

Could It Be True

What If the First Eleven Chapters of Genesis Were True?

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DEDICATION

To our Creator who formed us in the womb, loved us in our imperfection, and died that we might live. May all glory, honor, and power be His.

And to the loving wife he gave me who walks by my side and believes in me no matter the circumstances!

And to every individual who feels intimidated by a scientific community that continually tries to trash the Bible and impose their anti-Christ beliefs on others.

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INTRODUCTION



WHERE YOU PUT YOUR EYE

By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed.

2 Peter 3:6

#NotMyWorld – When we enter Genesis, we enter a world that no longer exists, an environment that is so different from ours that it is hard for our minds to comprehend it. It is a world that was destroyed over 4,000 years ago by a worldwide flood that destroyed the ecosystem, reshaped the surface of the globe, and killed everything with breath in it.

I don't mean a culture that has vanished or changed. I mean the actual face of the earth; the content of the air and the food people ate are different than our world. It is a world that existed before this world.

The problem is that you are blind to the old world because you see it as this world. People think of the first eleven chapters of Genesis

and see images of this world instead of seeing the world that has vanished. It is essential to know how to look at this long-lost world.

There was an old Sesame Street song that tried to teach children about perspective and how things look larger the closer you are to them. It was all about where you put your eye. The same is true with Genesis; your perspective determines your interpretation.

We've all heard how Noah's Ark, the six days of Creation, and the Tower of Babel are just myths. But what if it was all true? How would that play out with science? How would it affect our lives today?

The purpose of this book is to give you a concise understanding of the scientific implications of the events of creation, the fall, the great flood, and the Tower of Babel and why they are pivotal to the Christian Faith. It is a defense of the first eleven chapters of Genesis. As such, we will look at Genesis from a particular perspective.

Instead of bringing outside ideas to the Bible, we will go to the Bible first to get our ideas. Many look at Genesis and try to interpret it to make it conform to their presuppositions. But presuppositions guide conclusions.

Let me illustrate how this works. The presupposition of evolution expects many transitional forms in the fossil record. If fossils were laid down slowly over hundreds of millions of years, then you would expect to see thousands of transitional forms (a creature with a partially developed feature, such as a half-developed feather mixed with scales) in the fossil record.

The presupposition of creationism (the belief that God created the world in six literal days) expects discreet forms (complete feathers instead of developing feathers) in the fossil record. Creationists believe that most fossils were created during the flood from the drowned animals. Since creationism does not accept the existence of transitional forms, there should only be creatures with fully developed features in the fossil record. What we find are fully developed features. No matter how much a function may resemble another if it is fully developed, it is not a transitional form. This perspective will cause you to look at the fossil record differently than someone who is looking for a transitional

form.

We will look at Genesis chapter by chapter, asking the question, “What does the text actually say?” Could it be true? Can you consider that possibility? Let me ask you this: why would God give us all these details in the first eleven chapters if he did not want us to examine them?

To get the most out of this book, you will need to read the Scripture yourself. Read it to find out what it actually says and not to see how it lines up with what you believe. Each chapter of this book corresponds to the chapter in Genesis (chapter one is on Genesis chapter one). Read the chapter in Genesis in its entirety. Then, write down your thoughts and questions in a journal. Finally, read the corresponding chapter in this book.

Theistic Evolution

Theistic Evolution seeks to reconcile the theory of evolution and the creation account of the Bible. The basic idea is that God used and guided evolution to create the universe and people. That sounds good. I once believed this myself. I remember sitting in the cafeteria at college with my friends and discussing this very idea. But at that point, I was still very limited in my knowledge of the subject.

Theistic evolution accepts the premise that evolution is true. But what is the evidence for evolution or that the universe is billions of years old? The fossil record? No. It is just a graveyard of dead creatures. There is no evidence of evolution there.

Is it measurements that scientists have calculated based on some observed process? In 1862 Lord Kelvin calculated that the age of the earth was 98 million years based on a model of cooling. In 1897, he admitted he was wrong and estimated the age to be 20-40 million years. So which answer is correct?

In 1900, John Joly “proved” Lord Kelvin to be wrong. An Irish physicist and geologist, he declared that the earth was 80-100 million years old. He based his calculations on the rate at which salt enters the ocean due to erosion. Which answer is correct?

In 1929, Ernest Rutherford estimated the age of the earth to be 3.4 billion years. Today, it is believed that the earth is 4.55 billion years old. Which answer is correct?

What about the age of the universe? We've been told it was 13.7 billion years old. But is that correct? Or are the scientists who make such claims wrong again because of their lack of knowledge? The calculations were based on the speed of the expanding universe. However, new data from the Hubble telescope tells us that, once again, scientists were working with faulty data. The speed of expansion of the universe is faster than scientists thought, which means that the universe cannot be as old as they thought. Nobel Laureate Adam Riess of the Space Telescope Science Institute says this is "a new kind of physics," one we know nothing about.

So far, every answer has been declared wrong. The reason? It is claimed that those who made the earlier estimates did not know enough. But do we know enough today? Is our answer just as wrong as all those that preceded it? Do we cling to an answer today just to be declared wrong tomorrow? Do we continue to trust those who give us the wrong answer over and over? Are they like the boy who cried wolf? "No, wait, we are right this time?" Do we trust our eternal destination to people who claim to be wise but have proven to be fools? (Romans 1:22). Science has its place, but that place is to expand our knowledge of the physical world of today. Not to make sweeping statements of the past that cannot be tested by the scientific method and unilaterally declare the spiritual realm non-existent. Thus leading millions of people to reject Jesus Christ and doom themselves to hell based on the limit knowledge of fallible scientists.

There is no evidence that evolution ever happened. There are just vague theories that lack evidence. There is no evidence that the universe came about in a way that took billions of years.

In the process of examining Genesis, we will have to ask the question, "is the theory of evolution compatible with the Bible?" I do not believe it is. For me, **the most significant challenge to the theory of evolution is where does Adam's sin fit in the grand**

progression from ape to man? At what point did one individual make the conscious decision to disobey God and introduce sin to all human beings? Where did one individual on the evolutionary timeline get the power to affect all of creation? If there is no Adam, then does that mean that God created sin and death?

Then there is the problem of death. If death is the result of Adam's sin, then how could there be death before Adam sinned? Was there somewhere along the line from ape to man that one individual was immortal and then lost that immortality through disobedience? This problem is why the theory of evolution is entirely incompatible with the Bible.

Dr. Henry Morris, in his book *The Long War Against God*, wrote.

The evolutionary scenario, with its billion-year spectacle of random variation, evolutionary meandering, struggle for existence, suffering and death and extinction, utterly contradicts not only the plain teaching of Scripture but also the very nature of God. Evolution is the most cruel and inefficient process that could be devised for populating a world and creating man – and God should not be held responsible for any such system!

Biblical Creationism

This book takes the view that God created the universe in six literal solar days about 6,000 years ago. Some call this young earth creationism, but I prefer the term biblical creationism because it is a simple reading of the text. It is the view of historical Christianity. It is the view of the early church fathers. It is the view of the great theologians of Christianity such as Luther, Calvin, Augustine, Francis of Assisi, Thomas Aquinas, and others. It is the view of Jesus and Paul. The idea that creation must be interpreted through the lens of evolution is only a couple hundred years old.

Jesus refers to the creation of Adam and Eve as being “from the

beginning of creation” when asked about divorce in the Gospel of Mark.

But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female. Mark 10:6 (KJV)

Jesus referred to Adam and Eve, Abel, and Noah as historical characters. He tied his second coming to the reality of Noah. If Noah is not a real person, then the second coming must not be an actual event.

In referring to the days of creation, Genesis chapter one uses the phrase, “There was evening, and there was morning – the (*first, second, third, etc.*) day.” This formula gives the idea that creation took seven literal days. Dr. Gordon Wenham writes in the *Word Biblical Commentary Volume 1*,

“There can be little doubt that here “day” has its basic sense of a 24-hour period. The mention of morning and evening, the enumeration of the days, and the divine rest on the seventh show that a week of divine activity is being described here.”¹

A worldwide flood that lasted over a year, plus the divine breaking up of the springs of the deep, could account for the vast array of fossils and fossil fuels, plus the geological formations often used as an indication of old age. The flood can account for the creation of layers of sandstone in a matter of days instead of millions of years.

The genealogies of the Bible show only a few thousand years. The Jewish historian Josephus, who lived in the first century, wrote that the Jews of his day believed the earth to be only about 5,000 years old. In the twelfth century, Maimonides placed the creation week in the year 3761 BC. Maimonides, or more formally Moses ben Maimon, was a Jewish Torah scholar, an astronomer, and a physician.

The entire Gospel is based on the event of Adam sinning and bringing death into the world. There could be no death BEFORE Adam. Therefore, there could be no billions of years before Adam. If

Adam was not the first man or there was death before Adam, then there is no reason for Christ to die on the cross or even come to earth. What is the point of Jesus's resurrection to conquer death if death is just part of what God "created?"

From a scientific perspective, there are hundreds of ways to date the age of the earth, the moon, and the universe. The problem is these different methods give vastly different ages. Which one do you pick, and why only those that provide an old age? Every dating method has assumptions that must be accepted without proof. The only reason evolution assumes an early age for the universe is to give enough time for development to occur since it would be ridiculous to think such massive changes could happen in a short period. Therefore, the only reason to believe the world is billions of years old is to start with the belief that evolution is true.

The Gap Theory

The "Gap Theory" imagines there was a world between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2. It is also known as the 'ruin-reconstruction' theory. In the theory, a world of human-like creatures without souls was ruled by Satan before he fell. According to this theory, this imagined world lasted millions of years until Satan rebelled by desiring to be God. It was Satan's fall that brought sin into the universe, and God judged the world with a flood followed by a global ice age. They say the fossils we find today are from "Lucifer's flood." Then, in Genesis 1:2, God reconstructed the world. In this theory, God created the new world in six days, along with Adam and Eve, hoping for better results.

But Jesus refers to the creation of Adam and Eve as being "from the beginning of creation."

But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female. Mark 10:6 (KJV)

Adam and Eve were not created billions of years after the beginning but at the beginning. If Adam and Eve were "from the beginning of

the creation,” there could be no hidden world between verses one and two.

The Gap Theory is not found in scripture. It is another example of an outside man-made theory that was brought to the Bible and forced on the scriptures. It is “adding to” the Word of God, which we are told not to do. It is human pride that says mankind is so smart that their ideas about fossils being millions of years old must be true, so man must correct the Bible to fit millions of years into the scriptures.

The Gap theory was never accepted by any secular evolutionist. It was never taught in any major university, and it has fallen out of favor as a theory to reconcile the creation story with an old earth. It is unnecessary and was only promoted to try and reconcile the fossil record (thought to take millions of years to form) with the creation account in Genesis.

The Day-Age Theory

With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. 2 Peter 3:8 (KJV)

One of the most misunderstood theories that tries to reconcile Scripture with the theory of evolution is called the Day-Age Theory. Some believe that the days of creation are symbolic and represent eons of time. After all, the word day can be used to mean a period of time instead of 24 hours of time. An example would be “in King Arthur’s day” It seems reasonable, but is that what the Scriptures imply or are we trying to force them into an artificial structure?

If we look at the grammatical structure of the Hebrew, does it imply that the days mean ages instead of a regular 24-hour day? The world’s best Hebrew scholars say no. While most do not believe the creation week happened in six literal days, they agree a straightforward reading of the Hebrew suggests regular days. The idea of the days being ages comes from outside the Bible. It is an attempt to reconcile the evolutionary idea that the earth is billions of years old with the six-day creation story. Nobody illustrates this better than the staunch, Bible

defender Gleason Archer Jr. In his book *A Survey of Old Testament Introduction*, he writes,

“From a superficial reading of Genesis 1, the impression would seem to be that the entire creative process took place in six twenty-four-hour days. If this was the true intent of the Hebrew author . . . this seems to run counter to modern scientific research, which indicates that the planet Earth was created several billion years ago.”²

Archer says that the creation story, in the Hebrew, reads like 24-hour days. He then proceeds to explain why this cannot be true because an idea outside the Bible, the theory of evolution, does not line up with the scriptures. Archer illustrates bringing an outside concept to the Bible instead of learning what the Bible says. Did we have this problem before the theory of evolution? What did Martin Luther believe about the Genesis account?

“This first chapter of our Holy Bible is written in the simplest and plainest language, and yet it contains the greatest and at the same time the most difficult themes... Equally useless is it to consider Moses in the beginning of his history as speaking mystically or allegorically. For as he is not instructing us concerning allegorical creatures and an allegorical world, but concerning essential creatures and a world visible and apprehensive by the senses, he calls, as we say in our trite proverb, “a post, a post ;” that is, when he says morning or day or evening, his meaning is the same as ours when we use those terms, without any allegory whatever.”³

Why is it important what Luther believed about Genesis since evolution was not around during his lifetime? Because it shows that the theory of evolution is not found in the pages of scripture but is an outside human philosophy that many try to impose on the Bible

instead of reading what the Bible says. It shows that the Hebrew word “yom” in this context means a solar day and not eons of time.

Luther believed the days of creation were six literal days because there was no indication in the Hebrew that they meant anything else. He was not the only one. Josephus, a first-century Jewish historian who is referenced by modern scholars as a reliable source, calculated the age of the earth as six thousand years in his day using the Old Testament scriptures and counting the days of creation as six literal days.

"The point is that prior to the 19th century, almost every significant Biblical commentator thought the Bible spoke to the age of the earth in a definitive way. So definitive, in fact, that specific numbers and ranges were regularly given. In the early church, these estimates were provided by Cyprian, Irenaeus, Clement of Alexander, Julius Africanus, Origen, Lactantius, Chrysostom, Jerome, and Augustine, all of whom put the age of the earth at less than 6,000 years from the date of his writing."⁴

God treats the creation week as seven literal days when he gave Moses the Ten Commandments.

“Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns. **For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day.** Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. Exodus 20:8-11

If the days were eons of time instead of literal days, would they line up with the timeline of evolution?

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The evolutionist timeline would be something like this.

- The universe (or heavens) came into being first.
- Then the earth.
- Next followed water on the earth.
- Life began in the water and crawled upon the land.
- As land animals developed, some began to fly.
- Eventually, things developed into people.
- Then people killed everything on the earth.

But does that match what we see in Scripture? Here is a timeline of the days of creation.

- First, God created the earth.
- Water covered the earth.
- Then light came into the picture without anything to produce the light.
- Next, we get dry land and plants.
- At this point, the Sun, Moon, and stars are all created.
- Then animals that live in the water and animals that fly.
- After that, we get animals and people on the land.

The days of creation do not seem to line up with the evolutionist's timeline. So, trying to reconcile the days of creation with the theory of evolution just does not work.

What About Carbon Dating?

One question that seems to be on everyone's mind is, "Doesn't Carbon Dating prove the earth is billions of years old?" It is impossible for carbon dating to prove the age of the earth, but it is a common misunderstanding.

Carbon is an element found in our bodies, the atmosphere, and the earth. Some carbon atoms have two extra neutrons. These atoms are called Carbon 14 (^{14}C), and they are radioactive. They are naturally occurring in our atmosphere. Through the process of photosynthesis, plants absorb ^{14}C . Animals absorb ^{14}C by eating the plants. Once the

plant or animal dies, the ^{14}C starts to decay. ^{14}C has a radioactive half-life of 5,730 years. This half-life means that in 5,730 years, there will be half as much ^{14}C . If you start with a pound of ^{14}C then in 5,730 years, there will only be half a pound. In 11,460 years, there will be just a quarter pound left and so forth. The oldest that ^{14}C decay can be used to date something is 50,000 years. That is much too short of a time to be used to determine if the earth is billions of years old.

Radioactive Carbon dating also starts with some assumptions that cannot be proven. The first assumption is that the amount of ^{14}C in our current atmosphere has been the same for the last 50,000 years. The second assumption is that there have been no other environmental issues or events that could impact the absorption of ^{14}C over the years. We know that the amount of ^{14}C found in our atmosphere can change. Volcanic eruptions can reduce the amount of ^{14}C , while the atomic bomb testing increased the presence of ^{14}C by 100%.

There are other radiometric dating methods. These are based on radioactive isotopes that are found in specific rocks. Because these isotopes are unstable due to their atomic structure (number of neutrons and protons), they eventually decay. The atom will get rid of an extra particle and become stable. This is called radioactive decay. Once stable, the atom is a different element on the periodic table. The radioactive element is called the parent, and the stable element is called the daughter. There are five radioactive elements that are regularly used: uranium-238, uranium-235, potassium-40, rubidium-87, and samarium-147. They change into lead-206, lead-207, argon-40, strontium-87, and neodymium-143. They are referred to as their parent-daughter elements: uranium-lead, potassium-argon, rubidium-strontium, and samarium-neodymium.

Scientists have determined how long it takes for these atoms to change into the daughter elements. To determine the date of a rock they use a ratio of daughter to original parent atoms. This method of dating is based on three assumptions.

1. The original number of radioactive atoms can be known.
2. The rate of decay is constant.

3. All daughter atoms came from the radioactive decay.

All three of these have their problems. How can we know exactly what was in the rock billions of years ago if we have no data from that time? How can we know the decay rate has been constant if creation week and the great flood are historical events? And finally, how do we know that all the daughter atoms came from the radioactive parent?

Let's look at potassium-argon as an example. The assumption is that no argon was present when the rock was formed. It is also assumed that no argon has contaminated the sample being tested. How can we be assured of the purity of the sample without having monitored it throughout its creation and existence? We cannot, and therefore, we cannot be assured of the accuracy of the date. Sometimes, tests are run using two or more of these methods, and their answers are wildly different. How can we trust dates that conflict?⁵

The Incredible Complexity of Creation

The theory of evolution is surprisingly simplistic. Given enough time, so the theory goes, anything is possible from random chaos. However, even many evolutionists do not believe that it is possible to develop complex systems like the eye. That is why some have proposed a different model known as punctuated equilibrium. Critics of this theory call it the "hopeful monster" theory. In this model, instead of small minute changes over eons of time being responsible for complex systems, they just magically appear. An offspring is born with a complete eye. This development is then passed on to the next generation.

However, even this theory cannot account for the interconnected systems of nature. Not just the interconnectivity in our bodies but also the massively complex systems such as the oxygen/carbon dioxide cycle of dependence between plants and animals.

Such systems require the development of multiple systems in multiple organisms, all at the same time. It screams the need for purpose and design instead of just some hopeful monster.

Stuart Burgess, a faculty member of the University of Bristol in the United Kingdom, is a top mechanical engineer who has worked with British Aerospace and the European Space Agency. He explains the difficulty in this level of complexity arising from the bottom up approach through eons of tiny mutations.

“When I teach my students how to design complex systems I teach them they have to design top down. They can’t design bottom up. They’ll just get chaos if they do that. So, when we look at this world, we live in it’s an incredible ecosystem with a myriad of other sub ecosystems within it like land food cycles, aquatic food cycles, gas cycles, the changing of the seasons. And those myriads of systems interconnect so delicately and precisely that it must have been designed top down. You couldn’t possibly get the complex ecosystem that we see attempting to design bottom up.”⁶

Ray Comfort points out, in his Evidence Bible, the incredible complexity of our universe and shows that the idea that it could all just evolve through natural means is not logical.

“Notice how awkwardly physicist Freeman J. Dyson of Princeton’s Institute for Advanced Study tries to explain the design of the universe without God:

‘As we look out into the universe and identify the many accidents of physics and astronomy that have worked to our benefit, it almost seems as if the universe must in some sense have known that we were coming.’

In contemplating this amazing design in our universe, Physicist and Nobel laureate Arno Penzias came to a similar conclusion:

‘Astronomy leads us to a unique event, a universe that was created out of nothing and delicately balanced to provide exactly the conditions required to support life. In the absence

of an absurdly improbable accident, the observations of modern science seem to suggest an underlying, one might say, supernatural plan.’

Speaking of the “absurdly improbable,” Harvard paleontologist Stephen Jay Gould described humans as “a glorious accident” of evolution that required 60 trillion contingent events. With cosmologists estimating the Earth to be 4.55 billion years old, to accomplish those 60 trillion events would require more than 36 necessary events per day, each day for 4.55 billion years—just to get *Homo sapiens*. And conveniently, each of these 36 daily new events just happened to occur in the right place at the right time in the right sequence. And this doesn’t take into account the astronomical number of “accidents” necessary to form the tens, perhaps hundreds of thousands of separate ecosystems.

Can Science Be Trusted?

We live in a time when science rules as the ultimate authority in all things. After all, science has taken us to the moon, almost wiped out polio, and given us communication that spans the globe. But can science be trusted in all things?

First, we must understand what science is. Science is simply a systematic way of studying a subject. But the problem is not the method of study, it is the humans performing the study. Scientists are not a subspecies of humans. They are simply people like everyone else. They have dreams, ambitions, flaws, fears, greed, bad days, and make mistakes. But they can also lie, cheat, steal, and deceive, especially if they have something to gain, like fortune, fame, and power.

And that’s where we find ourselves today. Science is no longer just about studying nature; it is a way to deceive the masses, gain political power, and make a fortune. In his book *Scientism and Secularism: Learning to Respond to a Dangerous Ideology*, Dr. J. P. Moreland, Professor of Philosophy at Biola University, describes how science has

been warped into a new religion which is a caricature of true science. Dr. Moreland discusses the destructive dangers of this new religion.

Mattias Desmet, professor of clinical psychology at Ghent University in Belgium, discusses the failure of modern science in his book *The Psychology of Totalitarianism*.

To the extent that the scientific discourse become an ideology, it lost its virtue of truth-telling. Nothing illustrates this better than the so-called replication crisis that erupted in academia in 2005. This crisis emerged when a number of serious cases of scientific fraud came to light. Scientific scans and other imaging were proven to have been manipulated⁷, archaeological artefacts were found to be counterfeit,⁸ embryo clones had been forged;⁹ some researchers claimed to have successfully trans-planted skin from mice, whilst they had simply dyed the skin of the test animals without performing any surgical procedure.¹⁰ Other researchers had manufactured missing links from pieces of skulls of humans and monkeys;¹¹ and yes, it appeared that some even completely made up their research.¹²

This kind of full-fledged fraud was relatively rare, however, and not actually the biggest problem. The biggest problem was with less dramatic instances of questionable research practices, which were reaching epidemic proportions. Daniele Fanelli conducted a systematic survey in 2009 and found that at least 72 percent of researchers were willing to somehow distort their research results.¹³ On top of that, research was also replete with unintentional calculation mistakes and other errors. An article in *Nature* rightly called it "a tragedy of errors."¹⁴

All of this translated into a problem of replicability of scientific findings. To put it simply, this means that the results of scientific experiments were not stable. When several researchers performed the same experiment, they came to different findings. For example, in economics research, replication failed about 50 percent of the time,¹⁵ in cancer research about 60 percent of the time,¹⁶ and in

biomedical research no less than 85 percent of the time.¹⁷ The quality of research was so atrocious that the world-renowned statistician John Ioannidis published an article bluntly entitled “Why Most Published Research Findings Are False.”¹⁸ Ironically, the studies that assessed the quality of research also came to diverging conclusions. This is perhaps the best evidence of how fundamental the problem is.

