

DO YOU CONSIDER YOURSELF AN HONEST SEARCHER FOR TRUTH?

Please consider these potent passages of Scripture:

1. *Acts 17:11* - Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.
2. *1 Thessalonians 5:21-22* - Test everything; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil.
3. *2 Timothy 2:15* - Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.
4. *2 Timothy 3:15-17* - And how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.



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INTRODUCTION

There are at least five basic questions which every human being asks himself (or herself). This is part of what distinguishes us as human beings---animals do not ask such questions. Here are the questions:

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------|
| 1. Where did I come from? | Origin |
| 2. Why am I here? | Purpose |
| 3. Who am I really? | Identity |
| 4. Is there meaning to life? | Reality |
| 5. Where am I going? | Destiny |

If a student goes through educational training for many years, even including graduate studies after college or university, yet never has any serious examination of the basic questions of life, is he truly educated? If educational institutions only provide naturalistic/evolutionary answers to these basic issues of life, while not even considering the evidence for a Designer outside of life, have they truly educated their students?

There is only one book which has adequate and valid answers to all of these fundamental questions, yet it is ignored, spurned, and mocked in many institutions of learning. The Bible is consistently the best-selling book in the world (without even a close second) – and for good reason. It is the Book that not only answers the questions of the mind, but also touches the heart and reaches to the deepest yearnings of the soul, longing for forgiveness, peace and joy.

The Bible

This Book Contains:

“The mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, doom of sinners, and happiness of believers. Its doctrines are holy, its precepts are binding, its histories are true, and its decisions are immutable. Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, and practice it to be holy. It contains light to direct you, food to support you and comfort to cheer you. It is the traveler’s map, the pilgrim’s staff, the pilot’s compass, the soldier’s sword and the Christian’s charter. Here Paradise is restored, Heaven opened, and the gates of hell disclosed. Christ is its Grand Subject, our good its design, and the glory of God its end. It should fill the memory, rule the heart, and guide the feet. Read it slowly, frequently, prayerfully. It is a mine of wealth, a paradise of glory, and a river of pleasure. It is given you in life, will be open at the Judgment and be remembered forever. It involves the highest responsibility, rewards the greatest labor, and condemns all who trifle with its holy contents.”

Is this book what its writers claimed---the inspired Word of Almighty God? After all, He created us for a reason. Doesn't it make sense that He would want to communicate with us? Or is the Bible just a book of myths, fables, and lies? If the writers were not recording God's Word to them, they were lying.

Herbert Spencer spent years as a research scientist, analyzing the universe before concluding that the universe has five basic components:

1. Time 2. Force 3. Energy 4. Space 5. Matter

Is it only by pure coincidence that the very first verse of the Bible contains all five of these components? Consider that Moses penned these words nearly 3,500 years before Herbert Spencer did his research and took up his pen to write his conclusions. Take note and consider carefully:

| | |
|---------------------|--------|
| 1. In the beginning | time |
| 2. God | force |
| 3. created | energy |
| 4. the heavens | space |
| 5. and the earth | matter |

Did Almighty God inspire Moses to write these amazing words---or is this just luck? Coincidence?

Was it also pure coincidence that Moses wrote down that God commanded His people to wash their hands thoroughly in running water after touching a dead body – and that he told them that if they obeyed God's commands they would not have the diseases that plagued the heathen nations around them? It took medical science nearly 3,400 years to catch up to the wisdom recorded in God's Word. Even in 1848 when Dr. Semmelweis had proved that doctors could reduce postpartum fever and death by just washing their hands between patients, he was laughed at with scorn! For many more years thousands of patients continued to die from diseases that were spread by doctors examining patients with unwashed hands after conducting autopsies on corpses. Finally the truth could be ignored no longer and the rule became firmly established and accepted that doctors must wash thoroughly in running water after autopsies--resulting in a drastic drop in death and disease rates in hospitals. As always, the truth which was clearly articulated in God's Word was spurned and mocked by the world--to its own detriment.

Is the Bible without any errors? Please stay with me as we explore this question further.

CHAPTER 1

Is the Bible Without Any Errors?

This booklet deals with the vital issue of the truth and reliability of the Bible. You will notice that it began as an answer to a good friend who asked in an email message if I seriously believe that the Bible doesn't contain any errors. The first chapter begins with that very question, and then progresses to other very closely related questions. This question definitely is extremely important, because if we cannot trust the Bible to be accurate about scientific matters like geology, physics and astronomy, why should we trust it to be our authority on spiritual issues and moral commandments? The standards we choose to live by will be determined by our perspective concerning the Bible. Is it God's infallible Word or not? Do we humbly bow before the Word of the Father, or do we brazenly twist the words of Scripture to fit our own preconceived notions and desires? My friend, your viewpoint will direct your beliefs, thoughts and actions!

You will probably notice the informal style of this booklet. Much of it is shared letters (and even a shared sermon outline).

I've noticed that many people seem to enjoy reading other people's mail – such as “Dear Abby” and letters to the editor. It is my prayer that this informal style will inform you, inspire you and recharge in you a wholesome and awesome respect for Almighty God and His Holy Word. Let's not tamper with His Word! Let's remember Who is actually the Author and how the Bible came to be spoken and written. Consider Peter's words: *“For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. For he received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: ‘This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.’ And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. We also have the prophetic word made more sure, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit”* 2 Peter 1:16-21 (NKJV). The New Living Translation puts it this way for verses 20-21: ***“Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.”***

My Reply to a Friend

You wrote, *“I’ve been thinking a lot about your viewpoints about inerrancy of the Scriptures. Seriously, do you believe that the Bible doesn’t contain ANY mistakes relating to ‘faith-unrelated issues of life’? I mean mistakes in geography in the gospel of Mark, mistakes with proper names in Luke.”* **Absolutely!** I believe in the inerrancy of Scripture because it comes from the inerrancy of Almighty God Himself. Of course, I’m referring to the original manuscripts because there are translation problems (which you certainly understand as a professional interpreter/translator). Why would we believe that the Master Creator - the Genius Who designed the intricacies and marvels of the eye, the nervous system, the brain, the sub-atomic particles as well as the precise movements of the solar system and all the vast universe (and calls every star by name) is incompetent to convey accurately simple truths about geography and historical details about proper names? It is interesting to me that you mention these two matters (geography and proper names), because it was the absolute accuracy of Scripture on these matters which brought Sir William Ramsay to conviction and conversion. Are you familiar with his story? He was an unbeliever and skeptic who set out to expose the Bible as a book of myths, and he chose the writings of Luke because he wrote so many details about names, dates, and places. When he found Luke to be totally accurate, he was converted and wrote “St. Paul - Traveler and Roman Citizen.” He became one of the founders of the modern science of archeology.

Faith Unrelated Issues of Life

Actually, I don’t believe there are any “faith-unrelated issues of life.” **If God blunders on historical or scientific facts, why should we believe Him about moral and spiritual issues that demand repentance and submission to His authority?** Jesus said to Nicodemus, **“I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things?”** John 3:12.

What about Inerrancy?

You also wrote, *“Please, let me know what you think about inerrancy and tell me how it would affect you if you were to find/agree that the Bible did contain some controversial things in areas which are non-significant for either salvation or sanctification.”*

Actually, the Bible has many “controversial things,” but most of them pertain to issues where man’s will conflicts with God’s will. Concerning issues where there seem to be contradictions in the Bible or issues where there is a conflict between history and the Bible or science and the Bible, *I choose to be patient, trust God, then wait to see.* Years ago I read the book *None of These Diseases*, by S.I. McMillan. The book lists multitudes of “contradictions” between medical science and the Bible. However, it turns out that God’s Word was 3,000 years too

advanced for the medical “science” of the ancient Egyptians. I recommended this book to Sergei Golovin, and he now has its new edition available in Russian. Two other excellent resources are *Alleged Discrepancies of the Bible*, by John W. Haley and *The Basis of Christian Faith*, by Floyd Hamilton. I don’t know if either of these is still in print. However, one that is in print and which you probably received from Bruce Malone is *A Closer Look at the Evidence*. It’s outstanding! It is available – check www.searchforthetruth.net or call 989-837-5546.

The Apostle Paul commended the believers in Thessalonica for recognizing the Word of God and receiving it. Please notice: “*For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the **word of God** which you heard from us, **you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe***” 1 Thessalonians 2:13 (NKJV). When I stand before the judgment seat of Christ I want to hear a similar commendation – along with “Well done, good and faithful servant.”

