

Why Not Believe It All?



**Biblical Evidence for a Young Earth,
Six-Day Creation, and a Global Flood**

By Pastor Denny Johnson



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As I was watching a documentary recently about the Mormon faith, professors from Brigham Young University acknowledged that there were some credibility issues regarding the integrity of their founder, Joseph Smith. But they insisted with some degree of passion that a “burning” that they felt inside as they studied *The Book of Mormon* trumped any doubts they had.

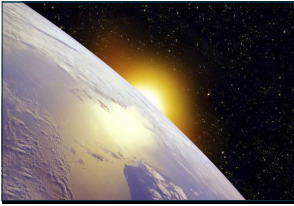
Subjective experiences are fine. Most religious followers have them. But for me there has to be more. Our faith must be a credible faith. After all, the apostle Paul acknowledged that our Christian faith rests upon historical facts: the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ, which is of “*first importance*” (I Corinthians 15:3-8). Paul went on to state in unequivocal terms, “*If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile.*” (vs. 17).

In no area has the credibility of our faith been challenged more than with respect to the origin of the universe and the origin of man. For the last two hundred years, skeptics have relentlessly ridiculed the Genesis accounts which point to a massive, global flood around 2350 BC and a literal six-day creation around 4000 BC. Many Christian scholars have retreated before this withering onslaught, content to reinterpret the biblical texts to accommodate current evolutionary models which require millions and billions of years to occur.

I couldn’t disagree more. Who are we to alter the word of our infinite, eternal Creator to appease the philosophies of finite, mortal men? I thank God for the many fine scholars at *Answers in Genesis* and *The Institute of Creation Research* for their thorough, reasonable, and credible defense of the biblical record.

I also thank God for the ordinary folks faithfully serving in our churches who love the Word of God and “*contend for the faith*” (Jude 3). In the nineteen years I have served at Annandale Evangelical Free Church, our church librarians, **Tom and Joan McGregor**, have been shining examples of the countless multitudes who challenge our people to live by “*every word that comes from the mouth of God*” (Matthew 4:4). Thank you, Tom and Joan – to you I dedicate this booklet.

Pastor Denny Johnson
July 22, 2011



A Young Earth

The greatest crisis of faith that I encountered as a young believer involved the theory of evolution. More particularly, I was bothered by the contention of evolutionists that the age of the earth and universe is measured in billions of years, what is known to many as “deep time”.

What made this an especially bitter pill to swallow was the fact that the church I grew up in had pew Bibles with the year in which the events happened found in the margin of the Bible, as calculated by Archbishop James Ussher. Ussher was an Irish Anglican bishop who published his chronology in 1650. After extensive research, he established creation as occurring the nightfall before October 23, 4004 BC, exactly three thousand years before Solomon built the first temple, and exactly four thousand years before Christ was born in Bethlehem. (Wikipedia)

Interestingly, six thousand years from 4004 BC comes out to 1997 AD, given the fact that there was no year “zero”. This partially explains why there was so much “Second Coming fever” about seven years prior to this. Edward Whisenant, a retired NASA engineer, wrote a book entitled *88 Reasons Why Jesus Is Coming Back in 1988*. When that didn’t happen, he followed up with another book: *89 Reasons Why Jesus Is Coming Back in 1989*. If our Lord would have returned for his church (commonly called the “Rapture”-I Thessalonians 4:16-17) around this time, and if we add in seven more years for the “Tribulation period” (Daniel 9:27), this brings you up to around 1997.



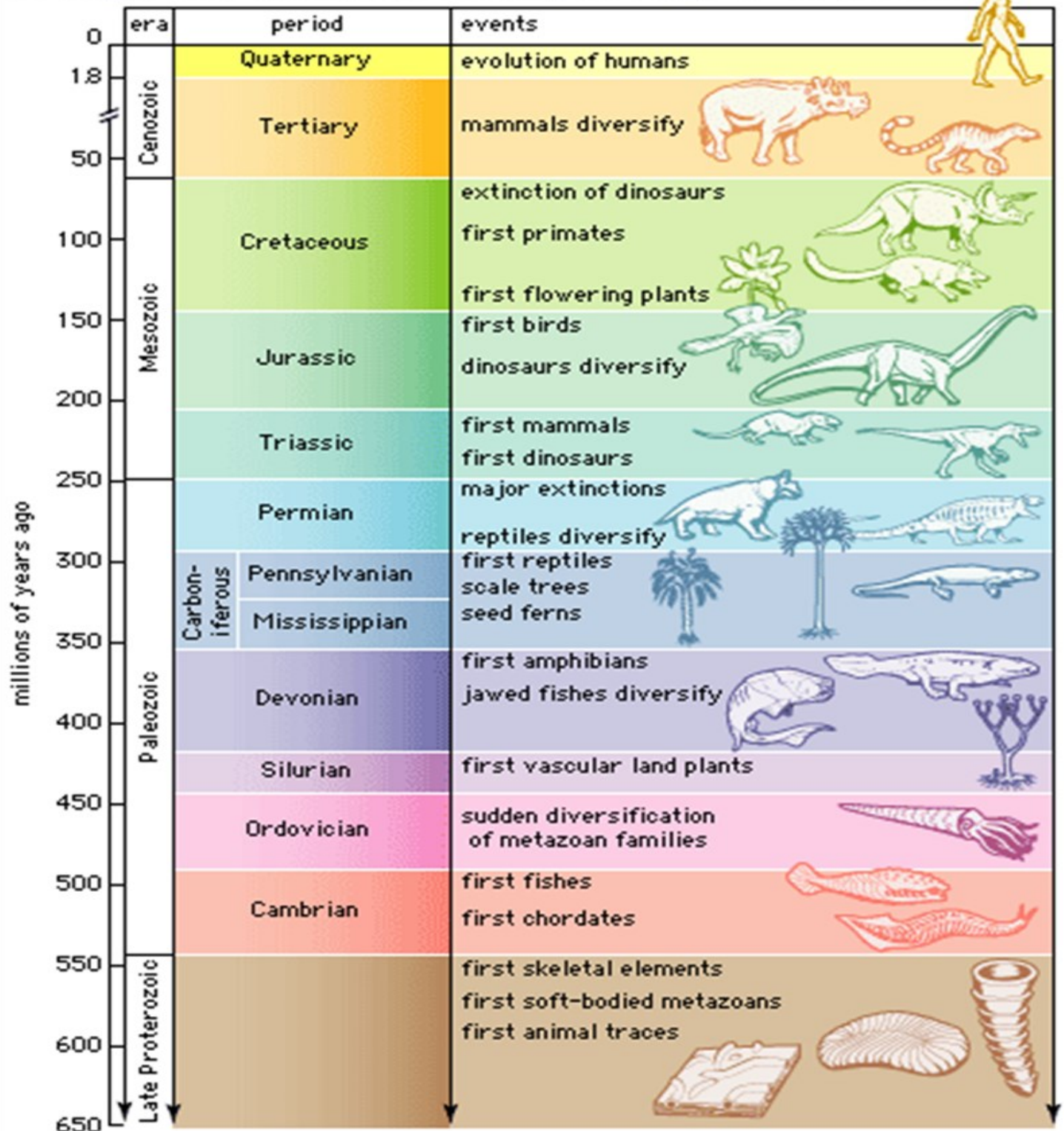
Archbishop James Ussher

This would dovetail nicely with the ancient theory that world history would last seven thousand years. Six thousand would constitute the kingdoms of man, with the one thousand year “Millenium” (when the Messiah reigns-Revelation 20:1-6) adding up to an even seven thousand years. Those who hold to this view cite II Peter 3:8 for support, “*With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day.*”

This is an intriguing theory, especially for those of us who believe the Lord created the world in six literal days and rested on the seventh. The problem is that it lacks clear biblical support, since neither in II Peter 3:8 or anywhere else is this clearly taught. Nevertheless, some continue to subscribe to this theory, maintaining that Ussher may have been off a few years. After all, Isaac Newton calculated creation at 4000 BC, Johannes Kepler had it at 3992 BC, Joseph Scaliger at 3949, Bede at 3952, and Jose ben Halafta at 3761. Floyd N. Jones, in his book *The Chronology of the Old Testament*, lists 34 scholars who have calculated the date of creation based on biblical data. (COT, 26 - see bibliography for abbreviation of source)

As a young boy, when I read from our pew Bible at church, I noted that in the margin of Genesis 7-8 there was the year 2348 BC. I can also remember reading the genealogies of Genesis 5 and 11, and adding up the years, which is how Ussher arrived at his date. So, when I got to 9th grade earth science class, it really bothered me that scientists insisted that the earth was 4.5 billion years old. I was also shown a geological timetable like the one shown here, detailing the gradual evolution of simpler organisms into more complex organisms culminating with the evolution of man himself. In my mind, someone wasn't telling the truth, and I told my parents and grandparents that I intended to find out who that was.