I have included the endnotes Desmet included in his book so that you can research for yourself just how corrupt modern-day “science” has become. This is just a small glimpse of the lies, deceit, and gaslighting that is taking place in science today. Why am I bringing this up? Because I want you to recognize that science has been coopted by evil people for the immediate purpose of gaining fame, fortune, and power. But it has been coopted by the devil to lead people away from God and into hell. I want you, your family, and your friends to escape this path to hell. This use of science is a blindfold of the devil.

That’s not to say that proper science isn’t being used today to bring about great advances in medicine and innovations that make life easier. But when science enters the political or religious arena, it becomes evil in every case.

Are the First Eleven Chapters of Genesis That Important?

It is an important question. My answer is apparently yes, or I wouldn’t have written this book. Let me show you why you should care about the first eleven chapters of Genesis.

First, it is the foundation of the Christian message. That is a bold statement, but it is true.

Genesis gives us the definition and beginning of sin. Without Genesis, there is no sin. Without sin, there is no need for a Savior. Without a need for a Savior, Jesus died in vain.

Second, it establishes the credibility of the Bible. If the first eleven chapters of Genesis can’t be trusted, how can the rest of the Bible be

trusted?

Third, it establishes the credibility of Jesus. Jesus quoted from the first eleven chapters of Genesis as historical and used them as the basis for his teachings. If they can't be trusted, then Jesus's credibility is called into question. Jesus referred to Genesis when the Pharisees questioned him about divorce,

“Haven't you read,” he replied, “that at the beginning the Creator ‘made them male and female” Matthew 19:4

Jesus also referred to Genesis when he talked about his return. He said,

As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. Matthew 24:37-39

Finally, it establishes the credibility of Paul. Paul referred to the first eleven chapters of Genesis and Adam specifically. He based the need for a Savior on the actions of Adam. Paul referred to Adam as historically real as Jesus was when he wrote,

Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned ... Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses. Romans 5:12,14 (KJV)

Where Did Genesis Come From?

Traditionally, Moses wrote Genesis as part of the Torah (first five books of the Old Testament). This was believed without question until

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the eighteenth century when the idea that God did not speak to people took hold of academia. Without God as the verbal author, scholars began considering different methods of how Genesis could be written. The current belief among liberal theologians is that it was written by different people over the centuries and compiled in its current form somewhere around the Babylonian captivity.

However, scripture indicates that Moses wrote Genesis much earlier. Consider the following verses.

The Lord would speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend. Then Moses would return to the camp, but his young aide Joshua son of Nun did not leave the tent.
Exodus 33:11

Notice how God would speak to Moses face to face. In fact, when God met with Moses, the glory of God would make Moses' face glow, which terrified the Israelites.

He said, "Listen to my words:
"When there is a prophet among you,
I, the Lord, reveal myself to them in visions,
I speak to them in dreams.
But this is not true of my servant Moses;
he is faithful in all my house.
With him I speak face to face,
clearly and not in riddles;
he sees the form of the Lord.
Why then were you not afraid
to speak against my servant Moses?"
Numbers 12:6-8

God gave a description of how his relationship with Moses was different from prophets and priests. God spoke plainly with Moses and face to face.

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Write down these words,

for in accordance with these words I have made a covenant with you and with Israel.” Exodus 34:27

Multiple times throughout the Torah, we see God telling Moses to “write down these words.” While there is no record of God specifically commanding Moses to write down Genesis, it is not unreasonable to assume that God spoke Genesis to Moses, especially in light of the fact that Moses was not present during the creation.

Now about the dead rising—have you not read in the Book of Moses, in the account of the burning bush, how God said to him, ‘I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? Mark 12:26

Notice how Jesus goes out of his way to identify Moses as the author of the Torah when referencing the burning bush. Jesus is endorsing Moses as the author.

Important Definitions

Let’s go over some essential definitions so we are all on the same page. First, let’s define science, empirical evidence, and the scientific method.

Science - Systematized knowledge derived from observation, study, and experimentation carried on to determine the nature or principles of what is being studied.

Empirical Scientific Evidence - Relying or based solely on experiment and observation rather than theory.

The Scientific Method – it must be observable, repeatable, testable, and falsifiable.

Next, let’s look at the word “evolution.” The word itself means development or change. There are two types of “evolution” in regard

to life forms.

Micro-Evolution - Small-scale genetic changes in organisms through mutations and recombinations, resulting in the formation of slightly differing new varieties. One example of microevolution is Darwin's Finches on the Galapagos Islands, which adapted to different environments on each of the islands. The significant change was their beaks. But they all remained finches.

We can see micro-evolution happening. It is scientific because it is observable, testable, and repeatable.

Macro-Evolution- Large-scale and long-range evolution involving the appearance of new genera, families, etc., of organisms. An example of macroevolution would be a reptile turning into a mammal. It is much like the story of the frog that turned into a prince when kissed by a princess. All you do is add time to the story. Macro-evolution itself is NOT scientific. It cannot be observed, tested, or repeated. Therefore, it does not lend itself to the scientific process.

Most people recognize that creationism is connected to religion, an organized system of belief, but few realize that macroevolution is a set of beliefs as well. While macroevolution is not a religion in the strict sense, it is a philosophy of life or a worldview. A system of beliefs about how our world came into existence.

Neither side can prove their position in the sense of scientific proof. Many on each side are dogmatic in their beliefs and will never change their views, no matter what "proof" is offered. This book is not designed to change someone's mind. Its purpose is to show the possibility that Genesis happened the way it is recorded.

Is God the Creator?

The Bible establishes God as the Creator. It goes to great lengths to emphasize this over and over. To help you understand just how vital

it is to see God as the Creator, I have included a list of various places in Scripture that remind us that God is the one who made all things. It is not a complete list. There are many more places I have not included. This list is just to give you an idea that God's primary position is not Savior or Ruler but Creator. All of God's authority is wrapped up in this one title. This claim defeats every objection to God. If God is the Creator, then he is the Owner of all, and he makes the rules.

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. – Genesis 1:1 (KJV)

This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created, when the Lord God made the earth and the heavens. – Genesis 2:4

For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day. – Exodus 20:11 (KJV)

Ask now about the former days, long before your time, from the day God created human beings on the earth; – Deuteronomy 4:32

Let them praise the name of the Lord: for he commanded, and they were created. – Psalm 148:5 (KJV)

It is I who made the earth and created mankind on it. My own hands stretched out the heavens; I marshaled their starry hosts. Isaiah 45:12

He who forms the mountains, who creates the wind, and who reveals his thoughts to mankind, who turns dawn to darkness, and treads on the heights of the earth— the Lord God Almighty is his name. – Amos 4:13

Have we not all one father? hath not one God created us? – Malachi 2:10 (KJV)

Because those will be days of distress unequalled from the beginning, when God created the world, until now—and never to be equaled again. – Mark 13:19

They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen. – Romans 1:25

And to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. – Ephesians 3:9

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. – John 1:1-3 (KJV)

For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: – Colossians 1:16 (KJV)

But they deliberately forget that long ago by God's word the heavens came into being and the earth was formed out of water and by water. – 2 Peter 3:5

The twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne and worship him who lives for ever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne and say: "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being." – Revelation 4:10-11

And he swore by him who lives for ever and ever, who created the heavens and all that is in them, the earth and all that is in it, and the sea and all that is in it, and said, "There will be no more delay! – Revelation 10:6

DR JEFFERY ELLIOTT

1



GENESIS 1 – THE DAYS OF CREATION

In the beginning ...”

Genesis 1:1 (KJV)

Before we begin, I want you to record your thoughts. Using the list below, write down what you think was created on each day. Use it to reflect on your ideas before and after reading this chapter.

Day 1: _____

Day 2: _____

Day 3: _____

Day 4: _____

Day 5: _____

Day 6: _____

Day 7: _____

As we come to the first chapter of Genesis, I notice that this book never attempts to argue the existence of God. It is an accepted fact. The purpose of Genesis is not to convince you God is real. It is to tell

you a love story. A story of how God created a perfect world because of his love for you.

Before we can understand creation, we must understand the one who created it all. We begin in the very first verse of the Bible.

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
Genesis 1:1

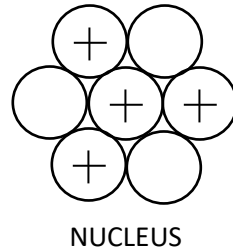
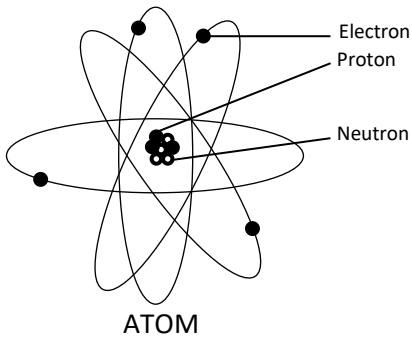
It is challenging to translate specific nuances from one language to another, especially when translating Hebrew into English. We see this in the very first verse of Genesis. The word we translate as “God” is plural in Hebrew. Nouns can be singular, dual (meaning two), or plural (meaning three or more) in Hebrew. The verb “created” follows “God” and is singular. In English, it would be like writing, “We am creating.” At the very beginning of the Bible, we see the Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. This interpretation is verified by the Apostle John as he begins his Gospel describing Jesus calling Him the Word. John identifies Jesus as the one who actually created everything!

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. John 1:1-3

Not only did Jesus create everything, he is the one who holds all of creation together today.

The universe is made up of tiny atoms that are so small we cannot see them. They consist of three parts: electrons, protons, and neutrons. Electrons have a negative electrical charge, protons have a positive electrical charge, and neutrons have no electrical charge. The electrons orbit the nucleus. The nucleus is a tightly packed center of the atom that consists of protons and neutrons.

COULD IT BE TRUE?



Scientists have identified four fundamental forces in the physical world. In order of strength, they are the strong nuclear force, the weak nuclear force, the electromagnetic force, and the gravitational force. The strong nuclear force is the strongest force in nature. Here's why.

The tightly packed protons in the nucleus of the atom are all positively charged. They should naturally repel each other. Think of it like magnets. If you try to push the N poles of two magnets together, they will repel and push apart. No matter the circumstances, like charges repel. So why do the protons stay tightly packed together in the nucleus? Because the strong nuclear force holds them there. It is stronger than the electromagnetic force that would make them fly apart.

Scientists do not know why this force exists or why it is limited to the nucleus of the atom. But it is the source of power for all atomic bombs. When you split the atom, you release this mighty force. If this force ceased to exist, every atom in the universe would dissolve, and everything would disappear.

While scientists do not know where this force comes from, the Bible gives us a clue.

He is before all things, and **in him all things hold together.**
Colossians 1:17

The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact

representation of his being, **sustaining all things by his powerful word.** Hebrews 1:3

Max Planck, a German theoretical physicist whose discovery of energy quanta won him the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1918, spoke to this very concept in a speech given in Florence, Italy in 1944 titled The Nature of Matter. Planck said,

“As a man who has devoted his whole life to the most clearheaded science, to the study of matter, I can tell you as a result of my research about the atoms this much: There is no matter as such! All matter originates and exists only by virtue of a force which brings the particles of an atom to vibration and holds this most minute solar system of the atom together...We must assume behind this force the existence of a conscious and intelligent Mind. This Mind is the matrix of all matter.

Both religion and science require a belief in God. For believers, God is in the beginning, and for physicists He is at the end of all considerations. To the former He is the foundation, to the latter, the crown of the edifice of every generalized world view.”

Jesus is the source of the strong nuclear force. It is literally his hand that holds the center of every atom together. He continues to “hold the universe together.” But one day, he will let go. Peter tells us about that day.

But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; **the elements will be destroyed by fire**, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare. 2 Peter 3:10

Peter uses the Greek word *kausoo* for the word fire, and its meaning conveys the idea of intense heat. The Greek word for elements is

COULD IT BE TRUE?

stoicheion, which means the building blocks of the universe. One day, Jesus will release the center of every atom in a cosmic nuclear explosion and then put them back together to create a new heaven and a new earth. It will be a heaven and an earth that will be cleansed of the effects of sin and corruption.

But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells. 2 Peter 3:13

And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. Revelation 21:1

The theory of evolution denies that God is the Creator. I know there are those who believe that God used evolution to create but evolution is based on millions of years of death. Evolution requires death, and the Bible clearly states that death is the result of man's sin and that sin and death entered the world through one man, Adam. Death could not exist before Adam.

Scripture goes further and states that it is Christ who is the Creator. To deny that Christ is the Creator is literally to be Anti-Christ.

In the beginning, God created. The Hebrew word used here is bara, and it means "out of nothing." God brought the universe into existence out of nothing.

Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. Genesis 1:2

Verse 2 is where we first meet the inconsistency of the evolutionary theory of how the earth began and the creation account of the beginning of the earth. The evolution story sees the earth forming out of dust and gases spinning around the Sun. As the earth formed, its

surface was molten magma. National Geographic explains it as follows.

Billions of years ago, Earth, along with the rest of our solar system, was entirely unrecognizable, existing only as an enormous cloud of dust and gas. Eventually, a **mysterious occurrence**—one that **even the world’s foremost scientists have yet been unable to determine**—created a disturbance in that dust cloud, setting forth a string of events that would lead to the formation of life as we know it ... At its beginning, Earth was unrecognizable from its modern form. At first, it was extremely hot, to the point that the planet likely consisted almost entirely of molten magma.¹⁹

Notice the “mysterious occurrence.” Even our best scientists cannot determine what this mysterious occurrence was. This story of the origin of the earth is based on no scientific evidence. This is simply an “educated guess”.

Scripture says that the earth started off covered with water and was formless. From the very beginning, it is impossible to reconcile the evolutionary story of the beginning of the earth with scripture. The evolutionary tale is based on the imagination of man, while the creation account is based on the Word of God.

Day 1 – Light, Day and Night

Let there be light... Genesis 1:3 (KJV)

Have you ever wondered when the first day of creation happened? Could we give it a date? Giving it a date makes it feel more real. Well, there is one. James Ussher, Archbishop of Ireland in the seventeenth century, gave the date and time of Saturday, October 23, 4004 BC, at 6 pm. Now, before you roll your eyes, let me say that James Ussher was very well respected in his time and spent a lot of time, work, research, and study to come up with this date.

Ussher entered Trinity College when he was only thirteen and got

his master's degree at the age of eighteen. At twenty, he was ordained an Anglican priest and appointed Archbishop of Armagh only twenty years later. After his death, Oliver Cromwell ordered him to be buried in Westminster, with the epitaph: "among saints, most scholarly; among scholars, most saintly."

Ussher wasn't the only 17th-century scholar to date Creation. Johannes Kepler (1571-1630), the scientist who formulated the laws of planetary motion, placed it in 3992 BC. Sir Isaac Newton (1643-1727), perhaps the greatest scientist of all time and an admirer of Ussher's work, placed Creation in 4000 BC.

Stephen Jay Gould looked into Ussher's work and was very impressed.

For these reasons, Gould determined that Ussher's chronology was an "honorable effort for its time" and argued that the common ridicule only reflects a "lamentable small-mindedness based on mistaken use of present criteria to judge a distant and different past."

The reality is that the relevance of Ussher's work "may be seen in the fact that his Chronology has been accepted by nearly all the Reformed Churches." Ussher's research merits our highest respect and serves as a solid foundation for us to build upon today.²⁰

Joseph Janes, associate professor at the University of Washington Information School, explores the origin and meaning of historical documents. He recently examined Bishop Ussher's work *Annals of the World*.

"I went into it with the standard bias that Bishop Ussher was some hack who pieced things together to prove the date of Creation," Janes said of this installment in the series. "So I was surprised to find that he was such a careful, thoughtful and thorough scholar — using a wide range of sources — and was genuinely concerned with getting it right."²¹

Ussher tied his 4004 BC date to the final deportation of Judah (the Southern Kingdom) in 584 BC. Ussher used various genealogies in the Bible, along with other passages, to calculate the year. He wrote out all of his calculations, and it took over 100 pages in his original document. The date of October 23 is the fall equinox, and 6 pm is because that is the time of sunset and the beginning of the evening. If you would like to learn more, check out answersingenesis.org/bible-timeline/the-world-born-in-4004-bc

Of course, Ussher was not the only one who attempted to date the beginning of the world. Before him was Rabbi Yose ben Halafta, who lived during the second century BC. Yose used only the Old Testament (the Jewish scriptures) as his source to determine the date of creation. He came up with October 7, 3761 BC. The sixth day of creation, the day Adam and Eve were created, is believed to be the first day of the Hebrew year, also known as Rosh Hashana. This is the Jewish month of Tishrei. The last month of the Hebrew year is Elul so the first day of creation would fall on Elul 25th, or October 7th.

On the first day, God created light in the midst of darkness. Then he named the light day and the darkness night. Notice God said there was evening and then morning. We see evening as the ending of the day, but in biblical days, sundown was the beginning of the new day. That is why, even today, the Jewish Sabbath begins on what we call Friday evening.

In Scripture, a passage can have more than one meaning. It is like sunlight passing thru a prism and producing a rainbow of colors. The elements of light and darkness found in this verse are like that. They represent physical light and darkness, but they also represent spiritual light and darkness.

In the physical world, darkness is the absence of light. In the spiritual realm, light represents God. Therefore, spiritual darkness is the absence of God. Our lives begin in spiritual darkness. When we meet Jesus Christ and start walking his path, that is when we step into the light.

COULD IT BE TRUE?

While there is the mention of the creation of physical light, there is no mention of the creation of light sources. They will show up on day four. One of the hardest things for me to comprehend in my early engineering education was that light could exist apart from its source.

Light waves, once created by a source, travel on even if the light source ceases to produce more light waves. Because of the speed of light and the relatively short distance we have on earth, it is hard for us to separate light waves from their source. If I take a flashlight and shine it on a wall and then turn it off, the light on the wall goes away. It seems that the light waves are connected to the light source. The truth is they are separate. The light waves from the flashlight bounce off the wall and travel to my eye. Once the flashlight is turned off, the last of the light waves travel so fast they complete their journey almost at the same time the flashlight is turned off.

So, let's look at an example that can help us understand this better. A star in space millions of miles away produces light waves. It takes years for those light waves to reach earth so that we can see them. Whatever happens to the star during those years that it takes the light waves to reach us does not affect the light waves. Astronomers tell us there are stars we see in our night sky that burned out a long time ago. We are merely seeing the light they produced, still traveling to Earth.

What if God created the light waves FIRST and then created the sources later? It would make sense. If God created stars and it would be years before the light from those stars reached earth, our night sky would have been black for years. It was necessary for Adam and Eve to see the stars so they could fulfill their specific purpose. On Day 4, we learn that God created the stars to be markers of time. If we can't see them, how can they be markers of time? It makes sense that God would create the light waves before making the light sources so that Adam and Eve could see them.

The Orion Nebula, one of the most photographed stars in the night sky, is 1,344 light years away from earth. You can see this nebula as the middle star in Orion's Sword, which is south of Orion's Belt. That means the light from that nebula would not be visible on earth until

Noah was 300 years old.

But that is not the only explanation of why we could see starlight on the earth so quickly. Many have believed that the speed of light is a constant throughout the universe and history. We now know that is not true. Scientists have been able to slow down and speed up light. They have even been able to stop light and hold it only to release it and let it go. Lene Hau, a professor of physics at Harvard, stated

“Two years ago we slowed it down to 38 miles an hour; now we’ve been able to park it then bring it back up to full speed.”²²

Then in June of 2000, Dr. Lijun Wang of Princeton was able to speed up light to 300 times its normal speed.²³ If light can be slowed down, sped up, and even stopped here on earth, then we have no idea what it goes through in the vastness of space to get here. The speed of light could easily be much faster during the week of creation.

The creation of light in darkness begins a thread that runs throughout Scripture. In the physical realm, if you are in a dark room and you turn on a light, the darkness disappears. In this sense, the light has “overcome” the darkness. John takes this physical trait into the spiritual realm.

In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. John 1:4-5

The light will always overcome darkness. The things of God will never be defeated. Jesus tells us the same thing about the church.

And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. Matthew 16:18

Today, in the corrupted culture we live, it is easy to believe that the darkness has overtaken the light. But just like the physical laws of light

and darkness cannot change, neither can the spiritual laws of light and darkness. We must never lose faith. Jesus warns us in Matthew,

Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold Matthew 24:12

Every day there is an increase in wickedness, and coldness is sweeping through our churches. Attendance is down. Baptisms are declining. Evangelism efforts are rare. Recently, the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention had to reduce the number of their missionaries not because there are fewer lost people in the world but because of finances. Jesus's prophecy is being fulfilled today.

We must combat this sense of defeatism. Darkness cannot overcome light. We must live our lives in such a way that the light of Christ shines through us.

One more note before we leave Day 1. God created the definition of day on Day 1. He created the definition of a day: a period of darkness followed by a period of light. "And the evening and the morning were the first day." Often, people try to reason out that a day is an extended period of time in the days of creation. But a simple reading of the text does not give that impression.

Day 2 – Sky, Water Canopy

Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters... Genesis 1:6 (KJV)

I have to admit, day 2 is my favorite. I think that's because of the surprise. I grew up hearing about how God had created the world and how he created light and dry land and plants and animals. But somehow, day 2 escaped my attention. Then, when I sat down and read it and studied it, it was like a slap in the face.

At first, I thought it was going to be about God creating land, but it wasn't. The Scriptures go on to describe dividing the waters ABOVE

and the waters BELOW. Then God calls the “firmament” heaven or sky.

The reading of this passage seems to indicate an equal division of the waters above and the waters below. That is an awesome revelation. Our atmosphere only holds about 15% of the planet’s total water. That water vapor is dispersed throughout the sky. It is hardly the “waters above.”

