

GENESIS ACCEPTED



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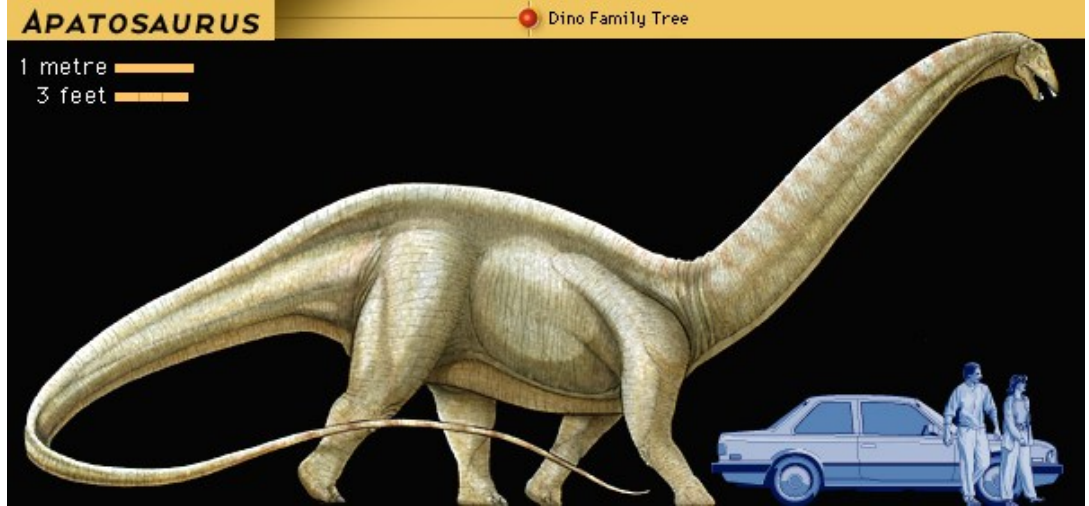
Dinosaurs

Dinosaurs are big business. They excite the imagination of young and old alike. Films like *Jurassic Park* only serve to fuel the fire and encourage a multi-million pound series of spin-off industries of models, books, DVDs, museum exhibits and the like. There is also almost a scientific obsession with the problem of how they died out, for the scientific community, in general, cannot comprehend how such magnificent, Evolutionarily advanced creatures came to become extinct, apparently very quickly, according to geological reasoning and evidence.

Current geological thinking

It may surprise you to know that most dinosaurs were not large (about the size of a sheep on average) - but people are not interested in them! It is the incredible monsters, some seemingly docile browsers and others apparently vicious carnivores, which capture the imagination and bring in the money. It is these too which challenge the Creationist position and seem to provide fuel for the Evolutionary scenario. After all, how could Noah have got them into the Ark, and why aren't they mentioned in the Bible? This is how people argue with some potency.

Geologists tell us that dinosaurs died out 'instantaneously' at the end of the Cretaceous Period, about 70 million years ago, which is about 65 million years before men arrived on the scene! Though the word 'instantaneous', when used by geologists, usually can mean 'over a period of hundreds of thousands or even several million years or so', in this case they do seem to be looking for evidence of a very swift catastrophe which did the dastardly deed in just a few years literally speaking. Their favourite explanation is that a cometary or asteroid collision (see *Genesis Accepted* Number 12, page 2) occurred creating temporary year-long winters, which dramatically altered the climate to the detriment of the dinosaurs in particular. That there is evidence in the rocks for such collisions does not surprise us because such a scenario has already been discussed in relation to the Flood and the Ice Age (*Genesis Accepted*, Numbers 11, 12).



Behemoth is a dinosaur

There were, of course, several types of amazing reptiles associated with the geological ages known as the Jurassic and Cretaceous periods, not just the land-based dinosaurs. There were flying reptiles and aquatic ones too, such as pterodactyls and ichthyosaurs. They too were amazing creatures and are just as much a puzzle to scientists.

A problem posed to 12-year-olds

I once asked four classes of 12-year-old pupils, in the Merseyside school in which I taught, in one of my Geography lessons (I was a Geography teacher from 1965-1986), to say which creature was being described from the following description. I did not tell them its source.

1. Eats grass like an ox.
2. Lives in swamps.
3. Has great strength and power in its belly and loins.
4. Has a tail like a cedar tree.
5. Has bones like tubes of bronze.
6. Has limbs like bars of iron.
7. Is not afraid in times of flood but can stand in the river against it.
8. And no one can capture or tame it.

All four classes instantly gave the answer - 'a dinosaur like an Apatosaurus' - though they all called it a 'Brontosaurus' because the unintentional 'mistake' over the head of the Brontosaurus being the wrong one had not been discovered at that time, so they could not know that the name 'Brontosaurus' had to be abandoned as a recognizable dinosaur species. These children had no preconceptions to spoil their thinking and, not knowing the source of the description, had no prejudices to preserve. It comes from the Bible in the Book of Job, chapter 40, verses 15-24. The animal being described is said to rank as 'the first of the works of God'. The Bible calls it 'Behemoth'.

Modern translators of the Bible into English often have Evolutionary preconceptions, and usually footnote Behemoth as being either an elephant or a hippopotamus, though the most modern ESV (English Standard Version), which we are using for this magazine, says, 'A large animal, exact identity unknown'. It's odd, isn't it, that the uncluttered minds of 12-year-olds could readily identify this animal as a dinosaur but scholars can't because they have been told, and 'know', that dinosaurs did not live in biblical times!

The next chapter in Job, chapter 41, is entirely devoted to describing a creature called 'Leviathan'. Once again the translators could not cope with the obvious implication that here we are dealing with an enormous sea creature akin to a Kronosaurus. This monster grew to 56 feet (16.5 metres) long and its jaw of over 10 feet (3 metres) long was filled with teeth, shaped like bullets, of 10 inches (25cm) long. They usually footnote it as a crocodile, but again the ESV says it is 'A large sea creature: exact identity unknown'. Crocodiles are not denizens of the deep, but even ignoring this anomaly in the identification, this is unlike any crocodile we have ever heard of.