I do still have a few unanswered questions about apparent contradictions - mostly with numbers in the books of Samuel, Kings and Chronicles. My friend and colleague on Northwest Science Museum board of directors, Stan Lutz, has done extensive research on these numbers that seem to contradict and found the resolution in the fact that the Israelites were using two systems of counting and two different calendars. *Alleged Discrepancies of the Bible* is an excellent resource for resolving most of these technical issues.

What about Copyist and Translation Errors? (Has the Bible been Corrupted through the Ages?)

As I mentioned earlier, I believe the total inerrancy of the original texts, but do recognize and acknowledge that there are some problems in the transmission of those texts. However, the reality is that those problems are very minor and minute. On all major themes and doctrines God has conveyed His truth in different books of the Bible and through various teaching methods (narrative, poetry, parable, plain doctrinal teaching, etc.) so that you can understand if you want to. If you don’t really want truth, you will not ask, seek and knock. His truths become plain to the humble and honest soul seeking truth, but remain hidden to the pompous and proud pontificators of perversion. Jesus said, “***If anyone chooses to do God’s will, he will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own***” John 7:17 (NIV). A willingness to do the will of God becomes an essential factor in the search for the truth. Jesus also said, “***If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth and the truth will set you free***” John 8:31-32 (NIV). Do you really want to know the truth about Biblical manuscripts and translation issues? Or is the real problem in your own heart – perhaps you want to believe that the Biblical texts are corrupted so that you have your excuse **not** to submit your will to God and obey Him? Are you willing to honestly pray and search for the truth? Will you pray, “*Search me O God, and know my heart, test me and*

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know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting” Psalm 139:23-24 (NIV).

Josh McDowell’s Testimony

Beware, if you honestly take up this search, it can and will transform your life (no matter how skeptical you are now). The following testimony is the true story of Josh McDowell, the college student who started as a blatant critic of Christ, the Bible and Christians, who has become one of the world’s greatest proponents of Biblical accuracy, with over 100 books to his credit. His most popular book, *More Than a Carpenter*, has sold over 15 million copies and has been translated into many languages. The first chapter of this book he names “My Story”. Consider carefully these thoughts from this chapter.

“Then my new friends issued a challenge I couldn’t believe. They challenged me to make a rigorous, intellectual examination of the claims of Jesus Christ – that he is God’s Son; that he inhabited a human body and lived among real men and women; that he died on the cross for the sins of humanity; that he was buried and was resurrected three days later; and that he is still alive and can change a person’s life even today.

“I thought this challenge was a joke. Everyone with any sense knew that Christianity was based on a myth. I thought that only a walking idiot could believe the myth that Christ came back from the dead. I used to wait for Christians to speak out in the classroom so I could tear them up one side and down the other. I thought that if a Christian had a brain cell, it would die of loneliness. But I accepted my friends’ challenge, mostly out of spite to prove them wrong. I was convinced the Christian story would not stand up to evidence. I was a prelaw student, and I knew something about evidence. I would investigate the claims of Christianity thoroughly and come back and knock the props out from under their sham religion.

“I decided to start with the Bible. I knew that if I could uncover indisputable evidence that the Bible is an unreliable record, the whole of Christianity would crumble. Sure, Christians could show me that their own book said Christ was born of a virgin, that he performed miracles, and that he rose from the dead. But what good was that? **If I could show that the Bible was historically untrustworthy, then I could show that Christianity was a fantasy made up by wishful religious dreamers.**

“I took the challenge seriously. I spent months in research. I even dropped out of school for a time to study in the historically rich libraries of Europe. And **I found evidence. Evidence in abundance.** Evidence I would not have believed had I not seen it with my own eyes. Finally I could come to only one conclusion: If I were to remain intellectually honest, **I had to admit that the Old and New Testament**

documents were some of the most reliable writings in all of antiquity. And if they were reliable, what about this man Jesus, whom I had dismissed as a mere carpenter in an out-of-the-way town in a tiny oppressed country, a man who had gotten caught up in his own visions of grandeur?

“I had to admit that Jesus Christ was more than a carpenter. He was all he claimed to be.

“Not only did my research turn me around intellectually, but it also answered the three questions that started me on my quest for happiness and meaning. But as Paul Harvey says, that’s the ‘rest of the story.’ I will tell you all about that at the end of this book. First, I want to share with you the core of what I learned in my months of research so that you, too, may see that Christianity is not a myth, not the fantasy of wishful dreamers, not a hoax played on the simpleminded. It is rock-solid truth. And I guarantee that when you come to terms with that truth, you will be on the threshold of finding the answers to those three questions: Who am I? What is my purpose? What is my destiny?”

Do you want to better understand the powerful evidence for Biblical accuracy? Chapter five in *More than a Carpenter* is entitled “Are the Bible Records Reliable?” I highly recommend that you get the book and read that chapter. I think you will be fascinated and want to read the rest of the book (Josh is an excellent communicator and intriguing writer). If that whets your appetite for more, buy or borrow *New Evidence That Demands a Verdict* or *Many Infallible Proofs*, by Henry M. Morris & Henry M. Morris III.

Copyist Errors?

You may be wondering how it would be possible for copyists to make uncorrupted copies of Biblical texts before Gutenberg invented the printing press after 1500 A.D. If so, then I know you have not yet studied this issue. Since they believed it as the Word of God and that they were answerable to Him for transmitting it accurately, they counted every word on the page (or section of scroll). They even counted the letters. If the count did not match the master copy, they started over and corrected it. The rare copyist errors that did slip through are clearly discernable by comparing with the multitude of other copies and can therefore be easily weeded out.

Did you know that there are over 24,000 copies of New Testament books dating back to the second century A.D.? That is only a few decades from the time when the original manuscripts were written. Did you know that Plato wrote *Tetralogies* over 300 years before Christ, and the earliest preserved copy only goes back to 900 A.D.? That is 1200 years from the time of writing!!! We are not hearing heated debates about the authenticity of Plato’s writings. Why not? Plato does not call us to repentance – God does!!! Could it be that the real issue is emotional, not intellectual?

Dead Sea Scrolls

The Dead Sea Scrolls, discovered in 1947, show positive proof that the Old Testament texts were preserved without being corrupted. The “higher critics” had claimed that many of the books were not actually written by the true men of God such as Isaiah, Daniel, and Ezekiel, but rather by pretenders who adopted their names as pen names. Therefore, they claimed that these books were actually written hundreds of years later – after the amazing details of Biblical prophecy were fulfilled. In other words, the critics claimed that these pretenders claimed to be prophets predicting the future, but actually wrote from an historical perspective in the second, third and fourth centuries A.D. The Dead Sea Scrolls were Old Testament texts written down by copyists from the Jewish sect known as Essenes, who began as a group about 200 B.C. They hid the scrolls in the caves near the Dead Sea during this inter-testament period up to the beginning of the New Testament times. The text of Isaiah, Daniel and other Old Testament books matches very well with our current texts – so they were not corrupted by copyists. And they could not have been written by imposters 200 A.D. or later because they had been hidden in the caves by Essenes prior to the time of Jesus. Therefore, the Dead Sea Scrolls actually knock dead these two false claims cranked out by critics. It isn’t the Biblical texts that have been corrupted, but the critics themselves by their cynicism and sin.

Lost Books of the Bible?

Critics of the Bible, like popular author Dan Brown and many others, claim that there are many lost books of the Bible which were rejected by corrupt church leaders. These claims are also more hollow than an empty barrel. The Gospel of Thomas, the Gnostic gospels, and many other early writings were the ones written by the imposters. They were rejected by the early church and genuine Christians throughout the ages for the same reason the assayer’s office rejects fool’s gold – they are not genuine – not real. They are fakes! Josh McDowell also deals with this in the above mentioned chapter. British New Testament scholar F.F. Bruce was excellent in his manner of sorting out truth from falsehood about corruptions in the text. If you want more evidence and can buy or borrow his writings, you will find a treat.

The Biggest Barrier to Believing and Understanding the Bible

Actually, the biggest barrier to believing the Bible and understanding God’s teachings through the Bible is not an intellectual issue at all - it is sin!!! Because every human heart is corrupted by sin and his natural mind is warped by rebellion against God’s authority over his life, **he therefore doesn’t understand the Word of God because he doesn’t want to understand!** Paul wrote, *“The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are*

spiritually discerned" 1 Corinthians 2:14 (NIV). This is why God immediately points to our sins when He invites us to come to reason with Him. **"Come now, let us reason together," says the Lord, though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow...**" Isaiah 1:18. **Repentance and deep humility in the presence of Almighty God are the two most vital components to believing and understanding God's Word.**

My Biggest Crisis of Faith

My biggest crisis of faith in my Christian life came after three years of Bible college when I was serving an internship in California. An atheist husband of a Jehovah's Witness wife nailed me to the wall with probing questions I could not answer, and left me hanging there shame-faced and speechless. This experience drove me to re-study Christian evidences for **me** - not for a grade in a class. *I thank God for this experience, for I know that I know that I know that Jesus Christ arose from the dead, and that His Word is Truth - inerrant, absolute truth!*

Actually, the portion of Scripture which first absolutely confirmed to me that there is no humanistic explanation for its accuracy is Ezekiel 26, which contains specific prophecies about Tyre written about 2600 years ago, yet were fulfilled over hundreds of years and are still being fulfilled. You will find more about this in Chapter 7.