So where are these “waters above” today? 2 Peter 3:6 tells us it no longer exists. It was part of the ecosystem that belonged to that long-lost world. The water canopy would have been destroyed at the flood.

“Waters above” the sky would form a water bubble around the earth. Creation scientists call this a water canopy. This water canopy would have a tremendous effect on Adam and Eve's environment. Creation scientists have theorized that it would produce a terrarium effect that would have a very different weather pattern than we have today. Instead of violent storms, the ground would be watered by a mist. We see this mentioned in Genesis.

But there went up a mist from the earth, and watered the whole face of the ground. Genesis 2:5-6 (KJV)

While this does not specify that God used this method at any other time than the beginning, it would fit with the terrarium theory. Tornadoes, hurricanes, tidal waves, droughts, and other extreme weather events kill tens of thousands every year. How could we have a perfect place to live if the weather was deadly?

The water canopy would reflect heat and keep the earth warmer. It makes sense, considering that Adam and Eve were naked before sin (Genesis 2:25). God designed the earth to support human life. What good are large frozen tracts of land and sea for human habitation? Who wants to live naked in the harsh temperature changes our world experiences today?

Then we come to the change of diet from vegetarian to eating meat. God tells Adam,

Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food." And it was so.
Genesis 1:29-30

But after the flood, God tells Noah,

Everything that lives and moves about will be food for you. Just as I gave you the green plants, I now give you everything. Genesis 9:3

Could the change in diet be due to a change in environment because of the loss of the protection from water canopy? Could animal protein be needed because of the loss of the water canopy?

What physical evidence do we have today that the water canopy existed? One piece of evidence would be fossils of tropical plants all over the world, even in the frozen north. And that is what we find. For example, we find frozen Woolly Mammoths with tropical plants in their mouths and stomachs.

Three studies conducted around the turn of the century show that the average temperature of the Arctic was 74^oF. The initial assumption was 52^o F. The studies place the timing of this warmer Arctic around 55 million years ago and believe the reason was a "sudden supercharged spike of carbon dioxide that accelerated the greenhouse effect."²⁴ Mark Pagani, a Yale geology professor and co-author of the study, describes this tropical paradise, "Imagine a world where there are dense sequoia trees and cypress trees like in Florida that ring the Arctic Ocean."²⁵ Kathryn Moran, another co-author and an oceanographer at the University of Rhode Island, expressed their

surprise by the findings, "It's the first time we've looked at the Arctic and man, it was a big surprise to us."²⁶ The researchers assumed the Arctic temperature was 52° F because of their evolutionary perspective. A creationist would have expected a temperate Arctic because of the water canopy. Again, the data that we find fit with the reality of the six-day creation perspective.

This water canopy would shield the earth from harmful radiation from both the sun and outer space. Today, cosmic and solar radiation strike our bodies constantly. The magnetic field surrounding the earth, known as the Van Allen Belt, shields us from much of this radiation. The water canopy would add a layer of protection and filter out rays that pass through the magnetic field. This radiation can damage cells in our bodies and turn them cancerous. Most of the time, our immune system kills off these deformed cells throughout the day, but when it fails, the results can be fatal. Thus, early people would not have been exposed to those harmful rays, and we would expect longer lifespans as a result. (see chapter 11, Figure 1)

Day 3 – Land and Plants

Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear. Genesis 1:9

On day three, we see God molding and shaping the topography of the earth so that the water will gather together and dry land will appear. Notice that God gathers the waters into one place. Some believe that at this time, there was only one sea and one continent called Pangea. Today, we have the Seven Seas (or oceans). The flood drastically changed the geography of our planet, as we find beginning in chapter 6.

It is on this day that we see for the first time the phrase “according to their kind.” God is saying that apple trees will produce apples that will have apple seeds that, when planted, will grow apple trees. This phrase is a big problem for evolutionists who try to combine the theory of evolution with creation. “According to their kind” is opposed to the

idea of mutation from one kind to another. Instead, it set a boundary that we have never seen crossed. The theory of evolution requires this barrier to be crossed, but there is no evidence that it has. For plants, that would mean that an apple tree could not mutate into producing oranges.

Day 4 – Sun, Moon, Stars, and Planets

Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years. Genesis 1:14

Most models of beginnings have the stars in place before the earth produces vegetation. Genesis has the creation of earth before the sun, moon, and stars.

In Genesis, the earth is the center of the universe. Not the physical center, but the center of importance. God created all of the heavenly bodies for an express purpose. Everything that God created has a purpose, even you!

The purpose of the sun, moon, and stars is to be timekeepers, and that is their function today. There are four times that the heavenly bodies keep: days, years, seasons, and signs.

If you look at how we keep time, you will find the following.

Period of Time	Based on The
Day	Earth's rotation on its axis
Month	Orbit of the moon around the earth
Year	Orbit of the earth around the sun
Week	God's Word

The foundation of our timekeeping is astrological movements except for the week. The seven days of creation is the definition of our week. Secular history has a record of the seven-day week as far back as 2,350 BC.

We can tell the season by the location of the constellations. They

change position as the earth makes its journey around the sun.

“Let them be for signs.” Does this mean that God put the stars in the universe to foretell various events? No. The Hebrew word translated “signs” is the same word used for Cain’s mark²⁷ and Noah’s token²⁸. The idea is that God is saying these celestial bodies will be to mark time and then goes on to identify specific times they will mark.

But the rest of Scripture tells us there is more to the creation of the stars. The vastness of the universe was not readily known to those in ancient times. Modern science has told us how utterly mind-boggling huge it really is. Why? Did it need to be so big if the earth was the center of importance?

David asks this question in Psalm 84.

When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; What is man, that thou art mindful of him? Psalm 84:3-4 (KJV)

Isaiah helps us to understand another purpose of the stars than just to mark time. It is to declare the glory of God and make us mindful of his real power because he is the one who created them. Notice how God “calls forth each of them BY NAME.” God has named each star, and he knows every star by name. God is intimately involved with his creation, and that includes you.

Lift up your eyes and look to the heavens:

Who created all these?

**He who brings out the starry host one by one
and calls forth each of them by name.**

**Because of his great power and mighty strength,
not one of them is missing. Isaiah 40:26**

The Privileged Planet

In 1543, the Polish astronomer Nicolaus Copernicus challenged the idea that the earth was at the center of the universe. He showed that

we were one of the planets circling the sun. Christians are often mocked and ridiculed for ever believing that the earth was the center of anything. Atheists and skeptics point to the Catholic Church's censoring of Copernicus's work and denying that the earth revolves around the sun. But it wasn't only the Catholic Church that believed the earth to be the center of the universe; it was every scientist of his time. They accepted the common knowledge of the day. In fact, you could say the science was settled. At least 97% of all scientists of the day believed that the earth was the center of the universe.

The truth is that the center of our galaxy is a hotbed of activity and a dangerous place for life to exist. The stars in our galaxy are not placed evenly throughout. Some areas, such as the center, are more densely populated with stars, and some have more cosmic dust that would prevent an observer on a planet in these regions from viewing the distant universe. Our earth is in the best setting in our galaxy for astronomical research.

Dr. Guillermo Gonzalez, an Astrobiologist from Iowa State University, said in the video *The Privileged Planet*,

“We are located near the midpoint of the galaxy, between spiral arms in a region with very low dust extension. While we are in the plane of the galaxy that does not obscure a large part of the sky so we can have very clear views.”

Copernicus's discovery led to the Copernican Principle, which states that our earth occupies no preferred place in the universe. There is nothing special about our planet or its location. But God has placed us in the perfect spot to be able to see his glory throughout the universe.

The Copernicus Principle led to the idea that there must be billions of planets with advanced life throughout the universe. But is that true? Astrobiologists like Dr. Gonzalez, working for NASA, have examined what is required for a planet to be able to support life. Their research has revealed that life-supporting planets are rare.

What is needed to support life? The first ingredient is liquid water. Looking at our solar system, there is a habitable zone. If a planet is too close to the sun, it is too hot, and you only get steam. If it is too far away, it is too cold, and you just get ice.

If our planet were just 5% closer to our sun, it would be too hot, with temperatures reaching 900°F. If it were 20% further away, it would be too cold. Just look at our closest planets, Venus and Mars. They are both out of the habitable zone. Venus is too hot, and Mars is too cold for life. But it is not just the need for liquid water. Here is a list of the requirements for a planet to have the conditions for life to exist.

- Within Galactic Habitable Zone
- Orbiting main sequence G2 dwarf star
- Protected by gas giant planets
- Within circumstellar habitable zone
- Nearly circular orbit
- Oxygen-rich atmosphere
- Correct mass
- Orbited by large moon
- Magnetic field
- Plate tectonics
- Ratio of liquid water and continents
- Terrestrial planet
- Moderate rate of rotation²⁹

Take, for example, the size of our sun. Ninety percent of all stars in our galaxy are too small to support life. The habitable zone for these stars would place the planet so close to their star that the gravitational pull would stop the planet's rotation. One side would always face the star, and the other side would always face away from the star. Life would be impossible. In fact, the probability that ALL of these factors exist at the same time is calculated to be 1 in 1,000,000,000,000,000. That means almost impossible. Our planet is indeed a rare and unique jewel in the universe.

Day 5 – Water Creatures, Flying Creatures

Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the vault of the sky. Genesis 1:20

On day five God created all the creatures that fly or swim, ALL the creatures that fly or swim. That means dinosaurs as well. Why does the Bible NOT refer to dinosaurs? The term dinosaur means “fearfully-great lizard” and was first used by Richard Owen in 1842. Are there references to dinosaurs in the Bible? Some believe so. The book of Job has the most popular passages. The first creature is the Behemoth.

Look at Behemoth,
 which I made along with you
 and which feeds on grass like an ox.
What strength it has in its loins,
 what power in the muscles of its belly!
Its tail sways like a cedar;
 the sinews of its thighs are close-knit.
Its bones are tubes of bronze,
 its limbs like rods of iron.
It ranks first among the works of God,
 yet its Maker can approach it with his sword.
The hills bring it their produce,
 and all the wild animals play nearby.
Under the lotus plants it lies,
 hidden among the reeds in the marsh.
The lotuses conceal it in their shadow;
 the poplars by the stream surround it.
A raging river does not alarm it;
 it is secure, though the Jordan should surge against its
mouth.

Can anyone capture it by the eyes,
or trap it and pierce its nose? Job 40:15-24

We do not know what the Hebrew word Behemoth means. Some have tried to interpret it as a hippopotamus or an elephant. But do either of these animals have a tail like a cedar?

The next animal is the Leviathan. Isaiah uses the term Leviathan as an image of Satan. But Job seems to give it a description as though it were an animal instead of the prince of darkness. There are 1,300 years between the events of Job's life and the completion of the book of Isaiah. It is possible that a real creature as terrible as Leviathan could have become an image for Satan by Isaiah's time.

The description of Leviathan consumes the entire chapter 41 of Job, and I will not quote it here for that reason. I encourage you to read the chapter and try to imagine the creature Job is describing. Could this be a description of a dinosaur that lived in the water?

Just like plants were created "according to their kind," so we find that creatures of the water and air were created "according to their kind." Doves give birth to doves, pigeons give birth to pigeons, and sharks give birth to sharks. God created birds and fish uniquely and distinctly.

When we look at the fossil record, we find that creatures appear whole, distinct, and suddenly. By whole and distinct, we mean fully developed features. In chapter seven, we will see fully developed features suddenly appear as we examine the Cambrian Explosion.

Day 6 – Land Creatures, Man and Woman

Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds:
the livestock, the creatures that move along the ground, and
the wild animals, each according to its kind. Genesis 1:24

Today, we have divided animals into a complex system of classification. The Bible is much simpler in its classification of animal life. There are water creatures, air creatures, and three types of land animals. Included in all of these types are the dinosaurs.

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How do we know that God created the land dinosaurs on the sixth day? Because God created everything that exists.

Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. John 1:3

God created everything, including dinosaurs. God also created Adam and Eve on the sixth day, which means that dinosaurs and people walked the earth at the same time. We have evidence of that.

Dr. Don Patton and Dr. Carl Baugh discovered human footprints inside giant three-toed dinosaur prints in the Cretaceous rock strata of the Paluxy River bottom near Glen Rose, Texas. Someone stepped in the soft mud of fresh dinosaur tracks. These footprints are observable evidence that man and dinosaurs walked the earth simultaneously.

Notice the phrase “according to their kind.” I find it interesting how many times that phrase is used in just the first chapter of Genesis. The fact is this phrase is used ten times! Go ahead and count it for yourself. It is as though God is emphasizing the boundaries around kinds of plants and animals. God is saying, “These boundaries will not be crossed.”

The Creation of People

God’s final act of creation is man and woman. They are the ONLY creation that is made in God’s image. I love animals. In my life, I have had pet dogs, cats, snakes, lizards, and more. No matter how I felt about my pets, God did not create them in his image.

**So God created mankind in his own image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them. Genesis 1:27**

Adam and Eve were the height of human perfection. There was no defect in them. This is contrary to the evolutionary idea of primitive man getting better and better over eons of time. When God created

Adam and Eve, he looked over his creation and declared, “it was very good.” God did not create them with flaws, defects, or sin. Their intellect was the pinnacle of humans. Adam will name all the animals, meaning they had a spoken language. He was able to converse with God and understand him.

God created them, male and female. Just two genders. A male body is determined by the XY chromosomes, and the female body is determined by XX chromosomes. An individual can have gender reassignment surgery, but it is only cosmetic. It does not change the physical makeup of their body. They would still have the same set of chromosomes they had at birth and would, therefore, still be male or female.

It is interesting that God would address something so simple as gender in the first chapter of the Bible. Think about it. God wrote the first chapter of Genesis as though he were writing it for today’s generation.

The first twelve chapters of Genesis have been under attack for almost 150 years. Evolutionists have sought to discredit them, and today, most people believe they are fairytales. Words that were once authoritative have been discredited to make way for Satan’s agenda. Notice how Satan is working to change the law of God. God says marriage is between a man and a woman, and Satan changes it to include members of the same sex. God says there are only two genders, and the workers of Satan say you can change your gender. God says a rainbow is a reminder of his promise to never flood the whole earth again, and Satan turns it into a symbol of gay and lesbian rights.

God created people in his image. Entire books have been written on what that means, so we will not delve into that subject at this time except to say that NO other creature was created in the image of God. People are unique. In fact, people were the whole point of creation.

In addition to being created in his image, he gave them a mission. A purpose for living. The mission was to be fruitful and increase and fill the earth and then to rule over and subdue the earth.

The rule over and subdue has been greatly maligned by anti-

Christians today. They interpret it using today's sin-affected definitions. At the time God created Adam and Eve, the only example of ruling was God's example. There was no history of unjust kings and queens or sinful world leaders. Ruling meant "love and care for," as God demonstrated love and care for Adam and Eve.

Here is an interesting thought. The entire Bible is devoted to telling us about God's love and care for us. We are the only creatures made in the image of God. Jesus Christ died for people. Once God created people, he stopped creating. We are the whole point of Creation! If we were the whole point, why would God spend so much time on dinosaurs just to have them die out before people came on the scene?

The Incredible Complexity of The Human Body

The theory of evolution tells us that small abnormalities and genetic errors are passed on from one generation to another. Because abnormalities give some advantage to the creatures possessing them, they have a greater chance of survival and reproduction. Their offspring retain the abnormality, and it continues to develop in successive generations. Those offspring that have the next stage of development get an advantage over their siblings and pass the new version of the abnormality on to their progeny. Eventually, the abnormality becomes normal in the new species.

In 1835, Charles Darwin observed finches on the Galapagos Islands. Finches on different islands had small differences in their beaks. Darwin argued that these differences developed over time in response to the different environments of each island. One finch with a longer beak on a rocky island was able to reach further into the rocks to reach food. The ancestors of this finch had a better chance of survival because they had longer beaks. Eventually, the other finches died out because their shorter beaks gave them a disadvantage.

Darwin used this observation of small differences in beaks to hypothesize that all parts of the bird could have evolved similarly. All Darwin had was a theory based on his observation of different types of finches. Today, the best example evolution can point to is Darwin's

finches. However, current DNA research, microbiology, brain research, and other disciplines of biology are discovering that the human body is incredibly complex.

The biochemist Dr. Michael Behe coined the term irreducible complexity in referring to “certain biological systems (that) cannot evolve by successive small modifications to pre-existing functional systems through natural selection.” In other words, there are certain systems in biology that are so complex and interdependent on their various components that they could not have evolved by small modifications. Behe identifies four systems as examples: the eye, blood clotting cascade, flagella, and biological wheels.

Why would the optic nerve of the eye develop without the retina? What advantage would it give the possessor? What good is a retina without a lens? How would this improve the chances of survival? And why would a lens develop without some guidance as to what it was supposed to be?

Consider these numbers when you think about the complexity of the human body.

- 37.2 trillion cells
- 200 different types of cells
- 100 billion skin cells
- 100 billion neurons in the brain
- 60,000 thoughts per day
- 60 million sensory receptors
- 127 million retinal cells
- We can see 10 million different colors
- 1,000 olfactory receptors
- Able to distinguish 50,000 different smells
- 42 billion blood vessels
- 30 trillion red blood cells
- 640 muscles, 360 joints, and 206 bones in an adult

The insect world gives us examples of irreducible complexity. A long-time favorite of creationists is the Bombardier Beetle. This beetle produces two chemicals, hydroquinone and hydrogen peroxide, inside

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its body that, when combined, produces a benzoquinone. Benzoquinone is a yellowish, hot (212° F), toxic, and explosive substance that the beetle expels from its backend to ward off any attackers. The beetle can do this about 20 times, which can be enough to kill the attacker, all in less than a second. To keep from blowing itself up, the beetle keeps the chemicals in separate thick-walled chambers. When it is attacked, it combines the chemicals in a blast chamber and then expels the mixture at just the right time so that it blows up in the attacker's face but does not harm the beetle. The process is very complex. In order to get the two chemicals to react, the beetle adds an enzyme called catalase.

How could such a process slowly evolve piecemeal, step by step, over long periods of time? The beetle would have to evolve the ability to produce the chemicals AND keep them separate at the same time, or else it would die (and not pass on this new development to any offspring). Another question would be WHY. Why would the early development of these chemicals inside the body be a benefit to the beetle if it could not use it in defense yet? If it gave the beetle no advantage over others of its kind, then why would it and its offspring have a better chance of survival? Furthermore, if this process did develop slowly over time, it would mean that something (or someone) was “guiding” the development instead of it being random chance each step of the way.

Even the basic cell is so complex that piece-by-piece evolution is incomprehensible. Here is a description of the operation of the cell provided by Creation Moments.

As we approach the giant cell in our special ship, we would see breathtaking beauty, order and busyness within the cell. On the surface of the cell we see millions of openings stretching as far as the eye can see. Each one independently opens and closes, allowing materials to enter or leave the cell.

As we enter one of these vast portholes, we see an endless

array of hallways leading in all directions. Some of these hallways lead to the cell's memory banks in the nucleus. There, all the activities we are about to see are not only regulated but also checked by very fussy quality controllers. Other halls lead to giant processing plants, while still others lead to assembly plants within the cell. If we move along a giant hallway to one of these assembly plants, we will see marvelous organization. Raw materials, like those we saw entering the cell, are sent here for assembly. Robot like structures – really proteins – are working on the assembly line while other proteins, called enzymes, are supervising their work.

This view of the cell, provided by modern science, makes it even more difficult to believe that the cell, or any life, could have arisen from chance collisions of atoms. It is for this reason that several famous evolutionists have given up on the idea that chance and accident could have created life!

Scripture tells us that God created people in his image. Every complex detail of our bodies was designed with a purpose. None of it is by accident. David wrote,

I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. Psalm 139:14

Were Adam and Eve Vegetarians?

At some point in your life, you will probably encounter a Christian vegetarian enthusiast who will take you to Genesis 1:29-30 and tell you that “in the beginning,” God created people to be vegetarians. In this section, it is true that God gives only plants to people and animals, and in the beginning, we were created to be only vegetarians. However, that is not true today.

Then God said, “I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face

of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food.” And it was so. Genesis 1:29-30

First, this was before sin and death entered the world, so naturally, there would be no meat eating since that would require the death of the animal. Some have suggested that animals were meant to die from the beginning, but this passage would lead us to conclude otherwise. Animals did not eat each other because death was not in the world. People did not eat animals because death was not in the world.

Second, even after death entered the world, people were not given animals to eat. But they were given animals to eat after the flood (more on that later). When Moses handed down the Law, it commanded the Israelites to eat certain animals as sacrifices.

It Was Very Good

God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. Genesis 1:31

This first chapter concludes with God looking over all of creation and declaring that it was “very good.” With all of the death, violence, crime, hatred, earthquakes, hurricanes, tornados, and more, it is hard to look at this world as “very good.” That is because it is NOT “very good” anymore. It has been fundamentally altered from the world that God created and called “very good.” We will look at that change in chapter three.

DR JEFFERY ELLIOTT

2



GENESIS 2 – THE CREATION OF RELATIONSHIPS

But for Adam no suitable helper was found. So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep.

Genesis 2:20-21

Why did God ever create Adam? What was the purpose? Chapter two helps us to understand the why of the creation of people. God created people to be in relationships. We are to have a relationship with Him and to be in a relationship with each other. But before we get to relationships, God wraps up the creation week with the seventh day.

The Seventh Day

So many times, we talk about the six days of creation, but there is a seventh day. Chapter two begins with this seventh day and a conclusion of the story from chapter one.

In verse two it says that God ended his work of creating. Just as God created the heavens and the earth, he also created the physical laws that govern the universe. We live in a time when things are not being created out of nothing. Science has identified physical laws that prevent this from happening. The Law of Mass Conservation tells us

that matter cannot be created or destroyed. They can only be changed in form. An example of this would be burning a log in a fireplace. Even though the form of the wood has changed into ash and smoke, there are still the same number of atoms.

The Law of Energy Conservation, also known as the First Law of Thermodynamics, states that energy cannot be created or destroyed; it can only be changed from one form to another. These laws were put into place by God when he ended the week of special creation. These two laws form the most important and established laws in nature and confirm the creation story.

The second part of verse two says God rested from all his work. Rested is different from ended. The “ended” shows us the establishment of the physical law, and the “rested” shows us an example to follow. It introduces the Sabbath and tells us it commemorates the creation. In all of God’s creating, he created a day of rest. God did not rest because he was tired or needed to rest after his creating. He was giving us an example to follow.

