 1984, when Stanley Watras (a construction engineer) set-off a radiation detector on his way into the Limerick Nuclear Power Plant in Pottstown, Pennsylvania. The detector was there to alert workers of any radiation that they may have picked - up inside the plant but Watras set it off on his way in! The problem was traced to his home in nearby Boyertown where his home had radon levels about 700 times greater than current federal standards. Since then an ambitious study has found that radon 222 is escaping from the ground in many areas of the United States.²⁶¹ What does radon have to do with dating rocks? Recall that the radioactive decay of uranium 238 to lead 206 involves 13 intermediate radioactive daughter elements and number 6 in the series is radon 222!



If radon is no longer in the rock then the lead 206 that eventually results from that amount of radon won't be there either! How would the radiometric age of a rock be affected if it lost radon? How would the radiometric age of a rock be affected if it was the recipient of radon from other rocks?

Another interesting problem is that different minerals in the same rock yield different ages. For example, Joan C. Engels found that when the mineral hornblende only was extracted from the rock and dated, it yielded an age of 171 million years whereas the mineral biotite treated in the same way yielded an age of 70 million years using potassium-argon dating and both minerals came from the same rock.²⁶² In another study, to explain how two different mica minerals (biotite and muscovite) from the same rock could have potassium-argon ages differing by as much as 323 million years, N. S. Brewer states:

“It is concluded that excess radiogenic argon 40 entered the micas in a zone at least 1.5 kilometers thick and 200 square kilometers in area.”²⁶³

P. K. Wanless, et. al., in an article entitled “*Excess Radiogenic Argon In Biotites*” concludes,

“This study has revealed evidence for biotite incorporating enormous quantities of argon from the immediate environment. In this case the high apparent ages obtained for biotites are not the consequence of preferential loss of potassium since this element was found to be present in average to high abundance in all samples.”²⁶⁴

Consider this statement from A. Hayatsu in the Canadian Journal Of Earth Science:

*“In conventional interpretation of K-Ar age data **it is common to discard ages** which are substantially too high or too low compared with the rest of the group or with the other available data such as the geological time scale. **The discrepancies between the rejected and accepted are arbitrarily attributed to excess or loss of argon**”²⁶⁵*



Just think how thrilled my students would be if they could throw away all their low grades while keeping all their high grades. Is it possible that the published dates of rocks are only those dates that the author wants you to see because he thinks the others are wrong? One moon rock was far older than the rest — do you think they believed its age, or did they think it was contaminated?²⁶⁶

How have scientists corrected the excess or loss of daughter to “reasonable” values? By relying on more assumptions! Two examples will illustrate this line of reasoning. To correct for an excess amount of lead, other minerals in the rock that do not contain the parent, such as the mineral feldspar, are analyzed for the amount of two forms of lead: lead 206 which is the ultimate

daughter of uranium 238 and lead 204 which is not a product of radioactive decay. The **assumption** is made that the proportion of lead 204 to lead 206 found in the feldspar is the same as the proportion that “contaminated” the mineral zircon, which contains both parent and daughter, and is the mineral used for dating the rock. It is **assumed** that the two minerals were formed at the same time, while the quantity of lead 204 does not change in either. By finding this proportion of leads in the feldspar and knowing the total lead 204 and 206 in the zircon, it is a simple matter to find the initial quantity of lead 206 that “contaminated” the zircon and subtracting this from the total lead 206 in the zircon leaves that amount of lead which was produced in situ by decay of the uranium. This corrected amount of lead is then used to find the age of the rock. As a second example, to correct for too much argon, a similar ratio process is used. Our atmosphere today contains about 1% argon of which one part is argon 36 and 295.5 parts are argon 40. It is assumed that this ratio has always been the same, so that any argon 40 trapped in the rock from the atmosphere (or from that which is dissolved in sea water if it formed underwater) can be found by measuring the amount of argon 36 in the rock and multiplying by 295.5. This is the amount of argon 40 contamination and is then deducted from the total argon 40 to give that amount produced by radioactive decay. But argon 36 is **produced in the upper atmosphere by cosmic ray bombardment and is subject to change by a variety of factors including the activity of stars and changes in the strength of earth’s magnetic field.**

Assumption 3



They say that the half-life doesn’t change – how do they

The half-life values used in radiometric dating have been known for less than 100 years since radioactivity was discovered by the French physicist Henri Becquerel in 1896. How sure are we that such values have not changed over thousands, millions, or billions of years? According to the 1986 edition of Encyclopedia Britannica, Edwin A. Olson writes

*“In the laboratory, for example, it is **impossible** to alter the rate of radioactive decay by any combination of pressure and temperature known to exist within the earth’s crust. The same is true with respect to gravitational, magnetic, and electric fields as well as the chemical state in which a given radioactive element is found. In short, the process of radioactive decay is **immutable under all conditions** significant to geology and archeology.”²⁶⁷*

But John Anderson and George Spangler have concluded from their experiments that radioactive decay rates are not constant and

“... the deviations are a function of the environment. “ They strongly suggest that, at a minimum, an unreliability factor must be incorporated into age dating calculations”²⁶⁸.

In his article “*Perturbations Of Nuclear Decay Rates*”, G. T. Emery states,

“Studies have varied the decay characteristics of 12 other radionuclides with changes in the energy state of the orbital electrons; by pressure, temperature, electric and magnetic fields, stress in monomolecular layers, etc.”²⁶⁹

What is the explanation for the following observation of a compound of titanium and radioactive tritium?

“...as the mixture was heated, its radioactivity declined sharply. No process know to physics could account for such a baffling phenomenon; radioactivity should be unaffected by heat. Nevertheless, as the temperature increased from 115 degrees Celsius to 160 degrees Celsius, the emission of beta particles fell by 28 percent.”²⁷⁰

It is important to note that researchers in both articles were working with short half-life elements, not the ones used in dating rocks.

If rocks are subjected to external radiation the radioactive decay rate increases, which effectively decreases the half-life. This happens in all nuclear reactors and nuclear weapons. What if an exploding star - a supernova - bathed the earth with neutrinos. Fourteen supernovas have occurred in our galaxy in recorded history and one, in 1987, was observed in the Large Magellanic Cloud - one of two galaxies orbiting our own. For the first time in history, scientists were able to measure neutrinos passing through the earth from this distant supernova 1987a. What if a star closer to the earth released more neutrinos? B. Juneman speculates that

“This would knock our carbon 14, potassium—argon, and uranium-lead dating measurements into a cocked hat!”²⁷¹

Consider this statement from the book “*The Science Of Evolution*” by W. O. Stansfield (1977):

“It is obvious that radiometric techniques may not be the absolute dating methods they are claimed to be. Age estimates on a given geological stratum by different radiometric methods are often quite different (sometimes by hundreds of millions of years). There is no absolutely reliable long-term radiological “clock.” The uncertainties inherent in radiometric dating are disturbing to geologists and evolutionists, but their overall interpretation supports the concept of a long history of geological evolution”²⁷²