A biblical conclusion

There is little doubt that in the Book of Job there is a description of two, so-called prehistoric, reptiles which are supposed to have died out 65 million years before people arrived on the scene. Yet here they are, known to Job, being used by God as examples of creatures which demonstrate the power and might of the Creator. Job is reckoned to be possibly the earliest book in the Bible, even predating Genesis, so in one of the earliest Books dinosaurs are mentioned. It would have been pointless for God to use creatures unknown to Job and his 'comforters' (who were probably listening in on the conversation in these chapters) to

The Woodpecker Might Have To Go



The Ark as depicted in the popular 'mind'. Overcrowded and too small to contain all the animals.

make the points that He did.

Dinosaurs *are* mentioned in the Bible! We mentioned this in *Genesis Accepted*, Number 11, page 4, and wish to re-emphasize it again. Of course they are not called 'dinosaurs' because that name wasn't coined until 1840 by Sir Richard Owen.

What about the Ark?

Objectors to the notion of a worldwide Flood, the reality of the Ark and the Earth being only about 6,000-years old, understandably usually home in on the 'dinosaurs in the Ark' issue. How could Noah get an Apatosaurus or an Ultrasaurus in? How could he keep a Tyrannosaurus Rex from gobbling up everything it could see? The problem of predation in general, and not just for the dinosaurs, and even of termites eating everything in site, is definitely one for Creationists to exercise their minds on.

First of all the picture most people have of the Ark is of a tiny, overcrowded boat where the giraffe has to pop its head out of the window. It was, in fact, a huge structure: 450 feet long, 75 feet wide and 45 feet high, with three decks (Gen. 6:14-16). The problem is not 'How did all the animals fit in?' but rather 'What did they do with all of the spare space?! It had an enormous cubic capacity, with 100,000 square feet of deck space and could not have been more than 49% full at the least favourable estimate.

Nevertheless, it could still be pointed out that some of the large dinosaurs could get over 80 feet in length and if they stood upright on their legs would have reached over five floors of a modern building. Shoulder blades of 9 feet have been found and each deck in the Ark could only have been 15 feet if they were evenly spaced for height.

This is not the problem it might seem to be at first. Noah was not told to take adult animals into the Ark. Reptiles never stop growing but their growth rates are not too much over a year. Noah only had to take healthy youngsters in, so long as they were

sufficiently mature to breed after the Flood. there would have been no difficulty getting them in. (This would apply to other 'kinds' as well.) Mention of the 'kinds' indicates too that he needed representatives of the kinds - not every species - providing they held the correct genes for variation, and even speciation, after the Flood. Noah could not have known about this, of course, but there is no indication that he did anything about collecting the animals at all. They were sent to him by God. All he had to do was build the Ark in faith (Heb. 11:7) to save his family.

As for predation, it is observed that in times of stress and threat animals which are normally enemies will gather together in places of safety and not harm each other. There is also no reason to doubt that God could have placed them into a state of semi-hibernation for the duration. This would save them from being terrified and going rampant during the early upheavals which must have been horrendous. We must not forget that the Flood was of Divine origin and God's hand cannot, and must not, be left out of the equation.

After the Flood

If dinosaurs survived after the Flood, why are there no secular, or other biblical, accounts of humans meeting them? One reference in the Book of Job seems hardly sufficient to make out a case. And what then caused their extinction?

There is plenty of evidence that humans knew of dinosaurs in the past. They didn't call them by that name until 1840, as we have already said; they called them 'dragons'. Dragon legends exist from many countries, only they are not legends, they are stories based on fact. Bill Cooper's excellent book, *After the Flood* (New Wine Press, 1995), goes into this aspect of things. It also goes into the history of the European races showing how they all trace their ancestry back to Japheth. This is contrary to popular historical accounts, which dismiss these extant records out of hand because they do not reveal the accepted wisdom of man concerning the Flood and the evolution of societies. Hence they don't like the implications of these ancient records.

Other evidence comes from cave paintings and Aboriginal rock drawings where dinosaurs are depicted. There is a monument to a 14th century person in Carlisle cathedral which depicts an obvious dinosaur amongst its carvings. There are sto-

ries from around the world of sightings of strange creatures which certainly seem to resemble dinosaurs, if they are indeed true. Sailors have regularly told tales of sea serpents, and in 1915 a German U-boat sank a British steamer, the *Iberian*. As it sank, there was a violent explosion and amongst the wreckage thrown high into the air was a writhing animal which looked like a 6-foot crocodile, with powerful webbed feet and a long tapering tail. These stories need to be investigated, but could it be that some such creatures have lingered on in isolation? There are too many of them to be totally ignored. We have to admit that even today the Earth has not yielded up all of its secrets. There are still remote areas to be explored fully. The coelacanth will probably not be the last surprise awaiting the scientific community.¹

Conclusion

The evidence is there. Fred Flintstone is more accurate regarding human association with dinosaurs than is *Jurassic Park*. DNA cannot last more than 10,000 years so, if *Jurassic Park* could become a reality, it would speak in favour of a young Earth not a 4.5 billion-year-old one. Unfossilized dinosaur bones have been found in Alaska. They simply can't be 70 million years old.

Dinosaurs are no problem to Creationists and a 'Young Earth' scenario dependent on the Flood. They are quite consistent with it.

¹ In 1937 a coelacanth was discovered off the coast of Madagascar. These fish were supposed to have become extinct in Devonian times, i.e. about 400 million-years ago. Before they were discovered alive, they were frequently cited as being prime candidates for a possible 'missing link' between fish and amphibians. Scientists now know that the fins they thought were proto-legs are no such thing.

Saint George and the Dragon. (A true story or just a legend?)



