

GENESIS ACCEPTED



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The Day Cain Was Born

What an amazing day it must have been when Cain was born. Here was the first baby ever. Adam and Eve would have had absolutely no idea just what would happen during the birth, what 'it' would look like, sound like, smell like; what they had to do with him to look after him, how he would grow, how helpless he would be at the start, when he would walk and talk, and so on. And here he was, a helpless, demanding, squawking baby who needed winding, breast-feeding, keeping clean and later potty training, and nobody had ever done this before; and nobody could give them any advice on what to do, unless God Himself sent an angel to stand by them and be there for them – which He might well have done.

I don't know about you but I find it both hard, and yet interesting, to try to imagine what life was like for Adam and Eve and the first family ever. As we've mused before, their children had no grandparents, aunts, uncles or cousins. Eve could never threaten Adam, after he'd upset her over something trivial, that she was going home to mother, and he could never say to her, in a fit of immature petulance, "Your apple pie isn't as good as my Mum's apple pie." He's the only man who never had a mum. They were literally pioneers and the standards they set were the only ones their children could follow. Oh, yes, we know that God gave them quite a helping hand and walked and talked with them before they had children whilst they were living in the paradise of Eden, but what help did they get once they had sinned and been expelled from the Garden? I believe that they had to have had angelic help. God must have commissioned angels to assist them and He still occasionally walked and talked with them, though probably not every day as He had done at the start.

The written record

If you examine the brief story of Cain and Abel, the unwritten record speaks volumes to us; it's almost as interesting as what we read and know for sure. We don't know how long Adam and Eve spent living sinless in Eden. One thing we do know is that it was not long enough for them to have produced any children. Cain was not born until after the Fall. Now this, I believe, is significant, as we'll see later. On the day he was born Eve said, *'I have gotten a man with the help of the Lord.'* (Ge. 4:1). So, whatever she was thinking about life, living and the future, the Lord was definitely very much present in her mind. They may have been cast out of Eden but they had not been cast adrift by God, and they knew it, and they recognized His presence in their lives. She



Birth of Cain and Abel - stained glass from Germany

knew that Cain was, as we might put it, 'a blessing and gift from God'.

Nowhere in scripture do we ever read of Adam offering sacrifices to the Lord, but Cain and Abel both do. Rebellious Adam and Eve may have been in Eden but repentant they must have been after it, for unrepentant people would not live with God at the centre of their thinking. And immediately after the birth announcements the narrative jumps many years. The lads have grown up and Cain at least, by then, even had a wife, who obviously must have been one of his sisters – well he had no other options, did he? And she, poor lass, had little choice too, whether she liked him or not. As we mused earlier it's very hard for us to try to imagine what life was like for them back in those early days. Both lads had jobs and worked at them and both came to sacrifice using the fruits of their labours as offerings. God accepted Abel's offering but wasn't at all pleased with Cain's. Why?

The unwritten record

Well this is where the untold story has to kick in. They must have been instructed, either by God directly or by God through Adam, about what to do, and Abel obeyed but Cain didn't. He thought he knew better. It is most likely that God had asked for an animal sacrifice, not because He despised offerings of crops, which He didn't because later they were to be included in the sacrificial system of Israel,

but probably because He wanted to establish the need for a blood sacrifice as a payment for sin. It was to be the shedding of blood, which was the way He wanted humankind to learn about forgiveness, that needed to be given prominence then. After all, it had been by the shedding of blood that God had provided a covering for the sin of Adam and Eve in Eden, when He killed an animal to make clothes for them. This was not for warmth but for modesty. Also He needed to establish the necessity of doing things His way for He is God; in other words He was saying, 'I know what I want, and if you love Me you will be obedient to My wishes.'

As we look at the narrative after the rejection of Cain's sacrifice and his subsequent encounter with the Lord after Abel's murder, he was obviously dealing with what he saw as a person, a human-like manifestation of the Lord, just as Adam and Eve knew in the Garden, when they walked and talked with Him in the cool of the evening. At that time, had the Lord been perceived purely as a spirit, they would have known that you can't hide from a spirit, and Cain too would have known that he couldn't hide the body of his murdered brother and pretend he had no knowledge of what had happened to him. Both the actions of Adam and Eve as they hid from God and covered their nakedness with fig leaves, and later of Cain, tell us that they thought they were dealing with a much more finite being than an Almighty spirit God, as we think of Him and understand Him to be. I am convinced that they were meeting the Word of God, whom we know best as Jesus, on these occasions. The technical term for such an appearance is a 'Theophany'. We see them in various parts of the Old Testament, and at different times too. God had to be a very 'hands-on' God in those early days in ways not necessary today.

The birth

So, let us return to the birth of Cain and imagine what was going on in Eve's mind. I get the feeling that Cain was born fairly quickly after the Fall and the expulsion from Eden. What God had said on that momentous occasion would no doubt be very much in Adam's and Eve's minds. The effects of the curse would now be becoming apparent to both of them. Adam by then would have been toiling to provide food and Eve would just have experienced, what all women subsequently have experienced, the full force of the statement that, *'I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children.'* (Ge 3:16). I think that all of us men are profoundly glad that we don't have to face that one. I know I was! Adam, like all dads who attend at the birth of

their children, would have had very mixed, and no doubt very confused, feelings as his wife laboured giving birth. You want to reach out and help her and make things easier for her but there's precious little you can actually do apart from being a support just by being there. Only he, poor chap, had to be midwife too.

But we know also that once the pain of the birth is over, there is wonderful joy, especially for the mum, as she holds her precious baby for the first time. It's a magic moment. It's awesome to think that a new life has been created. We parents hold our baby and look at its total dependence and innocence and wonder what will become of the life which is now in our care. There are hopes and ambitions, and, once we see that it is strong and healthy, we can dream all of those dreams. Obviously if it isn't quite as healthy as it should be, we dream different dreams depending on what the situation is, but let's not imagine those scenarios here. I doubt whether there would be anything other than very healthy babies born to Adam and Eve, for the degeneration of the gene pool, which now blights some little lives, had not kicked in at all then. So what would Eve have been dreaming about for Cain?