Radiocarbon Dating

The technique of radiocarbon dating was developed by Willard F. Libby in 1947 and, unlike the other radiometric dating methods discussed above, can only date the remains of something that was once alive. In addition to the three assumptions already discussed, radiocarbon dating involves at least three more assumptions resulting in a history of debate over the reliability of carbon-14 dates. Consider the first paragraph of Robert E. Lee's article "Radiocarbon: Ages In Error":

*"The troubles of the radiocarbon dating method are undeniably deep and serious. Despite 35 years of technological refinement and better understanding, the **underlying assumptions have been strongly challenged**, and warnings are out that radiocarbon may soon find itself in a crisis situation. Continuing use of the method depends on a "fix-it-as-we-go" approach, allowing for contamination here, fractionation there, and calibration wherever possible. **It should be no surprise, then, that fully half of the dates are rejected. The wonder is, surely, that the remaining half came to be accepted.**"*²⁷³

Carbon-14 is formed by cosmic ray bombardment of nitrogen atoms in the upper atmosphere and has a half-life of 5,730 years. Because of the short half life compared to the other parent elements previously described (uranium 238 at 4.51 billion years, potassium 40 at 1.31 billion years), the amount of carbon-14 is, in theory, too small to measure in organic material more than 50,000 years old. Its usefulness is therefore limited to the last 50,000 years. The proportion of radiocarbon (carbon-14) and non-radioactive carbon (carbon-12) in the atmosphere is assumed to have remained constant. Both forms of carbon combine with oxygen to form carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, which is then incorporated into plants through photosynthesis, into animals by feeding on plants, and into marine organisms as they use carbon dioxide dissolved in seawater to make their shells. It is assumed that radiocarbon in the cells of an organism will remain in equilibrium with the atmosphere for as long as the organism is alive. When it dies it stops eating (an obvious characteristic of death), so the amount of carbon-14 that it has when it dies steadily decreases with time since it cannot be replaced by eating. The radiocarbon it contains decays into nitrogen while carbon-12 remains unaffected. The daughter element nitrogen is not measured to get the age because 78% of the air is nitrogen, so the problem of contamination is certain. Thus, the amount of carbon-14 remaining compared to the amount of carbon-12 is used, along with the half-life, to determine the radiocarbon age, which is the time since its death. The older the material the less carbon-14 it contains.

Radiocarbon Assumptions



Since volcanoes erupt enormous quantities of carbon dioxide, won't this affect the amount of carbon-12 the earth has at any one time? Has the flux of neutrons and cosmic rays from the sun and other stars been constant? What if the earth's magnetic field has been stronger or weaker in the past – that would also affect radiocarbon production. Radioactive meteorites coming to earth would increase the production of radiocarbon while the carbon-rich ones would change the amount of carbon-12. Is the ratio of radiocarbon to carbon-12 the same everywhere? Has the half-life of radiocarbon been constant?

On page 83 of William O. Stansfield's book *"The Science Of Evolution"* (1977) he writes

"It now appears that the carbon-14 decay rate in living organisms is about 30% less than its production rate in the upper atmosphere. Since the amount of carbon-14 is now increasing in the atmosphere, it may be assumed that the quantity of carbon-14 was even lower in the past than at present. This condition would lead to abnormally low carbon-14/carbon-12 ratios for older fossils. Such a fossil would be interpreted as being much older than it really is" (emphasis mine)

When Jan Mangerud and Steinar Gulliksen dated marine shells in 1975 from Arctic waters, they elected to date specimens that were collected alive before 1940 because

"Since 1962 atomic bomb testing has completely disturbed the natural carbon-14 activity; the use of fossil fuel in this century has also influenced the activity but in the opposite direction."²⁷⁴

Sometimes modern carbon itself is so contaminated by radioactive fallout that such materials as ancient American Indian pottery actually date into the future (>100% modern)!²⁷⁵

To explain the discrepancy in shell ages from different Arctic waters, Mangerud and Gulliksen state:

"The dominant factor in the variation of the apparent age within the oceans seems to be the circulation of water masses. Atmospheric carbon-14 is transferred at the ocean-atmosphere interface. Therefore, in water masses which do not have contact with the atmosphere, radioactive

*decay will give a higher apparent age, depending on how long the water has been at depth, the rate of transfer of carbon-14 from the surface layer, and possible contribution of older, deeper water.*²⁷⁶

How can a freshly killed seal have a radiocarbon date of 1,300 years and mummified seal remains thought to be less than 300 years old have a radiocarbon date of up to 4,600 years? Wakefield Dort, Jr., explains the discrepancy as follows:

*"...Antarctic sea water has significantly lower carbon-14 activity than that accepted as the world standard."*²⁷⁷

When Alan C. Riggs radiocarbon dated the shells of snails living in artesian springs in southern Nevada, he found them to be 27,000 years old! He found their low carbon-14 content is due to the low carbon-14 content of carbonate rocks through which the groundwater passed en route to the springs.²⁷⁸

Groundwater dissolved the carbonate rock and contaminated the carbon in the springs with old carbon deficient in carbon-14. In a laboratory study of living specimens, Meyer Rubin and Dwight W. Taylor determined that approximately 90% of the carbon in shells of clams and snails is derived from atmospheric carbon dioxide dissolved in the water and 10% is derived from the carbon dissolved in the water from other sources.²⁷⁹

Charles B. Hunt found a greater discrepancy of radiocarbon dates from wet climates than from dry climates. He attributes the difference to more bacteria and/or fungi attack of wood in wetter climates which, he estimates, introduces as much as 90% by weight of modern carbon replacing original carbon.²⁸⁰

Consider this statement from Charles A. Reed:

*"the unresolved problem, instead, seems to lie in the difficulty of securing samples completely free from either older or younger adherent carbon. At least to the present, no kind or degree of chemical cleaning can guarantee one-age carbon, typical only of the time of the site from which it was excavated. What bids to become a classic example of "carbon-14 irresponsibility" is the 6,000-year spread of 11 determinations from Jarmo, a prehistoric village in northeastern Iraq, which, on the basis of all archaeological evidence, was not occupied for more than 500 consecutive years."*²⁸¹

Robert E. Lee gives this advice to collectors of specimens to be radiocarbon dated:

*"The material must not be handled as it comes out of the soil, nor dusted off with organic tools such as bristle brushes...A proper container ought to be on hand - exposure to the air allows fresh dust and pollen to settle. The sample should be gathered as quickly as possible, and wrapped in new aluminum foil - not dropped into a lunch bag or one's pocket. Samples submitted in cloth, plastic, paper, or any kind of tissue are almost useless..."*²⁸²

Lee also comments that “*radiocarbon dates on bone have never been satisfactory*”. He gives an example from the famous Cooperton Mammoth site in Oklahoma where “*a single animal produced leg bones dated at 17,575 and ribs 20,400 years old. Still another figure came from testing its tusks!*”²⁸³ Perhaps what we are seeing here is the evolution of the mammoth from the ribs down!



We can add a few more factors to our list that affect radiocarbon dates: where it lived and what it ate. Finally, contamination can be a problem. Lee concludes his article with this quote from another source: “*This whole blessed thing is nothing but 13th century alchemy, and it all depends upon which funny paper you read.*”²⁸⁴ What do you think?