God created our bodies with the idea that we need regular physical and mental breaks from our labor. Our week is set up to give us a break from our jobs. What we fail to do is give ourselves the rest we need. I do not mean sleeping in on the weekends. I mean a relaxing from the stress of life.

Since God made the day holy, it was to be for more than just physical resting. It was to be a day spent with God. A break in our normal routine so that we could commune with God ALL day long.

The Garden of Eden

Scripture looks at the creation story from a different perspective in chapter two, that of the creation of man and woman. It shows how God lovingly created a garden for Adam and Eve. It describes all the provisions that God created in the garden. There is an interesting note about how God watered the garden.

For the Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and

there was not a man to till the ground. But there went up a mist from the earth, and watered the whole face of the ground. Genesis 2:5-6 (KJV)

There is so much that God could have included in Scripture, but the writing material and methods of that time were very limited. Each word uses precious scroll space, so we have to ask why God chose to include this seemingly unimportant sentence.

It goes back to Day 2 and the creation of the sky. The water canopy could create a terrarium effect on the earth. A mist forms on the plants in a terrarium. If there were a water canopy, we could expect that a mist watered the Garden of Eden.

The Creation of Adam and Eve

In chapter one, we learned that God created people in his image. None of the animals have this. Now we learn that God formed Adam out of the dust of the ground and breathed the breath of life into Adam, and he became a living being.

Oxygen, carbon, hydrogen, nitrogen, calcium, and phosphorus make up about 99% of our bodies. The rest is a variety of trace elements, the top five of which are potassium, sulfur, sodium, chlorine, and magnesium. What elements do we find in soil that are good for growing plants, such as those found in a garden? They are oxygen, carbon, hydrogen, nitrogen, calcium, phosphorus, potassium, sulfur, chlorine, magnesium, and the dust of the ground.

Evolutionists tell us that long ago, the right chemicals and elements came together in a primordial soup, and a strike of lightning brought about the first life. I have stood by the casket of loved ones who have passed on. As their body lay there, I realized that all the chemicals and elements necessary for life were there. They were already organized and arranged for life. There was no life. That is because life ONLY comes from God. It is the breath of God that gives us the spark of life, and without it, there is no life.

For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. John 5:26

A Man's Responsibilities

Notice how God put Adam in the Garden of Eden for a purpose. The purpose was not to live a life of leisure or recreation but to work.

The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. Genesis 2:15

Every man needs a job. It is built into his nature. If he does not have something to build or create, he will turn to wicked behavior or fall into depression. Psychologists tell us that a man's identity comes primarily from his job.

There are two Hebrew words behind "work" and "take care of." The first word, 'abad,' gives the idea of cultivating. A man should cultivate all that God has given him and everything around him. Cultivating means bringing out the best, maximizing the potential of everything around you, and making it fruitful, not just for the plants but also for the people.

The Hebrew for "take care of" is Shamar. It means to guard and protect. The idea was that Adam was to guard and protect the garden and all that was in it, including his future wife and family. Part of the God-given responsibilities of a man is to guard and protect his marriage, family, and home.

For Adam, what did that mean? There were no other people on earth at this time. There is certainly the idea that Adam was to provide physical protection, but given the circumstances (no other people), it would seem there was a spiritual protecting aspect. Adam was to be a spiritual protector. How was Adam to do this?

God gave Adam his command (Word) to not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil before Eve was created. Adam was to teach Eve God's Word. The truth is we are all called to teach others what we have learned from God's Word. Adam was to teach Eve.

Adam and Eve were to teach their children.

These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Deuteronomy 6:6-7

When temptation came along, Adam was to intervene actively on his wife's behalf. He did not. Later, we will see that Adam was with Eve when the serpent spoke to her. But Adam never said a word. He simply listened to his wife and did what she told him: eat the fruit.

How can men today protect their wives and families? By following Jesus's example.

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. Ephesians 5:25-27

It is the husband's responsibility to provide spiritual protection for his wife. It is to be an intentional action. The idea of washing is something that takes place daily. The husband is to keep away stains, wrinkles, and blemishes as though he is washing a wedding dress. This is the idea of keeping her away from temptation. To do this, the husband must keep himself from temptation. Walk the path of God's light and lead your wife in those footsteps.

One of the best ways to do this is to read the Bible EVERY day. Yet most men do not read. I remember encouraging the men in my church to read their Bible on a daily basis. One of the young men in his late 20s came to me and told me he would never read the Bible because he did not like to read. "If you want me to read something, you have to put it in a movie," he said with pride.

What a shame! God has given husbands ONE weapon to use in our daily struggle in spiritual warfare, the sword of the Lord (the Bible).

And most men will not pick up that weapon because they don't want to read. Think about that. One of the husband's/father's responsibilities is to provide spiritual protection for his wife/family, and he has ONE weapon.

I address this to men because women read much more than men. Men, READ GOD'S WORD DAILY!

During my freshman year in college, I discussed my religious beliefs with a friend from a different denomination. I realized that I did not have enough knowledge of the Bible to defend my beliefs. That summer, I began reading the Bible from beginning to end. It took me two years to complete the reading, but I learned more just reading the Bible for myself than I did in eighteen years of Sunday School and sermons. I knew the stories: Samson and Delilah, David and Goliath, Abraham and Isaac. It was like a jigsaw puzzle. I had the pieces, but I didn't know how they connected until I read it myself.

Created to Be in Relationship

God then declares that "it is not good for the man to be alone." (Genesis 2:18). He brings all the animals to Adam and has him name them. In naming the animals, Adam learns there are none that are his equal.

God created us to be in a relationship with other people. Life with people is not always easy. It was probably much easier in chapter two, but after chapter three, life with people got harder. It is easier to be in a relationship with our cats and dogs and other pets, but they will never be a suitable helper for us.

To make someone who would be Adam's equal, God did surgery on Adam and took a rib so that the DNA would be similar. God could have created Eve out of the dust as he did Adam, but the rib symbolizes the close connection between Adam and Eve, man and woman.

God then brought Eve to Adam and performed the first wedding. It was not as ceremonial as weddings are today, but it was effective. God laid out the process of life. We begin in a family unit with a father

and a mother, but as we grow up, we leave that family unit and begin another with our spouse to whom we cling. (There is a great small group study in here, but that is for another book).

Here, we have the definition of marriage, family, and maturation all in one verse. Jesus quotes from Genesis when he responds to questions about marriage and divorce. It is interesting that he quotes both chapter one and chapter two of Genesis. He specifically mentions that God,

**created mankind in his own image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them. Genesis 1:27**

Then Jesus states,

That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh. Genesis 2:24

It is not the scope of this book to delve into the issues of same-sex marriage or transgenderism, but neither could I ignore such a statement from the Creator. Here and in Matthew, the Creator of the universe, as well as the Creator of people, explicitly states that he created people with two genders: male and female. Why would he be so specific about this? Maybe it is because he could look down through the millennia and see this as an issue, and he wanted to be perfectly clear. Even today, DNA only shows two genders.

Then he says he created marriage to be between one man and one woman. It cannot be more explicit than this picture from the beginning. God defined gender and marriage. He is the Creator and, therefore, has the authority to do so. No one has the authority to redefine what God has defined. To try to do so is to show contempt for God.

We have to ask ourselves, as a society, why are we even trying to redefine what God has already defined? I believe we opened that door when we chose to compromise the Word of God with the theory of

evolution. In the early twentieth century, one of the most popular systems for reconciling evolution and the Bible was the Day-Age Theory (see the Introduction). While a straight reading of the Hebrew text of the first chapter of Genesis indicates the days are regular days, we have tried to redefine them as eons of time. So, if we cannot trust the Bible when it says “evening and morning were the first day” to mean an actual day, how can we trust the Bible in the next chapter when it defines marriage between a man and a woman? Once you compromise in one chapter to accommodate modern science, then it becomes easy to compromise in the next chapter and say, “maybe the Bible does not mean what it says about marriage, maybe there is a deeper meaning that will align with modern sociology. Let’s redefine the term marriage.”

Once we redefine marriage, we have broken away from all biblical moorings. The leap from same-sex marriage to gender fluidity is really just a small step. I find it interesting that God even put verse twenty-seven in the Bible. It seems so obvious. Maybe God was so clear in this verse because he knew what our society would eventually become.

A Picture of Christ

Did you know that marriage is not just God’s plan for bringing new generations into this world, but it is also a picture of Christ and the church? As Paul is writing about marriage in his letter to the Ephesians, he makes a side note as he writes,

This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. Ephesians 5:32

Today, we are focused on the sexual aspect of everything, and that includes marriage. But marriage, from the beginning, was to have a deeply intimate side. When I use the word “intimate,” I do not mean it as a euphemism for sex. I mean a close, personal relationship. One where two people share their inner thoughts. If you are wondering what makes a marriage great, this is it. Notice the use of the word

“helpmate” in the King James Version. It means “working side by side.” Later, in chapter four, the King James Version says that Adam “knew” his wife instead of “had sexual intercourse with her.” The Hebrew word translated “knew” means to “have personal knowledge of” or an intimate relationship, not just sex.

So, marriage is to be a close, intimate relationship and a picture of the relationship we are to have with Christ. We were created to have a relationship with each other and with Jesus!

The Perfect World

One of the arguments against God used today is the idea that if God were good, he would create a perfect world for us. Well, he did. He created a perfect world with a perfect ecological system. He brought us into perfect relationships with a perfect model for bringing in new generations. In this perfect garden, there was no illness, disease, or death. We would never have felt the heartache of losing a loved one. I once read a blog online that argued that while Jesus cured a blind man, he did not cure blindness. This blogger’s point was that Jesus is not so great because he did not do away with blindness. But what about the fact that Jesus (the one who created everything) created a perfect world with no blindness? If you had a choice, would you choose this perfect world? It is still available to you.

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. Revelation 22:1

DR JEFFERY ELLIOTT

3



GENESIS 3 – THE DAY IT ALL FELL APART

Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden’?

Genesis 3:1

One of the deep subjects of our time is the co-existence of evil and a good God. Some believe God does not exist because there is evil in the world. Others think God cannot be good if there is evil. One Rabbi stated it as two possibilities. (1) God cares about the evil in the world, but he is not powerful enough to do anything about it. (2) God is powerful enough to put a stop to evil, but he doesn’t care enough to do it.

Kind of hard on God, isn’t it? Wouldn’t it be great if we could go somewhere in the Bible to read about why bad things happen to good people? Well, you have arrived at just such a spot. Genesis three tells us how this world, which was so very good, became the world we know.

Was the Forbidden Fruit an Apple?

Despite what you have heard or seen about the forbidden fruit from

the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, it is definitely NOT an apple. How do we know that? First, the fruit was unique. God refers to the tree as a single, unique tree.

In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Genesis 2:9

Second, the fruit could not have had seeds in it. When God created Adam and Eve in chapter one, he told them he was giving them every seed-bearing plant.

Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food." Genesis 1:29

Since God had specified that they could eat all the fruit with seed in it, then the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil must not have seed in it. So, it cannot be an apple or any other fruit we have today. The fruit did not have seeds because the tree was not able to reproduce itself. Therefore, it does not exist today.

Satan's Tactics

Chapter three begins by showing us the tactic of the devil and, thus, the process we go through when we encounter temptation. Some doubt the existence of the devil, but the Bible makes it clear that he is a very real being. The image that pops into most people's minds is a character in a red suit with a pitchfork reigning in hell. The Bible tells us he roams the earth seeking someone to devour.

Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. 1 Peter 5:8

If you have ever wondered if the serpent was Satan, the Scriptures

make it clear in Revelation 12:9.

The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray.

Adam and Eve did not have the Bible as we have it today. Their “Word of God” was what God had spoken to them. In this chapter, we can see a pattern that Satan has played out over and over throughout the centuries.

Notice that the serpent did not tempt Eve to kill, steal, or lie. He tempted her to question God’s Word. Questioning it caused the woman to doubt it. The woman adds to the Word of God in response. The serpent contradicts the Word of God, leading to an act of sin. We will find this same pattern in our own lives when we face temptation.

The Three Areas of Temptation

The fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil embodies all the qualities of temptation. As Eve considers the fruit, she notices three things: It is “good for food, ... pleasant to the eyes, ... desired to make one wise.” (Genesis 3:5 KJV) These three qualities do not seem evil. In fact, they seem to be good qualities. Two of these qualities belonged to the fruit God said they could eat in chapter two.

The Lord God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground—trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. Genesis 2:9

So, what made this fruit bad? Because it was good for food and pleasant to the eyes? Because God said don’t eat it. Even if it was good for food and pleasing to the eyes, it was forbidden. The temptation was wanting something that was forbidden. The Apostle John rephrases these three qualities in the proper context.

For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of

the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. 1 John 2:16 (KJV)

Because the fruit was forbidden, Eve's desire based on "good for food" became lust of the flesh. Eve lusted for the fruit and reasoned in her mind that it was okay to eat it because it was good for food. We do the same thing. We can see faults in others, but we justify our own desires and actions. We have a good reason to tell that lie or take something that belongs to someone else. We convince ourselves it is okay.

Dale Carnegie, in his book *How To Win Friends & Influence People*, tells the story of "Two Gun" Crowley, a cop killer who was described by the police commissioner as someone who would kill "at the drop of a feather." Crowley was in a car with his girlfriend when a policeman walked up and said, "Let me see your license." Crowley killed him. When police trapped him about to be captured, Crowley wrote a note. "Under my coat is a weary heart, but a kind one – one that would do nobody any harm." "Two Gun" Crowley did not blame himself for anything.

There was plenty of other food Eve could have chosen. This is the lust of the flesh, which includes more than just food. It is physical desires for things that God has forbidden.

The sexual drive is a God-given desire to ensure that we procreate. God has given us a proper context for this drive: marriage between one man and one woman. When we allow this physical desire to lead us to sex outside the confines of a proper marriage, it becomes a sin and a source of temptation. Yet we will somehow reason that, in our case, it is okay.

Next, she saw it was pleasant to the eyes. This is the lust of the eyes. All the trees that provided fruit were pleasing to the eyes. Maybe Eve thought there was no difference between this fruit and all the others since they all were pleasing to the eyes. Sin can corrupt our natural desire for visually pleasing things and become a source of temptation for us.

Finally, Eve saw it was desired to make one wise. She wanted to be

better than she was, even though she was already perfect. This is the pride of life. God gives us good things in all three of these areas. But we take God-given desires and pervert them by seeking things that are forbidden.

We can see this same pattern in the three areas in which Satan tempted Jesus. Luke records the temptation in chapter four. Satan tempts Jesus to turn the stones into bread. That is the lust of the flesh. Then he shows Jesus all the kingdoms of the world and offers them to him if he will worship him. This is the lust of the eyes. Finally, Satan challenges Jesus to throw himself off the top of the temple so that angels will catch him and everyone will see. This is the pride of life. Jesus responds to the temptation by quoting Scripture every time. How do you respond to temptation?

Why The Theory of Evolution Is Incompatible with The Bible

The Gospel and all of Christianity are built on one central doctrine, the Doctrine of Original Sin. This doctrine states that Adam sinned (the original sin) and, because of his fallen state, passed a sin nature to his descendants. Every person is born with this sin nature and an eternal destination of hell. Think of it as a built-in tendency to selfishness. Our motivation is to get what we want. Because of this doctrine, Jesus died on the cross, and we need a savior.

Adam's disobedience brought death into God's "very good" world that he created for all of humanity. Paul explains that through Adam's sin, death entered the world.

Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned. Romans 5:12

For me, this is the **greatest challenge** to the theory of evolution, for **where does Adam's sin fit in the grand progression from ape to man?** At what point did one individual make the conscious decision

to disobey God and introduce sin to all human beings? Then there is the problem of death. If death is the result of Adam's sin, then how could there be death before Adam sinned? Was there somewhere along the line from ape to man that one individual was immortal and then lost that immortality through disobedience? Thus, the theory of evolution is completely incompatible with the Bible. In fact, I believe the theory of evolution was devised to get rid of the Doctrine of Original Sin and, therefore, destroy the gospel.

This has been understood by many evolutionists over the years. Frank Zindler, an American atheist, in a debate with William Craig, said the following:

The most devastating thing though that biology did to Christianity was the discovery of biological evolution. Now that we know that Adam and Eve never were real people the central myth of Christianity is destroyed.

If there never was an Adam and Eve, there never was an original sin. If there never was an original sin, there is no need of salvation. If there is no need of salvation, there is no need of a savior.

And I submit that puts Jesus, historical or otherwise, into the ranks of the unemployed.

Peter J. Bowler, an evolutionary historian, said,

If Christians accepted that humanity was the product of evolution—even assuming the process could be seen as an expression of the Creator's will -then the whole idea of Original Sin would have to be reinterpreted.

Far from falling from an original state of grace in the Garden of Eden, we have risen gradually from our animal origins. And if there was no Sin from which we needed salvation, what was the purpose of Christ's agony on the cross?

COULD IT BE TRUE?

Ian Barbour, a Christian scholar known for his work to reconcile science with religion, came to this conclusion once he accepted the evolution theory as fact.

You simply can't any longer say as traditional Christians that death was God's punishment for sin. Death was around long before human beings. Death is a necessary aspect of an evolutionary world... One generation has to die for new generations to come into being. In a way, it is more satisfying... than to see it as a sort of arbitrary punishment that God imposed on our primeval paradise.

Yet God said his creation was “very good” when he finished creating. This would mean that death is “very good.” Ask the countless parents who have lost a child if they feel death is “very good.” Or the elderly widower who sits alone mourning the death of his wife of 65 years if he thinks death is “very good.”

Paul wrote to the Corinthians,

For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. 1 Corinthians 15:21-22

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23

William B. Provine, author of *No Free Will* and atheistic evolutionary historian, rightly concluded,

One can have a religious view that is compatible with evolution only if the religious view is indistinguishable from atheism.

The Scripture “you will surely die” could be translated “dying you shall die,” meaning that instead of an instantaneous death, humanity would experience a slow process of death. Once Adam sinned, the dying process began. Scientists who study death say that it is literally in our DNA. In chapter four we will look closer at what this consequence means for us today.

As Christians, we know that Christ’s death on the cross paid for our sins. However, we still find that we sometimes sin. Notice another consequence of disobeying God. It breaks our fellowship with God. Adam and Eve had a daily time with the one who created them. It was not a quiet time in prayer like we have today. It was a face-to-face encounter with the living God. But because they had sinned, they hid from God.

Sin will always separate us from God. Isaiah wrote,

Surely the arm of the Lord is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear. Isaiah 59:1-2

Jesus came to earth and died on the cross to reconcile us to God. He paid the price for our sins so that we would not have to be separated from God. If Adam was not a real person and there was no original sin, then where did sin come from?

True Confession

God confronts Adam and Eve about their sin through a series of questions. In the process, he begins with Adam, who admits that he ate the fruit but then offers an excuse. Adam turns the blame to Eve and ultimately says it was God’s fault when he said,

The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it. Genesis 3:12

Then God questions Eve, and she follows Adam's example by blaming the serpent. Look at her response.

The serpent deceived me, and I ate. Genesis 3:13

Notice how Adam and Eve did not confess their sin. They made excuses for them. When we use the word confess today, we think of admitting to a crime. However, the Greek word we translate confess, means "to say the same thing as another" or "to agree with another."

When we confess our sin to God, as John encourages us to do in 1 John 1:9, we not only admit we have sinned, but we must agree with God that it was wrong.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9

When I was a child, and I said or did something unkind to another child, my mother would tell me to say, "I'm sorry." I did as I was told, but there were times I was not really sorry; I just said the words. That doesn't work with God. If we "confess," we must agree in heart and mind. So if you sin, confess it to God by agreeing that it was wrong while believing in your heart that what you did was wrong. If you believe in your heart that it is wrong, will you be so quick to do it next time? The Holy Spirit "will purify you from all sin" through a heart change.

God then turns his attention to the serpent and begins his pronouncement of judgment.

The First Prophecy of The Coming of Jesus

While many focus on the serpent losing legs and crawling in the dust, there is a more fantastic jewel hidden in this judgment. It is a prophecy. It is the very first prophecy in the Bible, and it is about the coming of Jesus.

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

I specifically chose the King James Version for this verse because it uses the word “seed” instead of “offspring.” If you use a Bible search engine such as Biblegateway.com and look for seed in the KJV, you will quickly see that the seed is attributed to men. Men provide the seed. The Hebrew word translated as seed can be translated as semen. Only here, in this verse, does the woman have seed. Notice also in the second part of the verse that the “seed” of the woman is singular and masculine. There is only one man who is the “seed” of the woman.

This verse is a prophecy of the virgin birth of Christ. Since man’s seed was not used in the pregnancy of Mary, Jesus does not come from the seed of a man. Therefore, he is the “seed” of the woman.

Notice that it then says he will bruise (the word can also be translated as crush) the head of the serpent, NOT the seed of the serpent, but the serpent himself. The serpent will injure the heel of the woman’s seed, which is not a fatal wound. However, the crushing of the head is a fatal wound.

In other words, while the devil will strike a blow against Jesus, it will not be permanently fatal. But Jesus will deliver a blow that will defeat Satan. This is a prophecy of the virgin birth of Christ, his death, and resurrection. His death is the striking of the heel, and his resurrection is the crushing of the serpent’s head.

Passing on Sin to The Next Generation

God’s address to Eve is shorter than his rebuke of the serpent or Adam. It deals with her two main roles: mother and wife. Notice the lack of the word “cursed.” When God spoke to the serpent, he said his actions cursed him. When he spoke to Adam, he said the ground was cursed because of Adam’s actions. But when he spoke to Eve, there was no cursing.

COULD IT BE TRUE?

He begins with the pain in childbearing. I was at the birth of both of my children. I saw the pain my wife endured. Why did God cause pain to be part of the miracle of life? Because it is a reminder that we are passing our sin nature on to the next generation. It is the same reason that Adam and Eve felt shame about being naked. The act of reproduction passes our sin nature to the next generation.

Jesus said he did not come into the world to condemn it because it was already condemned. Paul tells us that “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” (Romans 3:23)

Why did God go to such lengths to remind us of our sin? Until we become aware of our sins, we will feel no need for a Savior. I remember when my oldest daughter moved into the college dorm for the very first time. As she talked to her roommate, the conversation turned to Jesus Christ. The roommate told my daughter she did not need a Savior because she had never sinned. Without an awareness of sin, there is no realization that we need a Savior.