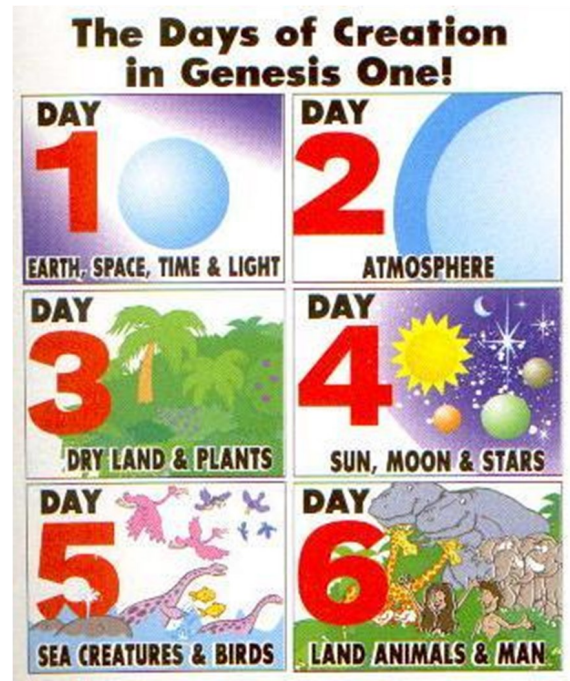
Geologic time scale, 650 million years ago to the present



Attempts to Reconcile Scripture with ‘Deep Time’

The Day-Age Theory: Some suggested that the *day-age theory* explains how God created over long ages. This theory maintains that each day of creation was actually millions or billions of years. But the order of how God created throughout the six days didn’t line up with the order of the geological timetable. For instance, plants were created on day three and the sun, moon, and stars weren’t created until day four. This is a huge problem if the days were millions of years in length. How do you explain this? (NAB1, 108-110)

The Gap Theory: Others have suggested the *gap theory*. This was popularized by C.I. Scofield and the *Scofield Reference Bible*, and has been very popular among conservative evangelicals. This theory maintains that there was an entire ancient world that occurred between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2, including a pre-Adamic race with the Neanderthals and the cavemen and so on. This is also when the dinosaurs lived and the fossils were laid down, etc. (NAB1, 47-63)



The key problem with this view is what God’s Word clearly reveals in Romans 5:12, *“Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned.”* This seems to conclusively state that sin entered the world when Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit, which also resulted in the onset of death. After all, right after God finished his creative work on the sixth day, he looked over all he had done and declared it *“very good”* (Genesis 1:31). How could it be very good if death and bloodshed had already entered the world?

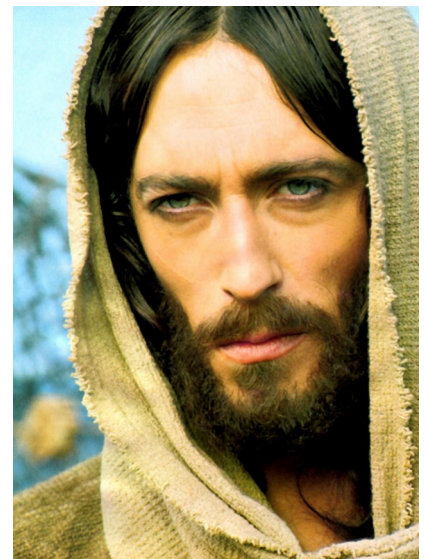
I Corinthians 15:21-22 says the same thing, *“For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.”* Death came into the world through the sin of Adam and Eve.

The Bible is also clear that Adam is the first man to ever live. I Corinthians 15:45 says, *“The first man Adam became a living being.”* There was no pre-Adamic race. The Scriptures seem very clear on this and the vast majority of godly people through history have seen it this way. (NAB1, 47-63; NAB3, 109-117)

How Various Godly People Have Viewed ‘Deep Time’

Jesus: Consider, for example, the words of Christ himself. In Mark 10:6, Jesus says, *“From the beginning of creation, God made them male and female.”* Jesus said that God made us male and female right at the beginning of creation. It is difficult to reconcile this clear statement with “deep time”. If the beginning of creation was really fifteen billion years ago when the Big Bang occurred, there certainly was a long delay until Adam and Eve were created. But, if God created the heavens and the earth on day one, and Adam and Eve on day six, this makes perfect sense.

In Luke 11:50-51, Jesus said, *“...So that the blood of all the prophets, shed since the foundation of the world, may be charged against this generation, from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah, who was killed between the altar and the house of God; yes, I tell you, it shall be charged against this generation.”*



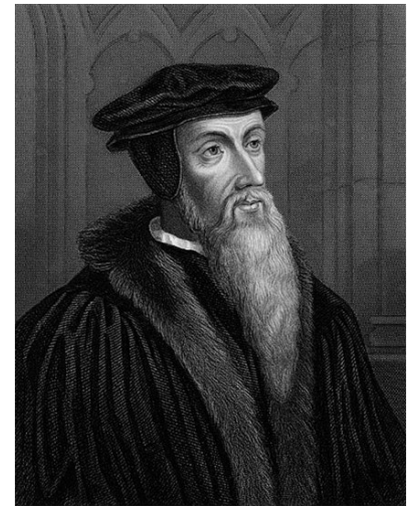
Why would Jesus equate the foundation of the world being laid with the blood of Abel, the first martyr, if there were billions of years that passed between those two events? That doesn't make sense. But, if only a few years passed from the foundation of the world until Abel's murder, this makes perfect sense. (CGG, 315-346)

The Apostles and Early Church Fathers: The apostle Paul referred to creation many times, always implying that the creation of the world and the creation of man happened at approximately the same time. (CGG, 347-371) The early church fathers believed the same thing. Many of them had well-developed arguments as to why the world was only a few thousand years old. They attacked the prevailing circular view of history promoted by many of the Romans and Greeks, and repeatedly endorsed a linear history of the Scriptures, with a clear beginning and a clear end. (CGG, 23-51)



Martin Luther

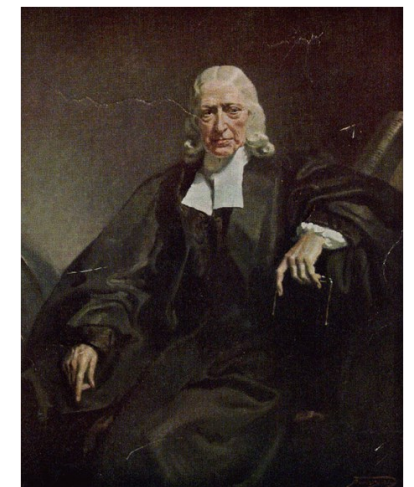
The Reformers: In fact, through the first 1800 years of church history, the prevailing view of the church was that the earth was only a few thousand years old. Martin Luther, who spearheaded the Reformation, invested ten years of his life writing a commentary on the book of Genesis. He pointed out that Genesis 1 speaks of the morning and evening of each day, clearly a reference to literal, 24-hour days. Luther writes extensively of the entry of death into the plant and animal world as well as the human world following Adam and Eve's sin. As to the flood, he says, "If today rivers overflow with such great damage to men, cattle and fields, what would be the result of a worldwide flood?" (CGG, 403-405)



John Calvin

John Calvin taught the same thing – a recent, literal, six-day creation and a global flood. One hundred years before Archbishop Ussher, Calvin calculated that the world was not quite 6000 years old. He says, "Time was first marked so that by a continuing succession of years believers might arrive at the primal source of the human race and all things." (CGG, 405-408)

John Wesley also taught that God created the world in six literal days. Wesley states that the Flood came exactly 1656 years after creation, precisely as the genealogies of Genesis 5 maintain. He further notes that Jude verse 14 points out that "*Enoch (is) the seventh from Adam*". This reveals that the early Christians took the genealogies of Genesis 5 literally. Enoch isn't the sixth or the eighth generation from Adam. He's the seventh. Wesley also believed in a universal, worldwide flood that caused enormous damage. (CGG, 408-411)



John Wesley

The Early Geologists: This is also what was taught by the first geologists, those who study rocks and the earth. One of the pioneer geologists was the Dutchman Niels Steensen, who first proposed the theory of superposition, that layers of rock were laid down in strata, with the older strata being deposited first and younger strata of rock laid down later. Steensen strongly believed in Ussher's chronology and that the flood of Noah laid down the strata of fossil-bearing rock that we have today.