Using Genealogies From Scripture

The AD and BC we use is, of course, based upon the birth of Christ. It has been roughly 2,000 years since Christ was born. An interesting bit of trivia is that there is no year zero in the calendar, like there is on a graph of positive and negative numbers you made in math class. Add to this roughly 2,000 years from Christ to Abraham and another 2,000 years from Abraham to Adam. The total is approximately 6,000 years back to Adam with three assumptions.



The Bible cannot be used to get the age of the earth without assuming three things:

1. The Bible is true, not fiction
2. There are no significant gaps in the genealogies
3. The earth is 5 days older

Assuming No Significant Gaps In Genealogies

The only apparent gap that I am aware of in this list is found by comparing Gen. 11:12 with Luke 3:35-36. The passage in Luke adds Cainan between Shelah and Arpachshad. Since we will be using the age of the father when his son was born, any gaps will affect our result. But, as some have pointed out, we only know of gaps when they are pointed out in Scripture so they are not gaps at all since they are known. Of the 20 generations from Adam to Abraham, 10 are prior to the Flood and the other 10 are after the Flood. Let’s say that an error of 100% was made in recording genealogies prior to Christ. A 100% error means that there were really twice as many generations than what the Bible records. So, instead of 40 generations (20 from Adam to

Abraham and 20 after Abraham to Christ), there were really 80 generations. This would double the time from Adam to Abraham so the total time would be 4,000 from Adam to Abraham and 4,000 from Abraham to Christ. Adding this to the time from Christ to the present gives a total of about 10,000 years. What is my point? If we assume **major** omissions from the Biblical genealogies, an age of less than 10,000 years results.

Assuming The Days Of Creation Were Literal Days

Could God have taken six billion years to create the universe? Yes! Could God have taken six seconds to create the universe? Yes! God can do anything in any time frame. The important question to ask is **what did God say He did?** He said that He created in six literal days and even defined each day by evening and morning. But some people believe that each day represents a long expanse of time such as hundreds of millions of years. If this is so, then what did God mean when He said:

*“Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath of the Lord your God... For **in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and made it holy.**”²⁸⁵*

God certainly did not mean that man was to work for six hundred million years and then rest for one hundred million years!

The Hebrew word translated as “day” is “yom”. If God really meant to convey a long period of time then the Hebrew word “olam” (meaning “age” or “long time”) could have been used. Or why didn’t He attach to yom an adjective such as “rab” (meaning “long”) so that the two words together “yom rab” would then mean “long time”. Maybe He used yom because that is what He meant!

He even defines the word yom in the context of Genesis 1 by *“And there was evening and there was morning, one day”* (Gen. 1:5), *“a second day”* (Gen. 1:8), *“a third day”* (Gen. 1:13), *“a fourth day”* (Gen. 1:19), *“a fifth day”* (Gen. 1:23), and *“the sixth day”* (Gen. 1:31). Every time He precedes the day with its definition of evening and morning that is caused by the rotation of earth. There may be some latitude given for how long the earth took for one rotation at that time. I am assuming that it was 24 hours.



Why did God include the phrase *“And there was evening and there was morning, one day.”* And why did He repeat it 6 times? Would you be more comfortable taking Gen.1 literally if instead it was thousands, millions or billions of years? If so, then you are suffering the effects of brainwashing! **Since He has the ability to do what He did in any amount of time, are we in a position to tell Him how long He took or is He in the position to tell us?**

We get into trouble when interpreting other verses if we make yom mean anything different than a literal day. Here are some examples. If a day is really not a day then how are we to understand Gen.1:14(NAS)?

Then God said, Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days and years;O

If a day is not a day then what is a year? Do you see that if our interpretation is faulty, inconsistencies result. As another example, some have suggested that the long life of men - up to 969 years, particularly before the Flood - is unrealistically too long. If we divide those numbers of years by ten then they are more reasonable and comparable to a man's lifetime today. But if those years are really decades then the father of Methuselah - Enoch - was only 6.5 years old when Methuselah was born (take Gen. 5:21 and divide by ten) which must make Enoch the youngest father in history!



Adam was made on day six (Gen.1:27-31), lived through day seven and died at the age of 930 years (Gen.5:5). Could this be true if the days of creation were thousands or millions of years?

The most common argument I have heard people use to defend their position that the days of creation cannot be literal days comes from 2 Pet. 3:8 *"...with the Lord one day is as a thousand years and a thousand years as one day"*(NAS). Do we now define a day to be a thousand years?



Methuselah died at the age of 969 years (Gen.5:27). If one day is one thousand years then Methuselah lived 352,958,000 years and if one thousand years is one day then he lived only 23 hours, 15 minutes, 12 seconds. What do you think?

Read all of 2 Pet. 3 and see if you don't agree that Peter is describing how God is not bound by time as we are. God is able to see all of time at once - like we see the paper in front of us.

Still others hold to the Gap Theory believing that between Gen. 1:1 and 1:2 there was a gap of time when God's initial creation was destroyed and Gen 1:2 begins a recreation in six days described in the remainder of Gen. 1. If this was so then how are we to understand Ex. 20:11 (NAS)?

"For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them..."

If everything was made in six days then nothing was made prior to those six days! For those who believe that in the gap there existed life that perished in the destruction of the original creation, then there was death before Adam which contradicts 1 Cor.15:21 and Rom. 5:12. These passages state that sin and death entered the world through the human race because of Adam's sin.

If the death of all creatures resulted from Adam's sin, then how could there be death before Adam? If there was no death before Adam then the destruction of a previous creation makes no sense.

The table below traces genealogies from creation to the destruction of Jerusalem in 588 BC

VERSE IN THE BIBLE	EVENT	TIME SINCE CREATION
Gen 1:1-31	Creation	0
Gen 5:3	Seth born when Adam was 130 years old	130
Gen 5:6	Enosh (Enos in KJV) born when Seth was 105 years old	235
Gen 5:9	Kenan (Cainan in KJV) born when Enosh was 90 years old	325
Gen 5:12	Mahalalel (Mahalaleel in KJV) born when Kenan was 70 years old	395
Gen 5:15	Jared born when Mahalalel was 65 years old	460
Gen 5:18	Enoch born when Jared was 162 years old	622
Gen 5:21	Methuselah born when Enoch was 65 years old	687
Gen 5:25	Lamech born when Methuselah was 187 years old	874
Gen 5:28-29	Noah born when Lamech was 182 years old	1056
Gen 11:10	Shem born when Noah was 502 years old {Shem was 100 years old when he became the father of Arpachshad, which was 2 years after the Flood. Since the Flood ended early in the 601 year of Noah's life (Gen. 8:14), Shem was 100 years old when his father was 602 (early in 601 + 2 years = 602 or 603). So, Shem was born 100 years earlier when Noah was 502.}	1558
Gen. 7:6,11	The Flood occurred when Noah was 600 years old	1656
Gen. 11:10	Arpachshad (Arphaxad in KJV and NIV) born when Shem was 100 years old	1658
Gen. 11:12	Shelah (Salah in JKV) born when Arpachshad was 35 years old	1693
Gen. 11:14	Eber born when Shelah was 30 years old	1723
Gen. 11:16	Peleg born when Eber was 34 years old	1757
Gen. 11:18	Reu born when Peleg was 30 years old	1787
Gen. 11:20	Serug born when Reu was 32 years old	1819
Gen 11:22	Nahor born when Serug was 30 years old	1849
Gen 11:24	Terah born when Nahor was 29 years old	1878
Gen 11:26-12:4	Abraham born when Terah was 130 years old {Terah was 205 years old when he died at Haran in the presence of Abram (Gen. 11:31-32). Abram left Haran with his wife Sarai to travel to Egypt when Abram was 75 years old (Gen. 12:4). Therefore, Abram was born when Terah was 130 years old since 205-75= 130.}	2008
Gen. 12:4-5	Abraham enters Canaan when he was 75 years old	2083
Gen. 12:10 & Exod. 12:40-41	From when Abraham left Haran to enter Canaan and Egypt until the Exodus, exactly 430 years to the day	2513
1 Kings 6:1	From the Exodus to start of the Temple 479 years (in the 480th year or after 479 years)	2992
1 Kings 11:42	From the start of the Temple to the division of the Kingdom 37 years (Solomon reigned 40 years and the Temple was started in his 4th year)	3029
Ezek. 4:4-6	From the division of the Kingdom to the destruction of Jerusalem 390 years	3419