Yes, I believe that "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work" 2 Timothy 3:16 (NKJV).

The Anvil of God's Word

Last eve I passed beside a blacksmith's door
 And heard the anvil ring the vesper chime;
 When looking in, I saw upon the floor,
 Old hammers worn with beating years of time.

"How many anvils have you had," said I,
 "To wear and batter these hammers so?"
 "Just one," said he; then with a twinkling eye,
 "The anvil wears the hammers out, you know."

And so, I thought, the anvil of God's Word,
 For ages, skeptics blows have beat upon;
 Yet, though the noise of falling blows was heard,
 The anvil is unharmed, the hammers gone.

- John Clifford -

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CHAPTER 2

Old Earth Creationism Examined Biblically

Many highly qualified scientists have shown abundant and powerful scientific evidence why the earth, the solar system, and the universe **cannot** be millions (let alone billions) of years old. All of their evidences from various disciplines of science are important – very important – in exposing the fraud and fluff of evolutionism. This evidence also dismantles every compromising position that even Christians have used to try to stretch the Biblical record to accommodate the billions of years necessary for the supposed “science” of evolutionism. It is right, good, and in accord with the Biblical command to *“prove all things – hold fast that which is good”* 1 Thessalonians 5:21. **However, the final test of truth for the true Christian should always be the Word of God.** Biblical truth trumps the so-called “scientific evidence”! Why? Because Biblical truth comes from the mind of God, and scientific speculations come from the minds of men. Jesus prayed, *“Sanctify them by Your truth. Your Word is truth”* John 17:17 (NKJV). Paul wrote, *“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work”* 2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NKJV). The ultimate scientific evidence comes from the Creator of all things. Almighty God Himself was the first scientist! The first human scientist was Adam, for God commissioned him to be the zoologist to name all the basic kinds of animals. The word “science” literally means knowledge, and the Word of God tells us *“The fear of God is the beginning of knowledge (science): but fools despise wisdom and instruction”* Proverbs 1:7 (KJV). Science falsely so called springs from a heart of rebellion against God or from ignorance of His Word. Paul warned his disciple, *“O Timothy, keep that which is committed to your trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called: which some professing have erred concerning the faith. Grace be with you. Amen”* 1 Timothy 6:20-21. Unlearned Christians following blatant evolutionists, weak-willed theologians, and compromising pastors and teachers have erred concerning the faith by accepting the mantra of evolutionism that the earth and universe are billions of years old. Oh Christian, learn the truth! Stand up for the truth! **Speak up for the truth!** *“For God has not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind”* 2 Timothy 1:7. (I intentionally use the terminology evolutionism and creationism because they are both worldview philosophies and both of them are religious belief systems – see the inside cover of this booklet.)

1. Old Earth Creationism - Practices Eisegesis, Not Exegesis

Exegesis is drawing out from the text of Scripture the true meaning and accurate teaching based on context and word analysis. **Eisegesis** is reading into the text what is not there, but is based on preconceived ideas in the mind of the reader, drawn from other outside sources. Millions of years are not found in the text of Genesis, so an unbiased reader seeking to learn by reading Genesis as true history will never find it there. Perhaps that's why believers from countries not saturated with evolutionism reject old age creationism and are appalled that Christians believe such wild ideas. The wild ideas come from trying to squeeze vast ages of time into the Genesis record where they do not fit. It's like trying to stuff an elephant into a monkey suit. Terry Mortenson's extensive research into the history of old earth creationism shows clearly that these theories grew as compromise positions because Christians were attempting to accommodate the Genesis record with the "science" of evolutionism. They capitulated instead of re-examining evolutionism's long ages! In Bible College, Kenneth Beckman emphasized, "When you compromise, you become part of the problem you once sought to solve." How true! With a few rare exceptions, the old earth creationism theories have sprouted up within the past 200 years – since evolutionism's ideas became widely accepted. (This trend began long before Charles Darwin published "The Origin of Species" in 1859 – see Ian Taylor's powerful book, *IN THE MINDS OF MEN*, as well as Terry Mortenson's writings and DVDs.)

2. Old Earth Creationism - Undermines the Genesis Record

Genesis is the first of the five books of history and law and is written as an actual historical account. If, as some old earth creationists surmise, the first chapters of Genesis are allegorical – when does it start becoming true history? Genesis is the foundational book of the Bible. "*If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?*" Psalm 11:3 (NKJV).

Years ago when we were missionaries in Germany, a theologian at a conference began expounding his theory that the early chapters of Genesis were merely allegory, adopted from other ancient writings. One astute missionary wife asked him, "When you begin cutting, where do you stop?" He didn't give her a direct answer, but I do remember him saying, "Perhaps if you had read what I have read, you would believe what I believe." I remember thinking, "I hope not!" and "If I ever come to believe what he now believes, I hope I will have the integrity to resign and get a different line of work!" If I didn't believe the Word of God, why would I continue as a teacher or preacher? Did God intend for us to write off the early chapters of Genesis as mere allegory, or does He take those chapters seriously as true history? What type of writings are the first five books of the Bible? Law! History! How do you read law and history? Literally – unless dealing with an obvious figure of speech.

3. Old Earth Creationism - Ignores the Genealogy Records in Genesis

To accept old earth creationism almost inevitably means to ignore the genealogy records in the book of Genesis. Even if there were some gaps in the genealogy records, there is still no logical way to cram millions of years into the book of Genesis.

4. Old Earth Creationism - Ignores the Genealogy Records in the Gospels

Matthew, writing to Jews, traces the genealogy of Jesus back to Abraham, and Luke, writing to Gentiles, traces the genealogy of Jesus back to Adam. Old earth creationism must ignore or distort these historical records.

5. Old Earth Creationism - Ignores the Fact that Jesus Taught Genesis as True History

Jesus believed Adam and Eve were real human beings! In Matthew 19, He quoted Genesis 2:24 as the foundation for marriage. He also believed that Moses was the author and quoted repeatedly from the writings of Moses. He told the Jews who did not accept Him, *“If you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?”* John 5:46-47 (NKJV).

6. Old Earth Creationism - Ignores the Fact that the Apostle Paul Believed and Taught Genesis as True History

In his classic and powerful defense of the truth about the resurrection of Jesus Christ and our future resurrection, Paul wrote, *“And so it is written, ‘The first man Adam became a living being.’ The last Adam became a life-giving spirit. However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural and afterward the spiritual. The first man was of the earth, made of dust; the second Man is the Lord from heaven. As was the man of dust, so also are those who are made of dust; and as is the heavenly Man, so also are those who are heavenly. And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man”* 1 Corinthians 15:45-49 (NKJV). If the first Adam was allegorical, not historical, then why would we believe that the second Adam – Jesus Christ – was historical, not allegorical? The resurrection of Jesus Christ as historical fact is the most basic truth of Biblical Christianity. In Paul’s defense of the truth about resurrection, God inspired him to write about Adam as a literal human being. Do you see how vital the literal truth of Genesis is to the foundations of the gospel of Christ?

7. Old Earth Creationism - Places Death Before Sin

The Bible clearly teaches that God created everything good, and on the sixth day pronounced it “very good”. It was a beautiful, wonderful paradise until human rebellion brought the curse of death, pain, and suffering, which changed this earth into a vale of tears. Genesis 3 and Romans 5 correspond perfectly. *“Therefore, just as*

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through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned” Romans 5:12 (NKJV). Some old earth creationists assume that this refers only to human death, which is the emphasis of this context, but there is no record in Scripture of any animal death before the Fall and Curse. One brother who believes old earth creationism asked me, “You mean Adam couldn’t even swat a mosquito before the Fall?” Isn’t he assuming that mosquitoes were bloodsuckers before the Curse???