What the Lord had said

Her statement about having *'gotten a man with the help of the Lord'* leads us straight back in thought to what the Lord said as He cursed the serpent: *"I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel,"* (Ge 3:15). What would she be thinking? Obviously we don't know because we are not told but she must have wondered: 'Enmity? What enmity? When and how would it happen?' Also she would be remembering the promise that *'he shall bruise your head and you shall bruise his heel'*. When would this happen? She didn't know. Would it be Cain who did this? Would this baby she was cradling in her arms be for the salvation of mankind somehow and put right what she and Adam had ruined in Eden? Enigmatically there is no instruction as to when and how this would happen. She learned when she took the bite out of the fruit and gave some to Adam to try too, that God's straightforward 'promises' aren't always as straightforward as we might imagine them to be. They didn't die on the day that they ate it; at least not that they were aware of. They knew that their relationship to God had changed and that life was now not exactly the easy ride it had been in Eden, but neither of them had died. Did they even know then what was meant by the word 'die'? We know, but back then no human had died. Well, they couldn't if the human race was to continue. But the promise was

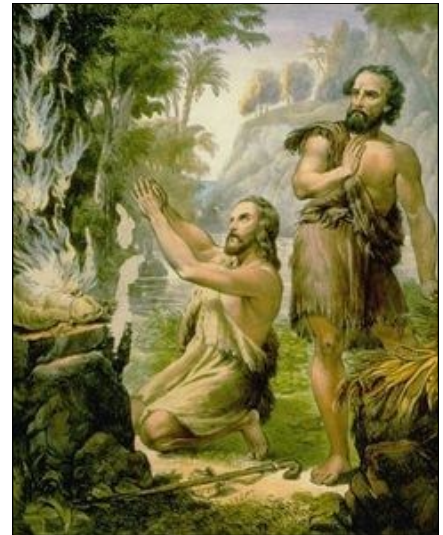
there that God would send one of her male offspring to deal with Satan and the problems caused in Eden.

As she cradled her lovely baby Cain in her arms, she must have wondered if this was the 'offspring' who was going to do it. Little did she know of the whole Bible-full of trouble which was to come on to the world before that promise was fulfilled in Christ Jesus. By acknowledging that her baby boy was 'from the Lord', she could well have been thinking that this was indeed God's answer to His promise and that here, in her arms, was the promised redeemer. Now it would be very reasonable for her to think that, and hope that, and what an ambition, what a dream, it must have been. It was to be a simple country virgin some 4000 years later who was to hold a Son, whom she got with the help of the Lord, who was to gaze at Him and dream those dreams and have them fulfilled to the letter – but not before her heart was torn apart as she watched Him die in agony on a Cross at the hands of wicked men. And Eve had played her part fully in that scenario too, as we all do, though she couldn't have known that 4000 years before it happened, and we didn't know it at the time because we weren't born then. All she could do was hope and look forwards believing in a Redeemer, and all we can do is rejoice, and look backwards believing that the Redeemer has indeed come, as Jesus of Nazareth, and that He dealt with Satan once and for all, as God promised He would way back in Eden.

The boys grow up

Well, we know the rest of the Cain and Abel story. Whatever her hopes for Cain may have been, she could only dream the sorts of dreams that Frau Hitler would have dreamed as she held the pure and perfect little Adolf in her arms just after his birth. Every child has the potential to be a Cain or an Abel, a person dedicated to the Lord or a person totally opposed to Him. He or she can be for the Lord or against Him, and Jesus said that those who are not for Him are against Him, whether they are monsters, like Hitler, or an apparently harmless unbelieving atheist who just stubbornly won't acknowledge the existence and Lordship of Christ.

The boys grew up and no doubt Satan was watching. It would have been obvious that here were two very different boys.



Cain (right) and Abel,

Photo from Wikipedia

One was rebellious and the other was gentle and godly. One was selfish and probably had a violent temper. He wanted his own way at any price and Satan encouraged him. John tells us that Cain was *'of the evil one who murdered his brother... because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous,'* (1 John 3:12). It would be obvious to Satan that Cain was not to be the redeemer but Abel could well have been, so it was a smart move to motivate Cain to murder him, thereby apparently thwarting the plan of God. But God raised up Seth and the plan continued. Satan did his worst at the time of the Flood, and then at Babel, and then when the Jews were taken into exile as the temple was destroyed and all seemed lost for the people of God. But God was still able to restore the plan when Ezra and Nehemiah returned and got things going again.

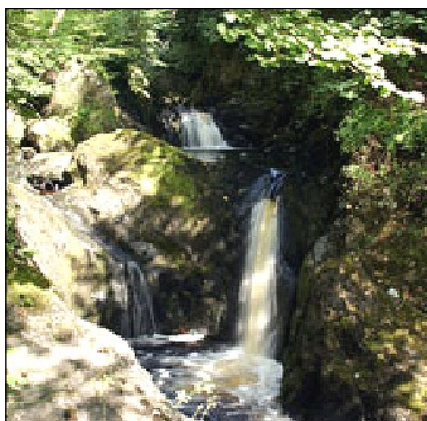
The Redeemer comes

Finally the Redeemer came and the promise of God was fulfilled. Satan tried to kill Him in Bethlehem as a baby, then in the boat on Galilee, but finally, after years of trying, he succeeded! He entered the heart of Judas who betrayed Jesus to the authorities and before a day had passed they had Him nailed up on a Cross. The light went out of the world and darkness prevailed after 4000 years of trying, and several moments of seeming success save for the miraculous intervention of God. But this time nothing was done to rescue the situation and thwart him. There was to be no Seth, no Noah, no confusing of languages and scattering over the earth, no Abraham, or Moses, or Ezra and Nehemiah. The promise of Eden was defeated. Cain's birth was as spiritually stillborn as was Hitler's, and Jesus had been taken and killed so swiftly that God had had no time to regroup and organise a rescue this time. Jesus was dead and buried and Satan could rejoice in his final triumph.

And then, ... three days later, the stone rolled away from the tomb...!

GEOLOGICAL UNCONFORMITIES

One of my favourite walks, no, my favourite walk of all time, is around Ingleton Falls in North Yorkshire. It is stunningly beautiful in all seasons. There you have 4.5 miles of scenic wonder as you walk up one valley, the Twiss, in a wooded gorge, amidst tumbling waterfalls and cascading torrents,



Pecca Falls, River Twiss, Ingleton

then over the top with views of the mountain of Ingleborough in the north Pennines, and thence down another wooded gorge on the river Doe, to re-emerge in the village of Ingleton where the two valleys and rivers meet to form the Greta. The famous Lake District walker A.E. Wainwright said this walk was the loveliest in the north of England, and though it will cost you £5.00 (£11 for a family ticket) it's money very well spent.