Steenman was followed by the English geologists John Woodward (1665-1722) and Alexander Catcott (1725-1779) and the German geologist Johann Lehmann (1719-1767), all of whom wrote books reinforcing the young-earth, global flood view. This was consistent with what the church believed for eighteen centuries. There was nothing new until about the year 1800, just as deism and atheism were rearing their heads as powerful contenders to the Judeo-Christian worldview espoused by the Bible. (CGG, 80-81)

What Happens When Philosophy Trumps Science:

The Origins of ‘Deep Time’: When I went through a year-long college biology course as a freshman, we were taught about Jean Lamarck, who was one of the first scientists to teach the theory of biological evolution over long ages in 1809. What we weren’t told is that Lamarck straddled the fence between atheism and deism, and that most of his theories have been rejected today. Another man we learned about was Georges Cuvier, a French paleontologist (studier of fossils) who was a pioneer in teaching “deep time” or long ages for the earth. What we weren’t told is that Cuvier was an irreverent deist. He was very hostile to biblical teaching. (CGG, 82-83)

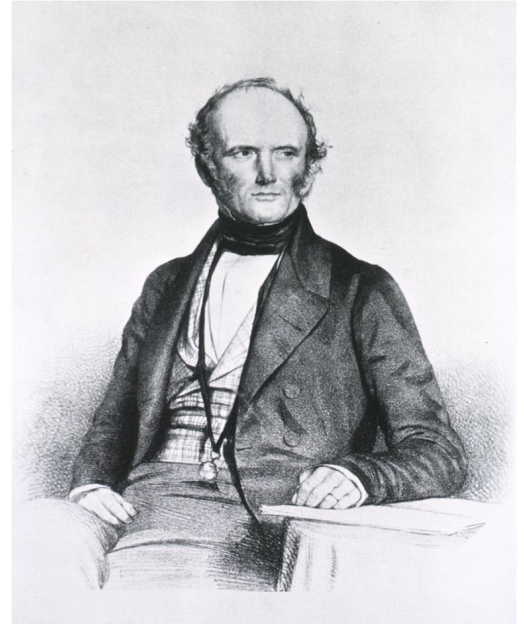
The same is true of Charles Lyell, another deist, or possibly a Unitarian, which is essentially the same thing. Lyell, another early proponent of “deep time”, stated that “geological inquiry ought to be conducted as if the Scriptures were not in existence.” Think about that statement. Wouldn’t it be rather important if there were a worldwide flood about 2300 BC? Wouldn’t that have some impact on geological formations? And isn’t there evidence of a global deluge independent of the Scriptures, especially in the flood traditions of various cultures around the world?

Lyell wrote to a friend just before publishing his groundbreaking book on geology, “I trust I shall make my sketch of the progress of geology popular. Old Rev. John Fleming...will not stand my anti-Mosaical (anti-biblical) conclusions...but I am not afraid.” (CGG, 90)

All of these men were hostile to biblical Christianity. No wonder evolutionary paleontologist Philip Gingerich candidly admits, “Science emerged from a philosophically motivated enquiry into the nature of our world.” (CGG, 92)

These pioneer evolutionists set out to discredit the Scriptures. And guess what? They discovered exactly what they expected to discover, and then cloaked their discoveries in scientific jargon to give it credibility. This is exactly what the gay rights activists are doing today in their elusive search for a gay gene. It’s also what global warming activists are doing in their attempts to link human causation to a very modest elevation in average temperatures. It is very easy to allow your philosophical worldview to trump an honest evaluation of the evidence.

The Link Between Evolution and ‘Deep Time’: The backbone of the evolutionary assault on Scripture is the theory of *uniformitarianism*, which is synonymous with ‘deep time’. Uniformitarianism, according to my college biology book, says that the earth was molded not by sudden, violent events (such as Noah’s flood), but by slow and gradual processes such as wind, weather, and the flow of water. Present day processes can simply be extrapolated backwards, providing ample time for the evolution of all living things as well as geological formations. You cannot have evolution without uniformitarianism. Uniformitarianism is the underlying foun-



Charles Lyell

dition and framework whereby you can now formulate the theory of evolution. The two go hand in hand. Old earth creationists and intelligent design proponents, like Hugh Ross and William Dembski, only go half-way in uprooting a frontal assault on biblical credibility. Ross and Dembski chuck evolution but keep uniformitarianism. Yet both are frontal assaults on the Scriptures and the church of Jesus Christ.

‘Deep Time’ Foretold in Scripture: Amazingly, all of this was predicted by the apostle Peter in the first century. He says in II Peter 3:3-6, *“First of 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 fathers died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation.”*

Look very closely at what Peter says, *“Everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation.”* You couldn’t have a more accurate description of the theory of uniformitarianism than that. ‘Deep time’ proponents believe that present scientific processes and natural laws have continued unabated since the origin of the universe some fifteen billion years ago. They may nonchalantly admit that some kind of ‘God’ may have started the ball rolling (that’s deism) or they may contend that some sort of matter existed indefinitely (that’s atheism). Either way, they reject the God of the Bible who is intimately involved in every aspect of his creation.

Also note what Peter says in verse 5, *“But they deliberately forget that long ago by God’s word the heavens existed and the earth was formed out of water and by water. By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed.”*

In other words, Peter predicted that there would arise in the last days a false philosophy and false teaching that deliberately rejects six-day creation as taught in Genesis 1 and also deliberately rejects Noah’s flood as described in Genesis 6-8. Isn’t this exactly what Charles Lyell laid the groundwork for when he said, “Geological inquiry ought to be conducted as if the Scriptures were not in existence”?



If there was indeed a worldwide flood in the days of Noah as presented in Genesis, this is the signature event in understanding geology. We can readily see what enormous damage floods can do with Katrina and the Asian tsunami, and the more recent tsunami caused by the massive earthquake in Japan. Imagine the damage a worldwide flood could do. How can you understand the Grand Canyon apart from Noah’s flood?



The Flood Points to a Young Earth, Not

'Deep Time'

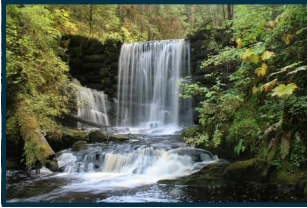
The Flood is the Key: The flood is the key to understanding paleontology, the study of fossils. What better explanation for the sudden, overwhelming, and in many cases deep depositing of fossils and skeletons in the earth's crust around the world? The flood is also the key to understanding what happened to the dinosaurs. If the climatic changes from before the flood to after the flood were so drastic as to reduce human life-spans from 900 years to the present-day 70 or 80 years, think of what this would do to dinosaurs. They couldn't survive the harsh new post-flood climate.

Furthermore, the flood helps to understand why present day dating methods cannot possibly be reliable. They could be reliable back to the flood, and some of the carbon dating techniques have been shown to be quite accurate up to a few thousand years. But beyond the flood, the massive changes to the entire earth were so dramatic they would render ineffective virtually any dating techniques that seek to prove 'deep time'. How do we know, for instance, that potassium and argon decayed at the same rates before the flood as they did afterward? We can't possibly know that. (NAB1, 113-124)

Modern Geologists Are Changing Course: Amazingly, many modern-day geologists are rethinking the theory of uniformitarianism which has dominated the study of geology since the time of Lyell. Even more amazing is that none of these are creationists. They are scientists who are simply brave enough to follow the data wherever it leads, and they are arguing that much of the rock record shows evidence of rapid catastrophic erosion and sedimentation, drastically reducing the time involved in the formation of many geological deposits.

Secular geologist Edgar Heylman wrote a paper entitled "*Should We Teach Uniformitarianism?*" James Shea wrote "*Twelve Fallacies of Uniformitarianism*". Erle Kauffman wrote "*The Uniformitarian Albatross*". The most interesting, however, was written by Derek Ager, who published a book that was released after he died called *The New Catastrophism*. In the beginning of his book, Ager denounces "the obviously untenable views of Bible fanatics, obsessed with myths such as Noah's flood...that is why I think it necessary to include the following 'disclaimer': in the view of the misuse that my words have been put to in the past, I wish to say that nothing in this book should be taken out of context and thought in any way to support the view of the 'creationists' (who I refuse to call 'scientific')". (CGG, 101)

Do you sense a little hostility there? And yet his conclusions have done an enormous amount of good in steering the debate back in favor of something mainstream evolutionists have tried so hard to forget – a huge, mega-catastrophe on the scale of Noah's flood. Isn't it interesting that Peter predicted exactly that? "*But they deliberately forget that...by these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed.*" They deliberately forget. That's true of the academic community, but it doesn't have to be true of us. I want to challenge you to never forget the marvelous work of our Creator. He did all that He claimed to do just as He claimed to do it. My hope and prayer is that your trust and confidence in your Creator is thriving today!