Many insects suck nectar from flowers, so before the Curse mosquitoes were probably designed to do the same. The Old Testament prophets foretold the return of a perfect paradise – without carnivorous beasts killing weaker animals. *“The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, the calf and the young lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them”* Isaiah 11:6 (NKJV). The apostle John picks up this theme in Revelation 21:4 (NKJV). *“And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying, and there shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.”* Old earth creationism shatters this beautiful picture because it portrays millions of years of animal death, disease, and suffering before man developed (evolved from sub-human creatures) or was miraculously created and placed in a world already saturated with the blood of fang and claw. In this context death would have already been the pervasive paradigm all around him. Romans 8:22 tells us that the whole creation has been groaning under the curse brought on by sin. This is powerful confirmation that death did not exist in the animal kingdom before Adam and Eve sinned.

In the Biblical context we read that God clothed Adam and Eve with skins after they sinned. Genesis 3:21. This gives solid foundation for some necessary implications (which are clarified later in Scripture):

- a. Their own efforts to cover their shame were totally inadequate.
- b. The shedding of blood was necessary for God to provide the skins to cover their shame. “Without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sins.”
- c. God Himself was the One who provided the shedding of blood and the covering for their nakedness.
- d. The death of an innocent animal (or animals) because of their sin was probably an emotional shock and a vivid reminder of how terrible sin is.

Bruce Malone wrote, “Creation forms the basis for interpreting and understanding why things are the way they are. If evolution and enormous periods of time are reality, then death has always been around. Adam and Eve are just storybook characters and God made all creatures, including mankind, to eek out existence amidst death and disease and heartbreak and disasters and endless adversity. If millions of years are reality – then this is just the way things have been made and mankind has nothing to do with the entrance of death into creation. Therefore, God is...in reality...the ‘author of death’.”

8. The Local Flood Foolish Fallacy

Old earth creationists accept Charles Lyell's "Principles of Geology" (knowingly or inadvertently) and therefore reject not only the Biblical account of creation in six days, but also reject the Biblical account of the worldwide flood. Charles Lyell (along with James Hutton and several others) rejected God's account of Creation and the Flood and intentionally set out to build an opposing worldview not answerable to Almighty God as Creator and Judge. Charles Lyell was a lawyer whose "Principles of Geology" strongly influenced Charles Darwin's thinking during his long voyage on the Beagle. Unfortunately, his destructive anti-Biblical philosophy came to be widely accepted as "science" and is now infecting the thinking of many so-called "Biblical scholars" and corrupting the faith of gullible Christians. Is it "no big deal" to reject God's Word for the fallible speculations of "science falsely so called"? Paul wrote to the Colossian believers: "*Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ*" Colossians 2:8 (NKJV). Please consider some of the destructive and tragic consequences of the local flood foolish fantasy.

1. The local flood foolish fantasy portrays the Bible as a book of myths instead of a book of mighty miracles performed by our majestic Maker. God's Word in Genesis chapters 6-9 and in 2 Peter 3 is not vague about its description of a catastrophic world-wide flood which God sent as a terrible judgment because of the wickedness of man. If God really did send a huge world-wide flood, what evidence would we expect to find? Billions of fossils buried in water-laid sandstone and clay as well as coal and oil deposits all over the earth. These are precisely the conditions we have. Please look at what God actually inspired Moses to write and what the rock layers show! There are giant clam shells near the tops of the Andes Mountains, sea shells high in the Himalayas, and I've personally seen sea shells in the Colorado Rocky Mountains near where I grew up.
2. The local flood foolish fantasy makes a mockery of God's instructions to Noah to build such a huge ark.
 - A. If the flood was local, all air-breathing animals would **not** be destroyed by it.
 - B. God could just have the local animals migrate to another region instead of to the ark.
 - C. There would be no need for a huge ark.
3. The local flood foolish fantasy makes God out to be a liar. Why?

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- A. God was very specific in the description of the extent of the Flood, which He inspired Moses to write. Consider these clear passages: *“And God said to Noah, **The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth. . . And, behold, I, even I, do bring a flood of waters upon the earth, to destroy all flesh, wherein is the breath of life, from under heaven; and every thing that is in the earth shall die. . . And of every living thing of all flesh, two of every sort shall you bring into the ark, to keep them alive with you; they shall be male and female”*** Genesis 6:13, 17, 19 (NKJV). *“In the six hundredth year of Noah’s life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, the same day were **all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened. . . And the waters prevailed exceedingly upon the earth; and all the high hills, that were under the whole heaven, were covered. Fifteen cubits upward did the waters prevail; and the mountains were covered. All flesh died that moved upon the earth, both of fowl, and of cattle, and of beast, and of every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth, and every man. All in whose nostrils was the breath of life, of all that was in the dry land, died”*** Genesis 7:11, 19-22 (NKJV).
- B. God was also very specific in His promise that He would **never** again destroy the whole world with a world-wide flood. In fact, He made a covenant and gave us the rainbow as His covenant sign to remind us of that promise. I remember wondering how the rainbow could be God’s covenant sign after learning in my Jr. High physics class how the rainbow appears. What I did not yet understand – because I had not carefully read Genesis – was that there was no rain before the Flood, therefore there could not have been a rainbow formed by the sun shining through water droplets in the sky. Before the Flood, God watered the earth with a mist coming from subterranean waters. Consider this passage of Scripture about God’s promise and His covenant sign: *“**I establish my covenant with you: Never again will all life be cut off by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth. And God said, ‘This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come: I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth’”*** Genesis 9:11-13 (NIV). If the Flood were only a local flood – even a very big one – **then every local flood would mock God’s promise and the rainbow would be a sign that God is a liar. GOD IS NOT A LIAR!!!** Who is lying? Those who promote the local flood foolish fantasy!

4. The local flood foolish fantasy also makes a mockery of God's clear warning about the final judgment because it is based upon His former judgment of the world by water. *"First of all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. They will say, 'Where is this 'coming' he promised? Ever since our fathers died, everything goes as it has since the beginning of creation.' But they deliberately forget that long ago by God's word the heavens existed and the earth was formed out of water and by water. By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed. By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men"* 2 Peter 3:3-7 (NIV). God destroyed the world the first time by water – He will destroy the world the next time by fire! Be ready!

5. Even the prophet Isaiah acknowledges the reality of a worldwide flood and ties that reality to the very character of God's trustworthiness. *"In a surge of anger I hid my face from you for this moment, but with everlasting kindness I will have compassion on you,"* says the Lord your Redeemer. *'To me this is like the days of Noah, when I swore that the waters of Noah would never again cover the earth. So now I have sworn not to be angry with you, never to rebuke you again.'"* (Isaiah 54:8-9 NIV) The casting of his people out of the Promised Land was compared to the actual, factual, world-wide flood of Noah. The promise of God's forgiveness was tied to the fact such an event would never happen again. If the flood never happened, why believe the promise?

Conclusion

Isn't it sad that an atheist, who does not even understand that evolution is an unscientific myth, understands Biblical theology better than many Christians? G. Richard Bozarth wrote in *The American Atheist*:

"Christianity has fought, and still fights science, and will fight science to the desperate end over evolution, because evolution destroys utterly and finally the very reason Jesus' earthly life was supposedly made necessary. Destroy Adam and Eve and the original sin, and in the rubble you will find the sorry remains of the Son of God. Take away the meaning of His death; if Jesus was not the Redeemer who died for our sins, and this is what evolution means – then Christianity is nothing."

Even though old earth creationists reject evolutionism, by accepting long ages and allegorizing the early chapters of Genesis, **they produce the same effect** – undermining the gospel message. Do you understand why I believe it is divisive and destructive?

CHAPTER 3

An Open Letter to a College Student struggling with doubts about God, the Bible, Christ, and Christianity

Dear “Mike”, (Name changed to protect his identity.)

The Bible tells us to “*test everything – hold on to the good. Avoid every kind of evil*” 1 Thessalonians 5:21-22. God encourages us to check things out – to test them, but He also tells us to avoid every kind of evil. As my friend Jim Brown, elder in Sacramento says, “**Truth invites criticism, demands investigation, and walks unafraid.**” Amen!

I’m writing this to commend you for wanting to test everything – but to warn you that the evidence is strong that the writings of the Buddhist critic of the Bible are **not** the writings of an honest skeptic. They are distortions of the Bible and Christian writers. Besides, what does Buddhism have to offer? It is a hopeless, skeptical, atheistic philosophy. It is empty – devoid of meaning and joy.

The author appears to be willingly ignorant because he parades himself as a philosophical and Biblical scholar, yet ignores the fact that almost every good Christian apologist has already thoroughly answered and demolished his lame arguments.