Since the destruction of Jerusalem occurred in 588 BC (agreed upon by Bible and secular scholars), Creation took place 3419 years before that date on 4007 BC. This is approximately the same date - 4004 BC - that Archbishop James Ussher calculated in the year 1650. His analysis was much more exhausting and lengthy at 1600 pages! Perhaps rounding the date of creation to 4000 BC is best. Anyway, 4000 BC is 4000 BC + 2002 AD = 6002 or roughly 6000 years ago. The universe is about 6000 years old according to the Bible. Although Ussher is by far the most referred to young earth chronologist, and usually ridiculed for this fact in textbooks, he is by far not the only one. In his book *After The Flood*, Cooper describes the work of others who reached the same conclusions. Chapter 9 entitled *Ancient Chronologies and the Age of the Earth* in his book is “must reading” for anyone interested in defending a young earth. Let’s examine some of what he says.

Cooper says that “the early Britons and the Saxons are seen by their records to have looked back to a Creation of about 5200 BC” and a “creation date of ca 4000 BC [is] favoured by the early Irish chroniclers.” But the most interesting section, in my opinion, describes the work of Joseph Scaliger (1540-1609) who invented the Julian calendar and named after his father.

Scaliger rightly recognised that the calendar as it now stands, i.e. the Gregorian Calendar which was introduced in Europe in 1582, and which he heavily criticised, was a somewhat cumbersome apparatus with which to reconstruct the chronology of past events. Its very complexity lent itself to mistakes, whilst its inherent inaccuracies lent themselves to yet further inaccuracies. So he decided to solve the problem, and his solution was as ingenious as it was simple. Instead of an event being said to have occurred at such a date in such a year BC or AD, it would henceforth be said to have occurred on a certain numbered day. Now, although a day count was the answer, it raised a further question. From which point in time should this day count begin? The answer was obvious. It should begin from Day 1 of the Creation. But when did Day 1 occur? Well, Scaliger (partially) solved the problem by turning his attention to the three basic units upon which virtually all workable calendars are based, namely, the Solar Cycle, the Metonic Cycle and the Roman Indiction.

The definitions of these cycles are²⁸⁶

- Solar cycle: a period of 28 years, which having elapsed, the days of the month again fall upon the same days of the week.
- Metonic Cycle: a period of 19 years at the end of which the new moon reappears on the same day as at the beginning of the cycle.
- Roman Indiction: a period of 15 years in Roman chronology.

The three cycles begin and end together once in $28 \times 19 \times 15 = 7980$ years. The three cycles began together in the year 4713 BC and will end together in the year

$4713 \text{ BC} + 7980 = 3267 \text{ AD}$

Øhis was an excellent and broad base upon which to build his system of chronology, and for convenience's sake Scaliger counted 1st January 4713 BC as Day 1, building up his chronology from there. However, the fact that the three cycles (Solar, Metonic and Roman Indiction) began in the year 4713 BC will hold a certain significance for creationists, for Genesis is quite clear on the matter when it tells us that, apart from their light-giving properties, the solar system and its backdrop of stars were created so that we could measure by them times and seasons, days and years. In other words, God had created a gigantic clock, and what more natural than that the Creator should start that clock ticking, as it were, at a setting that would measure the age of the universe as well as the more mundane passing of the seasons here on earth?Ø

That the three cycles have been unchanged since creation is an assumption and at the time of the Flood, it is conceivable that changes did occur. But when Scaliger's chronology is compared with the Mayan chronology, the length of time before the Flood (the Mayans also believed in a flood) is almost identical! Quoting from Cooper,

“If we correlate the Mayan day count with that of Scaliger, we find that the Mayan Day 1 began on Julian Day 584283,²⁸⁷ which equals in our terms 10th August 3113 BC (I make that a Thursday) for the start of the Mayan day count. Now, the significance of this lies in the fact that although the Mayan concept of time was cyclic, they nevertheless knew that the world-destroying catastrophe that had closed the previous age was brought about by water, and that their own age had begun after that catastrophe. In other words, they looked back to the Flood as the close of the old age and the beginning of the new. And it is here that their day count takes on an immense significance. Scaliger's day count, we remember, took him back to the year 4713 BC, and it is more than probable that this corresponds roughly to the year of the Creation. The Mayans, however, did not begin their day count from the Creation, but from the Flood, and this event was set in their chronology, not Scaliger's, in the year 3113 BC, and subtracting 3113 from 4713 leaves us with a 1600 year period between the two dates for the Creation and the Flood, a period of time which corresponds remarkably closely to the 1656 year period set out so precisely in the Genesis record. Little wonder that this information is precluded these days by a cursory dismissal of Mayan mathematics and astronomy. If I were a modernist, I'd dismiss it too!

Although “modernists,” as Cooper refers to present-day scholars, believe that the Mayans were not advanced in mathematics and astronomy (in spite of their “observatories” with astronomical alignments), the Mayans did measure the time that Venus takes to orbit around the Sun once (as measured from the earth which also moves so this is not its actual period) as 584 days. The modern measurement of the same phenomenon is 583.92 days.²⁸⁸ At the very least they were careful observers!

Make An Accurate Time Line Of Earth History

You may already be familiar with a time line of history since many Bibles have one, usually somewhere near the beginning covering several pages. My *Inductive Study Bible* and my *Life Application Bible* both have them but they have a serious problem. The scale on both of them varies from page to page! The scale is a measure of how many years of history is represented by one inch of the time line. If you have a time line, checkout its scale to see if it changes from page to page. Simply see how long on the paper 100 years of history is near the date of creation with 100 years of history near the end. If the length is different, then the scale is different. **What is so amazing about this problem is that time lines are drawn for the very purpose of giving the reader a visual perspective of historical events and, when the scale isn't constant, the reader is unknowingly misled about the timing of historical events! This is a great example of brainwashing.** In addition to the scale problem, the *Inductive Study Bible* make no mention of the Flood (it looks like the scale is so small that it wouldn't fit) and the *Life Application Bible* states that both the date of Creation and the date when Noah builds the Ark are "undated!"