I was introduced to it when in the Sixth Form at school. One of my teachers was a caver and potholer, and a member of the Craven Cave Rescue Association, with which he is still associated. He took a small group of us lads pot-holing, in the late 1950s, and we also went around Ingleton Falls with him. Being well-known up there, he got us in for nothing! Little did I know then that I was to become a specialist in physical geography/geology and that this scenic walk was, in fact, a geologists' paradise, with wonderful geological features combined with the beautiful walk. I took many of my geography pupils there on day trips during my teaching years, and never tired of it.

At the top of the Twiss valley section there is the magnificent waterfall of Thornton Force. The word 'force' for a waterfall is indicative of Viking settlement and such names are found in the

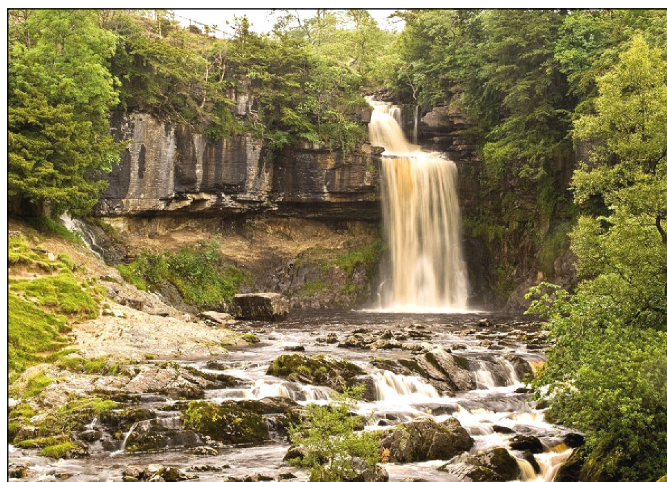
north of England. It is very easy to walk behind the waterfall because the rock it tumbles down from is limestone, which is relatively strong because it is bedded horizontally. The underlying rock is structurally softer because it is bedded vertically. It is a slate and the water has eroded it more easily, hence the overhang.

What geologists say we are looking at here

So here we have the juxtaposition of a horizontal limestone overlying a vertical slate and the junction between them is as smooth as if somebody had taken a knife and sliced through it as you would a cake or a loaf of bread. Clearly something has happened because to move from one type of rock, in this case a vertical slate structure, to a horizontal limestone lying over it, there has to be a gap in the record. The underlying slate rocks are dated by geologists at something like 510,000,000 years old and the overlying limestone rocks to 340,000,000 years ago, a difference of approximately 170,000,000 years. The older rocks are ascribed to the Ordovician era, *circa* 500,000,000 to 440,000,000 years ago, and the younger, upper rocks to

the Carboniferous era some 350,000,000 to 270,000,000 years ago. In between they place the Silurian and Devonian geological eras so the sequence has been broken. Where these gaps occur is said to be an **unconformity**, because the rock sequence has been broken.

To put it simply, what they believe happened is that the older rocks were laid down in an ancient sea, as muds. These muds were then uplifted into mountains, during which process they were altered by heat and pressure to form slate, and they were tilted from their original, more-or-less, horizontal position into a nearly vertical one. Then, over the 170,000,000 years which are missing, they were part of a land mass which was eroded, possibly almost to sea level. Finally the land sank beneath a warm, Carboniferous sea, which was to produce most of our coal seams, and was buried under thick limestone deposits, which preceded the arrival of the millstone grit and then the coal strata.



Thornton Force, River Twiss, Ingleton

(Photo at: andynayler.com/page4.htm)



The unconformity beneath Thornton Force, Ingleton



Torridonian Sandstone
1,100,000,000 years old

The Unconformity

Lewisian gneiss—vertical bedding
2,600,000,000 years old

The Lewisian / Torridonian Unconformity (Loch Assynt) Sept 2005

Now, I want to challenge this idea. Not on the grounds that the dating methods geologists use are highly suspect - which they are, and you can read all about this in regular creationist publication - but by the sheer obvious visual nonsense all unconformities demonstrate. This fact has only struck me in recent times as I pondered them, largely for producing *Genesis Accepted*. It is wonderful how your mind can be led when you do this. I want to demonstrate my points largely through photographs rather than excessive words so you can see what I can see!

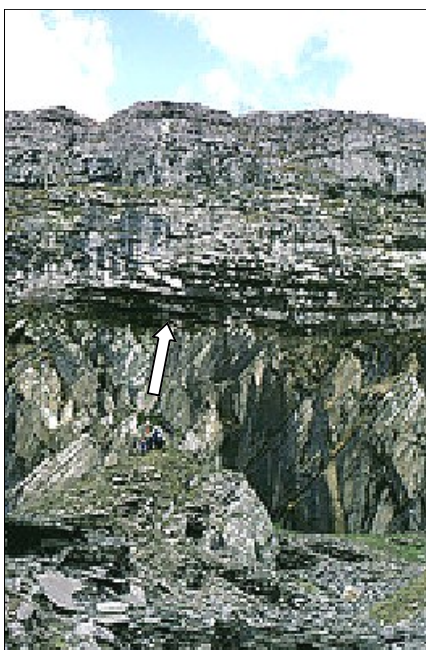
Let's look at some unconformities

My favourite unconformity is on the shores of Loch Assynt, Sutherland, in the Northwest Highlands of Scotland (see picture above where the 'normal' geological ages are given for you). This exposure on the roadside was massively important in helping geologists sort out which rocks were younger and which older in this 'ancient' landscape. Until they found it there was a big debate as to whether the Torridonian was older than the Lewisian. This settled it and the gap assumed at the unconformity is 1,500,000,000 years, give or take a year or two!