Without a reminder that sin is sin, we get to a point where we justify our sin and become numb to it. What happens if we forget sin and focus only on the love of God? Then, we ignore the love of God because it becomes meaningless. Why was the Son of God’s sacrifice so great if we’re okay?

God deals with Eve’s role as a wife. This verse is somewhat vague and, therefore, has been greatly misused.

Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you.

Genesis 3:16

The phrase “desire will be for your husband” has been difficult to interpret. Some believe it is the desire of a woman to have a husband. This desire can be so intense that the woman will endure great abuse in the relationship. Others have interpreted it to mean that a woman desires her husband’s position of leadership. I believe it is a little of both based on Paul’s admonition in Ephesians for wives to respect their husbands.

and the wife must respect her husband. Ephesians 5:33

Some have used God's rebuke to Eve to say that the husband is commanded by God to be an authoritarian over his wife. But God is not speaking to the husband here. I believe that God is telling Eve the effects of sin on the marriage relationship. The phrase "rule over you" carries the notion of harsh domination. As we look at history and cultures, we see this to be the most common situation for women. Paul seeks to correct this as he says to husbands,

Each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself.
Ephesians 5:33

God's Rebuke of Adam

God then turns to Adam. His words to Adam are

Because you listened to your wife. Genesis 3:17

Adam should have listened to God. I am not saying it is bad for a husband and wife to discuss plans and decisions. It is saying that we should never listen to someone who tells us to do something the Lord has told us not to do.

There is a desire in husbands to make their wives happy. In that desire, they sometimes do things their wives ask or suggest that is in direct conflict with what God has told them to do. We see this in other great biblical characters such as Abraham and Solomon.

Abraham followed Sarah's suggestion to have a son with her servant Hagar instead of waiting for God to fulfill his promise for a son. It caused problems in the marriage and cruelty to Hagar and Ishmael. It also caused Sarah heartache, which made her unhappy. Notice who she blamed.

Then Sarai said to Abram, "You are responsible for the wrong I am suffering. ... May the Lord judge between you and me."

Genesis 16:5

Solomon listened to his foreign wives, built pagan worship centers, and brought idol worship to Israel. The result was the nation being torn in two and plagued with idolatry for over three centuries.

There is an old saying, “If momma ain’t happy, ain’t nobody happy.” Proverbs talks about living with a quarrelsome wife four times. But when it comes to making your wife happy or obeying God, obey God. The same thing applies to listening to others.

I remember my first day of elementary school as if it had happened yesterday. I met a new friend named Steve. Our teacher had a fish tank, and we were both mesmerized by watching the fish swim back and forth. We were told to take our seats. As I started to turn away from the fish tank, Steve told me she wasn’t speaking to us. I was dumb enough to listen to my new friend Steve instead of the teacher. Back then, they spanked children in school, and my disobedience resulted in a spanking. I remember that day so well because I made a decision right there in that first-grade classroom. I decided I wasn’t going to listen to Steve anymore or to anyone who told me to disobey a teacher. That decision served me well throughout my education.

God wants us to listen to Him and obey. If someone tells us to do something that the Lord has told us not to do, we need to turn a deaf ear to that person. Eve listened to the serpent and fell into sin. Adam listened to Eve and fell into sin. Are you listening to anyone that is causing you to fall into sin?

The Cursing of Creation

God continues by saying, “Cursed is the ground because of you;” (Genesis 3:17). We usually associate this with the production of thorns and thistles and painful toil by the sweat of the brow, and that is part of the cursing of the ground. However, it also has a broader implication. Throughout Scripture, there is the idea that all of creation has been tainted with sin. Paul refers to this “curse on creation” in Romans.

the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.
Romans 8:21

Paul is talking about when the new heaven and the new earth is created. He is saying that all of creation will also be liberated from decay when this happens. Peter writes,

That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells. 2 Peter 3:12-13

Peter is telling us there will be a new heaven and a new earth. Fire will destroy this present creation. When we get to the end of Revelation, the angel tells John,

No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him.
Revelation 22:3

God Himself announces, "I am making everything new!" (Revelation 21:5) The Greek language, the original language of the New Testament, has more verb tenses than the English language. In this particular verse, the Greek verb tense gives the idea of a continual renewal. I am continuously making all things new.

For us, the idea of making something new is like putting new carpet in a home. At first, it looks great, but over time, it wears from foot traffic and gets dingy from spills and pets. That is all because we live in an environment that is cursed with decay. Science steps in here with another well-established law, the Second Law of Thermodynamics, to show the truth of this passage.

The Second Law of Thermodynamics could be called the law of energy decay, but the implication of this law is that everything decays

into disorder. Everything breaks down. An example would be a car that has been sitting in an abandoned lot for a decade. The metal rusts, the rubber decays, and the order of the car decays into disorder. Another example would be a well-maintained, beautifully landscaped yard that has been neglected for a decade. It decays into disorder.

In the new heavens and the new earth, we will be free from that curse. God will be continually making all things new. It would be like the carpet is fresh and new EVERY morning.

The Concept of Substitution

The Bible makes it clear that the penalty for sin is death. Adam and Eve did not die instantly, but their bodies began the decaying process that would eventually lead to their death. God told Adam,

You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die. Genesis 2:16-17

The phrase “certainly die” in Hebrew is worded as “dying you will die.” There are two meanings in this phrase. First, it means that Adam and Eve died spiritually. Their special relationship with God was broken. Second, it means they began the dying process. While they did not die instantly, they still died as a result of their disobedience to God.

To hide their shame, they covered themselves with leaves. God did not leave them with that covering. Instead, God killed an animal and made clothes out of the skins. Thus began an important concept in Scripture, the concept of substitution. The animal was the symbolic substitution for Adam and Eve’s sin.

This concept of substitution was developed more when God gave the sacrificial system to Israel through Moses. It was a foreshadowing of the death of Jesus on the cross for our sins. The death of the animals could not take away a person’s sin. It was a symbolic act to teach people their need for the perfect sacrifice, Jesus.

Why Clothing?

When God created Adam and Eve, the Bible tells us

Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

Genesis 2:25

Then after they sinned Scripture tells us

Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked. Genesis 3:7

So why did God record this reaction? Being ashamed of your nakedness is often associated with a loss of innocence. One day while I was in my front yard, I noticed a toddler running down our street completely naked with his hands in the air and squealing with delight. He was completely oblivious to his nakedness. And yes, I stopped him and returned him to his mother.

Before Adam and Eve sinned they were clothed with innocence. After they sinned they had to cover themselves with clothing. One day the children of God will be clothed with righteousness!

4



GENESIS 4 – THE SPREAD OF SIN

And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the Lord. And she again bare his brother Abel.

Genesis 4:1-2 (KJV)

One of the most often asked questions about the early chapters of Genesis is, “Where did Cain get his wife?” For some reason, many skeptics believe this is a gotcha question. Somehow, this proves that the entire Genesis account is wrong. The truth is they have never given it any logical thought, and they are probably unfamiliar with history.

A second question deals with God’s pronouncement of judgment on Cain. After God’s decree, Cain replies,

“and whoever finds me will kill me.”

So, the question is, who are the other people who might find Cain? The error comes from the reader’s limited perspective. When you read about two people sitting down to a meal together at the table in their apartment, do you assume there are no other people in the world? Or is there an underlying assumption that there are billions of people

around the world carrying on with their lives as this story unfolds?

As chapter four opens, only four characters are mentioned: Adam, Eve, Cain, and Abel. So, we assume they were the only ones on earth at that time. But we must read the text with new sight. The Bible never says there were only four. It never says Cain is the firstborn or that Abel was the secondborn. It does not say how long it was between the fall and the birth of either child.

Because of Eve's response at the birth of Cain, he is most likely the firstborn. Abel was most likely the second born because the story seems to have them close to the same age. Just how many children did Adam and Eve have? According to Genesis 5:4, Adam had "other sons and daughters." It does not tell us how many.

But let's think about this logically. If you start with only one man and one woman, and they have children, how do their children have children? If there are no other people in the world, then their children have to marry each other and have children. Today, we call this incest and have laws against it.

Incest was necessary in the early Bible times. Remember, Adam and Eve were created perfect. That means their genes were perfect. It is not until much later that the Bible forbids marrying a close relative. In Leviticus 18, the time of Moses, God gives the command not to marry a close relative.

So, the answer to the question about Cain's wife is Cain married his sister or potentially his niece. That leads to another question: how many siblings were there? For the answer to that question, we will have to use an educated guess. So here goes.

God gave Adam and Eve a mission; "be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth." So, it was their job to have as many children as possible. If this was your mission, how would you go about fulfilling it? My strategy would be

- Get Eve pregnant
- Wait nine months for the birth of the baby
- Give her some recovery time
- Repeat

Have a child about every two years. We know that they could have children when they were several hundred years old because the Bible tells us that Noah was 500 years old when he had Shem.

Now, Adam and Eve were created as adults. The Bible tells us that Adam lived for 930 years. If he had a child every other year, then he would have sired 465 children. It is possible that he could have produced 500 children with less recovery time for Eve. But let's make it easy for the math and say, 400 children. This would make 200 couples. If each couple lived for about 900 years and produced children at the same rate, that would give 200×400 or 80,000 grandchildren. If we extrapolate to the third generation, we could see as many as $(40,000 \text{ couples} \times 400 \text{ children each})$ 16 million great-grandchildren. While this might sound excessive, remember that Ramesses II, Pharaoh of Egypt from 1279 to 1213 BC, had 45 sons and 40 daughters, and he only lived to be 90.

There is another factor to consider. Today, when young people want to marry, we consider such questions as "Are they mature enough?" "Have they completed their education?" "Do they have a good job?" In Adam's day, such questions were irrelevant. The only thing that determined if a couple were ready was biology. That would mean that couples could begin producing children at the age of fifteen or younger.

Grandchildren could have been showing up as early as 17 years after Eve ate that forbidden fruit. Great-grandchildren come along in as little as 34 years. And by 50 years, Adam could have had his first great-great-grandchild placed in his arms. While these numbers are a little extreme, I am trying to get you to break free from the idea that there were just a handful of people on the earth in those early chapters of Genesis. Jewish tradition says that Adam and Eve had 50 children. Keep in mind that by the time we get to Noah and the flood (chapter six) at least 1,656 years have passed.

Cain's Lineage vs. Seth's Lineage

Chapter Four gives us some of Cain's lineage. It is interesting to note that there are no details about when they were born or how long they lived. That is because the purpose of the genealogies is to connect Jesus to Adam.

Cain and his descendants did great and terrible things. They built cities, raised livestock, played instruments, and forged tools. One also killed a man and boasted of it. His lineage is the first to take multiple wives.

Adam and Eve had another child and named him Seth. We do not know whether he was the third child born or even just the third son. We do know that he was born 130 years after creation (see chapter five). His name means "compensation." Eve tells us God gave her a son to replace Abel. So, it is reasonable to assume that Seth was born soon after Cain killed Abel. Seth's lineage includes Enoch, who walked faithfully with God, and Noah, who was the only one found righteous at the time of the flood. The Scriptures also note a new behavior after Seth's birth.

At that time people began to call on the name of the Lord.

Genesis 4:26

That is my favorite verse in this chapter. So, we see Cain's lineage, which includes another murderer who boasts about his murder, and Seth's lineage, which contains godly men. The chapter starts off showing how sin spread to the next generation and ends with the solution.

The Father's Influence on A Family

Cain and Seth's story is not the only one in which the father's influence can be seen in future generations. What we do, how we live our lives, and what we believe can have a powerful impact on our children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. A. E. Winship, a

pastor at the turn of the Twentieth Century, traced out the descendants of two men who lived about the same time.

The first was Jonathan Edwards, an Eighteenth-Century Puritan pastor. He and his wife Sarah had eleven children whom they raised to love and respect the Lord.

The second man was Max Jukes. Jukes had a drinking problem that kept him from holding a steady job. It also kept him from showing much concern for his wife and children. He would sometimes disappear for days and return drunk. He made little time for loving and instructing his children.

Jonathan Edwards's godly legacy includes 1 U.S. Vice-President, 3 U.S. Senators, three governors, three mayors, 13 college presidents, 30 judges, 65 professors, 80 public officeholders, 100 lawyers, and 100 missionaries.

Max Jukes' descendants included 7 murderers, 60 thieves, 50 women of debauchery, and 130 other convicts. 310 paupers (with over 2,300 years of living in poorhouses) and 400 were physically wrecked by indulgent living. It was estimated that Max Juke's descendants cost the state more than \$1,250,000.

Missing the Main Point

Questions such as the ones dealt with at the beginning of this chapter are actually a distraction. It is interesting how easily our attention can be focused away from the main point. Read the chapter again, set aside these questions, and ask yourself, "What is the main point?"

The main point is the spread of sin. Adam and Eve disobeyed God. They passed that sin nature to their children. Cain's act of murdering his brother demonstrates a sin nature. From that point, we see sin passed to each generation right down to the present day. While we don't have specific examples for every generation, there are enough to make Genesis read like a catalog of sin. Take a look at some of the sins in Genesis. The following is not an exhaustive list.

- Adam and Eve disobeyed God
- Cain committed murder
- Lamech boasted about murdering
- The entire population only had evil thoughts
- Noah got drunk
- Ham disrespected his father
- Abraham lied about his wife
- The four kings kidnapped Lot and robbed the two cities
- Sodom and Gomorra practiced homosexuality
- Lot's daughters got him drunk and both slept with him
- Isaac lied about his wife
- Jacob deceived his father and stole the birthright
- Laban cheated Jacob in his wages
- Rachel and Leah were jealous of each other
- Shechem raped Dinah
- Judah engaged in prostitution
- Simeon and Levi slaughtered an entire city for revenge
- Joseph's brothers were envious of him
- Joseph's brothers sold him into slavery and lied about it
- Potiphar's wife lusted after Joseph and falsely accused him

We can continue to follow this trail of sin throughout the Bible, church history, world history, and yesterday's newspaper. The main point is that YOU have inherited that same sin nature and the same condemnation. That is a BIG problem. The Bible tells us,

Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned. Romans 5:12

God is holy, and that means he cannot allow sin in his presence. If you have a sin nature (inherited from Adam), then you cannot come into the presence of God. That means you cannot enter heaven. In fact, the penalty for sin is death.

COULD IT BE TRUE?

“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 6:23

But this is not the death where you die here on earth and are buried. The penalty for sin is the second death.

The lake of fire is the second death. Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire. Revelation 20:14-15

Who will experience this second death?

But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—they will be consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death. Revelation 21:8

Why am I telling you this? Because this is the point of the whole Bible. No matter what you have heard or what you believe about God, Christianity, or the Bible, the point is that God created a wonderful world that provided everything we needed. Adam chose to disobey, and everybody since Adam has chosen to disobey God. There is a consequence of disobeying, but you have an escape!

We must pay the most careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away. For since the message spoken through angels was binding, and every violation and disobedience received its just punishment, how shall we escape if we ignore so great a salvation? This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard him. God also testified to it by signs, wonders and various miracles, and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will. Hebrews 2:1-4

This is not a game; it is not a test, it is not even your life, **it is your**

eternity. That is where the Good News (or Gospel) comes into play. God loved you so much, even while you were doing the absolute worst thing you did or will do, that he provided a solution to your sin problem.

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8

God's solution was for Jesus to pay the death penalty for you by dying on the cross and rising from the dead. It is the whole reason why we celebrate Christmas and Easter. Jesus came to fix the problem Adam created.

Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures 1 Corinthians 15:3-4

How do you get this salvation? By believing in Jesus Christ and that he died for you.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

God does not want you to experience the second death.

He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. 2 Peter 3:9

Did Jesus REALLY die for YOUR sins? Yes, he died for EVERYONE's sin.

He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. 1 John 2:2

Is it as simple as believing? Yes, here is another passage that tells us

COULD IT BE TRUE?

how we can be saved from the consequences of sin.

If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. Romans 10:9-10

There is nothing that you can do to earn salvation. Some think that if your good deeds outweigh your bad deeds, you can get into heaven. That is NOT true. It is not about you being a good person or a bad person; it is about you breaking God’s law. Breaking only one of God’s laws makes you a lawbreaker and guilty, deserving punishment. Doing a good deed will not wipe out that act of breaking the law. You cannot be good enough or do enough good works.

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God. Ephesians 2:8

What is God’s law? It is the Ten Commandments.

1. Thou shalt have no other gods before me
2. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image
3. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain
4. Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy
5. Honor thy father and thy mother
6. Thou shalt not kill
7. Thou shalt not commit adultery
8. Thou shalt not steal
9. Thou shalt not bear false witness
10. Thou shalt not covet

Exodus 20:3-17 (KJV)

Have you ever broken one of these laws? Have you ever lied? Have you ever put something else before God?

What if you do not believe in Jesus? You will stand condemned.

Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. John 3:18

The only reason I wrote this book was for you to know the truth. Nothing else in life matters as much as this. This is not something to put off till later. Either you know it is true in your heart right now, or you do not. If you do, that is God calling you right now to say, "I believe!"

Isn't it time for you to "call on the name of the Lord?"

5



GENESIS 5 – THE GENEALOGY OF NOAH

This is the written account of Adam’s family line.

Genesis 5:1

When I was in high school, I decided to read the Bible from beginning to end. I started reading Genesis in the King James Version and soon got to chapter five: begat after begat. I am ashamed to admit it, but I gave up. Of course, my thought was that the Bible was hard to read. Then, someone suggested I read the New Testament because it was easier to read. I began in Matthew, and what did I run into but begat after begat? I wasn’t a great reader back then, and it was brutal trying to complete it.

So, I set aside trying to read the Bible for a few months when I heard about another idea. Just let the Bible fall open to a section and read that. What could it hurt? Apparently, a lot. It fell open to 1 Chronicles chapter one. That is another genealogical chapter, in case you are wondering. That set me back a few years in my Scripture reading. Even when I got on a regular daily reading plan, I still never appreciated the genealogies. That is until I understood their purpose and the wealth of data they contain.

Chapter five traces the lineage from Adam to Noah. It is not a

family tree but a family line. The purpose is to connect Adam with Noah. All other descendants are ignored. It is not because they were not important but because this chapter follows the purpose of Genesis. The purpose of Genesis is to show the rise of the nation that would usher in the Messiah, the Savior of the world.

Later, there will be a lineage connecting Noah to Abraham. Then, there will be lineages that will connect Abraham to David and David to Jesus Christ. Have you ever wondered why there are no more lineages recorded in the Bible after Jesus? **Because Jesus is the point of the lineages.**

The records of chapter five bring up another question. Just how many people were on the earth at the time of the flood? If we add up all the lifespans of those listed, we come to an average age of 912 years. Earlier, we looked at how the population grew when Cain killed Abel. That was looking at a very aggressive birth rate. So, let's take a more conservative view.

Let's say that every couple only had ten children. What would the population be at the time of the flood? The flood occurred 1,656 years after creation. We will use modern population growth formulas and assume ten children per couple with equal male and female births. We will also assume an average lifespan of 912 years. What is our answer? 10 trillion people.

While this is an unbelievable number, could the earth support such a large population, especially if they were all vegetarians? Here are a couple of ideas.

First, if half the water that is currently on the surface of our planet were above the sky in the water canopy (see the comments on creation day 2), then it would make sense that there would be a larger land surface. This larger land surface could support a larger population.

Second, because of the water canopy, the entire surface of the earth would be warm. This would yield more plant life. Even though God cursed the ground because of Adam's sin and people had to work hard to produce food, there could have been more ground for people to work. The fossil record shows tropical plants all over the world.

I'm not suggesting the population of the earth was anywhere near this high; I'm simply showing, using accepted population formulas, that the population of the earth at the time of the flood could have been as high as it is today.

Standout Characters

Three people stand out in this genealogical record. These three standout characters were actually grandfather, father, and son. Their names were Enoch, Methuselah, and Lamech. Why do they stand out? The grandfather didn't die, the father was the oldest person to live, and the son died unusually young.

Enoch was the grandfather. The Bible tells us that Enoch "was no more because God took him away." (Genesis 5:24). The writers of Hebrews included him in the "Hall of Faith" chapter (chapter 11). He said that Enoch did not experience death because of his faith. Wow!

By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death: "He could not be found, because God had taken him away." For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God. Hebrews 11:5

Imagine living your life to please God and doing it so well you did not experience death! Enoch is an example for us to follow.

Enoch's son was Methuselah. He is known for living the longest, 969 years! His grandson Lamech died at the age of 777, which is an unusually young age given the context of the other long ages.

No, There Is NOT A Secret Message in The Biblical Names

Recently, there has appeared on the internet scores of blogs and posts claiming there is a secret message in the names in this genealogy. It is true that names in Hebrew do have meanings. It is often that those meanings are lost to time. Some, like Adam, are given more

explanation in the Scripture. Others are obvious, such as Daniel, which is a combination of Dan, which means judge, and El, which means the Lord. Thus, Daniel means the Lord is my Judge. However, some names are very unclear and even come from root words that have unclear meanings because of the rarity of their use. So, let's look at the translation of the names as given by these "secret message" blogs.

Adam:	man
Seth:	appointed
Enosh:	a mortal man
Cainan:	dwelling place
Mahalalel:	praise God
Jared:	descended
Enoch:	to discipline and train-up
Methuselah:	death will send away, cast out
Lamech:	the depressed, despairing
Noah:	comfort

The meanings of these names are then strung together and somewhat massaged to come up with some version of the following:

Man (is) appointed mortal sorrow; (but) the Blessed God shall come down teaching (that) his death shall bring (the) despairing rest.

The first seven names can have the meanings listed although a couple of them can have other meanings. It is the last two names that are mistranslated to make the "secret" work. The first is Methuselah. According to the blogs, this name is made up of the two Hebrew words "muth" and "Shelach." Their translation of muth is 'death', and Shelach is 'send away.'

However, Strong's Exhaustive Concordance lists Methuselah as a conjunction of "math" and "Shelach." The Hebrew math means man. If you look at the Brown-Driver-Briggs-Gesenius Hebrew-English Lexicon, which is used in most seminaries for Hebrew classes, it lists Methuselah as a conjunction of "math" and "Shelach." Their translation of the name is "man of the dart." Again, "math" is

translated as man.

As for “Shelach,” it is a proper name and can be translated as missile, dart, or spear. The root that Shelach comes from has a variety of different meanings, and one of them is ‘send away’. Look further into various commentaries by ancient Hebrew scholars, and you will find that most will use “math” instead of “muth.”

Let’s move on to Lamech. The internet blogs tie Lamech to lament because the Hebrew lexicons say there is no known meaning for Lamech. Then, they use despairing for lament, but lament means to grieve.