Day Three When the Infinite Creates

I well remember my introduction to Geology as a student at university in the early 1960s. I was not then a Six-Day Creationist, in fact I knew very little about Creationism. I knew that there were 'peculiar' people who took Genesis, and especially the account of Creation, literally but I'd no idea just what they believed about how the world, and indeed the universe, had been made. Naturally, having been raised as a Christian, I knew the stories in Genesis - in outline if not quite in the detail I now know them - but we were 'New Testament Christians' and as such did not spend too much time in the Old. I've subsequently developed quite an interest in the Old Testament and been able to use it as the centre of many a sermon, but not back in 1961 when I began my university career. I

called Sir Archibald Geikie (1835-1924). No matter who should really get the accolade, the reality is that geologists look at the slow processes of erosion and deposition - the work of wind, rivers, ice, etc. - which we observe operating today on the Earth's surface, and under it too, and assume that they have always worked at the pace we can measure today. Some now will allow for small catastrophes breaking into the normal pattern but nothing on a global scale at all. This is the basic axiom they almost never question, though it is simply an assumption, and a massive assumption at that!

Such a concept cannot be proven since we can only live in the present and have no means of going back in time to verify that the axiom is indeed true. To believe it is an act of faith, but without this foundational

understanding and wisdom to the observational accounts of the people who lived then. (Don't we always assume that we know more than they did about what was happening in their day?) There are signs, as we said earlier, that some geologists are beginning to acknowledge that catastrophes, on scales we do not currently observe, have occurred in the past and must be partially invoked as explanations. Thus the death of the dinosaurs is usually attributed to some sort of cosmic collision with the Earth some 65,000,000 years ago. It's not accurate but it's a start. However the one catastrophe they will not admit is the very one to which Peter was referring, namely the Flood of Noah's day which covered the whole Earth for over a year and destroyed everything except the animals and people safely locked up inside the Ark. Since this wasn't a local event and was of Divine origin as a judgement on sin,



The Flood: a mocked and forgotten event

would say that my position then was what today we would call that of being a 'Theistic Evolutionist'. That is holding the belief that the world was very definitely created by God - this I never ever doubted - but that His chosen mechanism was via the processes of Evolution. Consequently when I learnt my geology I learned it well for I believed it was the true account of how the world came to be, from a purely scientific point of view.

The geologists' 'act of faith'

I remember that just about the very first thing I was taught about geology was the famous axiom on which the subject is grounded. This was that James Hutton, a Scottish geologist who lived from 1726-97 and who is considered by most to be the founder of Geology, coined the principle that '*The Present is the Key to the Past.*' This principle was drummed into our heads. We were, however, also told that it probably wasn't Hutton who coined it but rather a man

faith the subject of Geology could not function as it does today. Obviously I now do not believe that it is true. I believe only that '*The Present is the Key to the Present*' and that things in the past were frequently very different than they are today. The description of the geology, and the processes acting on the land which we can see today, is not disputed. It's a matter of study, measurement and observation. No, what is disputed is the explanation of how these observed phenomena came to be as we find them. Thus the arguments are about interpretation and which explanation best fits the data.

Breaking the geologists' invasive axiom

It is very hard for anybody to break free of the straightjacket of assuming that '*all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation*' (2 Pt. 3:4). Peter said that people would forget the witnesses of the past, preferring their own

there are too many undertones and life-style consequences to make them admit that the Bible is right.

For those who believe in Creation as found in Genesis 1 and 2, catastrophes are necessary to help sustain the picture of the Earth's development in a little over 6000 years only. Noah's Flood is therefore a key player in this scenario and many think it may well be the only player, apart from localized events like the eruption of Mount St Helens in Washington state, USA in 1980. This places too many explanations on to one event, massive though it was, and besides which it appears that there have been other very large catastrophic events coming down into historic times around 700 BC. The coming of the Ice Age was one (see *Genesis Accepted* Number 12) and there have been others, outlined in my book *Speak Through The Earthquake, Wind And Fire* (1982), which seem to have been caused by cosmic

collisions - or near collisions to be absolutely accurate.

An omnipotent God

Whatever our particular view of the explanation for these catastrophes might be, and whatever our opinion of their effects also might be, they were as nothing when placed alongside the events we read about in Creation Week. Then, in six creative days only, God prepared and sculptured the Earth completely from nothing and made it ready for His greatest creation, mankind. It seems incredible that God could make the universe in its entirety in only 144 hours, or 8,640 minutes, or 518,400 seconds.

Think of the Infinite

Why does this seem incredible? Because we cannot comprehend the Infinite. We are bound by our own puny, Earth-generated concepts of what is possible, and, unintentionally for the most part, we create God in our own image. Since there is no way a universe could remotely be made in six days using any of the processes we can measure and understand, most people mock at the very idea. If we can't understand it, it couldn't have happened. If we can accommodate our minds to considering a little what the Infinite might just be able to do, we would soon come around to the most puzzling question of all. This is not, 'How could God have created the universe in six days?' but rather, **'Why did it take Him so long?'**

When God was with us

When the Saviour was here on Earth, He performed several well-known miracles showing His mastery over nature. Frankly the scale of those miracles, wonderful though they were, was tiddly-small by comparison to the miracle of Creation. He stilled the storm with a few words, "Peace! Be still!" and immediately there was calm. So much so the disciples marvelled and said, "Who is this that even the wind and sea obey Him?" (Mk. 4:39-41). From this tiny, for Him, miracle they recognized His power and suspected His deity. Then there was the feeding of the 5,000. Making food multiply rapidly was no problem to Him. But His first miracle of turning water into wine involved a speeding up of natural processes in an instant. He short-circuited growing the grapes in the sun and rain, the maturing crop, picking and crushing the grapes, garnering the juice and letting it settle and mature. This is a process of months, or maybe years depending at which point you want to imagine starting the story. He took under a second to achieve it. God is not bound by the natural processes we understand. He is the Infinite and beyond our comprehension. Fortunately He often works in ways we can understand but not on Days Three and Four of Creation week.

Day Four

Let us just take a little peep at Day Four of Creation week to catch the flavour of the

amazing events at the beginning of the world. In verse 16 of Genesis Chapter 1 we read: *'And God made the two great lights, the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night; he made the stars also.'* (Gen. 1:16, RSV). He made the sun and the moon - oh, and by the way, He made the stars. What an astonishing throw-away line!