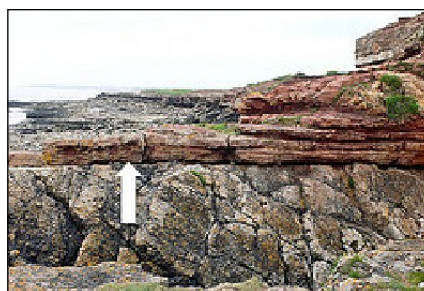
body took a knife and sliced through the rocks, or, more correctly, somebody took a plane and planed the surface down until you could almost place a spirit-level along it, it is so smooth and level.

The question

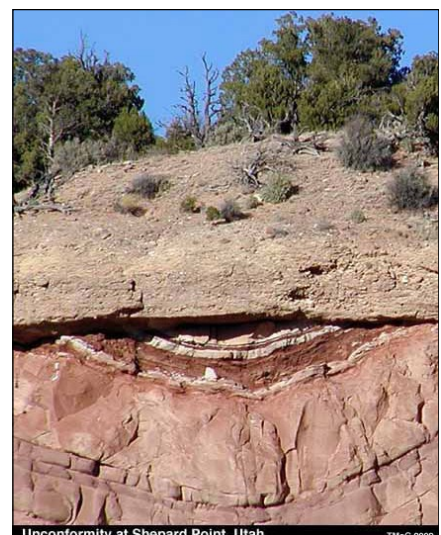
The question then has to be, 'How did it get to be so smooth and level?' And the supplementary question is, 'Where do we see similar surfaces as smooth, flat and even as this today?' You see, the geologist begins from the axiom that 'the present is the key to the past'. We should be able to find huge areas of perfectly flat countryside just waiting to be submerged and covered over with sediment in the future. But we don't. The closest we can get are at the sea shore where waves have eroded what geologists call wave-cut platforms.



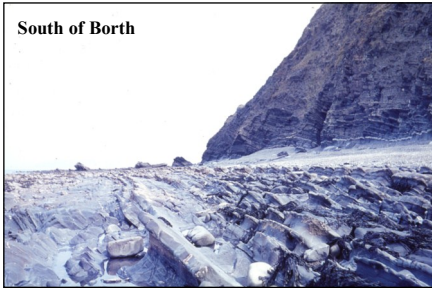
Horton-in-Ribblesdale



Sully Island, South Wales



Unconformity at Shepard Point, Utah

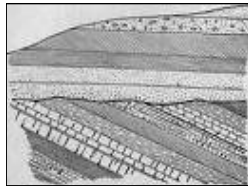


Above we see a typical wave-cut platform at Borth, just north of Aberystwyth, in central Wales. Looking at the horizon, it seems very flat indeed but the foreground belies this apparent evenness. In geological parlance this is very flat indeed. These rocks are structurally similar to the underlying rocks at Thornton Force, Assynt and Horton-in-Ribblesdale and all three have been tilted almost vertically. The nature of the rock type means that erosion occurs irregularly with the more vulnerable parts, namely the cleavage planes, along which slates and shales can be split, eroding faster, and the structurally harder parts remain upstanding. Looking along the ground a cross-section would appear as a wavy line, like a corrugated-iron roof and not like a snooker table. Nevertheless, unconformities resemble the snooker table rather than the corrugated iron roof and their evenness is real not apparent.

If you can imagine a landscape submerged beneath the ocean and, say 100ft of sediment poured on top of it, where the old surface meets the new would be a very uneven line. The pictures below are from the Ingleton Falls walk and show just how uneven the ground really is, but not where unconformities are concerned. You can trace unconformities all around the Grand Canyon for miles, and the story is still the same. They may show very shallow wavy lines, as in the diagram, but we are not



The Twiss valley below Thornton Force



So how were they formed?

The first thing we have to get rid of from our minds is the notion that the rocks are millions of years old and were fashioned as we see them by the slow processes we observe operating today. The slow erosion over hundreds of years, as evidenced at Borth, cannot produce smooth, even unconformities no matter whether the strata are tilted or not. Even the flattest plain will still give corrugated roof type junctions in close-up, if it were to be buried by newer sediment.

No, the only way you can get such smooth junctions between strata are if the underlying rocks were planed off swiftly in an enormous water catastrophe which swept around the globe with an amazing force. Not only would they have to be levelled quickly, the rocks would have to be either soft or in a plastic, or semi-solid state for it to be effective.

The unconformities most certainly do proclaim that there are gaps in the rock succession but they don't proclaim millions of years between them. In some cases there would only have been hours, in others it could have been days or weeks, possibly even months, but no more.

Not just one Flood!

As you were reading the above three paragraphs, you no doubt were saying that I'm just referencing the Flood of Noah's day. Certainly that assumption would be quite correct, but not entirely correct. I believe that four out of the five examples of unconformities which we have here would indeed date from the Flood, but I have serious doubts about the Assynt one. We seem to be dealing there with basement rocks, possibly a part of the original structures put into place by God during Creation Week itself. We considered this scenario in *Genesis Accepted* Number 14, 'Day Three - When the Infinite Creates'. There we pointed out that God must have literally moved mountains as He brought

talking about the appearance of junctions at a distance, we are talking about their close-up interface profiles.

land up from beneath the waters of Day 2, pushed it up into mountains, or, since it was just one super continent, into one mountain chain, which metamorphosed much of the absolutely original rock, injected molten lavas and magmas into it so Eden could contain gold and other precious minerals - though not coal - and then levelled it off by massive erosional forces as the waters drained off the newly formed land, thereby creating soil for the vegetation He was to bring to life at the end of the Day, to grow in. We can't really imagine this happening in just one day but God had no living thing present on the land to worry about. He couldn't harm a single plant, let alone an animal or human as He did this, so He could do it via an amazing catastrophic process as fast as He liked. My gut feeling is that the Lewisian gneiss of the Assynt region is definitely part of the original rock which was metamorphosed on Day Three of Creation Week, and that the Torridonian sandstones were among the first sedimentary rocks which the Earth had ever possessed.