Have you read *Mere Christianity*, by C.S. Lewis? *More than a Carpenter*, by Josh McDowell? *The Case for Christ*, by Lee Strobel? All of these were atheists or agnostics who were converted by the powerful evidence for Christ and the accuracy of the Bible when they did the research. I was also once an atheist but God captured my heart by a dramatic answer to prayer and turned me around. I am so thankful for that. *Ready to Give an Answer* is my book. Did we send you a copy? Other outstanding books are *A Closer Look at the Evidence*, *Censored Science* and *Search for the Truth*. Will you read these if we send you copies? I also want to highly recommend that you read the article, “Tackling Charges of Biblical Inconsistency” by James J. S. Johnson in the July issue of *Acts & Facts*. In fact, I even more highly recommend that you subscribe to this outstanding magazine

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(Institute for Creation Research, P.O. Box 59029, Dallas, TX 75229, 214-615-8300, www.icr.org).

I've had a lot of experience answering critics and skeptics on college and university campuses, as well as at "Man and the Christian Worldview" symposiums attended by many Ph.D. professors, scientists and philosophers. Sometimes I write to an author to try to engage him, but I will not try to contact the Buddhist author because he has demonstrated to me by his writings that he is a mocker. The Word of God says, "*Whoever corrects a mocker invites insult; whoever rebukes a wicked man incurs abuse. Do not rebuke a mocker or he will hate you; rebuke a wise man and he will love you. Instruct a wise man and he will be wiser still; teach a righteous man and he will add to his learning*" Proverbs 9:7-9 (NIV).

Mike, if you are sincerely searching for truth, then you won't find it in the writings of the Buddhist mocker – so why waste your time? The only reason I can see why you would choose to continue to read his writings (or those of blatant atheists like Sam Harris, Christopher Hitchens or Richard Dawkins) is if you are looking for excuses not to believe in God or His Word because you don't want to repent. Mike, what are you looking for? Are you willing to pray, "*Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting*" Psalm 139:23-24?

Do you truly desire to have wisdom, understanding, and good judgment? Proverbs 28:5 says, "*Evil men understand not judgment, but they that seek the Lord understand all things.*"

Now I'll give you a couple of examples of the Buddhist author's distortions. He often uses the "straw man" tactic, which is to distort an argument of Christians and set up this distorted "straw man" then cut it down and tear it apart. He seems to enjoy his triumph – when in reality he hasn't dealt with the real issue at all.

Here is an example:

He wrote, "*Christians will sometimes say that **everything** has a cause...*" False! False! False! Christian apologists point out that it is a scientific law that every **effect** must have an adequate cause. This makes a huge difference because God is **NOT** an effect – He is the cause! He is the first cause.

He also wrote, "*This old argument contains its own refutation, for if everything has a first cause, then the first cause must also have a cause.*" This argumentation is so weak it is ridiculous because he continues to build on the fallacy of "**everything**" instead of the true argument every effect, **plus** he commits the logical fallacy of saying that the **first** cause must also have a cause. If it is the **first** cause it cannot also have a cause! If it did, it wouldn't be the **first** cause.

Sometimes a small child will ask the question, “Who made God?” – which only reveals the child’s ignorance about the definition of Who God is. God is the eternal, almighty Creator of everything and everybody. If someone made God, He wouldn’t be God. The one who made him would be God. But then the child could ask, “Who made that God?” Such questioning could go on forever. That would be infinite regression – another logical fallacy.

The cynical critic ridicules the Song of Solomon as worthless erotic poetry. Actually it is a beautiful love poem which celebrates marriage and harmonizes perfectly with other portions of Scripture which warn against immorality. See Proverbs chapters 5 through 7, and 1 Corinthians chapter 7. Proverbs 18:22 says, *“Whoso finds a wife finds a good thing, and obtains favor of the Lord.”* Hebrews 13:4 says, *“Marriage is honorable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.”* Marriage is God’s invention and plan for male-female sexual satisfaction and fulfillment emotionally as well as physically. It was God Himself who created them male and female and designed one man for one woman for life as the basic unit of family and society. Family, faithfulness, fidelity and friendship for life are all part of His beautiful plan. Della and I are still enjoying the richness of His plan after all these years. This “Song of Songs” is also a beautiful picture of the intimate love and sacrifice of Christ for His bride, the church.

Biblical Christianity (with the possible exception of Orthodox Judaism, which accepts the Old Testament as true history) is the only worldview which has a logical consistent explanation for the existence of evil. Many people blame God – ignoring the fact that He created everything perfect and peaceful and put human beings in a beautiful garden in the beginning. Now we live on a cursed earth full of evil, heartache and suffering because of man’s rebellion against God! How would you evaluate the perspective of a man who sees a wrecker towing a terribly crunched truck and says, “Look at that Dodge Ram – what a lousy job the manufacturers did on that one!”? Sometimes the manufacturers do put out vehicles with defects, but by far most of the crashes are caused by drivers. Why don’t the atheists recognize that God made a perfect earth in the first place and sin wrecked it? Because they don’t want to!

Do you understand why I say he uses lame arguments? Do you want a man like this to be your mentor? Why not look to your father’s godly example and choose him as your mentor?

Mike, please openly and honestly consider what the apostle Paul wrote: *“I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: ‘The righteous will live by faith.’ The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men*

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who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities – his eternal power and divine nature – have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse” Romans 1:16-20 (NIV).

Do you want the apostle Paul (a converted skeptic with a powerful intellect) to be your mentor – or do you want wicked fools who are without excuse to be your mentors? By the way, why don't you ask them to logically explain why Saul of Tarsus, the passionate persecutor of Christians, was converted and became the most motivated missionary of the first century (perhaps of all time – except for Jesus Himself)? How do they explain that? They don't! They ignore it! But it is solid historical fact. How do you explain it?

Do you think I am too harsh in my evaluation of the Buddhist critic and the other blatant atheists I mentioned? Please consider what God says: *“The fool has said in his heart, ‘There is no God.’ They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that does good”* Psalm 14:1; 53:1. Besides, the Word says, *“The fool has said in his heart there is no God”* and these guys blab it right out loud and put it in print. Proverbs 15:1 says, *“...the mouth of fools pours out foolishness”!* I was also one of these wicked fools who blabbed it out loud. I am so thankful God convicted me of my sin and drew me out of that web of wickedness. He can do it with them also.

Did you notice that the last part of the verse says, *“...there is none that does good”?* This destroys the humanistic doctrine that mankind is basically good by nature. Jeremiah 17:9 says, *“The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked...”* Do you know that the rejection of God, His Word, and His Son is a moral issue (often covered up with an intellectual smokescreen)? The root of the problem is not intellectual (concerning our unanswered questions, etc.). Please consider John 3:16 in its context! *“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believes on him is not condemned: but he that believes not is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. **And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that does evil hates the light, neither comes to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. But he that does truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God”*** John 3:16-21 (KJV). The basic fact is that either you will repent and allow the Holy Spirit to shape your desires to the truth, or you will reject the truth and warp God's Word to fit your desires. Which will it be? *“Come now, and let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow...”* Isaiah 1:18. God in His marvelous grace is calling you to Himself.

Have you ever noticed that just before David prayed the soul searching prayer, “*Search me, O God, and know my heart...*” he prayed, “*Do I not hate them O Lord, that hate you? And am I not grieved with those that rise up against you? I hate them with perfect hatred: I count them my enemies.*”? I can certainly relate to David’s intense feelings expressed in this prayer, but I’m faced with a much greater challenge! Jesus said, “*You have heard that it has been said, You shall love your neighbor, and hate your enemy. But I say to you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That you may be the children of your Father which is in heaven:...*” Matthew 5:43-45.

The greatest expression of love for the enemies of God and His truth is to earnestly and fervently pray for them to come under deep conviction for sin and be genuinely converted to Jesus Christ as Lord. Christopher Hitchens now has incurable cancer, yet blatantly asserts his atheism. It is reported he says that the only thing which would cause him to come to faith in God would be brain damage from the cancer. Let’s pray earnestly for him, Michael Newdow, and the others!

Mike, you are “*fearfully and wonderfully made*” by Almighty God, the Genius who created this unique, awesome universe, and specifically designed you for a purpose, which no one else can fill, because there is no one else just like you. The greatest joy you can ever have is to search out His purpose for your life and fulfill your absolutely unique niche in His marvelous plan. In your heart do you really desire to know truth - to experience peace and joy - to have faith in the Father and confidence in your relationship with Him? If so, you need to get into His Word – saturate your mind with the revelation of His will and purpose for you. The fear of God is the beginning of knowledge (science) (Proverbs 1:7) and the beginning of wisdom (Proverbs 15:33). In the Bible you will find light, life, and health. “*But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shines more and more unto the perfect day. The way of the wicked is as darkness: they know not at what they stumble. My son, attend to my words; incline your ear unto my sayings. Let them not depart from your eyes; keep them in the midst of your heart. For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh. Keep your heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life*” Proverbs 4:18-23 (KJV).