To try to give more legitimacy to this theory, they refer to Jude 14-15.

Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about them: “See, the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones to judge everyone, and to convict all of them of all the ungodly acts they have committed in their ungodliness, and of all the defiant words ungodly sinners have spoken against him.
Jude 14-15

Jude is quoting a book from the Apocrypha called the Book of Enoch. It is believed to have been written around 300 BC and is not part of Scripture. Jude quotes from the book to make a point. The “secret message” theory tries to apply this prophecy to Methuselah and the flood. However, Jude applies this prophecy to false teachers of his time.

6



GENESIS 6 – THE BEGINNING OF THE END

And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

Genesis 6:5 (KJV)

The “Untouchables” in India are employed to clean out the sewers. One of the most disgusting pictures I have ever seen was a man dressed only in shorts crawling out of a manhole covered in sewage. It is beyond my imagination.

The disgust I feel toward sewage is a tiny example of how God feels about sin. God is holy and cannot allow sin in his presence. But the sin of Adam and Eve, which was also demonstrated in their son Cain, was also spread to ALL their descendants.

With the rapid spread of sinful humans across the new creation, we see how things went from the perfect world that God created to the cesspool we find in chapter six. It was so bad that God regretted creating humans.

The flood in Genesis is a pivotal point of judgment. The world before the flood is completely different than the world in which we live. I don’t mean that our technology is more advanced or that our

cultural values are different than that period. I mean that the topography of the earth has been drastically altered, the food that we eat is different, the length of our lives are shorter, and even the air that we breathe has a different composition. The flood ended that world and created a new beginning for the earth we live on now. Chapter six is the beginning of the end of that world.

The flood is one of the most misunderstood and mischaracterized events in the Bible. Unless you are a student of the flood narrative, you most likely have some very unrealistic images in your mind when you hear the name Noah or mention of the ark. Honestly, what comes to your mind when someone mentions Noah's Ark? A funny little boat overflowing with cute, adorable animals or an enormous warehouse large enough to house 70,000 animals of all shapes and sizes and still have 72% of its space available? No matter what pictures you have seen or what stories you have been told, understanding the Flood is crucial to understanding our planet today, the judgment of God, and the return of Christ.

It also shows the necessity of the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ. Out of all the untold millions of people on the earth at the time of the flood, only Noah was found to be righteous.

Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked faithfully with God. Genesis 6:9

If any human could sire a righteous lineage, it would be Noah. However, immediately following the flood, Noah got drunk, his son dishonored him, and sin continued to run rampant in the human genes. There is only one way that sin can be dealt with: the blood of the Son of God.

Flood Stories From Other Cultures

A fascinating tidbit that most people do not know is that almost every culture has a version of a flood story. Dr. Duane Gish, in his book *Dinosaurs by Design*, identifies more than 270 flood stories. Most

of these stories have a common theme and similar characters to the story in the Bible. As people traveled and established these different cultures (see chapter ten), they obviously passed down the story of Noah's Flood. Why is the account in Genesis the original? Because Genesis was written by Moses, who spoke face-to-face with God.

The Lord would speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend. Exodus 33:11

The 120 Year Limit

Then the Lord said, "My Spirit shall not strive and remain with man forever, because he is indeed flesh [sinful, corrupt—given over to sensual appetites]; nevertheless his days shall yet be a hundred and twenty years." Genesis 6:3 (AMP)

Another passage that has been interpreted in different ways is verse 3, which limits humans to 120 years. Some have interpreted this to mean 120 years until the flood, but there is more consensus that this refers to the lifespan of people. The lineage passages before and after the flood show a remarkable drop in the length of how long people lived after the flood. (see Figure 1: Lifespans in chapter 11)

Today, it is rare for anyone to live beyond 100 years. The oldest person in recent history, as authenticated by the Guinness Book of World Records, was Jeanne Calment, born in 1875 and died in 1997. She lived to be 122 years. Other than Miss Calment, everyone else has failed to reach the 120-year limit despite the urban myths floating around the internet.

If someone lives to be 122 years old, does that defeat God's 120-year limit? Not at all. In ancient Hebrew culture, numbers are not treated as they are in our precise, space-age day. Round numbers such as 120 years can be a representation instead of a specific limit. However, numbers that are specific, such as 969, are meant to be taken literally. So, while someone might pass the 120-year limit, they won't get very far past it.

Why did God limit how long people live? To limit how much sin they could do. If most people live less than 100 years today while they lived to be over 900 in pre-flood days, then that is over 800 years of sinning! Think of all the damage an evil person could do with all that time.

The Nephilim

The Nephilim were on the earth in those days—and also afterward—when the sons of God went to the daughters of humans and had children by them. They were the heroes of old, men of renown. Genesis 6:4

Verse 4 of chapter 6 is one of the most unusual in all the Bible. It discusses a group that made a name for themselves. They were called the Nephilim or giants.

The King James Version translates the word Nephilim as giants. This translation may not be denoting their physical size but rather their reputation and deeds. The Amplified Bible refers to them as “men of stature, notorious men.”

Some believe that the term “sons of God” refers to the lineage of Seth, while the term “daughters of men” refers to the lineage of Cain. Thus, the godly descendants of Seth were seduced by the wicked daughters of Cain’s descendants, and thus, all reverence for God was erased except for Noah.

However, a search through Scripture shows that the term “sons of God” is only used for supernatural beings. An example is the book of Job.

Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan came also among them. Job 1:6 KJV

Because the context is so clear about who the “sons of God” are in this passage, the New International Version translates them as

“angels.” In the case of the Nephilim, angels (probably fallen angels) appeared in physical form or demonic possession and produced children. These children grew up to be “men of renown.” Other than that, there is little that we know about these offspring.

The Details of The Ark Project

When we come to verse eleven, we again are reminded that the earth was “full” of violence and had become corrupt. One question we have to ask is, “Why would there be a worldwide flood if there were only a handful of people?” Obviously, a worldwide flood was required because of the large population that covered the earth at this time.

God spoke to Noah and gave him very specific details about building the ark. These details lend an element of truth to the account for those who believe that the ark and the flood were just fairytales. Notice the list of requirements.

- Make it out of cypress wood (gopher in KJV)
- Make rooms in it
- Coat it inside and out with pitch
- 450 feet long (300 cubits)
- 75 feet wide (50 cubits)
- 45 feet high (30 cubits)
- Make a roof for it
- Finish it to within 18 inches from the top
- Put a door/window in the side
- Make lower, middle and upper decks
- Bring in two of all living creatures, male and female
- Take every kind of food and store it for you and them

You may have seen pictures that depict Noah’s ark as a large, long box. While there are dimensions given for the ark, no shape is mentioned. It could have been a box shape, or it could have been more boat-shaped, such as the full-scale replica built by the Creation Museum in Petersburg, Kentucky (learn more at arkencounter.com).

The conversion from cubits to feet that we have listed uses eighteen inches for the length of a cubit. A cubit is the distance from the elbow to the tip of the longest finger. This length is dependent upon the height of the person. A taller person would have a longer “cubit.” Ken Ham argues for the longer cubit based on the idea of taller people before the flood. It would make sense if the environment were more conducive to growth. This longer cubit would be 20.4 inches and would make the ark 510 feet long, 85 feet wide, and 51 feet tall. Either way, it is an imposing structure to behold.

For this book, we are going to use the 18-inch cubit, but keep in mind that the ark could have been larger. Now, let’s try to get a handle on the size of the ark. The dimensions of 450’ by 75’ by 45’ with three decks give a total of 101,250 sq. Ft. The capacity of 569 modern railroad stock cars or four average freight trains. The length of the ark is one and a half football fields. The height is about that of a four-and-a-half-story building.

The dimensions of the ark are of special interest. They are not just random numbers. The ark was built on a 1:6 ratio (50 cubits: 300 cubits). The science of naval architecture reveals that the most stable ratio for an ocean-going vessel is 1:6. All modern-day ocean-going vessels use this same length-to-width ratio. The ark could easily have survived even the largest of ocean waves.

How long did it take to build the ark? The Bible does not tell us. Some have interpreted verse three to mean that God was giving a 120-year warning that the flood was coming. However, the best reading of that verse is that we would not live more than 120 years. Today, we find that to be pretty much true. Building the ark would have most likely taken decades, maybe even upwards of 100 years.

What did Noah do during those years in addition to the physical labor of building an ark? Why preaching, of course! Peter calls “Noah a preacher of righteousness.”³⁰ Most likely, Noah preached to whoever would listen that judgment was coming. They needed to turn to the Lord now and be saved by entering into the ark. Obviously, nobody responded, yet he continued to preach.

Could All Those Animals Fit On The Ark?

It is so difficult for us to grasp the enormous size of the ark that we naturally ask, “Could Noah fit all those animals in the ark?” Our popular image of a small ark crammed with animals that are popping out everywhere does not help to dispel wrong ideas.

This question leads to a more important question: Wouldn’t God, who gave the dimensions of the Ark to Noah, know how big he would need for all the animals? Not every species would be needed or even have developed at the time of the flood. Only two dogs would be needed to represent the dog kind and produce the variety we see today.

Dr. Henry Morris estimated that 35,000 different kinds of animals would be required at the time of Noah to provide the variety of animals we see alive today. God would have provided young (and therefore smaller) animals to repopulate the earth. The space required for these animals would only account for 28% of the capacity of the Ark.

Immediate And Complete Obedience

Someone once said, “Delayed obedience is disobedience.” I love the last verse of chapter six.

Noah did everything just as God commanded him. Genesis 6:22

There is no hint of hesitation on Noah’s part. There is no fasting and praying to determine if this is what God wanted him to do. There is no “struggling” with God’s will. Noah was just obedient. We see this same obedience in Abraham when God tells him to offer his son as a sacrifice.

Early the next morning Abraham got up and loaded his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. Genesis 22:3

In the Bible study *Experiencing God*, author Henry Blackaby makes the observation that people in the Bible who had an encounter with God knew that God had spoken to them. Have you sensed God speaking to you? Have you done “everything just as God commanded?” Once you sense God speaking, do you get up “early the next morning” and prepare to obey?

7



GENESIS 7 – THE RAINS CAME DOWN, AND THE FLOODS CAME UP

And the rain was upon the earth forty days and forty nights.

Genesis 7:12 (KJV)

In chapter seven, we find ourselves with a completed ark. The time it took to build it is contained in the last verse of chapter six, “Noah did everything just as God commanded him.” God is giving Noah and his family instructions on what to do now that the ark is complete.

The first instruction is to get on the boat. God notes that Noah and his family were saved because of Noah’s righteousness. It is interesting that the Bible never mentions the righteousness of Noah’s wife, his three sons, or their wives. It mentions only Noah’s. While I believe they were righteous as well, it is interesting to note that Noah’s righteousness is enough to cover the members of his family and physically save them. It is not enough to save them spiritually. Paul sees this same righteous covering in his first letter to the Corinthians.

For the unbelieving husband has been sanctified through his wife, and the unbelieving wife has been sanctified through her believing husband. 1 Corinthians 7:14

The term sanctified does not mean that the unbelieving husband will be saved as a result of the wife's belief but that the house and family have a holiness about them because of the wife's belief.

The next instruction concerns bringing "clean" animals. This is our first encounter with the concept of clean animals. It does not mean that these animals keep themselves physically cleaner than other animals. It means they are spiritually acceptable for sacrifice. God tells Noah to bring seven pairs. Most likely, the command was issued to allow them to offer sacrifices after the flood. If there were only two, it would take too long to provide the sacrifices. For "unclean" animals, Noah is to bring two, a male and a female. As for the birds, seven pairs.

Again, we see that Noah was obedient.

It is the details in the story of the flood that give it the ring of authenticity. Myth and legends are usually shrouded in mystery and vague descriptions. But verse 11 gives us the exact date of the beginning of the flood.

In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, on the seventeenth day of the second month—on that day all the springs of the great deep burst forth, and the floodgates of the heavens were opened. Genesis 7:11

While we have an exact date when the flood began, we have problems placing this date in our modern calendars. The year from creation would have been 1656. We do not know what calendar is referenced here. But that is not the point. The point is that the flood has an exact date, and myths do not have exact dates.

The Violence and Destruction of The Flood

If you watch newscasts about floods, you will find one thing in common: they are all very destructive. They wash away houses, roads, hillsides, and more. That is just from a local flood caused by some rain. Imagine what damage a worldwide flood would do.

The Scriptures describe a violent process. "The springs of the great

deep burst forth.” The word springs indicates water under pressure. The great deep means it comes from deep underground. Hot Springs, Arkansas, gets its name from the 47 springs around town. These springs come from the great deep. Wikipedia describes the process by which water comes to the surface.

“The water percolates very slowly down through the earth's surface until it reaches superheated areas deep in the crust and then rushes rapidly to the surface to emerge from the 47 hot springs.”

It would take a violent earthquake for the springs of the great deep to “burst forth.” The term “floodgates” refers to gates used to hold back a great body of water or flood waters. This refers to the water above the sky that was created on Creation Day 2 (see Chapter One).

When we think of the story of Noah’s Ark, we tend to think of water gently rising as the soft rain falls to the earth. The reality, as described by the Scriptures, is a very violent worldwide earthquake with water under pressure bursting into the sky. There was most likely volcanic activity as well, with some of the water from the springs of the deep being turned to steam and added to the water from the “water canopy” falling from the sky.

Such violence would have reshaped the topography of the earth. Scripture also alludes to God raising and destroying mountains, setting boundaries for the seas, and pushing down the valleys during this time (see Psalm 104). It is easy to imagine that God played an active role in reshaping the surface of our planet into its current configuration.

Most people know a few facts about the flood, such as Noah building the Ark and two of each animal. They also usually know about the 40 days and 40 nights of rain. However, they usually confuse the length of the rain with the length of the flood. While it rained for 40 days, the flood lasted a year and eleven days. It was no short trip.

How Could The Water Cover The Mountains?

The story of the flood also includes the depth of the water, another detail that would be missing in a myth or legend. The fifteen cubits would be about 23 feet above the tallest mountain. Is this possible?

Our oceans are so deep that we have no concept of how much water is on the earth. If the earth had a smooth surface (no mountains, no deep oceans), the water currently on the planet would cover it to a depth of 8,000 feet! It is hard for us to imagine this because we live on a planet where the deepest ocean is 36,200 feet, and the average depth is 12,566 feet. That is a lot of room for a lot of water, but all we see is the surface.

Since we have already established that the flood resulted in the violent destruction of the topography of the earth, consider that the mountains of the pre-flood world may not have been as tall as the mountains of today nor the ocean as deep. According to the Psalmist, God raised up the mountains and pushed down the valleys after the flood.

You covered It (the earth) with the deep as with a garment;
the waters stood above the mountains.

At your rebuke they fled;
at the sound of your thunder they took to flight.

The mountains rose, the valleys sank down
to the place that you appointed for them.

You set a boundary that they may not pass,
so that they might not again cover the earth. Psalm 104:7-9
(ESV)

It is important to understand the amount of water in the oceans. If you were to take the highest mountain and place it in the deepest point of the ocean, you would still have a mile between the top of the mountain and the top of the sea. Because of their depth, the oceans account for 99% of all plant and animal living space on the earth.

Fossils and The Flood

“Billions of dead things buried in rock layers laid down by water all over the earth.”³¹

One aspect of the flood that most people do not think about is the fossil record. The evolution theory teaches that all the fossils were created over immense periods of time. Dead animals slowly turn to stone over eons of time as their bodies lie buried underground.

But is this what we experience in real life? Remember, the scientific method tells us that it must be observable, repeatable, and testable. Unless the laws of nature have changed recently, we should see fossils being created right now, at least according to the theory of evolution.

But what do we see? An animal dies, and its remains are consumed by flesh-eating animals and insects before it can be buried. If it does get buried somehow, the body is consumed by bacteria and worms. It is nature's way.

Looking at the flood, we discover that all the land animals and birds died in the flood. All those dead bodies would produce both the fossils we have today as well as the oil, coal, and natural gas. Do not forget that there were possibly billions of people involved in that carnage as well.

Every living thing that moved on land perished. Genesis 7:21

We can create fossils today in a matter of hours. What is needed to create a fossil?

- Quick burial
- The right minerals
- Pressure

Any organic material (plants and animals) that dies will be broken down by bacteria or eaten. To be preserved by fossilization, the organic

material must be buried quickly. Not just in any dirt, because the laws of nature act in a way that breaks down and reuses all biological material. It must be buried in a mixture that contains the right minerals to produce a fossil.

The idea of a fossil taking hundreds to thousands of years to form is based on the assumption that the subject is buried in soil with only small amounts of the right minerals, and it takes a long time for these minerals to leach into the organic matter. But if the subject is buried with a substantial mixture of the right minerals and then placed under pressure, it can be fossilized in a short time.

We have seen that the flood was a violent action that tore up the surface and even the “great deep” of the earth. The waters of the flood would be rich in minerals needed to produce fossils. The flood waters would also have tons of soil mixed in. This would provide the dead animals with a quick burial and all the right conditions.

After the rains stopped, Scripture says the waters flooded the earth for 150 days. During this time, the dirt and minerals settle at the bottom. Not only would there be a quick burial and the right minerals, but there would also be great pressure.

Pressure increases as you descend to the depths of the sea. Most professional, free divers will not go below 400 feet because of the danger of the tremendous pressure. At that depth, the human body would experience 176 psi of pressure. At sea level, you experience 14.7 psi. At 8,000 feet, the pressure would be 3,500 psi. The average car tire has 36 psi of pressure and holds up the weight of the car.

It is interesting to note that most large fossil deposits are considered a result of a flood. Geologists will not suggest that it is the great flood in the Bible, but they do believe that a local flood swept the fossilized creatures into large deposits. Paleontologists have concluded that nearly all Cretaceous dinosaurs across Europe were buried in marine (created by the actions of water) rocks.³²

Zoltan Csiki-Sava reported in 2015 that nearly all Late Cretaceous dinosaurs were found in marine sedimentary rocks, including chalk and limestone beds.³³ Researchers found a portion of a dinosaur thighbone

in marine rock north of Seattle in 2012.³⁴ The fossil was similar in size to an adult T. Rex. They were searching for extinct marine invertebrates common to sedimentary rocks. Researchers made similar discoveries of dinosaur fossils in marine sedimentary rocks along the coasts of California, Oregon, Washington, and all the way north to Alaska.³⁵

Experiment

Try this experiment. Get a large jar and fill it with water. Next, gather some dirt, sand, and potting soil. Crumble it up and put some into the water in the jar. Cover the top of the jar and shake as much as you can. Set the jar on a level surface and leave it for a couple of hours. When you come back, you will find that the dirt, sand, and potting soil have settled at the bottom of the jar and become visible layers. Try it; it is great fun and illuminating.

Fossil Record Surprise #1 – Polystrate Fossils

The image of the fossil record that is promoted as one of unique layers of distinct geological ages containing progressively advanced creatures. This is called the geological column. The truth is another matter.

First, there is nowhere on the earth where the geological column is found intact, meaning all the layers are found together.

Second, there are surprises when multiple layers are found together. These surprises are called polystrate fossils. These are fossils that cross geological layers. They are usually trees (or the trunks of trees) with their roots intact. As the flood waters prevailed on the earth, the rock layers would simply settle around the tree trunks, creating visible layers and providing minerals to fossilize the trunks. In some cases, the polystrate fossils have been animals. In at least one case, a whale fossil was found on its tail crossing several strata.

Fossil Record Surprise #2 – The Cambrian Explosion

You may be familiar with the movie *Jurassic Park*. It takes its name from the Jurassic Period, a geological time that lasted about 54 million years, according to the evolutionary view of Earth's history. There is another geological time called the Cambrian Period. This is where we find our second surprise, the Cambrian Explosion. This is a period in the fossil record with the sudden appearance of an abundance of fully formed marine invertebrates. In the early 1900s, over 80,000 fossils from this period were collected from just one spot known as the Burgess Shale. The Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History includes about 127 identifiable species from this period.

The surprise is the sudden appearance of these life forms. There is no record of animal life and then boom, "billions of dead things buried in rock layers laid down by water all over the earth."³⁶ From the evolutionary viewpoint, there was a burst of evolution that resulted in all these new life forms. From a creationist viewpoint, there was a great flood that covered the whole earth and buried all these marine invertebrates in perfect fossil-making conditions.

Fossil Record Surprise #3 – Sloppy Science And Outright Hoax

The quest for finding "the missing link" that would "prove" people evolved from apes has driven some "scientists" to make premature declarations of their findings only to be proven false later. There have been many such cases over the 150 years, but we will examine only two rather infamous cases. While hoaxes are rare today, the premature declarations to create headlines still abound. Their false claims are later exposed and quietly swept under the rug, leaving the public believing that "scientists" have proved the existence of a link between man and apes.

Hesperopithecus, commonly known as Nebraska Man, is a case of an overzealous evolutionist who literally made a mountain out of a molehill. Dr. Henry Fairfield Osborn, a Marxist, member of the

American Civil Liberties Union, and head of the Department of Palaeontology at New York's American Museum of Natural History, received a fossil tooth in February 1922. He declared it a missing link, part man, part ape. London Illustrated News presented an artist's rendition of Nebraska Man along with his wife, children, domestic animals, and cave. In 1925, at the 'Scopes Monkey Trial'¹ in Dayton, Tennessee, the tooth was presented as positive proof of a link between man and ape. The problem was that in 1927, the tooth was discovered to be from an extinct pig. Then, in 1972, a herd of those "extinct pigs" was discovered alive in Paraguay's Chaco.

While Nebraska Man was sloppy science, Eoanthropus, also known as Piltdown Man, was an outright hoax. Charles Dawson discovered a skull and jaw in 1912 in the Piltdown quarry in Sussex, England. The discovery was heralded as proof of the man/ape link. Unfortunately, 40 years later, in 1953, Piltdown was exposed as a hoax. Upon further examination, it was discovered that the fossils had been altered and left at the quarry to be found. The skull cap was human, and the jaw was from an orangutan. Thus, Piltdown Man quietly faded into the background, never to be spoken of again.

Fossil Record Surprise #4 – Soft Tissue In Dinosaur Bones

A recent surprise in the fossil record was the discovery of soft tissue by Dr. Mary Schweitzer, a molecular paleontologist at North Carolina State University in Raleigh. Dr. Schweitzer did something that no other scientist had ever thought to do: she checked for soft tissue. Before her discovery, scientists believed that soft tissue could only survive a maximum of a million years and only with the most perfect conditions. In fact, the science was considered settled by at least 97% of all paleontologists. Actually, it was more like 100%.