Do you have any idea of the magnitude of the Creation of the stars? It's mind boggling. There are estimated to be 100,000,000,000 stars in every galaxy and 100,000,000,000 galaxies in the universe: that's 10,000 trillion (British) or 10 followed by 21 noughts. Put it another way, if the galaxies were named after the people here on Earth, every single person would have 16 galaxies carrying his or her name. That's 1½ billion (British), or 1½ trillion (US), stars for every single person in the world. These numbers are almost meaningless to us, yet He made them in one Day. It could well be that He made them close to the Earth and then stretched them out throughout the heavens. In Isaiah 45:12 we read: *'I made the earth and created man on it; it was my hands that stretched out the heavens, and I commanded all their host.'* (emphasis added). This is not an isolated reference and concept because it is repeated in Job 9:8, Is. 44:24, Is. 51:13, Jer. 10:12, Jer. 51:15 and Zech. 12:1. The speed and power involved here is meaningless to we humans who can only understand the processes we can observe and measure. Since there were no humans, or animals for that matter, around when He did it there was no threat to those life forms at all in any of this. Omnipotence has this sort of power!

We learn elsewhere, in Psalm 147:4, that He knows each star and their names! We couldn't even count them all in a life-

time let alone know each one individually. Also there just aren't enough names in the whole of the world amongst all of the people to give them a separate identity, but He does and can. Yes, 'He made the stars also' but it's not until you delve into just what was involved that you begin to catch the scale and enormity of what the Creator, whom we know best as Jesus, did. Take a step back and marvel at the Infinite when He creates.

Day Three

So what happened on Day Three? The crisp and concise, understated words of Genesis just don't do it justice. *'And God said, Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.'* *And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. And God said, Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, on the earth.'* *And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.'* (Gen. 1:9-13).

The creation of land

From this we note that the first thing He did was create land from under the sea. At the end of Day Two the whole Earth was covered by water. It didn't have to be massively deep water, such as we find in the oceans today, but it was deep enough to submerge it to a significant depth. It is most probable that the original rock of the Earth was igneous rock, namely rock formed by cooled molten lava. These rocks normally include granites and basalts today but I favour granite as *the* original rock type at the beginning of Creation.



Surtsey emerging from the sea in 1963



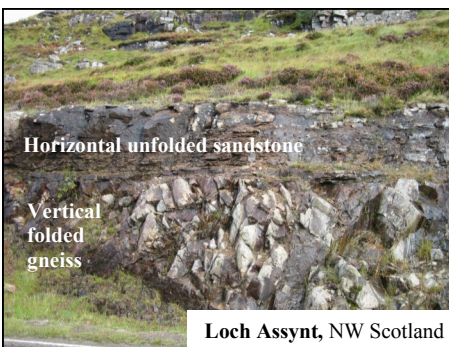
Young Fold Mountains: Aba Dablam (Himalayas)

Photo by Colin Prior

To raise up land from under the sea is quite easy in the form of a volcano. We observed this happening off the coast of Iceland in 1963 when the island of Surtsey appeared from the bed of the Atlantic (see picture above). However, this was not simply one small volcano which appeared; it was a whole continent. We have already concluded in *Genesis Accepted* Number 11, where we considered 'The Flood', that originally there was only one continent. This accords with the findings of non-Creationist, mainstream geologists who conclude that there was only one original continent which they call *Pangaea*. We are in complete agreement over this! The present day pieces of *Pangaea* form the shield areas of today's continents and these consist mainly of hard metamorphic rocks such as gneiss, which is the major rock type of these shields. Metamorphic rocks are rocks which have been altered from their original form by heat and/or pressure. Gneiss is metamorphosed granite and these rocks show evidence of having been folded and faulted under heat and pressure. They are the basement rocks of all continents and it seems unlikely therefore that we have any, or very little, of the original crustal rocks left to study today since later cataclysmic activities have completely altered them.

Evidence

To achieve all of this meant the creation of mountains. The original crustal rocks were raised up high and in so doing they were twisted and altered with newer molten lavas being injected into them. How do we know? Well, when examined, these ancient



Evidence of folded basement gneiss indicating a planed down mountain

rocks actually show that at one time they were folded into mountains (see picture above). But the real clincher is found in Genesis chapter 2:11-12. Here the land of Havilah is described as having gold, onyx and bdellium. These minerals are associated with mountain-building processes because mineral-rich lavas are injected into the older crust. Also in Chapter 4, one of Cain's descendants was called Lamech and he married two women: Adah and Zillah. Zillah had a son called Tubal-cain and 'he was the forger of all instruments of bronze and iron' (Gen. 4:19-22). Bronze is an alloy of copper and tin, both of which are only found in conjunction with mineral-rich lavas which have been added to the crust. So the original rocks in Eden were metamorphics with igneous intrusions providing these precious minerals for people to mine and use. The only important minerals not present in the original world were the fossil fuels of coal and oil. They were not needed until after the Flood when the climate changed dramatically and became much harsher.

So the Lord made huge mountains rise up in an instant. They did not have to be on the scale of the fold mountains we see today, such as the Andes, Alps and Himalayas (pictured above), but they would have been significant. Then He speeded up the whole process of erosion causing these mountains to be planed down to a relatively low-lying level of hills and plains.

Again, how do we know? Because in the second half of the Day He planted trees, plants and all other sorts of vegetation. You need soil to do this and soil is formed by the processes of weathering on bare rocks, but in this case it was not the slow process we observe today! The Lord, who knew all about speeding up natural processes, did so right at the start of the world and on an enormous scale. This too was before He created any living kinds of animals or man so the gas, quakes and steam coming off in the cataclysm of Creation Week would do nothing any harm at all. This was an unbelievably fast but totally safe activity.

Thus in one day of 24-hours, the Lord brought up land from the sea, metamorphosing the original crustal rocks and injecting newer volcanic rocks into the still plastic altered rocks as they were folded, split and faulted. The result was great swathes of mountains across the surface, with volcanoes and rich mineralization mixed in – God was preparing the Earth for mankind. Then they were rapidly eroded to form rich, deep soil for the plants, trees and other vegetation, which duly arrived before the Day was out.

Next Day He created the Sun, Moon, planets and stars – billions of them – and put them all in place, as we've seen earlier. It's no wonder God rested on Day 7. He was shattered!

Why did the Infinite take a week?