Six-Day Creation

When we were on our honeymoon in June of 1982, I told my new bride, “I want to see Mount St. Helens”. Now this wasn’t exactly a honeymoon hot spot, but it was a hot spot. In fact, it was still simmering after blowing its top two years earlier. May 18, 1980 was the day when this long-dormant volcano erupted with the force of an atomic bomb. The elevation of the entire mountain was reduced by over 1300 feet. It killed 57 people and destroyed 250 homes, 47 bridges, 15 miles of railways and 185 miles of highways. The eruption was triggered by an earthquake measured at 5.1 on the Richter scale. The debris avalanche was about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a cubic mile in volume. That’s like a hunk of rock $\frac{3}{4}$ mile by $\frac{3}{4}$ mile by $\frac{3}{4}$ mile, just blown away. (Wikipedia)



Mount St. Helens Erupting



Mount St. Helens, May 1982



Lava Dome, Mount St. Helens

My wife, Sue, and I got within about three miles of the base of the mountain near a little town called Toutle River, the home of the Fighting Ducks. A gigantic picture with an angry looking Donald Duck adorned the side of the school building.

What I find absolutely fascinating is what geologists have discovered as they have continued to research Mount St. Helens in the years since the explosion. On the left, you can see a picture of the lava dome that formed in the aftermath of the eruption. In 1992, dacite from this dome was sent to the Geochron Laboratory at Cambridge, Massachusetts, a respected laboratory, and dated at 350,000-2.8 million years old, using potassium-argon dating, even though the eruption occurred twelve years earlier, and the lava had solidified at least ten years earlier. (NAB1, 118)

Of course, the same thing happened at Mt. Ngauruhoe in New Zealand. Volcanic rock known to be 70 years old has been dated at ages up to 3.5 million years. (NAB2, 52)

Don’t believe everything the scientists tell you, especially about highly questionable radiometric dating techniques. If you’d like to research this more, visit the website of Answers in Genesis, and search for “dating methods”.

What is ultimately at stake is an unwillingness of our educational academies to entertain the possibility that the Christian worldview is plausible.

In the words of the apostle Peter in II Peter chapter 3, they are scoffers who “*deliberately forget*”, according to verse 5. The Greek word is *lanthano* and it means “to be willingly ignorant of”. These are people who purposefully shut their eyes to the truth. They make a conscious decision not to consider the evidence from God’s word.

What do they deliberately forget? In II Peter 3:5, we can observe that there are four truths they intentionally overlook.

1. The Witness of the Canon

The canon is the sixty-six books that make up the Old and New Testament of the Bible. II Peter 3:5 says, “*They deliberately forget that long ago by God’s word the heavens existed.*” What is the testimony of the biblical record regarding how long ago creation occurred? Using only the Bible as his source, Archbishop Ussher maintained that creation occurred in 4004 BC. More recently, Dr. Floyd Nolen Jones has come to the same conclusion.

Biblical evidence for Adam’s creation about 4000 BC. On page 26 a summary is given of the essential arguments employed by Dr. Jones. The key element in his chronology is the genealogies of Genesis 5 and 11. A literal interpretation of these genealogies dates Adam to about 4000 BC.

What I find fascinating is that the Genesis 5 and 11 genealogies are the only extensive genealogies given in the Bible where the age of the father when he had a son is clearly laid out. For instance in Genesis 5:3, the Bible says, “*When Adam had lived 130 years, he had a son in his own likeness, in his own image; and he named him Seth. After Seth was born, Adam lived 800 years and had other sons and daughters. Altogether, Adam lived 930 years, and then he died. When Seth had lived 105 years, he became the father of Enosh...*” All one has to do is to add up 130+105+... to come up with 1656 years from the creation of Adam to the flood.

Some have maintained that a few generations may be missing from the Genesis 11 genealogies because Cainan is given as the son of Arphaxad in Luke 3:36. This name is omitted from the genealogies of Genesis 11:12 and I Chronicles 1:18. Personally, I think it is highly unlikely that the “*Cainan*” of Luke 3:36 existed since many of the earliest and best manuscripts of Luke 3:36 omit Cainan. Yet, even if he did exist and one or more generations are missing from Genesis 11, there most certainly were not hundreds of generations missing. This is why God’s people up until about the year 1800 overwhelmingly believed that Adam, the first man, was created somewhere around 4000 BC. (NAB2, 59)

Biblical evidence for six literal days of creation. The evidence is also compelling that the Scriptural account of creation in Genesis 1 is referring to a literal 24-hour days.

Of course, the word “*day*” or *yom* in Hebrew can be used to refer to a longer period of time, which is also true of English. If I say, “During my grandfather’s day...”, you know that I am referring to the time-span when my grandfather was alive, not one particular day.

But the word “*day*” is most certainly not used of a time-span in Genesis 1 which the context clearly indicates. For instance, in Genesis 1, *yom* is used with a number – the first day, second day, third day, and so on. Outside of Genesis 1, whenever *yom* is used with a number, which happens another 410 times, in all 410 occurrences, *yom* refers to an ordinary day. Why would Genesis 1 be the exception to that? (NAB1, 88-112)

USES OF "DAY" OUTSIDE OF GENESIS 1

- A "DAY" + NUMBER**
• 410 TIMES (in plural or singular)
• ALWAYS means an ordinary day!
- B "EVENING" & "MORNING" TOGETHER WITHOUT "DAY"**
• 38 TIMES
• ALWAYS means an ordinary day!
- C "EVENING" OR "MORNING" WITH "DAY"**
• 23 TIMES each
• ALWAYS means an ordinary day!
- D "NIGHT" WITH "DAY"**
• 52 TIMES
• ALWAYS means an ordinary day!

AIG CREATIONS www.AnswersInGenesis.org

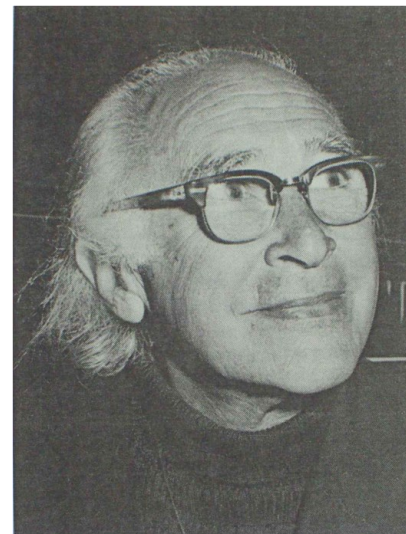
Moreover, every time *yom* is used in Genesis 1, it is in conjunction with the phrase “morning and evening”. Outside of Genesis 1, *yom* is used with the word “evening” or “morning” 23 times. In another 38 instances, “evening” or “morning” are used without *yom*. Amazingly, in all 61 occurrences, the text refers to a literal day. Why would Genesis 1 be the exception to that?

In Genesis 1:5, *yom* is used with the word “night”. Outside of Genesis 1, “night” is used with *yom* 53 times, and all 53 times, it means an ordinary day. Why would Genesis 1 be the exception?

The answer is obvious. The Lord certainly intended to communicate to us that he created the world in six days, not six ages. That’s clear when you look at the Sabbath command given in Exodus 20:8 which says, “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...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.”

Why is six-day creation rejected? I believe there is one primary reason why these passages have been re-interpreted by so many to allow for billions of years. You know what? It has nothing to do with science. Nobel prize-winner Harvard professor George Wald said it best. Dr. Wald said, “The spontaneous generation of a living organism is impossible, yet here are – as a result, I believe, of spontaneous generation.” How does Wald explain this? “Time is, in fact, the hero of the plot. The time with which we have to deal is of the order of two billion years. Given so much time, the impossible becomes possible, the possible probable, and the probable virtually certain. One has only to wait: time itself performs the miracles.” (BB, 39-40)

To that I would reply: You can put the pieces of a 747 jet on our church parking lot, and leave them there for a hundred trillion years. That jet will never assemble itself. Time doesn’t solve anything, yet it’s the kingpin in the evolutionary worldview.