Try making your own time line from creation to today. Lay out a ten-foot tape measure on the floor. Since creation was 6000 years ago, each inch on the tape measure represents 50 years (50 years per inch x 120 inches = 6000 years). Write the following events on separate pieces of paper and place them next to the tape measure at the locations shown below.

Creation, Adam made at 0 inches
Methuselah born at 13.7 inches
Adam dies at 18.6 inches
Noah born at 21.1 inches
Flood begins at 33.12 inches
Methuselah dies during the Flood at 33.12-33.14 inches
Flood ends at 33.14 inches (lasts about one year)
Peleg born at 35.1 inches (also Tower of Babel, the earth was divided)
Abraham born at 40.2 inches
Exodus occurred at 50.3 inches
Start building of the Temple at 59.8 inches
Division of the Kingdom at 60.6 inches
Isaiah born at 65.2 inches
Destruction of Jerusalem at 68.3 inches
Ezra and Nehemiah return to rebuild walls of Jerusalem at 70.8 inches
Alexander the Great and Greek Period begins at 73.4 inches
Roman rule begins at 78.7 inches
Christ born at 80 inches
Paul's missionary journeys at 81 inches
John writes Revelation at 82 inches
King Arthur at 90 inches
The Middle Ages between 90 and 109 inches
Christopher Columbus at 109.8 inches
American Revolution at 115.5 inches

American Civil War at 117.2 inches
World War I at 118.3 inches
World War II at 118.8 inches
Today at 120 inches

How does this time line compare with what you learned in school? Why is it so different from the way most people imagine earth history to be? **Because it is from God who was there and knows all things instead of from men who weren't there and don't know everything.**

The law of the LORD is perfect, restoring the soul; The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. ²⁸⁹

The works of His hands are truth and justice; All His precepts are sure. They are upheld forever and ever; They are performed in truth and uprightness. ²⁹⁰

Being different than those around you is unavoidable if you make your Christianity known. If you are not different than those around you then you either keep your Christian beliefs to yourself or you only associate with other Christians or you are a Christian in name only. All three of these possibilities, I believe, Jesus does not reward. I hope that this study has encouraged you to identify those beliefs that are based on brainwashing and to make a defense, based on critical thinking, for what you believe is “the truth.”

I encourage your comments. Please email them to rick.balogh@valleybible.net.

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- ² John 14:6, NAS'95. Quotes from the Bible will be blue, except those of Christ which will be red.
- ³ Matt. 7:21-23, NAS'95, emphasis mine
- ⁴ Eph. 2:8-10, NAS'95, emphasis mine
- ⁵ Rev. 3:20, NAS'95
- ⁶ Hebrews 11:6, NIV
- ⁷ 1 Cor. 2:12-15, NAS'95, emphasis mine.
- ⁸ Yosemite Nature Notes, V.46, No.2, 1977, p.45-46
- ⁹ Jer. 9:22-23, NAS'95, emphasis mine.
- ¹⁰¹⁰ Col. 2:1-10, NAS'95, emphasis mine
- ¹¹ 2 Cor. 10:5, NIV
- ¹² John 5:45-47, NAS'95, emphasis mine.
- ¹³ Matt. 19:3-8, NAS'95, emphasis mine. Here Jesus quotes from **both** Gen. 1 and 2 (in capitols). See also Mark 10:2-8
- ¹⁴ Matt. 23:35, NAS'95, emphasis mine. Here Jesus quotes from Gen. 4:8. See also Luke 11:51.
- ¹⁵ Mark 13:19, NAS'95, emphasis mine. Here Jesus refers to Gen. 1.
- ¹⁶ Matt. 8:4, NAS'95, emphasis mine. See also Luke 5:14
- ¹⁷ Luke 16:31, NAS'95, emphasis mine.
- ¹⁸ Luke 20:37, NAS'95, emphasis mine.
- ¹⁹ Luke 24:44, NAS'95, emphasis mine.
- ²⁰ Luke 24:27, NAS'95, emphasis mine
- ²¹ John 3:14, NAS'95, emphasis mine.
- ²² John 7:19, NAS'95, emphasis mine.
- ²³ Mark 10:6, NAS'95, emphasis mine.
- ²⁴ John 7:22, NAS'95, emphasis mine.
- ²⁵ Luke 17:26-33, NAS'95, emphasis mine. See also Matt. 24:37.
- ²⁶ John 16:30, NAS'95, emphasis mine.
- ²⁷ John 12:48-49, NAS'95, emphasis mine.
- ²⁸ Luke 6:46, NAS'95, emphasis mine.
- ²⁹ John 10:27-28, NAS'95, emphasis mine.
- ³⁰ Dickerson, R. E., *The Game of Science, Perspectives on Science and Faith* **44**:137, June 1992, emphasis mine
- ³¹ New Twentieth Century Dictionary, 1983
- ³² an assumption is something that is taken to be true without being able to be proven as true.
- ³³ 2Peter 3:3-7, NAS'95, emphasis mine
- ³⁴ John 11:43
- ³⁵ by Elijah in 2 Kings 2:8 and Elisha in 2 Kings 2:14
- ³⁶ by Moses in Exodus 14:29
- ³⁷ by Jesus and Peter in Matt. 14:28-31
- ³⁸ by Elisha in 2 Kings 6:6
- ³⁹ Job 42:2, NAS'95, emphasis mine
- ⁴⁰ Jer. 32:26-27, NAS'95, emphasis mine
- ⁴¹ Matt. 19:26, NAS'95, emphasis mine
- ⁴² Luke 1:37, NAS'95, emphasis mine
- ⁴³ Job 5:9 and 9:10, NIV, emphasis mine