We have made mention of the most puzzling question of all, which is 'Why did it take Him so long?' God, the Infinite, could simply have spoken and the whole of Creation would just have appeared instantaneously. But He decided not to do it that way. Taking six days to create and then resting on the seventh, seems a very strange thing for Omnipotence to do. Since the Bible does not tell us why He took so long, we have to make some suggestions with humble caution and not in know-it-all pride.

All for Man

One of the things we have been duped into forgetting by the attitudes and precepts of the current scientific viewpoint is the importance of Man. Christians too have been infected by it without necessarily realizing it. We are told so frequently that we are like the animals, that we share genes and DNA with many different species, and so on. That this is so is not doubted, but instead of seeing these facts as evidence for the same hand designing humans and animals, since we all live in the same environment, it is absolutely natural to form our bodies with similar characteristics - it is taken that we have simply evolved a little further than the animals but are nothing more than animals in reality.

The importance of Man

Man is the climax of Creation. He was

what Creation was made for, and this includes the creation of angels who are *'all ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation.'* (Heb. 1:14). God's focus all through Creation was on His supreme being, Man. Why? Well, we read that 'God is love' (1 John 4:8) and the only creature made with the capacity to love is us. Even angels do not love! They worship and serve but they are never said to love. This tells us that it is the relationship of love which God considers to be the most precious thing of all and why He was prepared to send His only Son into the world die for us, since we sinned and became estranged from Him (John 3:16). And if you doubt this, just note that Jesus did not die to save the fallen angels! There is no offer of salvation for them. It is love which underpins all of Creation and the Creation was prepared for the creatures of love.

Lessons for Man

Consequently by taking six days to create and then by resting on the seventh, God was presenting mankind with important lessons. On Day Four He created the heavenly bodies: Sun, Moon and stars, not primarily to give light - there was light before there were these luminaries so they were not needed absolutely for this purpose. Giving light is their secondary function. They were made to take over the giving of light, yes, but they were *'for signs and for seasons, and for days and years'* (Gen. 1:15). They were made to help us punctuate time.

However, the only time they could punctuate is days, months and years, which are important, of course, but not everything we need for successful living. God also wanted us to live by weeks. By taking seven days over presenting the world for us and to us, He was giving us the best rhythm for work and rest. Labouring six days and having one day of rest is the ideal. He picked this out in the Ten Commandments for special attention (Ex 20:11) and linked it to Creation, telling us that He did indeed take just six days to finish Creation. The atheistic regime of the French Revolution wanted to overthrow the Judeo-Christian week so they tried to introduce a

ten-day week. It was unworkable and they had to go back to what God had ordained. Well, He made us so He should know what's best.

Another lesson He might well have wanted to give us is that of the work ethic. By labouring over His Creation God established the notion that success requires effort. Look around the world today and see which societies are the most successful. They are those with a biblical attitude to work and effort. We/they learned that from God.

It is remarkable too that God laboured obviously over the two elements of the world which seem to defy scientific understanding in its absolute sense: light and water, the most important things we need for living. The true nature of light has yet to be discovered. Sometimes it is best understood as waves and at other times as streams of particles but the two 'understandings' cannot be united into one cohesive theory. God took a whole Day to work on water. We looked at this in *Genesis Accepted* Number 4, 'The Most Remarkable Creation Day'. Its properties make it a unique liquid and its unique qualities make it **the** necessary ingredient for life. Scientists probing the universe looking for signs of life anywhere other than Earth know that unless they find water there is no hope of life, no matter how primitive it may be. Wonderful though the stars may be, He spoke them into existence instantaneously. They are actually fairly simple to understand from a scientific point of view, but water is astonishingly complex, which is not surprising since He took time out to work on it.

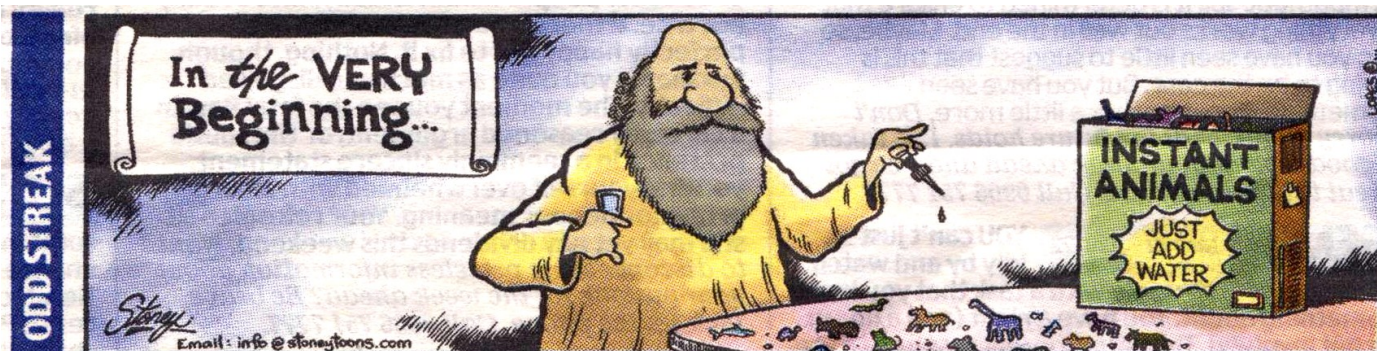
Finally, and definitely the most speculatively, God possibly took a week so that we could be encouraged and guided into studying and delving into the marvels of His creation. The universe He made seems to present us with endless frontiers to cross and new 'worlds' to conquer. This applies equally to what we see as we look upwards to the heavens or downwards to sub-atomic levels. The more we study the more we learn of the little we know. This should lead us humbly to marvel at the Creator

and give Him the glory but, sadly, most people put creation down to time and chance.