Dr. George Wald

2. The Word of the Creator

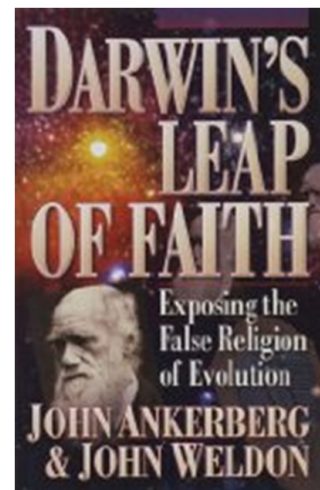


Jacques Monod

Skeptics also forget the word of the Creator. II Peter 3:5 says, “*They deliberately forget that long ago by God’s word the heavens existed...*” That’s exactly what evolutionists have done. They’ve rejected God’s word and replaced it with chance.

John Ankerberg and John Weldon, in their book *Darwin’s Leap of Faith*, point out that “Matter, time, and chance constitute the evolutionist’s holy trinity.” These three things are eternal and omnipotent. (DLF, 21)

Nobel Prize winner Jacques Monod, a biochemist, writes, “Man is alone in the universe’s unfeeling immensity, out of which he emerged by chance...Chance alone is at the source of every innovation, of all creation in the biosphere. Pure chance, absolutely free but blind, is at the very root of the stupendous edifice of evolution.” Can you imagine anything more





Carl Sagan

illogical than that? Pastor John MacArthur observes, “It is hard to imagine anything more absurd than the naturalist’s formula for the origin of the universe, ‘Nobody times nothing equals everything’”. (DLF, 21)

Not only is evolution illogical, it’s also depressing. That’s why Carl Sagan stated in his last published book before he died, “Our planet is a lonely speck in the great enveloping cosmic dark. In our obscurity, in all this vastness, there is no hint that help will come from elsewhere to save us from ourselves.” (BB, 14)

Worse yet, evolution is hostile to humanity. Thomas Huxley, one of Darwin’s earliest champions (nicknamed “Darwin’s bulldog”), argued that evolution and ethics are incompatible. He wrote that “the practice of that which is ethically best – what we call goodness or virtue – involves a course of conduct which, in all respects, is opposed to that which leads to success in the cosmic struggle for existence.” Karl Marx loved Darwin,

giving him a personal copy of his book *Das Capital* and signing it “from a devoted admirer”. Hitler also loved Darwin’s philosophy, envisioning modern Germany emerging in a “survival of the fittest”. Hitler wanted to see the Nordic race rule as a race of *Urbarmenschen* (supermen). Hitler bristled at Christian moral values such as humility, mercy, modesty, meekness, and compassion. (BB, 15)

Darwin, Huxley, Marx, and Hitler all deliberately forgot about God and the claim in Genesis 1 that God called the universe into existence by his own word *ex nihilo* (out of nothing).

Why did they forget? Then and now, the driving force behind the theory of evolution is not science. Nothing could be more illogical, more unscientific, or more unreasonable than evolution. No, the driving force behind this movement is a rebellion against our Creator. These rebels don’t want to be accountable to God. They don’t want to be subject to an ethical standard. They don’t want to bow the knee to anything or anybody. They deliberately forget the word of our Creator that brought this universe into existence in six days.



Pastor John MacArthur



Thomas Huxley

3. The Wonder of the Creation

The handiwork of God’s marvelous creation is denigrated by attributing it to chance processes. Verse 5 says, “They deliberately forget that long ago by God’s word the heavens existed and the earth was formed...”



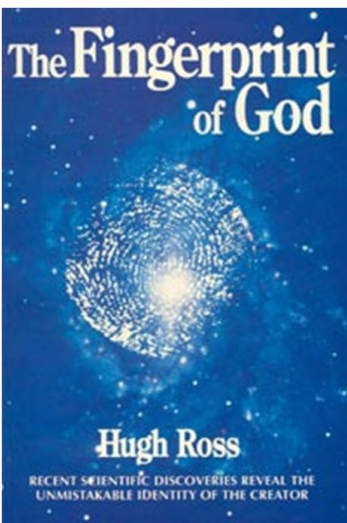
Last year Sue and I had a fascinating three-day visit to the Creation Museum in northern Kentucky, just across the river from Cincinnati, Ohio. More than anything else, what I came away with was a sense of awe over the wonder of God’s creation, and a sense of amazement at the majesty of our God. Now I know there are some Christians who just kind of yawn when the subject of creation and evolution comes up. And you know what? Maybe it isn’t as crucial as the resurrection of Christ, but it is important. It’s so important that Francis Schaefer once said, “If I had an hour to spend with an unbeliever, I’d spend the first 55 minutes talking about creation and the last five minutes speaking about salvation.” (BB, 43)

Other Christians find themselves confused by the various views. I’ve been asked, “Don’t you think it’s possible that Genesis 1-11 is just some sort of poetic language and not to be taken literally?” No, I don’t believe that. Old-earth creationists like Hugh Ross and William Dembski may be fine Christian men who are going to spend eternity with us in heaven, but when they re-interpret Genesis to fit science, I think they are undermining the very faith they claim to support.

R.C. Sproul, who has recently converted from old-earth creationism to youth-earth creationism says, “One must do a great deal of hermeneutical (interpretive) gymnastics to escape the plain meaning of Genesis 1-2.” (EC, 54)



R. C. Sproul



Problems with old-earth creationism. Hermeneutical gymnastics is exactly what Hugh Ross employs. (BB, 57-73, FG, 159-160, CT, 68) First, Ross maintains that there was a pre-Adamic race of what he calls “hominids” (subhuman creatures), in spite of the lack of biblical evidence for this, and in spite of the Bible’s contention that Adam was the first man. Second, Ross believes there was death and bloodshed thousands of years before Adam, but Romans 5:12 claims that death entered the world through Adam’s sin. Third, Ross believes the days of creation were millions and billions of years, but how do you have plants millions of years before the sun is created on day four? Fourth, Ross doesn’t believe that the Garden of Eden was free of death, decay, pain, and suffering. For him there never was a perfect paradise. Again, this is in contradiction to Romans 5:12.

Fifth, Ross believes, based on the fossil record, that Adam may have been created up to 50,000 years ago. The Bible, based on Genesis 5 and 11, rules this out. Sixth, Ross believes that the flood of Noah was a local, not a global flood, which is completely contradicted by Genesis 7:19-24. Seventh, Ross believes that general revelation, the so-called “facts of nature”, are the 67th book of the Bible, therefore on a par with Scripture. Not so, say the vast majority of evangelicals.

Now Hugh Ross does believe that Adam and Eve are real, historical beings, and he doesn't believe that higher life forms evolved from lower life forms, or that humans evolved from animals. But he also claims to accept the inerrancy of Scripture while picking and choosing which parts of the Scripture he accepts as literal truth.

That's a highly dangerous thing to do! I have a better idea. Why not believe it all? After all, II Peter 3:7 says, *“By the same word, the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire.”* We all agree that it's not going to take millions and billions of years to destroy our planet and our universe. God is going to do it by the power of his word, exactly the same word that called this world into existence in Genesis 1. In the course of six awesome, amazing, wondrous days all of creation was brought into existence out of nothing. Some have deliberately forgotten the wonder of those six days. Don't be one of them!

4. The Water of the Cosmos

Finally, the fourth truth the scoffers deliberately forget is the water of the cosmos. There is a key role that water plays during creation week and during the global flood that is pivotal in correctly understanding both of these events. II Peter 3:5 says, *“They deliberately forget that long ago by God's word the heavens existed and the earth was formed out of water and with water.”*

Why the emphasis on water? I believe the Holy Spirit inspired Peter to write this, knowing that there would be a day when scoffers and mockers would ridicule the idea of Noah's flood. The question often asked is, “Where did all the water to flood the whole earth come from?” Right now if the whole earth rained the entire amount of precipitation that is in the atmosphere, there would only be two inches of water that would fall over the entire earth. That's all the water that's up there. (GF, 121)

But it wasn't that way at the beginning, and Peter reminds us of that. In Genesis 1:6-9, the Bible says, *“And God said, ‘Let there be an expanse between the waters to separate water from water’. So God made the expanse and separated the water under the expanse from the water above it. And it was so. God called the expanse ‘sky’ And there was evening and morning – the second day. And God said, ‘Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear.’ And it was so.”*

Proverbs 8:27-29 also highlights the key role of water during creation, *“I was there when he set the heavens in place, when he marked out the horizon on the face of the deep, when he established the clouds above and fixed securely the fountains of the deep, when he gave the sea its boundary so the waters would not overstep his command, and when he marked out the foundations of the earth.”*

The Bible teaches that on the second day of creation God collected the upper waters into something like a vapor canopy around the whole earth, and the lower waters into underground reservoirs and above-ground seas. Then on the third day, he allowed the land to appear.