The basics about the will of God for your life are not difficult to understand. “*It is God’s will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable, not in passionate lust like the heathen, who do not know God; and that in this matter no one should wrong his brother or take advantage of him. The Lord will punish men for all such sins, as we have already told you and warned you. For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life. Therefore, he who rejects this instruction does not reject man but God, who gives you his Holy Spirit*” 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8 (NIV). Yes, it’s true that either the Bible will keep you from sin or sin will keep you from the Bible! “*Your Word have I hid in my heart that*

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I might not sin against you” Psalm 119:11. Since the basic struggle to accept the truth of God is moral, not intellectual, the basic need is repentance and reliance on God to save you and lead you. He will forgive your sin and give you His Holy Spirit to empower you to live according to His will. Notice the two commands and the two promises found in this powerful passage of Scripture: “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” Acts 2:38 (NIV).

There are some very good Bible study guides available. I recommend that you start by reading first the foundational books of Genesis and Exodus, then Psalms and Proverbs, then the entire New Testament.

Do you know who Simon Greenleaf was? He was the head of the law department at Harvard and the professor who wrote a three volume set on how to gather and evaluate evidence. His set became the world-wide standard for training lawyers and judges. He was the man who knew more about how to evaluate evidence than any other individual. One day in the early 1800’s a student asked him, “Professor Greenleaf, do you believe Jesus Christ arose from the dead?” Because he was raised in a Jewish home where he was constantly told that Jesus was an imposter, who was not the Messiah and did not rise from the dead, he said, “No.” Then the student had the audacity to ask, “Professor – have you examined the evidence?” This left him embarrassed before the entire class because he had often told his students, “Never make any important decision without examining the evidence.” Simon Greenleaf began an intense study of the evidence originally to prove he was right, but was converted to Christ by the overpowering evidence. He wrote a book on the evidence for the resurrection of Christ and said that any honest jury would have to say that Jesus Christ arose from the dead. He also wrote that the four evangelists Matthew, Mark, Luke and John were totally accurate in all their historical references and that their writings are valid historical documents. If you look up Simon Greenleaf on the internet, you can read for yourself what he wrote about the four gospel writers. It’s hard to wade through because of the technical terms and verbiage style of the 1800’s, but I’ve done it. His testimony is powerful – and irrefutable! The question is: What will you do with this evidence? With Jesus? Today He is our Savior. One day He will be our Judge. Do you want Him as your Savior – both now and then? He has left the choice with you. I hope you choose wisely.

“To Him Who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before His glorious presence without fault and with great joy – to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen” Jude 24-25.

Yours & His, Rick

CHAPTER 4

Is Genesis a Book of Myths or a Book of Miracles?

Why I believe Genesis is True History

This is the outline for a message received very well in congregations in Ukraine and America where I preached it, yet seems to be very controversial subject matter in most evangelical churches, seminaries and Bible colleges. Please read it carefully and ask yourself, “Why is this so controversial?” Is it because we don’t recognize how awesome and powerful Almighty God is? Nothing is impossible with God! He spoke this universe and all it contains into existence!

Introduction: Do you know why most women would rather be beautiful than smart? Because most men can see better than they can think! The Bible is God’s standard – judge the speculations of scientists by His Word! Test everything – hold on to what is good!

In the 1800’s Bible-believing Christians became greatly disturbed with the writings of the theological liberals at the University of Tübingen in Germany. Why? They were seeking to explain away the miracles of the Bible – including those of Jesus and His apostles – by purely natural causes. Christians sounded the battle cry and earnestly contended for the faith against the undermining and devious doctrines of the liberals (modernists). Isn’t it ironic that now most “Bible-believing evangelicals” have laid down the sword of the Spirit of truth and gullibly swallow the undermining teaching of Hugh Ross and other “progressive creationists” who explain away the miracles of Genesis (the foundational book of the entire Bible) with their acceptance of the uniformitarian geological chart of Charles Lyell? They seem to ignore the irreconcilable contradictions with the Biblical record that acceptance of millions of years brings into their theology, while they often hold in disdain those who hold to the Biblical record. They often consider us Bible-believing Christians unscientific and unlearned because we reject the billions of years, which are essential to evolution, but totally unnecessary for miracles. Creation, the Flood and the Resurrection were miracles, not myths!

I Corinthians 1:18-31

Not many “high and mighty”. Mouse to elephant “We sure shook that bridge!”
Would you rather be considered a fool by the world – or by Almighty God?

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Texts: I Timothy 6:20-21; 2 Timothy 2:15 & 3:16; Acts 17:11

The purpose of this message is to clarify the difference between myths and miracles.

I. Miracles don't require millions of years.

If you believe Genesis 1:1 and Psalm 33:6-8 – you will have no problem with any miracle in the Word of God!

- A. Creation Story
- B. Flood Story
- C. Charles Lyell rejected both – strong influence on Charles Darwin.

II. Miracles demonstrate authority.

- A. When the general speaks – soldiers move!
- B. When God speaks – instantaneously things happen! Water to wine!
- C. When Jesus spoke – even the wind and waves obeyed – instantly!

III. Myths mutilate the meaning.

- A. When you start cutting – where do you stop? Allegory – that is the myth!
- B. The best commentary on the Bible is the Bible! See Exodus 20:8-11.
- C. On the 7th day how old was Adam? One day or one million? How old did Adam look? He looked older than he was. God not only created Adam and Eve full grown and mature – he created the earth, the universe, and everything in them fully functioning from the beginning. It's no wonder they may look older than they are.
- D. The Geological Chart is the actual myth. I Timothy 6:20-21
- E. Was there death before sin? Romans 5:12! This is the real clincher! All the compromising theories about Genesis have as a result death before sin. When you compromise you become part of the problem you once sought to solve!!!

Conclusion: What difference does it make? Sergei Golovin's Testimony – It cost him his doctorate and his job – What has it cost you to follow Jesus? Take up your cross and follow Jesus!

CHAPTER 5

Open Letters to Dr James Dobson Before He Resigned from Focus on the Family

Letter #1: May 8, 2009

Dear Dr. James Dobson,

I listen to Focus on the Family on both KBGN and KSPD. I very much appreciate your last three days of potent prayers and emphasis on the power of prayer. Thank you!

This letter to you is an appeal to reconsider your old earth/universe position carefully in the light of very strong Scriptural and scientific evidence against it (and the Scriptural is far more important). Also, it is to clarify why I believe this issue is so important – it deals with the character of our Almighty God and the truth of His Word.

Here is God’s unvarnished truth: ***“The Lord merely spoke, and the heavens were created. He breathed the word and all the stars were born. He gave the sea its boundaries and locked the oceans in vast reservoirs. Let everyone in the world fear the Lord, and let everyone stand in awe of him. For when he spoke, the world began! It appeared at his command”*** Psalm 33:6-9 (NLT).

How is it possible to read this, then, with a straight face, claim that God took billions of years to “develop” the universe?

Another example of the fact that when my God speaks, “things happen” is the record of the huge storm that came up when Jesus was asleep in the boat. When the disciples woke Him and said, “Master, don’t you care that we perish?” Jesus spoke the words, “Peace—be still!” and there was instant calm. The disciples were awe struck. “Who is this that even the wind and the sea obey His voice?” They still had not fully realized that He was God packaged in human flesh. What would have been the effect on the disciples if it had taken several days or even several hours for the winds and waves to calm down? Would they have been

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awe struck? Why would they? That is just the normal process. My point is that when my God speaks, the Word of His power produces results – instantly! He is Lord of heaven and earth! King of kings and Lord of lords and the Almighty! I don't need the weak god of theistic evolutionism or progressive creationism, who takes millions of years of trial and error to get something done. In fact, this is just another false god, who is a figment of the unbeliever's imagination – like the pagan gods of Greece and Rome, who had only limited power. Why distort Scripture to come up with such a god to worship?

This is an issue of authority and power. When a general commands a private to do a task, he expects "Yes, Sir!" and instant obedience. What if the private said, "OK, I'll do it – but it may take a few million years"? Would the general accept that as obedience?

It is a fact that natural forces (created by God) can turn water into wine if given enough time, but when my God speaks things happen! When Jesus turned water into wine, He did it instantly by miraculous power. He created all things by His Word – instantly, full grown and fully functioning (so they had the appearance of age at the beginning). The God I worship is awesome and almighty – not some bumbling idiot of a god who can't get it right the first time, so he uses millions of years of suffering and death in an evolutionary process to evolve something. When Jesus said, "Peace, be still!" to the wind and waves, did they calm down in two weeks? Two days? Two hours? No! Instantly! When my God speaks, things happen!!!