The modern subject of science was founded by Christian believers who felt that by probing the worlds which God had created they were looking into the mind of God. In other words they were learning more and more of the marvels and mystery of the One who made us and the universe. They wanted their studies to honour Him. As the Psalmist could muse that *'The heavens declare the glory of God and the sky above proclaims his handiwork'* (Ps. 19:1), so too these foundational scientists felt that they were 'thinking God's thoughts after Him'. They studied and came to a more profound understanding of the One who made the universe. This deepened their faith and love for Him. I believe this is one of the reasons why God left us the record He did in Genesis 1 and 2 and didn't just simply say, via Moses, that 'In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth, and it was very good.' By explaining a little of what He did, He opened the door for us to study His ways and works, as we do a little in *Genesis Accepted*, and thus deepen our faith in the Creator, whom we now know from the New Testament was the Lord Jesus Himself. By studying in Genesis we are studying more and more of the work of the Lord. It is Christ honouring and faith deepening and sustaining to do so and is one reason why we believe it is a most important Book to study to greater depth. Only the Gospels tell us more of the mind and love of God than Genesis.

Conclusion

To grasp a deeper understanding of the Infinite is not easy because of the pressures on us from the world in which we live. Most believe that the universe is billions of years old and thereby try to push the Creator out of the picture. Thinking primarily that the only correct way to interpret the evidence is to judge it by what we can see and measure today, they wish to mould God into their own image and think of Him as being little more than an exalted man at best. They have no real concept of the meaning of omnipotence and omniscience. Consequently they do not believe in the Infinite and what it means when the Infinite creates.



Abraham Einstein!



Gerlache Strait north of the Lemaire Channel

The coast of Antarctica once mapped without its ice

Going to Antarctica in the winter of 2007 has led me to a new, and I think very exciting, perspective on Abraham which I want to share with you. Enigmatically I've entitled this article, 'Abraham Einstein'.

Useful triggers

The reasons we went to Antarctica had nothing to do with either *Genesis Accepted* or sermon material but I remember saying to Barbara that no doubt I'd get some out of the trip. Those who preach regularly, or who write articles for magazines, or do both, are always on the lookout for triggers, ideas, illustrations to enliven the message and make it more interesting for the hearers. I didn't try to predict what would come out of those icy wastes surrounding the South Pole but, if pressed, I'd have suggested something geological to tie in with Creation, the Flood and the Ice Age. I certainly got some of those things but they merely confirmed ideas that I've had for a long time now, some of which we have already considered in *Genesis Accepted*, and others which will appear in the future, no doubt!

Post-Flood to Abraham

What I got, which was entirely unexpected, was the trigger for my personal studies ever since we came home, i.e. for the last two years. This concerns a part of the Bible which we rarely study largely because there seems to be so little said in it. This is the world immediately post-Flood down to Abraham's time. It's covered essentially by Genesis 9-12, or to be more accurate, Genesis 9:18 - 13:2. Here we read of Noah's drunkenness and curse – and we've no idea how long after the Flood this came but clearly Noah had been a granddad for quite a while when it happened. Then we have a list of genealogies in chapter 10, followed by the Tower of Babel incident down to 11:9 and thence more detailed genealogical lists about Shem's descendants, because these were to be in the faithful messianic line leading to Jesus – which is the ultimate destination of the biblical story, and we will do well to remember that as we move along. Then we

shift over to the story of Abraham, and I've chosen to stop it for our purposes just after he left Egypt.

So, from the Flood to Babel there's nothing much, just the odd snippet or two, and from Babel to Abraham there's even less yet this covers about 366 years in all. Just think how much would be missing from our British historical narratives if we had as little detail from 1642/3, the start of our Civil War, down to today. An awful lot was happening to these patriarchal people and ferreting out some of it can be fascinating. It can also throw exciting light on to the people of the time, for our mutual edification.

The Antarctic trigger

What happened on our Antarctic trip was a lecture on the geography of the continent and the statement that it really isn't one super continent but rather two islands under the ice cap. This was only confirmed in 1958 by seismic surveys. I remembered that I'd read in books about ancient mysteries that there were maps from way back in the past showing the ice-free coast of Antarctica and that it was indeed two islands. How did they know that? The conclusion has to be that it wasn't covered in ice when the maps were originally drawn so the ice is of recent origin, which nicely confirmed my beliefs about the Ice Age. I said nothing at the time but on coming home I looked up my books and revised these things, but then I took it further than I'd ever done before, buying books about these ancient maps and again having my eyes opened. These books were not written by Christian believers in the Bible, so were never presented within a biblical framework; but once you start to do this seriously, I found my eyes being opened wider and wider as to this post-Flood, pre-Abrahamic world, and I've presented some conclusions in an earlier article (see *Genesis Accepted* Number 12, 'Before Babel'). The ice came approximately 104 years after the Flood – massive chunks of study as will be recognized behind that statement

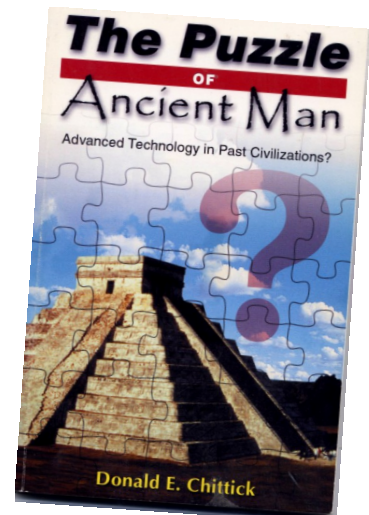
– and our view of these times needs revising considerably.

The post-Flood people

This time I bought a wonderful book about these things by a Christian believer and if you're remotely interested in such things I can't commend it too highly. It's *The Puzzle of Ancient Man (Advanced Technology in Past Civilizations)* by Donald E. Chittick (see photo below). It will open your eyes. I knew a good deal of the detail he handles from my studies using secularly written works but he puts them into a biblical framework. One thing you will discover is that these people from both pre- and post-Flood times were not primitive ignoramuses. They were highly sophisticated, sometimes with technology we still can't match today so we've no idea how they did what they did. Popular science and popular history will tell you that mankind evolved socially from cavemen to today's sophisticates so, going back in time, they were very much more primitive than we are. Thus we tend to think of Adam, Noah, Abraham, etc. as great men of faith but as being primitives socially. WRONG! Dead wrong. They may not have had flushing toilets but they could leave most of us standing in what they knew and could do. There's evidence to suggest they used some form of electricity (they could put gold plating on to jewellery which we can only do by electrolysis), possibly knew about flight, and definitely could navigate safely around the world. As for fashioning and shifting huge stones, some weighing up to 200 tons each, into walls and pyramids, we can't do it and can't even guess accurately how they did, but we can see that they did.