The Flood and its mechanisms have been lengthily discussed in *Genesis Accepted* Number 11. Here we postulated that it was not just waters rising and gently overwhelming the land but rather there were amazing tsunamis which swished and swirled their way around the globe several times at least and each time there would be massive erosion and new rock types deposited on top of the ones laid down before. Some rocks were folded and some were laid down horizontally. Again, my gut feeling is that the so-called geologically older strata where laid down, folded and tilted in the inundatory phase of the Flood, i.e. during the first 40 days and possibly a little afterwards too, but that the younger rocks came as the waters drained off the land and rushed back into the sea. Thus, at Thornton Force and Horton-in-Ribblesdale we see at least two phases of the Flood represented: the inundatory phase underneath and the ablation phase above as the waters cascaded back to the sea. Many of the erosion surfaces, recognized quite easily by geologists, belong to the effect of the subsiding and ablating waters. The picture below shows central Wales looking like such a surface.

This is what geological unconformities are telling us. They 'speak' of the Flood and God's might and power, and not of millions of missing years. It's catastrophe not uniformity which we really find.



Looking at the erosion surface. Bwlch y Groes nr Lake Vyrnwy

Post Script



I have never before done anything like this, but then never before have I produced anything quite like this!

I wrote and prepared the article on unconformities to end on the previous page, and I've left it there as I intended it to be. Once a first draft is completed I run off a copy for Barbara to proof-read for me. It's once it is printed that you notice things you didn't spot whilst it was on the computer screen. So the proof-reading state is for her to spot textual errors, or places where improvements can be made, and I look to see if I can do better with the overall presentation.

One of the pictures of an unconformity, which I culled from the Web having googled in 'geological unconformities', had an arrow pointing to the unconformity so there would be no doubt as to what was being referenced in the picture. This was the one from Sully Island, South Wales. I thought that was a good idea because, though I know what I'm looking at on the pictures, that could be because I've studied such things, but there's no guarantee that non-geologists/geographers would necessarily pick up on what they were supposed to be noticing. I decided to add further ones on the Thornton Force, Assynt and Horton-in-Ribblesdale pictures but thought that the Utah picture was

definitely clear enough without an arrow.

Then it happened! I would like to share it with you because, as I was putting the arrow on the Assynt picture, I became transfixed and just stared at it almost as if in unbelief. It was a spine-tingling moment of ecstatic understanding for me. I thought I would mark the unconformity with a white arrow on a darkish section of the picture. To do this I blew it up from a 100% view on screen to 350%. The detail became even clearer in close-up and the point I was making about the smoothness of the junction between the underlying vertically, or nearly vertically, bedded rocks and the horizontal ones stood out as I never expected it to. When I've photographed this site (which I have done on several separate occasions) I've always done so from the opposite side of the road, which is relatively narrow, but I've never bothered to study it looking for the detailed presentation of the unconformity with its smoothness in mind.

The reason for this is simple. The article you have just read is unique, as far as I am concerned. I have read absolutely nothing in the creationist literature like this and of course evolutionary literature never mentions the crispness of the unconformities and why this might be so. Consequently the article you have read is

a piece of original thinking on my part. That doesn't make me clever, it just means that I have done some fieldwork, albeit this time via photographs, though I have personally visited the Thornton Force, Ribblesdale and Assynt examples, and could have produced a couple more for you but thought these were sufficient. I was not thinking about the conclusions which were made as I began the article but they dropped out as a result of trying to think constructively, and a little 'outside of the box' - for there really is no 'creationist box' in which to think inside on this - as I went along.

Where rocks are bedded towards the vertical, and they are eroded slowly over time, the weak structures always erode quicker and leave the strong structures standing proud. But here there is no evidence of this. Both are planed off to the same level. The underlying rock could not have been exposed to erosion over millions of years, nor even hundreds of years either. The levelling had to be almost instantaneous and the covering put in place as the upper layers immediately afterwards, and this can only be done by a huge water catastrophe, either on Day Three of Creation Week or in Noah's Flood and the blown-up photograph showed it absolutely perfectly. And that's what I 'saw' in close up for the first time!

The Origin of Paganism

The beginning of the Book of Romans is very much in our minds today, especially with the rise in blatant homosexuality and its glorification by the liberal media. Typically we now see festivals of Gay Pride with carnival displays, such as the one at Brighton in August 2011. The picture (left) is of a drag 'queen' from that parade. Romans, of course, condemns such practices which are the result of people turning their backs on God and His Word, so He gave them up to the lusts they prefer.

Homosexuality is the one which comes most prominently into focus in that chapter. We note that they were not given up by God because they were homosexuals but became homosexuals because they were given up by God. In other words once the godly restraints on their lives and consciences were removed, they indulged themselves to their hearts content without batting a single eyelid towards the belief that such behaviour is sinful and condemned by God. Who cares about Him and His killjoy, cramping set of rules designed to remove the fun out of life? Ours is a valid, alternative life-style, so they proclaim.

So what does Romans say? *'For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. For although they knew God, they did not honour him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.'*

'Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonouring of their bodies among them-

selves, because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

'For this reason God gave them up to dishonourable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error.

'And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. Though they know God's decree that those who practise such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practise them.' (Ro 1:18-32).

The revealed order of events

The Bible is quite clear about how this paganism arose. The evolutionary order is that humans came out of the swamps and developed multiple gods in nature. Then, slowly, they became more sophisticated and came to believe in one God over millions of years. The Bible, however, tells exactly the opposite story. People knew God and His decrees right from the start, but over time they rebelled and substituted gods from nature and worshipped them. It was pride in their own intellects and wisdom which led them down this path, and they worshipped the creature not the Creator.

There are two instances in the Bible of this happening: 1) Adam and Eve knew God and walked and talked with Him. Then they rebelled and some, though not all, of their children lost all sense of God's will, and by the tenth generation He decided that enough was enough and the Flood swept them all away, apart from eight souls in the Ark. 2) After the Flood all those who came out of the Ark knew God and worshiped Him. They brought wisdom and knowledge from the antediluvian world and began to re-people the Earth, passing on their learning to their offspring. But after only five generations, in Peleg's time, there was the rebellion at Babel, probably under Nimrod, and by the tenth generation God started again. Instead of wiping out all but the faithful, this time He decided to concentrate on one family to bring people back to Him and His ways. Under Noah He cut the unfaithful off by destroying them completely but this time He separated out for Himself the family of

Abraham and, to quote Romans regarding the rest, He *'gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity'*, (Ro. 1:24). From Abraham forward the narrative concentrates on the unfolding story of this faithful family - who weren't all faithful all of the time, but which always nevertheless preserved a faithful remnant down to the coming of Christ. The story of the pagans is basically a non-biblical story from Abraham to Christ, and it was the Lord who brought them back into the fold.