The reason I strongly disagree with the statement, "One doesn't have to be driven by the theory of evolution to think that the earth is old," is that it is not historically verifiable. Terry Mortenson's doctoral thesis was on this subject, and he demonstrated persuasively and conclusively from history that the creationist position was accepted almost universally by Christians and professing Christians for over 1800 years – until the uniformitarian doctrine (which was an essential part of evolutionism) became popularized. (You can contact Terry and get the evidence from Answers in Genesis.) All of the old earth positions of compromise came about from Christian leaders trying to accommodate the supposed "facts" of old earth geology, popularized by a lawyer named Charles Lyell, who strongly influenced Darwin.

I.C.R. recently published a new book entitled *Old Earth Creationism*, which carefully examines these issues in more depth. I've ordered extra copies and I will give you one for your ministry if you want to read it. Please RSVP.

Yours & His,
Rick

Letter #2: June 3, 2009

Dear Dr. Dobson:

Della and I are probably your most long time listeners on earth! Why do I say this? Because we began listening to you **before** you started Focus on the Family. How? We were serving as missionaries with Alpine Christian Mission from 1970 – 1977 and received Earl Lee’s cassette tapes for years – and they were so inspiring! They informed us and lifted us through down times. Also, Brother Lee interviewed you about your work and your book, *DARE TO DISCIPLINE*. I quoted you in my booklet, *Train Your Child to the Glory of God* (which I wrote first in German, then translated back into English). To this I want to add that we admire you and consider you among America’s Christian heroes (along with Adrian Rogers and D. James Kennedy, who have already graduated into the awesome presence of our Lord Jesus). Your compassion for the unborn and the down-trodden and your courage in standing strong against the strange winds of “politically correct” doctrines, along with your balance of compassion and courage, impresses and inspires us. We think of you as a long-time friend, even though we have never met you personally. Therefore, when I wrote my letter of appeal to you recently (May 8, 2009), asking you to reconsider and re-evaluate your old earth/universe position, I wrote as a friend to a friend, warning of grave doctrinal errors, which I don’t believe you realize. (Did you personally receive and read that letter?) Friends who care warn friends of danger – whether physical, emotional, or spiritual. Don’t you agree?

Normally you are a very thorough researcher, but I don’t believe you have taken the time to research the issue of long ages carefully. Frankly, on this subject your interview comments (which Mark sent me) expose to me that you haven’t done your homework thoroughly – resulting in a very strong statement of resentment toward young earth proponents. Will you do me the honor of reading my letters, the notations I’ve written about your interview comments, and the articles I’ve sent you in response to your comments? I believe that when you more thoroughly research this subject, you will want to change some of the comments. I know you have changed your mind before, and I hope you will again this time.

Respectfully yours & His,
Rick

CHAPTER 6

Faith and Reason

(Four Open Letters for your Consideration)

1. Letter to an old earth creation friend:

Dear Friend,

What really puzzles me is why you insist on good hermeneutics for the New Testament books but ignore good hermeneutics for Genesis. I find your comments sad - very sad. My heart is heavy for you because I believe old earth creationism is false doctrine that undermines the gospel. I thought you had learned better and rejected it - and I still hope to persuade you to forsake the old earth doctrine. Do you have emotional ties to old earth creationism? It seems that you do - and I don't understand why. Would you be open and willing to read the little book, *Old-Earth Creationism on Trial*, if I send you a copy (or the bigger, more thorough book, *Refuting Compromise*)?

How long has it been since you read - carefully read Genesis chapter 1? Verses 29-31 clearly tell us what God specified for both animals and man to eat: vegetation, fruits, nuts, and grains! This is not speculation - this is revelation! Yet you insist on speculating (no, declaring) that animals were carnivores from the beginning. Your speculation is primarily based on teeth. I choose to believe the Word of God rather than your speculation. Please read what it says!!!

You can easily draw false conclusions by looking at teeth. Have you ever noticed the teeth of a hippo? What do hippos eat? They eat vegetation – but they have long, sharp teeth. Pandas have sharp teeth, but what do pandas eat? Bamboo!

You also dogmatically state that *mosquitoes have always been bloodsuckers*. Oh, really? Have they also always been deadly disease carriers (such as West Nile Virus)? Have you ever been covered by a swarm of mosquitoes? Would you describe that as “*very good*” – as God described His creation? Was the earth already cursed with bloodsucking mosquitoes (as well as other bloodsuckers) before Adam and Eve sinned? What do you think caused the curse of carnivores and bloodsuckers, if not God's curse on the earth because of man's sin?

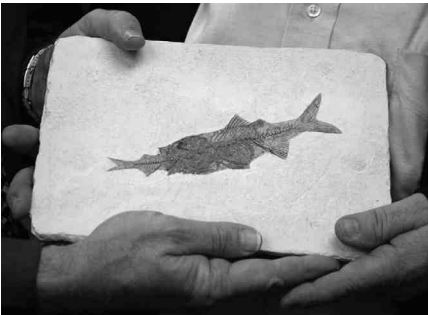
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How sad – how very sad is this doctrine that you cling to! The earth is groaning in travail under the curse (Romans 8:22) and you believe that it has always been this way – that man’s sin did not cause this curse. I’m sorry, brother, but you didn’t get this doctrine from the Bible. The Bible definitely connects the groaning with the curse brought on by sin - and the redemption from the curse with the redemption and resurrection of God’s people (see Romans 8:18-25).

You also wrote, “*But I wonder what Moses has to do with the age of the earth. Is there some question about genealogies between Moses and Jesus? So far as I know there is no question about those years. So why bring in Moses when the question is the age of the earth?*” The answer to this question seems to me to be obvious, but I will explain more clearly.

1. First, Moses wrote about the age of the earth in Genesis 1 – and he didn’t stutter. Since in the Hebrew reckoning of time the old day ended with sundown, and the new day began with evening (right after sundown) we have, repeated over and over in Genesis 1 concerning the days of creation this phrase, “*the evening and morning were the first day, ...second day, ...third day,*” etc. Also, in the Bible when the word “day” is used with a number it is referring to a literal, twenty-four hour day. This is not figurative use – it is historical narrative. How could God have inspired Moses to write it any plainer?
2. God also inspired Moses to write Exodus. In the fourth commandment recorded in Exodus 20:8-11, God said to Israel: “*Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shall you labor, and do all your work: But the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God: in it you shall not do any work, you, nor your son, nor your daughter, your manservant, nor your maidservant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger that is within your gates: **For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it.***” This is Almighty God’s own commentary on Genesis chapter 1!! Would any Israelite think, “Oh, God wants us to work six million years – then we can rest for a million years.”? No! That’s ridiculous! They understood that God was speaking about actual days. (By the way, the Sabbath was God’s covenant sign between Him and his people Israel. The penalty for breaking the Sabbath was, “*he shall surely be put to death*” [see Exodus 31:12-18]. The Sabbath was **not** given to all people – or it could not have been a covenant sign with Israel.)
3. Moses wrote that God created all land animals and mankind on the sixth day and rested on the seventh day. He also recorded that Adam lived nine hundred and thirty years before he died physically (Spiritually he died the day he ate the forbidden fruit because he was separated from God – like a cut flower separated from its source of life).