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- ⁴⁴ Psalms 77:14, NIV, emphasis mine
- ⁴⁵ Acts 26:8, NIV, emphasis mine
- ⁴⁶ Deut. 32:29, NIV, emphasis mine
- ⁴⁷ Josh. 4:23-24, NIV, emphasis mine
- ⁴⁸ Josh. 5:1, NIV, emphasis mine
- ⁴⁹ 5,000 people fed (Matt.14:15-21, Mark 6:35-44, Luke 9:12-17 and John 6:5-14); calming the storm (Matt. 8:23-27, Mark 4:35-41, and Luke 8:22-25); walks on water (Matt.14:22-33, and Mark 6:45-52); 4,000 are fed (Matt. 15:32-38 and Mark 8:1-9); cursing the fig tree (Matt. 21:18-22 and Mark 11:12-14, 20-24); a coin in a fish's mouth (Matt. 17:24-27); the first miraculous catch of fish (Luke 5:1-11); turns water into wine (John 2:1-11); and the second miraculous catch of fish (John 21:1-14).
- ⁵⁰ Jairus' daughter raised (Matt. 9:18-26, Mark 5:22-24, 35-43, Luke 8:41,42, 49-56); sick woman healed (Matt. 9:20-22, Mark 5:25-34, Luke 8:43-48); paralytic is healed (Matt. 9:1-8, Mark 2:1-12, Luke 5:17-26); leper is healed at Gennesaret (Matt. 8:1-4, Mark 1:40-45, Luke 5:12-15); Peter's mother-in-law healed (Matt 8:14-17, Mark 1:29-31, Luke 4:38-39); shriveled hand is restored (Matt. 12:9-13, Mark 3:1-5, Luke 6:6-11); boy with an evil spirit is healed (Matt. 17:14-21, Mark 9:14-29, Luke 9:37-42); Bartimaeus receives sight (Matt. 20:29-34, Mark 10:46-52, Luke 18:35-43); girl is freed from a demon (Matt. 15:21-28, Mark 7:24-30); centurion's servant is healed (Matt. 8:5-13, Luke 7:1-10); widow's son is raised from the dead (Luke 7:11-16); evil spirit is sent out of a man (Mark 1:23-27, Luke 4:33-36); mute demonic is healed (Matt. 12:22, Luke 11:14); two blind men find sight (Matt. 9:27-31); mute man is healed (Matt. 9:32-33); deaf and mute man is healed (Mark 7:31-37); blind man sees at Bethsaida (Mark 8:22-26); widow's son is raised (Luke 7:11-16); crippled woman is healed (Luke 13:10-17); sick man is healed (Luke 14:1-6); ten lepers are healed (Luke 17:11-19); restored a man's ear (Luke 22:49-51); official's son is healed at Cana (John 4:46-54); lame man is healed (John 5:1-16); blind man sees (John 9:1-7); and Lazarus is raised from the dead (John 11:1-45).
- ⁵¹ John 6:14, NAS'95, emphasis mine
- ⁵² Matt. 8:27, NAS'95, emphasis mine
- ⁵³ Matt. 14:32-33, NAS'95, emphasis mine
- ⁵⁴ Luke 5: 9, NAS'95, emphasis mine
- ⁵⁵ John 2:11, NAS'95, emphasis mine
- ⁵⁶ Mark 5: 42, NAS'95, emphasis mine
- ⁵⁷ Luke 5:26, NAS'95, emphasis mine
- ⁵⁸ Luke 5:15, NAS'95, emphasis mine
- ⁵⁹ Luke 9:43a, NAS'95, emphasis mine
- ⁶⁰ Luke 18:43n NAS'95, emphasis mine
- ⁶¹ Luke 7:16-17, NAS'95, emphasis mine
- ⁶² Mark 1:27-28, NAS'95, emphasis mine
- ⁶³ Luke 11:14, NAS'95, emphasis mine
- ⁶⁴ Matt. 9:31, NAS'95, emphasis mine
- ⁶⁵ Matt. 9:33, NAS'95, emphasis min
- ⁶⁶ Mark 7:37, NAS'95, emphasis mine
- ⁶⁷ Luke 7:16-17, NAS'95, emphasis mine
- ⁶⁸ Luke 13:17b, NAS'95, emphasis mine

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- ⁶⁹ John 4:53b, NAS'95, emphasis mine
⁷⁰ John 11:45-48, NAS'95, emphasis mine
⁷¹ John 6:2, NAS'95, emphasis mine
⁷² John 20:30-31, NAS'95, emphasis mine
⁷³ John 20:25, NAS'95, emphasis mine
⁷⁴ John 20:27-29, NAS'95, emphasis mine
⁷⁵ Heb. 11:1-3, NAS'95, emphasis mine
⁷⁶ Balogh, R., Where Water Flowed Uphill On Pothole Dome, *California Geology* XXX
⁷⁷ Col. 1:12-20, NAS'95, emphasis mine
⁷⁸ Heb. 1:2-3, NAS'95, emphasis mine
⁷⁹ John 1: 3, NAS'95, emphasis mine
⁸⁰ Eph. 3:9, KJV, emphasis mine
⁸¹ Albert Barnes' NT Commentary on Col. 1:12
⁸² Ne. 9:6, NAS'95, emphasis mine
⁸³ 2Tim. 4:1a, NAS'95, emphasis mine
⁸⁴ Ro. 2:16b, NAS'95, emphasis mine
⁸⁵ Acts 17:30-31, NAS'95, emphasis mine
⁸⁶ John 2:18-22, NAS'95, emphasis mine
⁸⁷ Mark 13:31, NAS'95, emphasis mine
⁸⁸ 2Pet. 3:7, NAS'95, emphasis mine
⁸⁹ 2Pet. 3:10, NAS'95, emphasis mine
⁹⁰ 1Cor. 15:14, NAS'95, emphasis mine
⁹¹ Col. 1:15, Re.3:14
⁹² Col.1:16, John 1:3; 17:5, 1Cor. 8:6, Eph. 3:9(KJV), Heb. 1:2
⁹³ Col. 1:17, Heb. 1:3
⁹⁴ Col 1:18, 1Cor. 15:20, Acts 26:23, Rev. 1:5
⁹⁵ Eph. 5:23
⁹⁶ 2Tim. 4:1a, Ro. 2:16b, Acts 17:30-31
⁹⁷ Mark 13:31, 2Pet. 3:7,10
⁹⁸ Col. 1:18b-19, NAS'95, emphasis mine
⁹⁹ 1Cor. 11:3, NAS'95, emphasis mine
¹⁰⁰ New Twentieth Century Dictionary, 1983
¹⁰¹ Life on the Mississippi, p.156
¹⁰² Feb., 1994, p. 41, emphasis mine
¹⁰³ June 24, 1922
¹⁰⁴ May 5, 1922, p. 463-464, emphasis mine
¹⁰⁵ *Science*, August 1, 1975, p. 379-381.
¹⁰⁶ Taylor, Ian, 1987, *In The Minds Of Men*, TFE Publishing, p.228, emphasis mine. This is an excellent resource.
¹⁰⁷ Miller, R., 1972, *The Piltdown Men*, p.10
¹⁰⁸ *The Significance Of The Radiographs Of The Piltdown Teeth*: Proceedings of the Royal Society Of Medicine, London 9, Odontological section, 1916, p. 33.
¹⁰⁹ Austin, S., *Mount St. Helens: Explosive Evidence for Catastrophe!*, video available from Answers in Genesis
¹¹⁰ this is the less technical journal published by the Creation Science Foundation Ltd. For more information go to www.AnswersinGenesis.org. It is written to a popular audience of all ages and academic backgrounds.

¹¹¹ this is the more technical journal, also published by the Creation Science Foundation Ltd. For more information go to www.AnswersinGenesis.org.

¹¹² published by Creation Research Society. For more information go to www.creationresearch.org.