In Romans, Paul deals firstly with Gentile Christians, who were former pagans. Then he swings over to Jewish Christians to make his point about faith and salvation. Therefore the times he was referencing in Romans 1:18ff had its origin in the pre-Babel world immediately after the Flood, and ends with Abraham. Not much is said in the biblical text about this time but we must look there for the origins of paganism. And as we look, we must strive to maintain a consistent picture of events which we have considered in previous issues of *Genesis Accepted*.

On stepping out of the Ark

Before we look in some detail at the family which came out of the Ark, we must remind ourselves that from the genealogies presented to us in Genesis chapters 10 and 11, we can calculate that both Noah and Shem were still alive when Abraham was born! In fact Shem outlived Abraham and could have known Esau and Jacob. So there is an astonishing continuity of faithfulness there which could act as a reference point and example to the people of the world. After all, every single one of them had Noah's genes in them, but quite clearly they didn't all take after him or listen to his instruction - or maybe they did! Remember what God said almost as soon as Noah set foot outside the Ark and on to *terra firma* again: *'Then Noah built an altar to the Lord and took some of every clean animal and some of every clean bird and offered burnt offerings on the altar. And when the Lord smelled the pleasing aroma, the Lord said in his heart, "I will never again curse the ground because of man, for the intention of man's heart is evil from his youth."*' (Ge 8:20-21, emphasis added). Though Noah was a very godly man, and was a wonderful example of faith, he was not perfect. The Lord knew that in his loins were the seeds of rebellion and unrighteousness which would rear its head in future generations AND rather quickly too. The genealogy of Ham in Genesis 10 reads like a catalogue of opposition to the Lord down the ages. (We looked at this in *Genesis Accepted* Number 10.)

Noah, the three lads, and their wives didn't just enter the Ark with the animals, they took all sorts of useful things with them too. Moses had to have reference material on which he could draw to pen

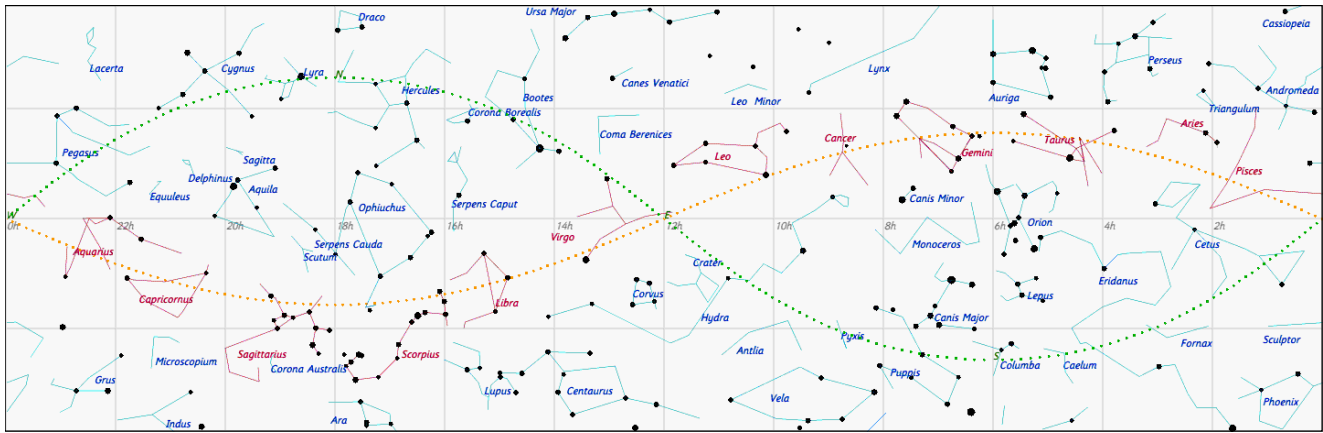


Chart of the Zodiac Constellations

the narrative concerning the early development of the Earth. In Jewish tradition, Enoch was known as 'Enoch the scribe'. Thus they understood that writing dates minimally from the seventh generation after Adam, and possibly earlier - Jewish tradition, though interesting, is not necessarily correct in every detail. It is not scripture, which is inerrant. However that doesn't really matter because Adam knew Enoch for many years. In fact he knew all of the antediluvian patriarchs except Noah. Thus if writing was invented in Enoch's day, Adam could have been as much involved in its development as was Enoch. The account of those early days in the Garden, and of the Creation, would probably have had Adam as their scribe. And reading the account of the Flood in Genesis 6-8 it reads like a log which Noah and/or the lads would have kept. The accounts of Creation and the early days were written down and Noah no doubt took them with him into the Ark.

Also we can assume that the wisdom, knowledge and instructions learned before the Flood would have been committed to writing. Things we know that they did were: forging in metals of bronze and iron (Gen. 4:22), playing the lyre and pipe which had to be made (Gen. 4:21), and how to make a tent and look after livestock - call that 'animal husbandry' - (Gen. 4:20). Cain 'built a city' (Gen. 4:17) so there was building construction knowledge from even earlier times and, of course, floating vessel construction (call that 'boat-building') knowledge learned on the job while building the Ark. These are things about which we know. The knowledge of how to do them would be invaluable after the Flood.

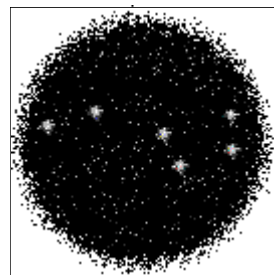
Astrology

One thing we know is that ancient peoples were compulsive star-gazers. It is easy in our day to forget that astrology for them was a good deal more than trivial fortune-telling based on birth signs. Ancient astrology involved astronomy too and it is only fairly recently that the two disciplines split into orthodox, observable science and quack horoscopes: one to be

taken seriously and the other ignored with disdain. It is also easy to forget the function of the stars in the affairs of men. Genesis tells us: *'And God said, Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days and years, and let them be lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth.'* And it was so. And God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars.' (Ge 1:14-16, emphasis added). Since the function of the Sun and Moon was to give light to the Earth by day and by night, the stars were not just there to pretty up the night sky but rather were for signs and seasons. So studying the stars too must have been a practice from before the Flood and would have been an important subject on the written scrolls taken into the Ark.