¹ The 'Scopes Monkey Trial' refers to a case brought by the ACLU to challenge a Tennessee state law that forbid the teaching of the theory of evolution in public schools.

Dr. Schweitzer explains the importance of this discovery in changing scientific thought, "Finding these tissues in dinosaurs changes the way we think about fossilization because our theories of how fossils are preserved don't allow for this." For the soft tissue to be preserved, the specimen would have to have been buried quickly with the right minerals in large quantities, as in recent history.

Since Dr. Schweitzer's discovery, other paleontologists have jumped on the bandwagon and discovered soft tissue in dinosaur bones all over the world. In fact, finding this tissue is now considered a "common phenomenon."³⁷ The problem is there is no reason this tissue should have survived. That could mean that the dinosaur fossil is more recent than originally thought, which would bring into question the method of dating dinosaur fossils and the entire evolutionary timetable.

It fits the idea that a great flood covered the entire earth about 4,300 years ago. If paleontologists had a creationism perspective, they would have looked for soft tissue long ago because they would have expected to find it. Thomas Holtz Jr., a dinosaur paleontologist at the University of Maryland, showed the evolutionist's limitation because of their perspective when he said, "The reason it hasn't been discovered before is no right-thinking paleontologist would do what Mary did with her specimens. We don't go to all this effort to dig this stuff out of the ground to then destroy it in acid." Remember, presuppositions guide conclusions.

Fossil Fuels

Today, we hear a lot about finding alternatives to "fossil fuels." Coal, oil, and natural gas are called fossil fuels because their source is organic material. Just like the creation of fossils, these fossil fuels came from the animals killed, buried, and pressurized in the flood.

If the flood did happen and there were hundreds of millions of people on the earth, why do we not see more fossilized human remains? We do find some human fossils. It is also possible that the human remains became oil or even natural gas. With the higher

intelligence, it is possible that people climbed to higher ground and found debris to cling to until they died. Their bodies might have been left unburied and thus decayed through natural means.

How Did All Those Animals Get Along?

What about the restlessness of the animals on the ark or about them trying to eat each other? I think the first thing we must remember is that this was a time of supernatural activity. Notice that Noah did not close the door to the ark; God shut them in. God would also have intervened in the activity of the animals.

How did he do that? Here are a couple of possibilities. First, we must remember that the animals were herbivores at this time. Therefore, there would not be the problem of eating each other.

Second, God could have put the animals into a semi-hibernation. We know that many animals today can slip into a semi-hibernation when necessary, even if it is not their normal routine. This would have been a great benefit onboard the ark, especially with the wild animals.

8



GENESIS 8 – THE DAY THE ARK STOOD STILL

But God remembered Noah and all the wild animals and the livestock that were with him in the ark, and he sent a wind over the earth, and the waters receded.

Genesis 8:1

I love the verse that starts off chapter eight. It does not mean that God forgot Noah and his family and then later on just happened to remember him. It means that Noah was on God's mind. God was thinking about the eight people who were on the ark as well as the animals.

This chapter also starts off by telling us that the ark finally stood still.

And on the seventeenth day of the seventh month the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat. Genesis 8:4

Once again, we find details in the story of the flood that read like a travel journal. When my wife and I go on a vacation, we record our activities on our Google calendar. That way, we can go back and see where we ate, what we did, and when we were there. We record the

day and time.

God recorded that on the seventeenth day of the seventh month, the ark stood still. That would be like me recording, “July 17th, I can feel the ark has stopped moving.”

The travel journey continues with another entry giving a date.

The waters continued to recede until the tenth month, and on the first day of the tenth month the tops of the mountains became visible. Genesis 8:5

God recorded that on the first day of the tenth month, the tops of the mountains became visible. We might write it down as “October 1st, I can finally see the tops of the mountains.”

In fact, it has been suggested that maybe Noah kept a journal during the flood, an actual written document that could have been handed down from generation to generation. Some have gone as far as suggesting Moses had access to this journal. Scripture does not give us the answer to such a question.

Let’s look at the timeline of the events recorded in chapters seven and eight in a format that is a little more familiar to us using dates calculated by Bishop James Ussher based on the dates given in Scripture. These dates are based on Ussher’s calculation of October 23, 4004 BC, for the date of the first day of creation. The year is BC (Before Christ).

Date	Event
Nov 30, 2349	Entered the ark.
Dec 7, 2349	Rain began to fall, springs of the deep burst open
Jan 16, 2348	It stopped raining
May 6, 2348	Ark came to rest on Mountains of Ararat
July 19, 2348	Tops of the mountains are visible
Aug 28, 2348	Sent out raven
Oct 23, 2348	Water has dried up from the earth
Dec 18, 2348	Earth is completely dry; we disembarked from ark

This is not the stuff of legends; this is the record of an actual event.

God First

Notice the first thing Noah does once he leaves the ark. He builds an altar and offers a sacrifice to God. That is why Noah was found righteous; he put God first.

Is the Ground Still Cursed?

The Lord ... said in his heart: “Never again will I curse the ground because of humans, even though every inclination of the human heart is evil from childhood.” Genesis 8:21

In chapter three we saw where God cursed the ground. From that Scripture, we saw how all of creation is under a curse. Now, it looks like God is removing that cursing, and indeed, that is what the English translation says.

However, in Hebrew, two different words are used for cursing. Gordon Wenham explains it in his book *Word Biblical Commentary Volume 1 Genesis 1-15*.

“This shows that God is not lifting the curse on the ground pronounced in 3:17 for man’s disobedience, but promising not to add to it. The flood was a punishment over and above that decreed in 3:17. This is further confirmed by the milder word for “curse,” qalal “treat lightly, disdain,” used here as opposed to the graver term arar, used in 3:17.”

The Raven and The Dove

Noah used both a raven and a dove to determine the level of the flood near the end. The raven is a wild bird, while the dove is a domesticated bird. The raven did not return. It continued to fly around until it found a place to land. The dove returned even after it found a place to land.

The Evil, Deceitful Heart

God tells us that our hearts are inclined to evil from childhood. Jeremiah tells us the heart is deceitful and desperately wicked. Paul tells us not to be ruled by our emotions.

The world tells us a different story. How many times have we been told to follow our hearts? It is one thing to pursue a desire, such as playing a musical instrument, because that is our passion. It is another to let our hearts lead us into sin because we have followed sinful desires. How do we keep our hearts from leading us away from God? By changing our hearts with Scripture.

Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee. Psalms 119:11 KJV

God's Promises

This chapter closes out with a promise from God.

As long as the earth endures,
seedtime and harvest,
cold and heat,
summer and winter,
day and night
will never cease. Genesis 8:22

The flood happened over 4,000 years ago, and ever since then, God has kept this promise. God keeps all of his promises.

The Tiniest of Details

The first verse of this chapter states that God “sent a wind over the earth, and the waters receded.” The second verse of chapter one tells us that the “Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.” Then,

in chapter fourteen of the book of Exodus, we find that “the LORD caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night” when God parted the Red Sea.

When we translate from one language to another, there is information that cannot always be communicated without additional explanation. This is one of those cases. Let’s look at these verses again with one original Hebrew word reinserted.

“sent a **ruwach** over the earth and the waters receded.”

“**ruwach** of God moved upon the face of the waters.”

“the LORD caused the sea to go back by a strong east **ruwach** all that night.”

The Hebrew word *ruwach* can be translated as wind, air, breath, spirit, gas, and more. Pretty much anything that you feel but cannot see. This is what I love about this tiniest of details. When the *ruwach* of God moved upon the face of the waters at the beginning of creation, it showed God's personal involvement in creating. When God sent a *ruwach* over the earth to dry up the flood waters, it showed God's intimate activity of caring for Noah and his family. When the Lord caused a strong *ruwach* to blow back the sea so the Israelites could travel on dry land, it showed his loving provision for their needs. Our God is personally involved in our daily lives.

Was the Flood a Local Flood?

A little over two hundred years ago, scientists proposed the theory that sedimentary rock was the result of eons of time instead of a global flood. The response of the church was the local flood theory. The idea that Noah's flood was limited to a section of Mesopotamia. However, this is contrary to what Genesis actually says.

Thomas Purifoy Jr., the producer, writer, and director of the movie "Is Genesis History?" shares some thought-provoking questions raised by the local flood theory.

Why did Noah need an ark? After all, if the flood was local, why go through all the trouble of building an ark? Yet that's not the only concern:

Why was Noah told to save two of every kind of animal when they could easily have survived in other parts of the world?

Why was a vessel as big as the ark needed?

Why did God say he was going to destroy all flesh everywhere, when he really wasn't?

If God promised not to flood the earth again, why do major local floods continue to occur all over the world?

Why has the vocabulary used in Genesis always been interpreted to refer to a global flood up until the 18th-century?

Why do other people in the Bible (such as Peter and Jesus) refer to the Flood as a global event?

The interpretive problems of a local flood multiply as one tries to fit it into the historical narrative of the Bible. Of course, from a geological perspective, things don't get any easier when trying to establish a massive, year-long flood in the Middle East large enough to inundate everything.³⁸

9



GENESIS 9 – NINE ELEVEN

I establish my covenant with you: Never again will all life be destroyed by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth.

Genesis 9:11

When I was a child and there was an emergency, we were taught to dial 0 for the operator. I remember when that changed, and we were taught to dial Nine One One. Nine One One was the emergency number. It was written as 911.

Today, those numbers have a very different meaning. Yes, that is still the number to call for an emergency, but it is also a reminder of the terrorist attacks on the Twin Towers in New York. Of course, we pronounce it Nine Eleven. Just saying it brings chills to your spine for those of us who were alive on that day.

There is another Nine-Eleven that has just as much importance for our world as the terrorist attack or the emergency number. That is Genesis 9:11. Maybe you have never heard of it, but it is God's covenant with YOU! That's right, YOU.

Every time it rains, and you look into the sky and see a rainbow, it is a reminder of that covenant God made with all living things.

“I establish my covenant with you: Never again will all life be destroyed by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth.” Genesis 9:11

What Does a Rainbow Mean?

The human race can become fascinated by natural phenomena. One of those phenomena is the rainbow. From company names to leprechauns to LGBT causes, it seems everyone loves a rainbow.

Google the meaning of a rainbow, and you will get a scientific definition of the physical phenomenon.

“An arch of colors formed in the sky in certain circumstances, caused by the refraction and dispersion of the sun's light by rain or other water droplets in the atmosphere.”

But there is a deeper meaning behind the rainbow. The rainbow is the sign of the covenant between God and all living things that he will not flood the entire world again. The rainbow is so visible because it is God's Covenant with the whole earth, unlike some of his other covenants. God's covenant with Abraham, for example, is for the Israelites. The sign of this covenant was circumcision and is only visible to the one who receives it. But the rainbow is visible to everyone because God's covenant is with everyone.

Why did the rainbow appear after the flood and not before? After all, it is a simple matter of physics, sunlight refracting through water droplets. Why did that not occur before the flood? Because after the flood the water canopy no longer existed. The Lord watered the ground with a mist instead of rain. The loss of the water canopy changed the ecosystem.

Vegetarian to Carnivore

Before the flood, God had given only plants for people to eat. From

COULD IT BE TRUE?

Adam and Eve and all the way to Noah, people were vegetarians.

Then God said, “I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food.” Genesis 1:29

Now that the flood is over and the environment has changed, God gives Noah and his descendants animals to eat. Think about it: meat is a gift from God. He literally said, “I give you.” Remember that next time you dig into a juicy steak or a rack of ribs.

**Everything that lives and moves about will be food for you. Just as I gave you the green plants, I now give you everything.
Genesis 9:3**

The question is, why? It is because the change in the environment requires a diet that consists of animal flesh. Meat contains vitamins, minerals, and protein in a greater concentration than non-meat sources. The B vitamins, which are crucial to good health, especially mental health, are one of these vitamins. B-12 is necessary for healthy nerves and blood cells and is only found in meat, not plants. According to research conducted at the University of Graz, vegetarians are two to three times more likely than meat eaters to suffer from depression, anxiety, eating disorders, and somatoform disorders and syndromes.³⁹

Your brain is a very nutritionally demanding organ. Orexin, produced by cells in the brain, is a neuropeptide that regulates arousal, wakefulness, and appetite. It is a critical component of feeling energized. Scientists at the University of Cambridge discovered that amino acids stimulate orexin cells more than any other nutrient. Meat is rich in amino acids and thus provides better stimulation of orexin cells. Consuming meat protein burns more calories and more energy. Reduced activity in orexin cells has been linked to both weight gain and narcolepsy.⁴⁰

Be Fruitful and Fill the Earth

God gave Adam and Eve a mission. A mission to fill the earth with people. God repeated that mission with emphasis to Noah and his family after the flood. Notice how this mission is given twice to Noah, once in verse 1.

Then God blessed Noah and his sons, saying to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth.” Genesis 9:1

Again, in verse 7.

As for you, be fruitful and increase in number; multiply on the earth and increase upon it. Genesis 9:7

What About Cavemen?

The evidence of ancient people living in caves set the evolutionist’s imagination ablaze. It seemed so obvious that as humans continued to evolve and lose their body hair at some point, they would seek out shelter. Surely, primitive man had crawled into the first cave to escape the scorching heat of the summer or the bitter cold of the winter. Of course, being lower on the evolutionary chain, their mental facilities were limited to crude drawings on cave walls. As they died, their remains were pushed to the back of the caves and left for paleontologists to find millennia later. And so museums of natural history around the world recreate the familiar scene of primitive man discovering fire in the hovel of a cave. But is that what happened, or is that just imagination?

If the creation story of Genesis is true, how would evidence of people living in caves fit? First, we know that caves were used in Old Testament times. For example, Lot and his daughters lived in a cave for a while, Abraham buried his wife in a cave, and Job mentions people living in caves during his time.

Lot and his two daughters left Zoar and settled in the mountains, for he was afraid to stay in Zoar. He and his two daughters lived in a cave. Genesis 19:30

Afterward Abraham buried his wife Sarah in the cave in the field of Machpelah near Mamre (which is at Hebron) in the land of Canaan. Genesis 23:19

They were forced to live in the dry stream beds, among the rocks and in holes in the ground (caves). Job 30:6

Most likely, what we call cavemen were Noah's descendants during the migration described in chapter ten. Some of the cavemen sites have human or human-like remains. So, the question is, what about the bones of Neanderthals?

When first discovered, the fossils we now call Neanderthals were believed to be a link in the evolutionary chain between man and apes. In 1908, Marcellin Boule of France invented Neanderthal's look as a primitive, brutish caveman. His portrayal has been the public image of the Neanderthals for the last 100 years.

This reconstruction from the skeleton was done with the presupposition that the remains were primitive man and must have had an ape-like appearance. Today's experts on Neanderthals believe they were human and their appearance was much more like modern man.⁴¹

What About the Ice Age?

The simple answer would be after the flood. The discussion of exactly when the ice age occurred after the flood and how many there were is too big for this book. There are several different theories. All of them consider the "ice age" to be more of an "ice epic" or a much shorter event than depicted in the evolutionary model. I will attempt to give a brief, simplified overview.

The environmental system of the earth is large and complex.

Scientists try to simplify weather patterns, volcano activity, and ocean currents so that we can understand them. But they are very complex systems that all interact. If we understood them, we could build a computer model that would accurately predict the weather months in advance. However, we cannot. Likewise, large changes to these systems can have repercussions for decades to centuries.

The flood was a huge change in the systems. It is like starting a pendulum swinging. It goes back and forth, slowing down until it stops, but it makes many swings before it settles down. So, the environment after the flood did the same thing.

Once the water canopy was removed, the earth's surface was changed, and a massive amount of water was added to the surface, new environmental systems were created. Weather is affected by the placement and size of the mountains, as well as the temperature of the ocean. Higher mountains and deeper oceans would affect weather patterns. The ocean temperature could take centuries to settle. The absence of the water canopy would allow heat to escape the atmosphere. It could take hundreds or thousands of years for these new systems to reach a point of equilibrium.

The earth could experience a period of great cold followed by great heat, just like the swinging of a pendulum. Do we see evidence for this?

The Mammoths of the Northern Tundra

One piece of evidence of dramatic climate change, such as what we would expect after the flood, is seen in the frozen mammoths. The image you have in your mind right now is probably a large woolly elephant standing in a frozen wasteland during the Great Ice Age. Is that about it? The following is a quote from Dr. Paul Ackerman in his book. *It's A Young World After All*, which shows that the freezing of the Mammoths was not the result of a slowly advancing glacier but a rapid environmental change.

Among the most curious of archaeological mysteries are the vast beds of perfectly preserved fossils frozen in the northern

tundras. Buried beneath the northern tundras of Siberia and Alaska lie the remains of thousands of frozen animals, including the now-extinct mammoth. In some cases, the carcasses are preserved to such a degree that their flesh is still edible, usually only by bears and wolves but in a few reported instances by men. Today, these northern tundras are cold and barren wastelands, but we know that in the past, the climate was much warmer. Fossil evidence has been found of plants that grow today as far south as Mexico. At one time, these tundras were covered with lush vegetation.

It is a mystery how so many mammoths and other animals could have been rapidly buried and preserved in cold storage, for the climate was warm at the time they were living. One such perfectly preserved carcass was found near the Beresovka River in Siberia in 1901. Well-preserved plant fragments were found in the mouth and between the teeth of the mammal, indicating the suddenness with which it met its death. Inside the mammoth's stomach, twenty-four pounds of excellently preserved vegetation was recovered. The mammoth's remarkably preserved state indicates that at the time of death, there was a cataclysmic occurrence that produced both a rapid burial of the creature and a sudden and permanent drop in the temperature. Recent studies of the temperature parameters required to account for the state of preservation of the Beresovka mammoth reveal that "the animal must have frozen to death in mid-summer by being suddenly overcome by an outside temperature below -150° F."

10



GENESIS 10 – WHERE DID ALL THE DIFFERENT RACES COME FROM

This is the account of Shem, Ham and Japheth, Noah’s sons, who themselves had sons after the flood.

Genesis 10:1

One of the fascinating things about Genesis is the information it provides about what happened after the flood. Chapter ten gives us an overview of the migration patterns of the descendants of the three sons of Noah. I know genealogical data can be boring, but this chapter is critical to understanding all the various people groups mentioned in the Old Testament. Just imagine sitting in your Sunday School class or small group, and you are reading about the Hittites. And then suddenly, you remember that you can trace the Hittites back to Genesis chapter ten!

The Racism of Evolution

It is interesting that before the 1960s, evolution saw the different “races” of people as being on different steps of the evolutionary ladder. It was taught that the darker the skin, the closer a person was to their

ape ancestors. Just look at Charles Darwin's book title *On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection, or the Preservation of Favoured Races in the Struggle for Life*. At the turn of the Nineteenth Century, it was believed that African pygmies were missing links. They were not seen as equals but as lesser people. Museums would pay high prices for the skeleton of a pygmy to display as one of the missing links between apes and humans.

The Bible tells us that people come from the common ancestor, Noah. That means that, ultimately, we are all related and all equal. Skin color, hair color, eye color, and the shape of our eyes are all simply cosmetic differences due to genetic isolation, not evolution.

Chapter 10 gives us an overview of how people migrated after the flood. Travel was difficult at this time, and movement from city to city was usually limited to traders and soldiers. Most people remained near their birthplace. Therefore, they would marry within a limited gene pool, and over time, certain physical traits, such as hair color, would become dominant. These physical traits are what separates the different "races." The reality is that these traits are only cosmetic and we are all related. Our bodies are more alike than they are different.

Paul referenced Genesis chapter ten in his sermon at the Areopagus in Athens.

From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth. Acts 17:26

When the families of Noah's sons migrated, they did so in family-related patterns. The sons and grandsons of Japheth moved primarily into what we now call Europe. Ham's descendants moved into the continent of Africa and the Arabian Peninsula. Shem's family moved to the Arabian Peninsula or the Middle East. There is some overlap, but these are the general directions. This list is not a complete genealogy. It only deals with those who founded nations and played key roles in the history of Israel.

The Jewish historian Josephus, who lived right after the time of Christ, wrote the history of the Jews. In chapter six of his book *The*

Antiquity of the Jews, he connected the names in Genesis chapter ten with people groups of his day. Using his work, we can connect them to people groups of today. The rest of this chapter is based primarily on the information provided by Josephus, along with some additional information provided by Dr. Gordon Wenham in the *Word Biblical Commentary Volume 1*, as well as various other sources.

The Japhethites

Japheth had seven sons and seven grandsons that are mentioned. Each of these apparently had their own nation and language (according to verse 5). Their migration began at the Taurus and Amanus mountains in Southern Turkey, and they moved up Asia to the river Tanais and along Europe to Cadiz. You will see the custom of taking the name of the founder and adding something like “ites” or “ians” to form the name of a nation. The “ites” ending simply means “people of,” and the “ians” mean “from or related to.”

So when we come to Gomer, the first son of Japheth mentioned, we find that he established the Gomerites. The Greeks called them the Galatians. Galatia was a region as opposed to a city. Paul wrote a letter to the Christians who lived in Galatia after his missionary journey through that region. This letter was written to a group of churches instead of a specific church. These people are also known as the Galls.

Gomer’s first son, Ashkenaz, founded the Ashkenazians. In the first Century, they became known as the Rheginians. This region is known today as Germany.

Gomer’s second son, Riphath, founded the Riphathians. They became the Paphlagonians. Paphlagonia is in northeast Turkey, near the Black Sea.

His third son, Togarmah, brought us the Togarmans, also known as the Phrygians. They lived in what is now western Turkey. The most famous king of Phrygia was Midas, who is known from Greek legend.

Magog’s descendants are obviously called the Magogites. They lived in an area that is now known as Crimea and became a nomadic people known as the Scythians. Magog is found throughout prophecy. Notice

how Ezekiel refers to the various locations by the sons of Japheth

The word of the Lord came to me: “Son of man, set your face against Gog, of the land of **Magog**, the chief prince of **Meshek** and **Tubal**; prophesy against him and say: ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says: I am against you, Gog, chief prince of **Meshek** and **Tubal**. I will turn you around, put hooks in your jaws and bring you out with your whole army—your horses, your horsemen fully armed, and a great horde with large and small shields, all of them brandishing their swords. Persia, **Cush** and **Put** will be with them, all with shields and helmets, also **Gomer** with all its troops, and Beth **Togarmah** from the far north with all its troops—the many nations with you. Ezekiel 38:1-6

Not only do we see Magog, but several of Noah's grandsons are also mentioned. Magog, however, really turned out to be one bad apple. He shows up again in Revelation 20 in connection with Satan’s final battle.