This canopy of water vapor is the key to understanding how humans could have lived to 900+ years of age and why dinosaurs grew to such enormous sizes. It may have provided substantial protection from the ultraviolet radiation of the sun (which significantly contributes to aging) as well as ensuring a mild, tropical climate over the entire earth. The fountains of the deep together with this vapor canopy are the key to where the enormous amount of water came from to flood the entire earth. (GF, 253-258)

An amazing true story about the power of water. Scoffers overlook the key role of water in the creation accounts. Believers don't. Water has an amazing power to rearrange the landscape. A fascinating example of this is what has happened over the last two hundred years in southwestern Georgia, near the Alabama border. A spectacular canyon covering nearly eleven hundred acres of land has formed. It is aptly named Providence Canyon, also called Georgia's Little Grand Canyon. (BB, 53)

In the early 1800s, the entire area was flat farmland. By the mid-1800s, farmers had completely cleared the area of trees and their root systems, leaving the area susceptible to erosion. In 1846, heavy rainfall began forming small gullies and crevices which expanded with every successive rainfall. By the 1940s, nearby buildings and towns had to be moved to accommodate the growing canyon. Today the canyon comprises sixteen fingers, some more than one mile in length. At places the distance from the canyon floor to the rim is as high as a fifteen story building. It's all part of a state park today, lush with trees and wildlife.



Now here's the clincher. Providence Canyon is virtually indistinguishable from canyons geologists claim took billions of years to form. If this canyon was formed over 200 years from simple rainfall, is it not reasonable to believe that the Grand Canyon could have been formed from a global flood some 4300 years ago?

"It is I who made the earth and created mankind upon it. My own hands stretched out the heavens; I marshaled their starry hosts." Isaiah 45:12. What a Creator!





A Global Flood

One of the highlights of my life was to see the great pyramids in Egypt. The largest of the three giant ones is the Pyramid of Khufu, standing at 450 feet high. It was the tallest manmade structure in the world for over 3800 years. The second largest pyramid, the Pyramid of Khafre, is only slightly smaller at 448 feet.



Pyramid of Khufu

You just can't imagine how big they are until you start crawling around on them. It is estimated that the Pyramid of Khufu has 2.4 million stone blocks, each weighing about 5000 pounds. It is estimated that it took 100,000 men 20 years to build.



Pyramid of Khafre

One of the things that did bother me when we were at the pyramids was finding out that they were estimated to be constructed around 2550 BC, which doesn't fit in with the biblical chronology based on Genesis 5 and 11, which would place Noah's flood at about 2348 BC. It is highly doubtful if the pyramids could have survived the flood which completely rearranged the geology and topography of the planet.

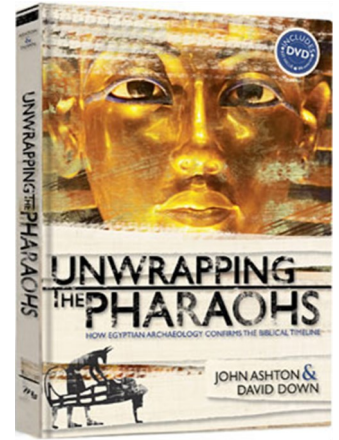
Some biblical scholars have tried to stretch the biblical chronology by asserting that there were gaps in the genealogies. For instance, Genesis 5:21 says, "*When Enoch had lived 65 years, he became the father of Methuselah.*" The King James Version says that he "*begat*" Methuselah. The Hebrew word is *yalad* and it almost always refers to the actual father, not a grandfather or a distant ancestor. It is highly debatable whether *yalad* ever refers to an ancestor. And yet that is precisely how most modern biblical scholars have interpreted it in Genesis 5 and 11 for one primary reason – in order to harmonize the Scripture with the older dates given for Egyptian and Babylonian chronologies. (NAB2, 55-62)



They do this in spite of the fact that it has been demonstrated that Egyptian and Babylonian historians were under pressure to substantiate their culture as the most ancient. Certain dynasties were lengthened and other dynasties that overlapped were listed as standing alone. Sadly, modern historians would rather interpret the Bible in light of questionable Egyptian history rather than interpreting Egyptian history in light of the Bible. (NAB2, 245-256)

Actually, the traditional Egyptian history is built on a lot of assumptions. Even carbon-14 dating supports a much younger age for the pyramids and Egyptian history. Besides, Josephus, the expert historian at the time of Christ, wrote that Abraham "communicated to them (the Egyptians) arithmetic, and delivered to them the science of astronomy; for before Abram came into Egypt they were unacquainted with those parts of learning; for that science came from the Chaldeans into Egypt." (UTP, 37)

Abraham may very well have brought the Egyptians the key knowledge to erect the astonishing pyramids. At least that's what archaeologist David Down concluded in his book *Unwrapping the Pharaohs*. Dr. Down has spent fifty years studying archaeological digs, and he believes Kufu was a contemporary of Abram, and that his pyramid was built around 1875 BC, exactly where the biblical record would point.



In fact the Bible says it was a grandson of Noah, Mizraim, who founded Egypt somewhere around 2188 BC, roughly fifty to sixty years after the tower of Babel. This means that over two hundred years would pass from the founding of Egypt to the construction of the pyramids, plenty of time to account for a population in the millions to be in Egypt by then, and plenty of time to account for a workforce of 100,000 rugged young men.

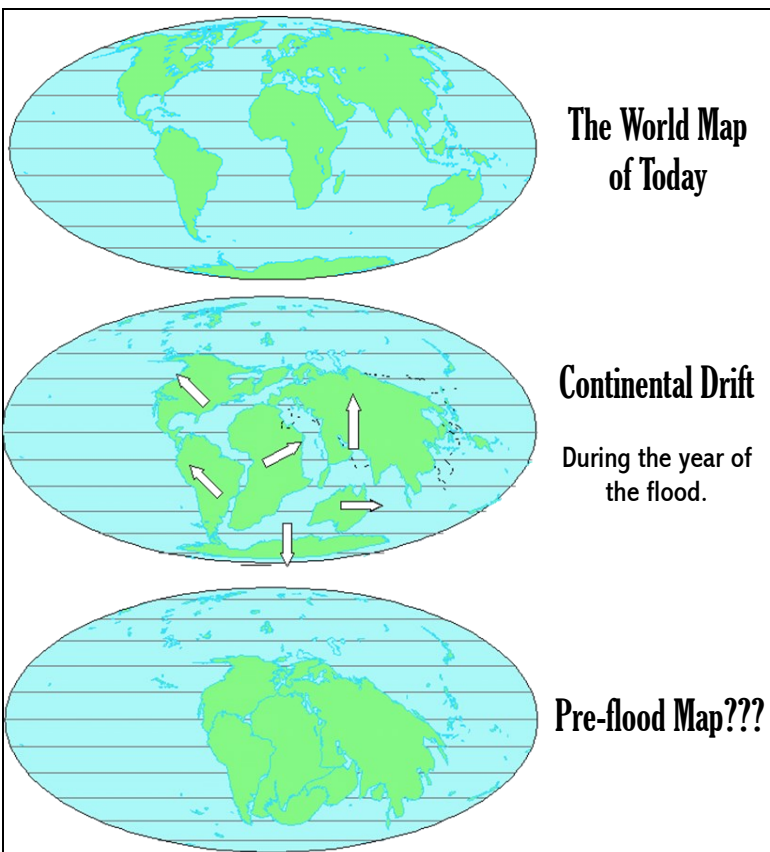
Why not believe it all? More than once, as I have studied the book of Genesis, I've asked myself that question. Why do we go to such great lengths to come up with all of these unlikely interpretations of Scripture when the plain meaning of the text makes so much sense?

Yet, that is done over and over again, and one of the clearest evidences of this is how theologians have tried to come up with various convoluted explanations for Noah's flood.