Post-Flood star studies

I don't know about you, but when I go out and gaze in awe and wonder at the stars on a clear night I can only recognize one star formation: the Plough or Big Dipper. This enables me to pick out Polaris, or



The Plough or Big Dipper

navigation-aid in certain circumstances, but it was absolutely crucial to early man. Ancient peoples, however, not only could identify many many star clusters but gave them names and attached shapes to them. The chart of the Zodiac at the top of the page shows these constellations and frankly it takes a very fertile imagination to 'see' the pictures represented in them. It's like the game we used to play at home in the days of coal fires where you looked at the glowing embers and imagined you could see pictures in them, or you look at cloud

formations and imagine similar things. Yet one of the puzzles of the ancient past is that all of them manage to 'see' the same formations and give the same, or very similar, names to them. How did this come about? There's no real answer within secular, evolutionary history other than trading connections, but they know that these groups of people did not trade or have any knowledge of each other. The biblical answer is that they all had the same teacher, or teachers, immediately after the Flood. Noah took these studies with him on to the Ark and both he and his family taught its secrets to succeeding generations before Babel. After Babel they were split up yet managed to preserve this knowledge at least, hence the similarities found in them all.

As we have said, we know that these peoples were obsessive star-gazers, often building henge monuments, like Stonehenge, and all sorts of other standing stones and mysterious artefacts, which fell into disuse somewhere around 700 BC. The stars were vital to them for signs and for seasons, as God told them they would be in Genesis chapter one. That this is not just idle speculation can be seen in two references in the Book of Job - a Book which we have already noted is probably the oldest Book in the Bible. Whether it is or is not, its setting is definitely in the post-Flood pre-Abrahamic world which we are considering. There Job says of God that it is He *'who made the Bear and Orion, the Pleiades and the chambers of the south'* (Job 9:9). Then in chapter 38:31 God says to Job: *"Can you bind the chains of the Pleiades or loose the cords*



The Pleiades or Seven Sisters



Orion (the Hunter)

(Looks more like an apron than a hunter to me!)

of Orion?'. Job and the 'Comforters' knew their astrology, and these formations at least.

The post-Flood picture and Romans

It is normal to think that Paul was simply referring to all pagans generally in Romans 1, and indeed he is, but there is an enigmatic phrase which points us right back to the pre-Babel world after the Flood. Here he writes: *'For although they knew God, they did not honour him as God.'* (Ro. 1:21, emphasis added). Ask yourself, when could we say with confidence that pagans knew God but ignored Him? We can happily agree with Paul when he writes: *'For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.'* (Ro. 1:19-20). Yes, we know that they should have been able to recognize Him through the things He has created, but a common characteristic of pagans down the ages is that they don't/didn't know God, let alone recognize Him. However, in the pre-Babel world we know that godly Noah, and the rest of his immediate family, would certainly have taught their children, and grandchildren and great-grandchildren, etc. about God, creation, the Fall, sin, judgement, the Flood and so on, and would have taught about sacrifice and offerings for the forgiveness of sins. In other words the knowledge of God would have been passed on by oral means as well as by the written word - though they had no scriptures, as we know them, for reference. Mind you, the reference and witness of Noah, Shem, Ham and Japheth should have been a wonderful guide for them until Noah and Shem, at least, hand-

ed over the story to Abraham. Shem actually probably acted as a King/Priest in the Jerusalem area, where he was known as Melchizedek (see *Genesis Accepted* numbers 1 and 3), even after Abraham died.

So here we have a highly intelligent group of people, all from one family, with an amazing residue of the accumulated wisdom since the world began, and a wonderful example of godliness in the great Noah - to whom they were all related directly - and who knew God, yet they chose to ignore Him and go their separate ways creating gods in their own image. Why? There must have been a very powerful reason behind it all.

The seeds of apostasy

The greatest apostate of all was Satan. He was the most magnificent of the guardian cherubs with a specific rôle in Eden. We can read his story, which is directly used to castigate the King of Tyre, in Ezekiel 28:11ff. There we read of him that: *"You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created, till unrighteousness was found in you... Your heart was proud because of your beauty;*

you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendour." (Eze. 28:15-17).

Satan became proud because of his beauty. He had ideas above his station that he would *"make [himself] like the Most High,"* (Is. 14:14). It was pride which brought Satan down. He knew God but would not honour Him. He gloried in his own wisdom and knowledge and chose rebellion not service. The same seeds were to make many of these post-diluvian people glory in their knowledge and wisdom. It's pride and I wonder who prompted them into being like this? Let us not forget that Satan has been at war with God since Eden and, after his initial triumph over Adam and Eve, he nearly succeeded just before the Flood and was actively working to do the same at Babel. We must never forget that *'[our] adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.'* (1 Pe 5:8). He has done nothing else almost since the world began. If Noah's godly family were so soon, and so dramatically, corrupted I often wonder how soon it was before the Lord's apostles had descendants who would not believe - but there's not even a legend to my knowledge, let alone an inspired record, of this.

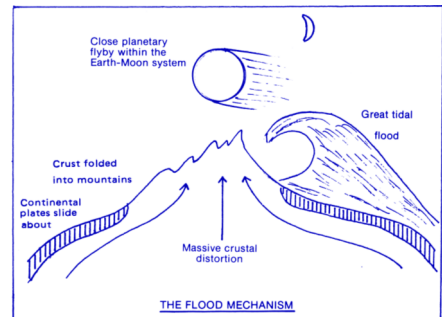
What else was going on?

But I am fully convinced that there is so much more to it than what has just been outlined. There must have been something enormous to deflect these people from worshipping the true God so quickly: something which frightened the spiritual life out of them.

In *Genesis Accepted* Number 11 we outlined a mechanism which could pro-

vide the power to drive the Flood. Creationists currently propose that catastrophic plate tectonics smashed the crust, thereby releasing copious quantities of juvenile water held beneath the surface, and formed amazing tsunamis which laid down sediments, created fossils and did the damage. The continents slid about over the globe and where they collided, mountain chains appeared. In the aftermath there was an Ice Age as the atmospheric water froze because of the dust and pollution in the air blocking out the sunlight. This is a very simplified account, of course, but, though I agree with the concept of catastrophic plate tectonics, I cannot find an adequate mechanism to drive it in the first place, within the current creationist thinking. What was it which drove the plates, because convection currents in the mantle beneath the crust exist but are several million times too weak to do so?