The Egyptian story

As part of these studies, I bought another book: *Unwrapping the Pharaohs*. Its subtitle is *How Egyptian Archaeology Confirms the Biblical Timeline*. It's another good read and



is pitched at the ordinary reader so it's easy enough to follow, and copiously, and beautifully, illustrated. It's co-authored by two Christian believers, who believe in the accuracy of the biblical record. Again, I've been messing around with these ideas since the early 1970s so I was familiar with their basics as I read the book.

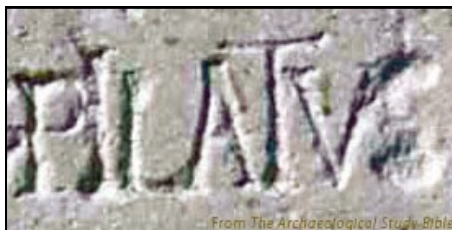
Undermining History

Christians are constantly having their faith undermined by secular scholars, either deliberately or accidentally. It's a battle, and one which I hope to show in one small area here can be won, and that we can have confidence in our Bible.

There's an unwritten rule by which academics seem to operate. It goes like this; 'Where modern scholarship is at odds with ancient writings it must be the ancient writings which are wrong.' This is best seen when looking at the Bible but it's not just confined to the Bible. We probably know that for many years the existence of Troy, which was made famous by Homer in the Iliad, was said to be simply a myth because nobody knew where it was. All sorts of theories were expounded to say why Homer told the story but Troy's real existence was denied. And then in 1870 Schliemann excavated where he thought it should be; it was, and now nobody doubts that Homer based his story on a factual place. Whether the stories he told are true is an entirely different matter because poets often have their own agenda and telling accurate history probably wasn't on it. I mean, Shakespeare wrote many historical plays but you won't learn much real history by studying them. He was interested only in a rattling good story so he could make money and support himself and his family. I've been to Iona and seen the graves of Macbeth and Duncan. That part of his 'Scottish play' was true - there were two kings of Scotland called Macbeth and Duncan - but Macbeth did not murder Duncan at all, though he may have killed him in a battle - but I'll pass on that for now.

Biblical History and Egypt

But it is the Bible which comes under the academic cosh because its ancient timeline doesn't agree with the accepted standard, which is the Egyptian one. There's conflict so guess which one is thrown out? It happens in later times too. Academics doubted the existence of Pontius Pilate in Palestine until, in 1960, they found an inscription at Cæsarea



Copy of the inscription naming Pilate found at Cæsarea in 1960

to him. Currently Israel's two greatest kings, David and Solomon, are questioned because they can't be matched up to Egyptian chronology. They were Bronze Age kings, when Israel flourished, but the Egyptian dates would place them in the Iron Age when artefacts were shoddy. The Exodus didn't happen because there were no Israelites in Egypt at the time and they were not being held there as slaves; we know the pharaoh of the Exodus and he didn't die in the Red Sea; there was no famine in Joseph's day and we can't possibly identify Joseph so the Bible simply made up these stories to bolster national Judaism. You get the picture. The fact that the Jewish history accords with the Assyrian history doesn't matter because it doesn't accord with the Egyptian - and the Egyptian came first so it must be right, mustn't it?

Well no, it mustn't. Since the 1950s there have been scholars who suspect that it's the Egyptian history which is wrong. There are Dark Ages where we know nothing and Intermediate Periods where again we know nothing, but to suggest that these have been made up is tantamount to Egyptological heresy. Yet when you pull out these mysterious periods, and thereby shorten the chronology, you find that you can identify the events mentioned in the Bible. There was a vizier who had the power of a Joseph and there was a long famine in his day. We can know the pharaoh who liked Joseph, and the one who didn't know him and enslaved the Israelites. We know which pharaoh died suddenly and whose tomb and mummy has never been found, which they couldn't have if he drowned in the Red Sea as the Bible indicates. We can see pyramids being made out of bricks of mud and straw, just like we read in the Bible. It's thrilling stuff to read and to know that the Bible is indeed true. We don't need to be afraid of these academics who would undermine our faith if they could.

Abraham's place

So what can we learn that's new and exciting about Abraham? Well once we pull the Egyptian chronology into line with the Bible we can probably identify the pharaoh he must have met in Genesis 12. It was a man called Khufu - known as Cheops in Greek. Let's look at an extract from



Statue of Pharaoh Khufu (Cheops) in the Cairo Museum

the Pharaohs' book (pages 201-202) so we can see what is happening here.

'Genesis 12 records a covenant God made with Abraham when he was 75 years of age, and it seems that soon after, a famine in the land of Canaan obliged Abraham to go to Egypt for sustenance. Abraham was a wealthy tribal chief. He could have had a thousand retainers in his tribe. His arrival in Egypt was not unnoticed especially as his wife Sarah was very nice looking, and Pharaoh's scouts reported this to their master who inducted Sarah into his harem, and rewarded Abraham with many valuable gifts.'

'Relevant to this incident, the Jewish historian Josephus makes an interesting comment. Concerning Abraham he wrote, "He communicated to them 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



T.E. Lawrence (Lawrence of Arabia) with Sir Leonard Woolley, viewing a Hittite inscription

into Egypt.'

'Abraham came from Ur of the Chaldees (Gen. 11:31). Josephus could not have known then what we know today about ancient Ur. Sir Leonard Woolley excavated there from 1922 to 1934 and found it to be virtually the world's first civilization with a remarkable knowledge of astronomy and



The great pyramid of Khufu (Cheops) at Giza

arithmetic. The early Sumerians were the first to invent writing. They made dictionaries, and could calculate square and cube roots.

'Woolley wrote, "After grammar came mathematics, and we find tables of multiplication and division, tables for the extraction of square and cube roots, and exercises in applied geometry - for instance, how to calculate the area of a plot of ground of irregular shape by squaring it off so that the total of complete squares included in it added to that of the right-angled triangles which fill in its contours gives an answer approximately correct."