The apostle Peter says of these scoffers, *"They deliberately forget that long ago by God's word the heavens existed and the earth was formed out of water and by water."* We examined the way six-day creation is ridiculed in the last chapter. In similar fashion, the great flood of Noah is also maligned. II Peter 3:5-6 says, *"They deliberately forget that...by these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed."*

Now the Bible doesn't tell us everything we may wish to know about the world before the flood, but it does tell us three facts about the pre-flood world which you can bank on.

1. The Pre-Flood World Was A Different World

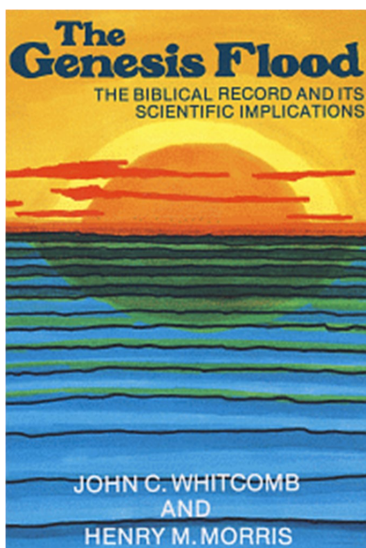


II Peter 3:6 says, *"By these waters also the world of that time..."* The King James Version says, *"the world that then was"*. Actually the KJV follows the original Greek the closest. The Greek says *tote kosmos*, literally "the world of then". There is a distinction being drawn between that world (the pre-flood world) and the world that we now live in. (MAC, 118-119)

They were different. How were they different? Well, the Bible gives us a number of clues. Genesis 1:9 says, for instance, that on the third day of creation, *"God said, 'Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear.'"* The fact that the water is gathered to one place may point to the fact that there was land and there was water. Some creation scientists believe all the continents were together before the flood which is demonstrated in the diagrams on the right. (NAB3, 220)

We also know that the pre-flood world had a different climate. Genesis 1:7 says, “*God separated the water under the expanse from the water above it.*” The King James Version uses the word “*firmament*”. This verse points to a large amount of water in the atmosphere, possibly enough to provide a sort of canopy over the earth that caused the earth to be like a hothouse or a greenhouse. This may have prevented mass air movements, therefore resulting in a mild, tropical climate as well as providing significant protection from the harmful ultra-violet rays of the sun which play a major role in the aging process. (GF, 399)

Genesis 6:27 tells us that Methuselah lived to be 969 years old. If you do the math, he died in the year of the flood. His name literally meant, “When he dies, it will come”. Tradition has it that Methuselah died one week before the flood, and God gave Noah these seven days to mourn the loss of his grandfather. Then the door to the ark was closed. This was also the last chance for mankind to heed God’s warning of coming judgment. Methuselah was a living, breathing warning that the time of mercy and grace had ended.



Genesis 1:24 tells us that God created all the animals on the sixth day. It says, “*Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: livestock, creatures that move along the ground, and wild animals, each according to its kind.*” This certainly included dinosaurs, among all the other animals. Of course, reptiles love a hot, tropical climate, and they would keep growing as long as they lived. The dinosaurs, like men and women, probably had long life-spans and therefore grew to enormous sizes. (GF, 243)

One of my favorite creationist speakers is Dr. John C. Whitcomb, co-author (along with Dr. Henry M. Morris) of *The Genesis Flood* in 1961 which was instrumental in launching the modern young-earth creationist movement. If you want to hear a clip of Dr. Whitcomb’s presentation, *The World That Perished*, in which he highlights the co-existence of humans and dinosaurs, use the following link: http://creationwiki.org/John_Whitcomb As I write, Dr. Whitcomb is now 87 years old and still going strong in his preaching and teaching ministry.

2. The Pre-Flood World Was A Deluged World

II Peter 3:6 says, “*By water also the world of that time was deluged...*” The New American Standard Version uses the word “*flooded*”. The King James says the world “*overflowed with water*”. The Greek word is *kataklydzo*, meaning “to inundate”.

Again, the Bible doesn’t answer every question we have about this flood, but we can know for sure that it was a global flood, covering the entire planet. Genesis 7:18 says, “*The waters rose and increased greatly on the earth, and the ark floated on the surface of the water. They rose greatly on the earth, and all the high mountains under the entire heavens were covered. The waters rose and covered the mountains to a depth of more than twenty feet.*”

Does that sound like a local flood? Does that sound like a flood that is restricted to the Mesopotamian valley as many liberal Bible scholars have suggested? No way. This was a worldwide flood. That’s why God made a covenant with Noah, “*Never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth.*” Genesis 9:11. The rainbow was the sign of this covenant.



Amazingly, despite two hundred years of scientists and geologists trying to explain away the flood, a 2004 survey found that 64% of America's population believes in a worldwide flood during the time of Noah.

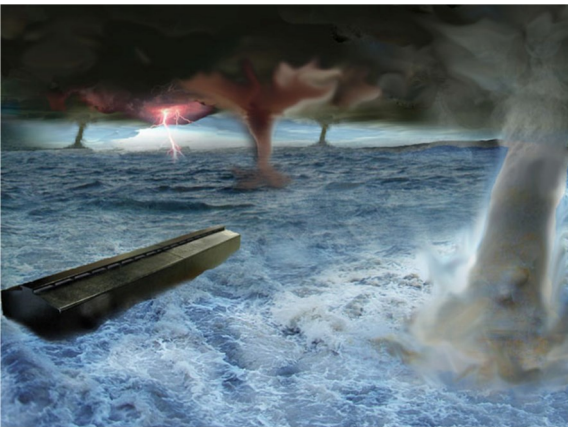
God has written his truth on our hearts. Again, I would say, "Why not believe it all? Why not believe that the flood occurred about 2300 BC, right where the genealogies of Genesis 5 and 11 point to?"

The Bible says that there were massive geological disturbances that occurred during the 371 days of the flood. Genesis 7:11 says, "*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. And the rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights.*"



Do you think dates are important to God? Note that God tells us the exact day in which the flood began. Noah apparently kept meticulous records which is especially interesting in light of the fact that he lived 350 years beyond the flood (Genesis 9:28-29). His son, Shem, lived 502 years after the flood (Genesis 11:10-11). This tells us that these men would most certainly have corrected any inaccurate genealogical records or other details regarding the flood and the pre-flood world that are recorded and were handed down in Genesis 1-11.

Jesus affirmed that we can have utmost confidence in the integrity of God's word. He said, "*Man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.*" Matthew 4:4. A chapter later, Jesus underscores that the accuracy of God's word extends to the smallest details, "*I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.*" Matthew 5:18.



God's word said that when the flood began "*all the springs of the great deep burst forth*". Huge outpourings of hot water and steam burst forth from the earth along with cataclysmic volcanic eruptions. The continents were pushed apart. The mountain ranges were pushed up. Interestingly, there have been fish fossils found in limestone beds high up in the Himalayas, nearly 30,000 feet above sea level. (NAB3, 284)

How did they get there? The global flood of Noah is the only rational explanation. *The Institute of Creation Research* founded by Dr. Henry Morris and *Answers in Genesis* founded by Ken Ham have enrolled thousands of scientists with advanced degrees who are working hard to show how a proper understanding of science correlates nicely with the biblical record. The greatest blessing that Morris and Ham have given the Christian church is to create "think tanks" where like-minded Christians can research together.



Meanwhile, the secular academic world is doing everything it can to stop them. I browsed through a book of several hundred pages when I was at the Creation Museum with account after account of scientists who were fired or demoted or not granted tenure or blackballed all because they would not toe the party line on evolution and “deep time”. Many have sacrificed stellar careers in order to follow the data where it leads. The Bible declares that the pre-flood world was deluged in a global catastrophe that lasted 371 days. When Noah got off the ark, he walked into an entirely different world from the one he left. This brings us to the third fact about the pre-flood world.

3. The Pre-Flood World Was A Destroyed World

II Peter 3:6 says, “*By water also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed.*” The Greek word for “destroyed” is *apoleto* and it refers to the complete eradication of all human life and all animal life on the earth.

Genesis 7:21 says, “*Every living thing that moved on the earth perished – birds, livestock, wild animals, all the creatures that swarm over the earth, and all mankind. Everything on dry land that had the breath of life in its nostrils died. Every living thing on the face of the earth was wiped out; men and animals and the creatures that move along the ground and the birds of the air were wiped from the earth. Only Noah was left, and those with him in the ark.*”

Given the clarity of these Scriptural passages, it boggles the mind how many old-earth creationists can still claim that the flood was restricted to the Mesopotamian valley area. Did the Lord in any conceivable way leave in doubt that the flood was global? (GF, 1-35)

Once a worldwide, catastrophic, year-long flood on the scale presented in Genesis 6-8 is established, it immediately becomes foundational in understanding so many issues in our world today. For instance, where did the vast deposits of oil, natural gas, and coal that we enjoy today come from? We know that they had to originate from organic material - plant and animal life – that were deposited deep within the earth’s surface rapidly as the presence of oxygen hinders the process of turning this matter into fuel.