I do find a mechanism in the concept of a close planetary fly-by. Here a rogue astral body, probably made mainly of ice, flew between the Earth and the Moon, creating unbelievable tidal stresses in the crust which smashed it, raised mountains and caused volcanoes to spew out their magma. It caused the original land mass to break up and the 'bits' to move around, as described by the catastrophic plate-



tectonic theory BUT it did not end its effects when the Flood ended. There was a constant threat for many years thereafter with possibly other planetoids doing similar things down to around 700 BC in Isaiah's day. Hence man's obsession during these times with star-gazing. Their planet was in constant danger from these fly-bys and fear made them turn to believing that these heavenly bodies, or 'gods', needed appeasing. Those who studied the stars, and could accurately predict when these fly-bys would occur, became very powerful priests who came to guard their knowledge most carefully. These priests, before Babel, had set up their astral charts and given the constellations and the zodiac their names - hence, after Babel, the scattered peoples all carried the same notions in their heads and took the pagan gods' ideas around the globe. Abraham lived in Babylon near to Babel and this was a centre for astrological studies. In the midst of it all he refused to bow to these gods - though his father Terah did (Joshua 24:2) - and thus God chose him for his great faith.

Indeed it took great faith to worship a God you could not see when you were surrounded by 'gods' you could see and who threatened your very existence. (Again, this is a very simple summary of what we have said before in *Genesis Accepted* Numbers 11 and 12, and in my book, *Speak Through The Earthquake, Wind And Fire*, Countywise, 1982).

Written evidence

The narrative in the Bible from the end of the Flood down to Babel is somewhat short on details, apart from the genealogies of the families of Shem, Ham and Japheth. Moses clearly wasn't bothered about satisfying our curiosity over historical details save to explain how we arrived at all of the different languages in the world when, after the Flood, all should have been speaking the same language.

Charles H. Hapgood in his book *Maps of the Ancient Sea Kings* (1966) has this to say concerning both the scenario of a universal language and the common nature of the mythologies amongst diverse groups. 'There are two areas in which there is worthwhile evidence of an ancient world civilization. There is, first, the problem of the origin of the principle families of speech and the various groups of languages. Some scholars have claimed that most languages betray evidences of an original common language, ancestral to all the groups of languages... It is interesting that a tradition of a universal language seems common in ancient literature...It found expression in ancient Egypt, in early Hindu and Buddhist writings and was seriously explored by several European philosophers during the sixteenth century.

'The other... is comparative mythology... The same pattern, the same principle deities, appear everywhere - in Europe, in Asia, in North and South America, in Oceania... There have been many theories of mythology. One of them attributed the similarities in the myths to a common origin in Egypt. This has generally been rejected, because the diffusion of Egyptian myth to America, India, China and Oceania cannot be proved. If there was diffusion, the point of origin must be further back...

'We have, then, a general conclusion. The evidence for an ancient worldwide

civilization, or a civilization that for a considerable time must have dominated much of the world in a very remote period, is rather plentiful.' Hapgood was no creationist, or religious believer, trying to support the Genesis narrative but his researches most certainly do, whether he would be pleased about that or not!

Biblical evidence

If Genesis itself is somewhat quiet about this period, Job drops a few hints of what might well have been going on regarding the sculpting of the Earth and the observable activities in the heavens. We have already briefly mentioned chapter 9. Here Job is defending his innocence and, if you look at the verses surrounding the passage we are going to present below, you will find that, though the writing is in poetic form, the language is not 'poetic' but rather quite normal.

'Then Job answered and said:

2 Truly I know that it is so:

But how can a man be in the right before God?

3 If one wished to contend with him, one could not answer him once in a thousand times.

4 He is wise in heart and mighty in strength

—who has hardened himself against him, and succeeded?—

5 **he who removes mountains, and they know it not,**

when he overturns them in his anger,

6 who shakes the earth out of its place, and its pillars tremble;

7 who commands the sun, and it does not rise;

who seals up the stars;

8 who alone stretched out the heavens

and trampled the waves of the sea;

9 who made the Bear and Orion, the Pleiades and the chambers of the south;

10 who does great things beyond searching out,

and marvellous things beyond number.' (Job 9:1-10, emphasis added).

If Job were answering his critics today and tried to pass off these statements about God as normal activities expected from Him, the critics would very soon tell him that, nice though the metaphors are, God doesn't do any of these things. Yet here there is total acceptance that this is quite

normal activity for God: destroying mountains, turning them over, shaking the Earth out of its place - which is far more violent than a standard earthquake - covering up the sun and stars and stirring up the oceans. All of these things shriek catastrophic outworking of God's treatment of the planet. It is quite consistent with what would happen during a close encounter of the catastrophic kind which we are suggesting, though most Christians don't look here for a literal reference from Job because they have lost the knowledge of what was happening then, despite the evidence from mysterious places like Stonehenge (see *Genesis Accepted* Number 16).

Then we have the enigmatic verses in Job 38, spoken by God about the sudden arrival of the Ice dump, or Ice Age.

"Has the rain a father,

or who has begotten the drops of dew?

29 **From whose womb did the ice come forth,**

and who has given birth to the frost of heaven?

30 **The waters become hard like stone, and the face of the deep is frozen.**

31 *Can you bind the chains of the Pleiades or loose the cords of Orion?*

32 *Can you lead forth the Mazzaroth in their season,*

or can you guide the Bear with its children?

33 *Do you know the ordinances of the heavens?*

Can you establish their rule on the earth?'" (Job 38:28-33, emphasis added).

Birth is not a slow process over years and years but rather it is a swift event. The ice was dropped on to the planet from above, quite catastrophically, and Job and his comforters must have witnessed it somehow.

Conclusion

After the Flood the world was still in turmoil. God felt it necessary to promise that He was never going to destroy it by a flood again (Ge. 8:21-22). Yes there was the arrogance and pride of knowledge and wisdom to lead some away from God, but we contend that the enormous threat to life and limb from the heavens, which was still literally moving mountains, was the major mover in the journey from faith to paganism in such a short time.

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