When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth—Gog and **Magog**—and to gather them for battle. In number they are like the sand on the seashore. Revelation 20:7-8

Japheth’s son, Madai, is one of the more interesting sons. His descendants were originally known as the Madeans. Over time they migrated into what is Iran today and were called the Medes. These are the same Medes who joined forces with the Persians. They were the invading force that captured Babylon while the hand of God wrote on the wall in the book of Daniel. Daniel served the Persian kings, while the Medes served as the priests and wisemen under Daniel. They were the ancestors of the Wisemen or Magi who visited the Christ child

found in Matthew. It is likely that Daniel taught them to watch for the coming of Christ since he prophesized the date of Christ's coming in Daniel chapter nine.

Javan, the fourth son, mentioned, is the ancestor of the Greeks. Tubal, the fifth son, is the father of the Thobelites. They were later called the Iberes. The Mosocheni were founded by Meshek. They became the Cappadocians. Tiras established the Thirasiens. The Greeks changed the name to Thracians.

Javan had three sons. His first son, Elishah, gave us the Eliseans. They became the Aeolians. His second son, Tarshish, was the founder of the Tarshians. Their territory came to be known as Cilicia, which is called Turkey today. The ancient city of Tarsus, where Paul was from, is named after the Tarshians. Javan's third Son, Kittim, possessed the island Cethima, which is now called Cyprus. Cyprus is the third largest island (both in land mass and population) in the Mediterranean. Paul and Barnabas began their first missionary journey on the island of Cyprus. In fact, it was on the island of Cyprus that Paul changed his name from Saul (a Hebrew name) to Paul (a Greek name).

The Hamites

Ham had four sons. You may be more familiar with Ham's sons than Japheth's. His first son was listed as Cush, which means that his descendants are known as the Cushites. Today, we know them as the Ethiopians. Queen Sheba, who visited Solomon and was amazed at his wisdom, is believed to be an Ethiopian. In the book of Acts, Philip is directed by an angel to travel a desert road to meet an Ethiopian who was in charge of the treasury of the Queen of the Ethiopians. Philip shared the Gospel with him, and he carried the good news back to his country and founded a church there.

Six sons are listed for Cush. Cush's first son, Sabas, founded the Sabeans. Havilah, listed by Josephus as Evilas, founded the Evileans or Getuli. Sabath founded the Sabathens, known by the Greeks as Astaborans. Raamah, or Ragmus as spelled by Josephus, gave us the Ragmeans. He had two sons, one of whom, Judadas, settled the

Judadeans, a nation of the Western Ethiopians. And finally, Sabteka settled the Sabactens.

Cush's sixth son, Nimrod, who is listed separately from the first five, is the most infamous. It is Nimrod who is credited as the one who led humanity to disobey God, build the Tower of Babel, and ultimately is responsible for the confusion of language.

We do not know how long Nimrod lived, but we do know that Shem's grandson, who would be Nimrod's contemporary, lived 403 years. Four centuries is long enough to accomplish all that Genesis attributes to Nimrod.

He was a mighty hunter before the Lord; that is why it is said, "Like Nimrod, a mighty hunter before the Lord." The first centers of his kingdom were Babylon, Uruk, Akkad and Kalneh, in Shinar. From that land he went to Assyria, where he built Nineveh, Rehoboth Ir, Calah and Resen, which is between Nineveh and Calah—which is the great city. Genesis 10:9-12

Micah referenced Nimrod's influence in a prophecy against Assyria.

We will raise against them seven shepherds, even eight commanders, who will rule the land of Assyria with the sword, the land of Nimrod with drawn sword. Micah 5:5-6

Ham's second son is called Mizraim in the King James Version, but more modern versions use the name Egypt. His descendants settled in Gaza to Egypt. Scripture lists seven sons.

The names in parenthesis are Josephus's spelling. The Scriptures seem to move from identifying individual sons by name and instead refer to the people groups named after his sons. Since little is known about so many of these named, we will only look at the ones we can give additional information. The first is the Ludites (Philistim). Josephus notes that the Greeks called the part of the country in which they settled Palestine. The Lehabites (Labim and Lybybos) inhabited Libya. Josephus makes a note of the Caphtorites: "We know nothing

of them besides their names; for the Ethiopic war was the cause that those cities were overthrown.”

The third son of Ham is Put (Phut), who is the father of the Phutites. Josephus tells us this is the nation of Lybia.

The fourth son was Canaan. We read about the land of Canaan and the Canaanites in the Old Testament. It was the promised land that God gave to Abraham. In the New Testament, it is called Judea. Today it is known as Israel. The land of Canaan was inhabited by various groups who were all descendants of the son of Ham, Canaan.

Canaan was the father of Sidon his firstborn, and of the Hittites, Jebusites, Amorites, Girgashites, Hivites, Arkites, Sinites, Arvadites, Zemarites and Hamathites. Genesis 10:15-18

God commanded the Israelites to take Canaan from the Canaanites. The book of Joshua details how this was done. If you are not familiar with the brutality of the Old Testament, it can be difficult to read and understand why God gave this command. The reason is that the descendants of Canaan had fallen into rampant idolatry, adultery, child sacrifice, homosexuality, and bestiality. The eighteenth chapter of Leviticus outlines the offensive behavior of the Canaanites and a warning to the Israelites. Could Leviticus 18 be a warning to America today?

**Do not defile yourselves in any of these ways, because this is how the nations that I am going to drive out before you became defiled. ... And if you defile the land, it will vomit you out as it vomited out the nations that were before you.
Leviticus 18:24, 28**

One of the people groups mentioned as Canaan's descendants was the Jebusites. Josephus lists the founder of the Jebusites as Jebuseus. This name is of interest because it was the Jebusites who founded the city of Jerusalem.

The Semites

Shem, the third son of Noah, had five sons who inhabited the land, beginning at the Euphrates River and reaching the Indian Ocean. Right away there is a note that Shem is the ancestor of all the sons of Eber. This seems out of place since Eber is listed later with the rest of Shem's descendants. The reason Eber holds such a place of importance is because Genesis is being written down by Moses during the time Israel was in the wilderness. The purpose of Genesis is to show the beginning and history of the nation of Israel.

Eber was the great-great-great-great-grandfather of Abraham (see chapter eleven). The Gentile version of the name Eber is Hebrew. Josephus lists the name as Heber. So Eber or Heber is the name used for all Hebrews (Israelites).

Shem's first listed son was Elam, the ancestor of the Elamites. The Elamites are the ancestors of the Persians. The Persians teamed up with the Medes, who were descendants of Ham (see earlier in this chapter). They attacked Babylon on the night the hand wrote on the wall in the book of Daniel. Babylon is in modern-day Iran.

Shem's next son was Asshur. He lived in the city of Nineveh and named his subjects Assyrians. The Assyrians are listed throughout Israel's history, and they eventually conquered Israel (the Northern Kingdom).

Arphaxad was Shem's next son, and his descendants are named the Arphaxadites. They became known as the Chaldeans. Terah, Abraham's father, came from Ur of the Chaldeans.

Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, was a Chaldean from the book of Daniel. The language of the Chaldeans was a dialect of Aramaic. Daniel records a royal decree from King Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel chapter four in the Chaldean language as it was originally published.

Arphaxad was also the grandfather of Eber or Heber, the beginning of the Hebrews. One of Eber's sons was Peleg. The meaning of the name is division. It was during Peleg's life that the language was confused at Babel, and people were scattered.

Aram, of course, had the Aramites. The Greeks called them Syrians. Today, we still have the nation of Syria with us. Aram had four sons, but we are going to look at just two of them. Uz, his first listed son, founded the city of Damascus. You will remember that Paul encountered Christ on the road to Damascus. Damascus is the capital of modern-day Syria. It is also the largest city in Syria.

The descendants of Aram's second son, Hul founded the country of Armenia. Armenia is on the eastern border of Turkey. In 1915, Turkey, or the Ottoman Empire, tried to exterminate the Armenians in what is called the Armenian Genocide. 1.5 million Armenians were killed, and many were scattered throughout the world.

Conclusion

Today anthropologists study the migration of people groups throughout history. Most of them have an evolutionist point of view. This chapter is the Bible's anthropology chapter.

11



GENESIS 11 – A BRAVE NEW WORLD

Now the whole world had one language and a common speech. As people moved eastward, they found a plain in Shinar and settled there.

Genesis 11:1-2

After the flood, the population once again began to grow. God had chosen the one righteous family in all of the earth. The last family to worship and honor God. They were chosen to repopulate the world. But they still carried the seeds of sin in their hearts. They were still infected with the sin nature. And that sin nature began to play out as, once again, people began disobeying God. Instead of scattering across the earth they settled in a valley. Then pride revealed itself, an arrogant, sinful, disobedient pride.

Verse six is one of my favorite verses. While God is speaking about a group of people who are sinning, he reveals something about the power of people working together.

The Lord said, “If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them.” Genesis 11:6

For people working “as one people” and “speaking the same language,” nothing is impossible for them. Think about what that means. It means working together with a common set of values and a mutual goal. Not everybody works together. Amos wrote the following:

Can two walk together, except they be agreed? Amos 3:3 KJV

Solomon saw the same thing when he wrote:

Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: Ecclesiastes 3:3

Jesus added a spiritual aspect to this principle when he said:

Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. Matthew 18:19

Working together produces a synergy that you cannot get alone. Two horses working together can pull nine thousand pounds. How much can four horses pull? You would think eighteen thousand pounds, but the truth is they can pull thirty thousand pounds because of the synergy of working together.

Did you know that God created the Church so that Christians would work together to do more than Jesus Himself did? It is true. He said so Himself.

Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. John 14:12

Jesus loves the church and wants the church to work “as one people” and “speak the same language.”

Just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to

make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. Ephesians 5:25-27

Can you imagine what a church could do that was working together with a common set of values and a mutual goal? So many churches today are shattered into different values and have no goal at all.

Disobedience Once Again

The story of the Tower of Babel is another one of those stories that we are familiar with but may lack details and meaning. When I was a child, I heard the story, and I thought the goal of the builders was to build a tower so high that flood waters would never be able to reach the top. But that was never their purpose. Notice what they said.

Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves; otherwise we will be scattered over the face of the whole earth." Genesis 11:4

They were more concerned with reaching God's domain and thus making a name for themselves. Now compare this to the command God gave to Noah and his sons,

Then God blessed Noah and his sons, saying to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth." Genesis 9:1

They were doing the exact opposite of what God told them to do. They wanted to stay all in one place, but they were supposed to "scatter over the face of the whole earth." God took action, and severe conditions caused them to scatter and fulfill God's command.

This story reminds me of a time when Christians did not obey God's direct command until severe conditions forced them to fulfill it.

The book of Acts tells us that the early Christians all stayed in Jerusalem, enjoying their new-found salvation. But Jesus told the disciples just before he left that they needed to go, not stay.

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:19

It was not until the stoning of Stephen that most of the Christians left Jerusalem.

On that day a great persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria. Acts 8:1

And when they left they obeyed the command of Jesus.

Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went. Acts 8:4

If you are a Christian, then you and your church have the same commission to go and make disciples. The problem is that most of us would rather stay and enjoy instead of go and make. What intentional activity are you regularly doing to make disciples? And what kind of severe conditions would it take to get your congregation out of the church building and make disciples?

The Tower of Babel

The tower they were building was known as a ziggurat. There are other examples of people groups who built similar structures as part of their worship of idols. One example is the Etemenanki. The Etemenanki, also known as the Great Ziggurat of Babylon, was dedicated to the Mesopotamian god Marduk by Nabopolassar, king of Babylonia. It was 300 feet tall. Alexander the Great ordered it

demolished around 331 BC.

The Location of Babel

The location of the Tower of Babel is known. It eventually became the great city of Babylon, whose ruins lie 59 miles southwest of Bagdad, Iraq. This was the city of Nebuchadnezzar and Daniel.

The Jewish-Roman historian Flavius Josephus, in his *Antiquities of the Jews*, wrote about the history and location of the Tower of Babel:

Now it was Nimrod who excited them to such an affront and contempt of God. He was the grandson of Ham, the son of Noah, a bold man, and of great strength of hand. He persuaded them not to ascribe it to God as if it were through his means they were happy, but to believe that it was their own courage which procured that happiness. He also gradually changed the government into tyranny, seeing no other way of turning men from the fear of God, but to bring them into a constant dependence on his power... Now the multitude were very ready to follow the determination of Nimrod and to esteem it a piece of cowardice to submit to God; and they built a tower, neither sparing any pains, nor being in any degree negligent about the work: and, by reason of the multitude of hands employed in it, it grew very high, sooner than any one could expect; but the thickness of it was so great, and it was so strongly built, that thereby its great height seemed, upon the view, to be less than it really was. It was built of burnt brick, cemented together with mortar, made of bitumen, that it might not be liable to admit water. When God saw that they acted so madly, he did not resolve to destroy them utterly, since they were not grown wiser by the destruction of the former sinners [in the Flood]; but he caused a tumult among them, by producing in them diverse languages, and causing that, through the multitude of those languages, they should not be able to understand one another. The place wherein they built the tower is now called Babylon, because of the confusion of that language which they readily understood before; for the Hebrews

mean by the word Babel, confusion...

The Confusion at Babel

The Bible says that God came down and confused the languages and thus scattered them over the face of the whole earth. In confusing the language, God would have kept close family groups together. Why have mom speak Aramaic, dad speak Greek, and the children speak Hebrew? As we looked at the migration in chapter ten, we saw it ran along family lines. So, languages would also have. We see evidence of that in the verse from chapter ten.

From these the maritime peoples spread out into their territories by their clans within their nations, each with its own language. Genesis 10:5

The confusing of the languages would have occurred somewhere between 100 – 300 years after the flood. The Bible tells us the division of the world occurred during Peleg's life. Peleg was born about 99 years after the flood and lived for 209 years. Bishop James Ussher placed this event 106 years after the flood. This would place the confusion of the languages at 2242 BC.

Two sons were born to Eber: One was named Peleg, because in his time the earth was divided; Genesis 10:25

The Lineage from Shem to Abraham

We end our study of the first eleven chapters of Genesis with a look at the final genealogical record showing the connection between Seth, Noah's son, and Abraham, the beginning of the nation of Israel. Contained in the lineage from Adam to Abraham is probably the most little-known information in all of Scripture. Many Christians today believe that all people in the Old Testament lived to be almost a thousand years old. The truth is that such ages were only in the first

COULD IT BE TRUE?

2,000 years of world history and quickly disappeared after the flood.

The following graph helps you visualize what is otherwise boring “begats.” In this graph, each lifespan listed in Genesis is represented except 2, Enoch because God took him to heaven without death at the age of 365, and Noah because he was born in the pre-flood world and died in the post-flood world. Lamech was also excluded because he died the year of the flood, and it is uncertain whether he would have lived longer if the flood had not occurred. Most of Noah’s life was spent before the flood, which is an anomaly in the graph. To provide a full demonstration of the change in lifespan, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph’s ages were also included in the graph. Finally, according to the Prayer of Moses found in Psalm 90, people of his time lived to be 70 to 80 years old. These ages have been included at the end of the graph to give the full effect of how much the lifespan dropped after the flood. The vertical line represents the flood.

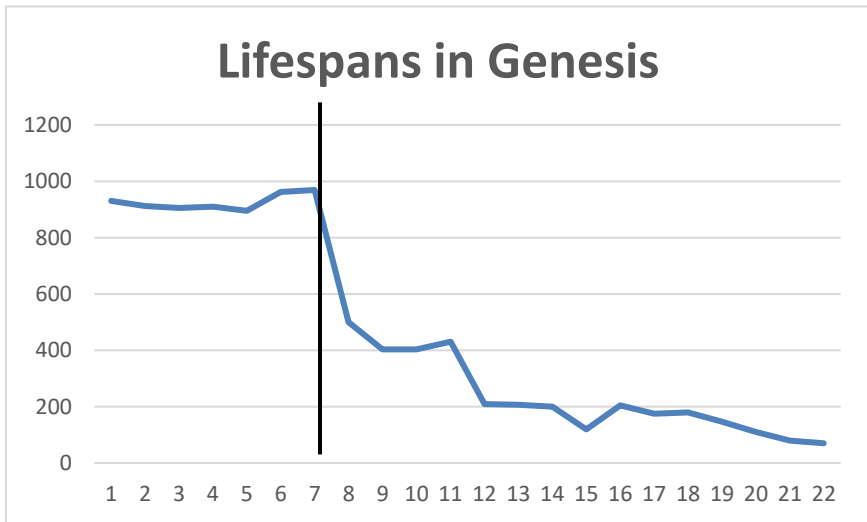


Figure 1: Lifespans

Look at the ages of the patriarchs before the flood and after the flood. Genesis begins with ages of almost a thousand years and ends with Joseph dying at an age we might see today, 110 years. By the time

Moses comes on the scene, seventy to eighty years is about as long as the average person can expect to live.

What does this tell us? The sudden drop in ages could be more evidence of the water canopy. The extra protection it provided, plus the drastic changes in environmental factors, could contribute to shorter lifespans after the flood.

Two possible environmental differences between the pre-flood world and our current environment are oxygen levels and atmospheric pressure. For example, the fossil record shows dragonflies with wingspans over two feet. Yet modern science tells us that the size of a dragonfly is limited by the amount of oxygen in our atmosphere. The increase in oxygen could be attributed to a more lush and larger foliage found in the fossil record.

Creation scientists have postulated that the pre-flood world had a greater atmospheric pressure. The water canopy would have contributed to the increased atmospheric pressure. How does this help explain the longer lifespans before the flood? A new study from the Shamir Medical Center at the Tel Aviv University in Israel is examining the impact of hyperbaric oxygen treatments on healthy adults. According to Johns Hopkins Medicine, such treatments are

“used to speed up healing of carbon monoxide poisoning, gangrene, stubborn wounds, and infections in which tissues are starved for oxygen.

If you undergo this therapy, you will enter a special chamber to breathe in pure oxygen in air pressure levels 1.5 to 3 times higher than average. The goal is to fill the blood with enough oxygen to repair tissues and restore normal body function.”⁴²

But, the new study is looking at the effects of the treatment on the blood cells of healthy adults to see if the effects of aging could be slowed or even reversed. Early data shows that daily sessions are promising. If daily sessions could extend life, imagine what living in such an environment would do to your lifespan.

To help you understand the graph, I have included the following chart showing the ages used.

Biblical Lifespans Used in The Graph

	Name	Lifespan
1	Adam	930
2	Seth	912
3	Enosh	905
4	Kenan	910
5	Mahalalel	895
6	Jared	962
7	Methuselah	969
	The Flood	
8	Shem	500
9	Arphaxad	403
10	Shelah	403
11	Eber	430
12	Peleg	209
13	Reu	207
14	Serug	200
15	Nahor	119
16	Tareh	205
17	Abraham	175
18	Isaac	180
19	Jacob	147
20	Joseph	110
21	Prayer of Moses	80
22	Prayer of Moses	70

Table 1

Enter Abraham

This chapter closes with the introduction of Abram who would later become Abraham. Adding up the life spans given in Genesis, Abram was born 1,949 years after creation in the year 1996 BC. Chapter twelve begins with God's call on Abram's life in the year 1922 BC and the beginning of the history of the nation of Israel.

Over half of the world's population belongs to one of the three major religions that claim Abraham as a spiritual patriarch: Christianity, Islam, and Judaism. Abraham as a historical figure is not disputed. So why do we relegate the first eleven chapters of Genesis to the realm of legend, poetry, or symbolism but not the twelfth chapter, which introduces Abram?

12



THE CONCLUSION OF THE MATTER

Above all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. They will say, "Where is this 'coming' he promised? Ever since our ancestors died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation." But they deliberately forget that long ago by God's word the heavens came into being and the earth was formed out of water and by water. By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed.

2 Peter 3:3-6

I hope this book has been mind-blowing for you! I hope that through what you have read, you have a new appreciation for the Word of God and a new view of the glory of God! If you did, then please get this book in the hands of as many people as you can so they, too, can grow in their faith and appreciation of the Word of God.

Today, more and more people not only see the Bible as irrelevant, but many see it as dangerous. In the *State of the Bible 2017* survey, conducted by the Barna Group and commissioned by the American Bible Society, "78% of Bible Skeptics believe strongly or somewhat that the Bible

was written to manipulate or control other people.” When asked about reading the Bible, *“the largest share of all adults surveyed said they don’t have enough time to read it (30%).”* Twenty-eight percent believe that the Bible is not inspired or is just another book of teachings written by men.

I believe the biggest reason for these numbers is that people have lost confidence in the Bible. I further believe the reason for this loss of confidence is the idea that the first eleven chapters of Genesis cannot be trusted or that science has disproven these eleven chapters. Couple that with an ignorance of these chapters, and you will have a demotivating reason for not reading the Bible.

I have a friend who was saved as an adult. He was already married and had a family. While it was wonderful that he and his wife were both saved, his new faith just seemed to be in a lull. Then, one night, he attended a seminar on creation presented by Ken Ham. He came away from that evening with a faith on fire. From that point, his spiritual growth exploded because he had a new appreciation for the authenticity of the Bible. He had confidence in Scripture. Peter tells us that we should have such confidence and a ready answer for that confidence.

Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. 1 Peter 3:15-16

You can help others grow in their confidence in the Bible by recommending this book or giving them a copy. You can also use it as a study in your Sunday School class or small group.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dr. Jeffery Elliott, originally from Clarksville, Tennessee is married to his college sweetheart with two grown daughters. He earned his BSEE from Tennessee Technological University and worked as an Electrical Engineer for twenty years. Dr. Elliott has worked for such companies as Texas Instruments, Sundstrand, Boeing, Allied Signal, and Honeywell.

He earned an M. Div. from what is now Gateway Seminary and a D. Min. from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and has been a pastor for more than twenty years. He has pastored in Washington, Kentucky, Alabama, Mississippi, and Tennessee.

“I am very concerned by the biblical illiteracy in America, even in our churches. So many reject Jesus based on a false image created by academia and popular media, never knowing the real Jesus. I write to help introduce people to the real Jesus of the Bible.”

Dr. Elliott is available to speak at your church or event. You may contact him at RevJDElliott@gmail.com.

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