¹¹³ 1Thess. 5:21-22, NAS'95, emphasis mine

¹¹⁴ 2 Cor. 10:5, NAS'95, emphasis mine

¹¹⁵ 1 Cor. 1:19, NAS'95, emphasis mine

¹¹⁶ 1 Cor. 3:19, NAS'95, emphasis mine

¹¹⁷ Isaiah 29:14, NAS'95, emphasis mine

¹¹⁸ Jer. 8:9, NAS'95, emphasis mine

¹¹⁹ Psalm 90:2, NAS'95, emphasis mine

¹²⁰ Deut. 33:27, NAS'95, emphasis mine

¹²¹ Rev. 4:9-10, NAS'95, emphasis mine

¹²² Pr 8:23-25, NAS, emphasis mine

¹²³ Psalms 90:4, NAS'95, emphasis mine

¹²⁴ 2 Peter 3:8, NAS'95, emphasis mine

¹²⁵ Heb. 4:13, NAS'95, emphasis mine

¹²⁶ Psalm 33:13-15, NAS'95, emphasis mine

¹²⁷ Psalm 90:8, NAS'95, emphasis mine

¹²⁸ Job 26:6, NAS'95, emphasis mine

¹²⁹ Job 28:24, NAS'95, emphasis mine

¹³⁰ Job 34:21, NAS'95, emphasis mine

¹³¹ Prov. 15:11, NAS'95, emphasis mine

¹³² 1 Kings 8:27, NAS'95, emphasis mine

¹³³ 2 Chron. 2:6, NAS'95, emphasis mine

¹³⁴ 2 Chron. 16:9, NAS'95, emphasis mine, see also Zec. 4:10

¹³⁵ Psalm 139:1-12, NAS'95, emphasis mine

¹³⁶ Jer. 23:23-24, NAS'95, emphasis mine

¹³⁷ Acts 7:48-50, NAS'95, emphasis mine

¹³⁸ Isa. 29:15, NAS'95, emphasis mine

¹³⁹ Dan. 2:22, NAS'95, emphasis mine

¹⁴⁰ Matt. 6:4, NAS'95, emphasis mine, see also Matt. 6:18

¹⁴¹ Num. 23:19, NAS'95, emphasis mine

¹⁴² 1 Sam. 15:29, NAS'95, emphasis mine

¹⁴³ Deut. 10:17, NAS'95, emphasis mine

¹⁴⁴ Deut. 32:4, NAS'95, emphasis mine

¹⁴⁵ Job 34:10, NAS'95, emphasis mine

¹⁴⁶ Job 34:17, NAS'95, emphasis mine

¹⁴⁷ Job 34:19, NAS'95, emphasis mine

¹⁴⁸ Job 36:5, NAS'95, emphasis mine

¹⁴⁹ Job 37:23-24, NAS'95, emphasis mine

¹⁵⁰ Psalms 11:7, NAS'95, emphasis mine

¹⁵¹ Psalms 33:5, NAS'95, emphasis mine

¹⁵² Psalms 89:34-35, NAS'95, emphasis mine

¹⁵³ Psalms 92:15, NAS'95, emphasis mine

¹⁵⁴ Psalms 145:17, NAS'95, emphasis mine

¹⁵⁵ Isaiah 45:19, NAS'95, emphasis mine

¹⁵⁶ Jer. 2:5, NAS'95, emphasis mine

¹⁵⁷ Acts 10:34-35, NAS'95, emphasis mine

¹⁵⁸ Romans 2:11, NAS'95, emphasis mine
¹⁵⁹ James 1:13, NAS'95, emphasis mine
¹⁶⁰ 1 Pet. 1:17, NAS'95, emphasis mine
¹⁶¹ Heb. 6:18, NAS'95, emphasis mine
¹⁶² Psalms 147:4-5, NAS'95, emphasis mine
¹⁶³ 1 Sam. 2:2-3, NAS'95, emphasis mine
¹⁶⁴ 1 Sam. 16:7, NAS'95, emphasis mine
¹⁶⁵ 1 Kings 8:39, NAS'95, emphasis mine, see also Psalms 94:11 and Acts 1:24
¹⁶⁶ 1 Chron. 28:9, NAS'95, emphasis mine, see also 2 Chron. 6:30
¹⁶⁷ Job 11:11, NAS'95, emphasis mine
¹⁶⁸ Job 12:13, NAS'95, emphasis mine, see also Job 12:16
¹⁶⁹ Job 21:22, NAS'95, emphasis mine
¹⁷⁰ Job 36:5, NAS'95, emphasis mine
¹⁷¹ Isa. 40:14, NAS'95, emphasis mine
¹⁷² Isa. 40:28, NAS'95, emphasis mine
¹⁷³ Jer. 10:12, NAS'95, emphasis mine, see also Jer. 51:15
¹⁷⁴ Rom. 11:33, NAS'95, emphasis mine
¹⁷⁵ 1 John 3:20, NAS'95, emphasis mine
¹⁷⁶ Job 23:13, NAS'95, emphasis mine
¹⁷⁷ Psalms 33:11, NAS'95, emphasis mine
¹⁷⁸ Psalms 119:89, NAS'95, emphasis mine
¹⁷⁹ Ec. 3:14, NAS'95, emphasis mine
¹⁸⁰ Isaiah 31:2, NAS'95, emphasis mine
¹⁸¹ Isaiah 40:28, NAS'95, emphasis mine
¹⁸² Mal. 3:6, NAS'95, emphasis mine
¹⁸³ Heb. 6:17, NAS'95, emphasis mine
¹⁸⁴ James 1:17, NAS'95, emphasis mine
¹⁸⁵ Job 38:1-7, NAS'95, emphasis mine
¹⁸⁶ Job 40:4-5, NAS'95, emphasis mine
¹⁸⁷ Job 42:1-6, NAS'95, emphasis mine
¹⁸⁸
¹⁸⁹ John 5:45-47, NAS'95, emphasis mine.
¹⁹⁰ Psalms 77:14, NIV, emphasis mine
¹⁹¹ Job 40:4-5, NAS'95, emphasis mine
¹⁹⁰ 1 Cor. 2:15, NAS'95, emphasis mine.
¹⁹² Overbye, Dennis, *Before the Big Bang, There Was...What?* New York Times, May 22, 2001
¹⁹³ Heb. 11:3, NAS'95, emphasis mine
¹⁹⁴ Psalm 33:6, NAS'95, emphasis mine
¹⁹⁵ 2 Peter 3:5, NAS'95, emphasis mine
¹⁹⁶ John 1:3, NAS'95, emphasis mine
¹⁹⁷ Joshua 4:24, NAS'95, emphasis mine
¹⁹⁸ Dawkins, Richard, 1986, *The Blind Watchmaker*, Longman Pub. p.2-3.
¹⁹⁹ Lowly Guppy Helps Scientists Validate Evolutionary Theory, Los Angeles Times, July, 1990.
²⁰⁰ Gen. 30:37-40, NAS'95
²⁰¹ Gen. 30:41-42, NAS'95
²⁰² Gen. 31:10-12, NAS'95, emphasis mine