Today we are learning more and more about this. We now know that plant and animal matter and waste can be turned into fuel relatively quickly. Corn can be transformed into ethanol in short time. It doesn’t require millions and billions of years. Geologist Dr. Andrew Snelling has documented how the vast deposits of oil, natural gas, and coal dovetail nicely with a global flood occurring 4300 years ago. (NAB3, 289)



A global flood also means we now have a different explanation for the 1500 large fossil bones found at the Dinosaur National Monument in eastern Utah. These dinosaurs were buried suddenly by swirling flood waters and deposited in the rapidly forming sedimentary layers of rock, right along with fossils of sea creatures and other marine life.

A few hundred miles away is Yellowstone National Park where it would take unusual catastrophic conditions to produce petrified trees like these pictured on this page. Just south of Yellowstone are the Grand Tetons, which were lifted some 25,000 feet as a result of the flood and the Ice Age that followed. And then, of course, there is the Grand Canyon, which can be explained by a ‘little water, lot of time’ model espoused by evolutionists or it can be explained by a ‘lot of water, little time’ model due to the relatively recent global flood of Noah.

(YE, 96-119)



Grand Tetons

Thankfully, our Creator is patient and long-suffering, not willing that any should perish. That’s why he gave warning after warning after warning about the coming flood. In fact, I count five specific warnings that our Lord gave to anyone who was listening.

First, he warned through the naming of a man named Methuselah. This warning was given 969 years before the flood came. Methuselah, as indicated earlier, was named “When he dies, it shall come.” Imagine the questions such a name would engender. All his life, Methuselah would hear, “So just what is this that is going to come when you die?” It was an opportunity to share.

Secondly, there was the warning



Yellowstone

And yet the most important lesson of a worldwide flood in the time of Noah is what we learn about God. We learn that our Creator is a holy God who will not indefinitely tolerate the reign of evil upon his earth. He held man accountable in the days of Noah and he does today as well. Payment for sin must be made. We can either pay the price for our own sin eternally, or we can be like Noah and “*find grace in the eyes of the Lord*” *Genesis 6:8*. Noah was looking forward to One who would sacrifice his life on a cross to pay for his sins. Today, we can look back to that same cross to find forgiveness for our sins.



Grand Canyon

through Noah 120 years before the flood came. God told Noah this directly in Genesis 6:3. Because we are told in II Peter 2:5 that Noah was a preacher, we can have confidence that he certainly would have proclaimed this warning from God.

Thirdly, there was the warning through the construction of the ark. The ark was about 2/3 the length of the Titanic. It was a massive ship. In fact, it was the largest ship ever built until the 1800s. For us Minnesotans who often visit the Canal Park in the city of Duluth, we can imagine this huge boat filling the canal heading out to Lake Superior. The ark was a powerful, visual warning to everyone that it was time to get right with God.

Fourth, there was the gathering of the animals. According to Genesis 7:9, they “*came to Noah and entered the ark*”. Again, this was a powerful, visual reminder to the people that judgment was right around the corner.

Finally, there was the death of Methuselah and the final seven days when the door to the ark remained open, according to Genesis 7:4. Methuselah died, and sure enough it came. But not before seven last days of grace. There were seven final days for anyone to get right with God and board the ark. Then, according to Genesis 7:16, God shut the door.

The same is true today. In fact, Jesus told us, “*As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.*” *Matthew 24:37*. I have documented in another booklet, *One Hundred Fulfilled Prophecies in One Hundred Years*, that God is giving our world warning after warning after warning that the coming of Christ is right around the corner. We, like the people in Noah’s day, are to get ready to meet God. Today, the door to the ark remains open. How long? We don’t know. The signs are all around us that something big is coming soon. The age of grace is coming to a close. Will you get right with God today?

Calculating the Date of Creation

According to *The Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible*, most scholars date Abraham's birth to around 2000 BC. Dr. Floyd Nolen Jones in the *Chronology of the Old Testament* has Abraham's birth at 1996 BC. Most dating controversies pertain to the Genesis 5 and 11 genealogies and whether to take them literally. If you take these genealogies at face value, you will arrive at a date for creation of approximately 4004 BC, as noted below.

According to Genesis 5:

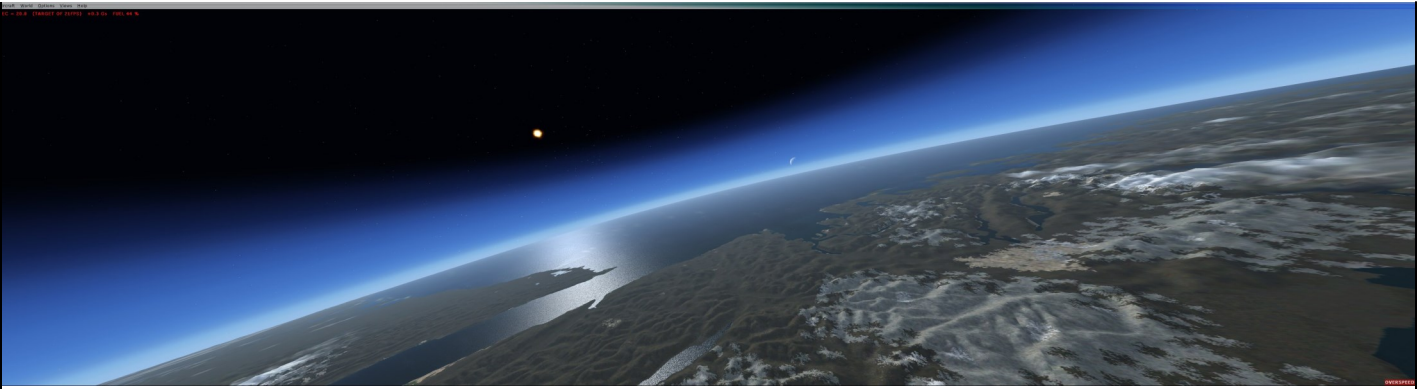
<i>Adam created</i>		4004 BC
Adam's age when Seth was born	130 yrs.	3874 BC
Seth's age when Enos was born	105 yrs.	3769 BC
Enos's age when Cainan was born	90 yrs.	3679 BC
Cainan's age when Mahalaleel was born	70 yrs.	3609 BC
Mahalaleel's age when Jared was born	65 yrs.	3544 BC
Jared's age when Enoch was born	162 yrs.	3382 BC
Enoch's age when Methuselah was born	65 yrs.	3317 BC
Methuselah's age when Lamech was born	187 yrs.	3130 BC
Lamech's age when Noah was born	182 yrs.	2948 BC
<i>Noah's age at the flood</i>	600 yrs.	2348 BC

The Year of the Flood is 2348 BC.

According to Genesis 11:

<i>Arphaxad, Shem's son, is born 2 yrs after the flood</i>		2346 BC
Arphaxad's age when Salah is born	35 yrs.	2311 BC
Salah's age when Eber is born	30 yrs.	2281 BC
Eber's age when Peleg is born	34 yrs.	2247 BC
Peleg's age when Reu is born	30 yrs.	2217 BC
Reu's age when Serug is born	32 yrs.	2185 BC
Serug's age when Nahor is born	30 yrs.	2155 BC
Nahor's age when Terah is born	29 yrs.	2126 BC
<i>Terah's age when <u>Abram</u> is born</i>	130 yrs.	1996 BC

Note: Terah lived to 205 (Gen. 11:32) and Abram was 75 when Terah died (Gen. 12:4). Abram is only listed first in Gen. 11:26 because he is in the lineage to the Messiah.



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(Note: On the left are abbreviations of sources used in footnoting)

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CGG	Mortenson, Terry and Ury, Thane, editors, <i>Coming to Grips with Genesis: Biblical Authority and the Age of the Earth</i>
COT	Jones, Floyd Nolen, <i>The Chronology of the Old Testament</i>
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DLF	Ankerberg, John, and Weldon, John, <i>Darwin's Leap of Faith</i>
EC	Dembski, William, <i>The End of Christianity</i>
FG	Ross, Hugh, <i>The Fingerprint of God</i>
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YE	Morris, John, <i>The Young Earth</i>

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