'There was something else that Josephus could not have known - the earliest pyramids of Egypt were amazing architectural accomplishments but they were not exactly square, nor were they exactly orientated to the four points of the compass, but when Khufu built his pyramid, there seems to have been a new burst of astronomical and mathematical knowledge. Khufu's pyramid was exactly square, exactly level, exactly orientated to the points of the compass.

'All this suggests that Abraham may indeed have visited Egypt during the reign of Khufu and imparted to his pyramid builders a knowledge of arithmetic and astronomy.'

Was Abraham a scientist?

I would question some things in the above quotation because I believe that Adam probably could write, and Noah definitely kept a log on the Ark; the account reads exactly like it. Now the question is, 'Does this make sense? Was Abraham like an ancient Einstein?' Well, those Hebrews were and are a very talented and gifted race or nation! Einstein comes from an illustrious ancestry. To help us assess this we have to learn to think biblically.

Unravelling post-Babel times

Let's briefly back up a little to Babel. One of the puzzles of ancient man is the sudden arrival on the scene of the great civilizations of the Sumerians and the Egyptians. So puzzling are they that academics have to invent, what in Egypt they call, the 'Pre-Dynastic Period'. This is an unrecorded, unknown period of about 2000 years where the people who lived in Egypt supposedly were slowly climbing the sociological and educational ladder, learning to do things like read and write. To suggest that it didn't exist and that the Egyptians, and the Sumerians, did just burst on to the scene seems silly, unless you believe in the Bible, and the story of the Tower of Babel. Once you do, it all slots into place. At

Babel God confused the languages, which divided people groups up. No one person has all knowledge and though the pre-Babel people as a whole were amazingly knowledgeable and sophisticated, once the division occurred some drew the long straw and some the short. Some knowledge remained with some groups and was totally lost by others. The Sumerians were those who had the mathematicians and astronomers. The Egyptians too had plenty of the better brains but not quite the best. Some, poor people, were reduced to becoming hunter-gatherers and, temporally at least, cave dwellers. It seemed somewhat unfair but these two civilizations did not spring from nowhere. They did just pop up after Babel apparently from nowhere, if you don't believe in Babel. They were the lucky cream off the top from the dispersion at Babel.

Back again to Abraham

So let's go into Ur and see what Abraham might have been. He was a city dweller and Ur was the centre of astronomy, mathematics and the worship of the god Sin – a moon god. It's more than reasonable that Abraham was an astronomer/mathematician and could well have been a good one, if not a genius. But when he looked at the stars he saw the handiwork of God, not the gods

themselves. He knew that 'the heavens declare the glory of God'; there is a deity behind them who designed them, and he was not buying into the nonsense of the priests. He would be wealthy and sophisticated, and when he was told to move by God, he didn't necessarily give up on all of this. The family moved to Haran which was twinned with Ur, tied by trade and by the worship of the god Sin. It was only after his father died in Haran that God called him down into Canaan and he became a nomadic herdsman. He was rich, probably brilliantly versed in the sciences of the Chaldeans, and this was to be his meal-ticket in Egypt.

I often say that we have to see real people in these Bible stories. When Abraham landed with his entourage in Egypt he had to have something to offer the Egyptians. They would be about as pleased to see an influx of refugees fleeing into their country as we are, and they would be as resentful of their desire to sponge off the locals as we are. But if they can offer something valuable to the host nation, they would be seen as an asset. Why should pharaoh take notice of this mob from the north? The Bible says that the princes of pharaoh noticed them. Did they mix in the market place? Why did pharaoh invite them into his palace? It must have been there that they spotted the beautiful Sarah. Whatever the pharaohs were and did they did not mingle with the riff-raff or wander around the markets. They were 'gods' and would never lower themselves by doing that. Abraham must have had something very special to offer pharaoh, and once we realise that then it all slots into place quite logically. The Bible tells us nothing about Abraham's background because it is not interested in it. The Bible focuses on the route of faith leading to Jesus. It's only when you puzzle about the whys and wherefores that these things rise to the surface.

Abraham's amazing faith

Now have another look at Abraham and see him as a mathematical genius who understood astronomy and was very rich living in the city of Ur. But he also knew and believed that these things were as nothing, 'as refuse' as Paul would have said, compared to the knowledge of the living God. He knew full well that gaining the whole world was nothing if it meant the forfeiture of his soul. Like



The site of Ur of the Chaldees from the tombs of the kings. A ziggurat, supposedly like the Tower of Babel, is in the background.

the pre-incarnate Lord in heaven, he was prepared to empty himself and become as a servant if that's what it took to do the Father's will. Abraham was God's man through and through and it is no wonder that God promised him that he would be the father of nations and from his seed the Messiah would come. Abraham knew that serving God was the only thing that mattered and when later God would put him to the most severe of tests over Isaac (Gen. 22:1-19), he was up to it.

Conclusion

Sometimes we would like to have more detail about these people but the biblical writers, guided by the Holy Spirit, had their agenda and writing a full biography of every character was not on it. The Bible is there to lead us into faith and to give us examples to learn from so that we can get our priorities right, and thereby gain the same prize as they did. There are clues lying around to help us glean more information than we might expect at a superficial reading. It's fun to delve and ponder but one thing is absolutely certain, the more you study and delve into these

matters the more certain and sure the reliability of the Bible shines through. Worldly men and women may seem so learned and will do what they can to undermine faith and drag us down with them if they can. But we, we must grab the truth that we must learn to think biblically and interpret the world from the Bible, not the other way around. We can then rest assured that our foundations for living will be rock solid. The Bible always seems to have the last, and lasting, laugh when its truth is called into question.

So was Khufu's perfect pyramid the outcome of the genius of Abraham? You know I can't say so categorically but it certainly makes an awful lot of sense. I'm very happy to think that Abraham was a lot more than just a powerful nomadic herdsman and that he gave up a glittering, academic and scientific career to serve the God he loved. That definitely makes sense when you think of the level of the rewards God gave him for his amazing faithfulness. I'm more than happy then to see Abraham as the Einstein of his time.

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All quotations are from the *English Standard Version* of the Bible (Anglicized version, 2002), unless otherwise indicated.