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- ²⁰³ Dawkins, Richard, from a review of Michael Behe's book *Darwin's Black Box...* in *Skeptic Magazine*, Vol. 4, No. 3, 1996, emphasis mine.
- ²⁰⁴ Wald, George, 1954, *The Origin of Life*, *Scientific American*, p. 48.
- ²⁰⁵ *Evolutionary Theory Under Fire*, *Science* Vol. 210, November 21, 1980, p. 883, emphasis mine.
- ²⁰⁶ *Ibid*, p.884
- ²⁰⁷ Grolier Multimedia Encyclopedia, release 6, 1993, emphasis mine.
- ²⁰⁸ Behe, Michael, 1996, *Darwin's Black Box The Biochemical Challenge to Evolution*, The Free Press, p. 18-21
- ²⁰⁹ Overbye, Dennis, *Before the Big Bang, There Was...What?* *New York Times*, May 22, 2001
- ²¹⁰ Gen. 6:11-13, NAS'95, emphasis mine
- ²¹¹ Gen. 6:17, NAS'95, emphasis mine
- ²¹² Gen. 7:21-24, NAS'95, emphasis mine
- ²¹³ Gen. 7:11-12, NAS'95, emphasis mine
- ²¹⁴ Gen. 7:19-20, NAS'95, emphasis mine
- ²¹⁵ Psalm 104:5-9, NAS'95, emphasis mine
- ²¹⁶ Gen. 1:9, NAS'95, emphasis mine
- ²¹⁷ Heylman, E., 1971, *Should We Teach Uniformitarianism?*, *Jour. Geological Education*, V.19, Jan. 1971, p. 35.
- ²¹⁸ Gen. 2:4-6, NAS'95, emphasis mine
- ²¹⁹ Gen. 9:11-17, NAS'95, emphasis mine
- ²²⁰ Job. 12:12, NIV
- ²²¹ Morris, H. "*The Biblical Basis For Modern Science*", p. 291-292
- ²²² Gen. 7:2-3, NAS,95, emphasis mine
- ²²³ Gen. 6:18-22, NAS'95, emphasis mine
- ²²⁴ Gen. 8:17b, NAS'95, emphasis mine
- ²²⁵ Gen. 7:16, NAS,95, emphasis mine
- ²²⁶ Collins, D., 1977, *Was Noah's Ark Stable?*, *Creation Research Society Quarterly*, V.14, p.87
- ²²⁷ Hong, S. et. al., 1994, *Safety Investigation of Noah's Ark in a Seaway*, *Creation Ex Nihilo Technical Journal*, V.8, Part 1, p.26, emphasis mine.
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- ²²⁹ P. 43
- ²³⁰ *Scientific Monthly*, Feb. 1957, p.101
- ²³¹ *American Scientist*, V.36, Oct., 1948, p.490
- ²³² *Science*, V. 126, July 26, 1957, p.158
- ²³³ *Scientific Monthly*, March, 1953, p.163
- ²³⁴ *Science*, V. 136, May 18, 1962, p.633
- ²³⁵ *Discover*, July, 1993, p.18
- ²³⁶ *Nature*, June 22, 2000
- ²³⁷ *Dinosaurs A Pop-Up Book*, 1977, Illustrated by Barlowe, Random House, p.2
- ²³⁸ Kricher, J, 1990, *Peterson First Guide to Dinosaurs* , Houghton Mifflin, p. 4
- ²³⁹ Parker, B, 1961, *The Golden Book Encyclopedia*, Golden Press, V. 5, p. 420
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²⁴²Goertzen, J, The Rhamphorhynchoid Pterosaur *Scaphognathus crassirostris*: A Living Fossil Until the 17th Century, a paper presented at the 1998 International Conference on Creation, Geneva, PA on the internet at <http://www.rae.org/index.html>

²⁴³ *ibid*

²⁴⁴ *ibid*

²⁴⁵ Isa. 30:6, NAS'95, emphasis mine

²⁴⁶ Deut. 8:15, NAS'95, emphasis mine

²⁴⁷ Num. 21:6, NAS'95, emphasis mine

²⁴⁸ *ibid*

²⁴⁹ Trevelyan, M. 1909. *Folk-Lore and Folk Stories of Wales*. (cit. Simpson, J. *British Dragons*. B.T. Batsford Ltd. London. 1980).

²⁵⁰ *True and Wonderful: A Discourse Relating a Strange and Monstrous Serpent (or Dragon. #lately discovered, and yet living, to the great Annoyance and divers Slaughters of both Men and Cattell, by his strong and violent Poison: in Sussex, two Miles from Horsham, in a Woode called St Leonard's Forrest, and thirtie Miles from London, this present month of August 1614. With the true Generation of Serpents.* cited in Harlejan Miscellany. 1745. III. pp. 106-9. (also Simpson, J. *British Dragons*. B.T. Batsford Ltd. 1980. p. 118).

²⁵¹ Caxton, Win. 1484. *Aesop*. folio 138. The only surviving copy of this book lies in the Royal Library at Windsor Castle. This extract appears here by gracious permission of Her Majesty the Queen.

²⁵² Job 40:15, NAS'95, emphasis mine

²⁵³ Neh. 9:6, NAS'95, emphasis mine

²⁵⁴ Job. 41:8-10, NAS'95, emphasis mine

²⁵⁵ V. 73, No. 14, July 15, 1968, p. 4601—4607

²⁵⁶ Austin, S., 1996, *Excess Argon within Mineral Concentrates from the New Dacite Lava Dome at Mount St. Helens Volcano*, *Creation Ex Nihilo Technical Journal*, V.10, no.3, p.335

²⁵⁷ V. 88, Nov. 1977, P. 1660—1666, emphasis mine

²⁵⁸ *ibid*, table 2, p. 1663

²⁵⁹ V.101, January 1, 1972, p. 12—13, emphasis mine

²⁶⁰ *Bulletin Of The Geological Society Of America*, V. 66, June, 1955, p. 768, emphasis mine

²⁶¹ "Radon Risk And Remedy" by David J. Brenner, 1989, p. 3-4 and 35-44

²⁶² *Journal Of Geology*, V. 79, 1971, p. 610

²⁶³ *Earth and Planetary Science Letters*, V. 6, 1969, p. 321

²⁶⁴ *Earth and Planetary Science Letters*, V. 7, 1969, p. 167-168

²⁶⁵ V. 16, 1979, p. 974, emphasis mine

²⁶⁶ Nunes, P., et. al., *Excess Lead in "Rusty Rock" 66095 and Implications for an Early Lunar Differentiation*, *Science*, V.182, Nov. 30, 1973, p. 916-920

²⁶⁷ p. 782, emphasis mine

²⁶⁸ *Pensee*, Fall, 1974, p. 33

²⁶⁹ *Annual Review Of Nuclear Science*, V. 22, 1972, p. 165, emphasis mine

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- ²⁷⁰ New Scientist, Jan. 8, 1994, p.16, emphasis mine
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- ²⁷² p. 84, emphasis mine
- ²⁷³ Anthropological Journal Of Canada, V. 19, No. 3, 1981, p. 9, emphasis mine
- ²⁷⁴ Quaternary Research, V. 5, 1975, p. 263
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- ²⁷⁸ Science, V. 224, April 6, 1984, p. 58—61
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- ²⁸² Anthropological Journal Of Canada, V. 19, No. 3, 1981, p. 16
- ²⁸³ *ibid*, p. 15
- ²⁸⁴ “*Radiocarbon: Some Notes From Merlin’s Diary*” (Annals Of The New York Academy Of Science, V. 288, p. 181—188
- ²⁸⁵ Ex. 20:9-11, NAS, emphasis mine
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- ²⁸⁷ *Encyclopedia Britannica*. 1985 ed. Vol. 15. p. 474.
- ²⁸⁸ Ronan, C. *The Cambridge Illustrated History of the World’s Science*. Newnes. Cambridge. 1983. p. 55.
- ²⁸⁹ Psalm 19:7, NAS’95
- ²⁹⁰ Psalm 111:7-8, NAS’95