How old was Adam on the seventh day? According to Scripture, he was one day old (even though he didn't look one day old)! But if the days of creation were long ages, as most old earth creationists speculate, Adam may have been millions of years old on the seventh day. This is not only contradictory – it is ludicrous. Why should we twist Scripture to compromise with the evolutionary doctrine of old earth geology? Charles Lyell wrote his *Principles of Geology* specifically to promote his philosophy of uniformitarianism (that the present rate of erosion, etc., is the key to the past). He developed this philosophy because he rejected the Biblical account of both the Creation and the Flood. Why? Because the Flood was the biggest catastrophe this world has ever had. It is the explanation for most of the rock layers all over



Fossil of fish swallowing fish - fossils obviously formed rapidly (used by permission of AiG)

the world. Fossils are only formed in catastrophic conditions – like the fossil of one fish in the process of swallowing a smaller fish (which had to happen almost instantly). If there really was a worldwide Flood, what would we expect to find? Buddy Davis sings it right, “Billions of dead things buried in rock layers all over the earth.” What do geologists and paleontologists find? Billions of dead things buried in rock layers all over the earth! (By the way, Moses is also the one who wrote about

the Flood!) If we believe Moses, we won't believe Charles Lyell's old earth geology philosophy. I urge you, brother, to abandon this false doctrine! **What does Moses have to do with the age of the earth? Everything! Let's believe him – for he wrote what God breathed into him to write!!!**

Yours & His,
Rick

2. Suggestions to Matt, for an agnostic friend:

Dear Matt,

I have some suggestions for you to recommend to your agnostic “friend” (opponent), Jeff, when he calls in this evening:

1. The DVD *Expelled*, by Ben Stein
2. The book *The Collapse of Evolution*, by Scott M. Huse
3. The book *The Icons of Evolution*, by Jonathan Wells
4. *The Evolution of a Creationist*, by Jobe Martin

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5. *Bones of Contention*, by Martin Lubenow. This is your primary documentation for all the bones fitting on a pool table (for supposed transitional forms from ape to human).
6. The DVD *Monkey Business-The Search for Man's Ancestor*, by Bruce Malone (I will donate this one to you for him if you want it). It is excellent!!! It documents the scanty so-called evidence for transitional forms between apes and humans.
7. *A Closer Look at the Evidence*,” by Richard and Tina Kleiss.

Here is another line of questioning you might use with Jeff, and other atheists or agnostic callers:

Since you believe in macro-evolution, you believe that everything evolved gradually over eons of time by chance with no intelligent design, right? Therefore, you believe your own brain developed out of non-intelligent matter by random chance over time with no intelligent design, no purpose, and no meaning because you have no Designer, right? **Therefore, what basis do you have for believing that your own brain can produce intelligent thought? Why should I listen to you?** If there is not design and not purpose, what difference does it make? Why are you bothering to call in to debate? **Why should you care?**

I will be praying for him to repent and for wisdom for you in dealing with him. The books you already recommended by Philip Johnson are excellent!! (*Darwin on Trial* and *Defeating Darwinism by Opening Minds*).

I was surprised to hear you say that you think the universe and the earth may be as much as 100,000 years old. How does that fit with Adam and Eve being true historical humans (not allegory), and the genealogy record in Genesis 1-11? Would you like to have a copy of *Acts and Facts* magazine for October ‘How Young Is the Earth?’ (Applying Simple Math to Data Provided in Genesis)?

3. Correspondence to a missionary friend:

Michael Ord is a creation scientist (retired meteorologist/weatherman) who is doing a lot of research on the results in the northwestern states of the chaotic conditions produced by the flood. He shows powerful evidence that the “mystery” of Devil’s Tower in Wyoming is solved when we consider those massive flood conditions, so the “Devil’s Tower” is actually God’s monument to His judgment on a corrupt earth. He also shows that the ice age and the post-flood conditions produced more massive flooding, which caused the scablands of eastern Washington, the entire Columbia River Gorge, and the rich soil deposits in the Willamette Valley. Michael and other creation scientists show powerful evidence that the entire Grand Canyon was formed by flooding when the dam of a massive lake that existed above Grand Canyon broke loose after the Flood. I believe that ICR and AiG and several other creationist organizations have his DVDs and his book.

Another example of the fact that when my God speaks, “things happen” is the record of the huge storm that came up when Jesus was asleep in the boat. When the disciples woke Him and said, “Master, don’t you care that we perish?” Jesus spoke the words, “Peace -- be still!” and there was instant calm. The disciples were awe struck. “Who is this that even the wind and the sea obey His voice?” They still had not fully realized that He was God, packaged in human flesh. What would have been the effect on the disciples if it had taken several days or even several hours for the winds and waves to calm down? Would they have been awe struck? Why would they? That is just the normal process. My point is that when my God speaks, the Word of His power produces results -- instantly! He is Lord of heaven and earth! King of kings and Lord of lords and the Almighty! I don’t need the weak god of theistic evolutionism or progressive creationism, who takes millions of years of trial and error to get something done. In fact, this is just another false god, who is a figment of the unbeliever’s imagination -- like the pagan gods of Greece and Rome, who had only limited power. Why distort Scripture to come up with such a god to worship?

Does John Clayton give an email address? I would like to send him these thoughts and challenge him to do his homework. Yes, the amount of time it takes to get something done does matter. When I’m paying our electricians, it makes a great difference if they get the job done in a few hours – or if it takes days. Their competency is on the line! The same is true of our God. His competency is on the line! I deeply resent every effort to distort Scripture by trying to stuff long ages into the Genesis record where they don’t fit in order to accommodate the speculative theories of fallible men. This compromises the Word of God and the power of our Creator in order to accommodate the long age speculations of Charles Lyell, Charles Darwin, and other unbelievers who rejected the testimony of Scripture.

By the way, the “Divisions of Geological Time” chart (Cambrian through Jurassic, Cretaceous and Tertiary) was concocted by James Hutton, Charles Lyell, and several other unbelievers as an alternative to believing the Bible. It has become accepted as the standard measurement of earth ages by evolutionists. Why do many Christians want to bow to it as though it were true history? It is deeply flawed, both scientifically and Scripturally. For example, the chart shows dinosaurs separated from human life by over 60,000,000 years, yet the Word of God tells us that God created all animal and human life on the 5th and 6th days of creation. It is a fact that scientists have found widespread evidence of mankind’s knowledge of the appearance and activity with dinosaurs in cultures around the globe. Quite likely these creatures were simply called “dragons” before the word “dinosaur” was coined. Where is the state-supported museum or text book which will show you such incriminating evidence against this chart and the evolutionary time table? And where are the state textbooks that are telling about dinosaur bones from both Alaska and Montana, which still have red blood corpuscles in the marrow of the bone? Evolutionists teach, according to their geologic column,

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that dinosaurs died out over 60,000,000 years before man evolved. Red blood corpuscles that are preserved for 60,000,000 years??? Impossible!!!

Facts like these you can learn about in creationist publications and museums, but you are not likely to read about them in the writings of Hugh Ross, John Clayton, or other “progressive creationists” or theistic evolutionists, because they have capitulated to the evolutionary time table. In my opinion, they might as well be bowing before a totem pole or Buddha statue.

My final example for this letter is from an article by David Coppedge entitled, “The Message in Surprise Effects” in the August issue of ACTS & FACTS, published by Institute for Creation Research. After giving examples of some “surprise” stories from astronomy this year, he concludes his article with this insightful paragraph: “What is the message in these surprise effects? Science is tentative at best. Consensus is no measure of factuality. Even long-trusted scientific theories can be challenged by anomalies. As Thomas Kuhn and subsequent philosophers of science have pointed out, scientists typically work within paradigms, or accepted explanatory frameworks. Anomalies are surprises that don’t fit the paradigm. When too many anomalies accumulate, a scientific revolution may occur, and a new paradigm may take its place. If you compromise the Bible with the latest paradigm, your position could become a casualty of the next one. The Bible has outlasted a great many paradigms. Considering its Author, that’s no surprise.”

To those compromising Christians who bow to the “science falsely so called” of the atheists and evolutionists by promoting the concept that it took God billions of years to create (instead of when He speaks, things happen) I have a question. **When God creates our new home (the new heavens and new earth), are we going to have to wait billions of years to move in?** The teaching that God used millions of years of death in the evolutionary process before creating Adam not only undermines the gospel, but is ridiculous in view of the nature of the power of our Awesome God. Jesus, the second Adam, came to reverse what the first Adam did. (The curse of death was the result of the sin of Adam.) To teach that death came before sin is false to the core. If you think I’m passionate about this, you are right! Why? Truth matters! The gospel matters!

In the grace of our Lord Jesus,
Rick

4. Letter regarding Flood Geology and Age of the Earth:

Dear Friend,

Back on 12/2/08 you sent the article *Ancient Mountains on a Young Earth* and asked the question, “*What do you think of this?*” I read the article and jotted some notes, but then got buried with work. We have been sending you some very perceptive articles and have more to come (one of them shows very strong scientific evidence against the “ancient mountain” theory). Maybe I should now ask you to re-read Al Cornell’s article and ask, “*What do you think of this now?*” However, I won’t just pass it off to you. Now I’m ready to give you a more thorough answer.

My opinion is that Al should have remained silent another 30 years, while doing more research to write more sensibly. Here are my reasons:

1. Al wrote, “*Toward the end of the 1970’s I became convinced that something was woefully wrong with the flood geology belief system.*” I believe this is a very dangerous position for the following reasons:

- a. Rejecting the Biblical flood geology was the basis for James Hutton, Charles Lyell, and a few others to devise the geology chart that has become the evolutionists “bible” (their source of authority). However, I can easily show that it is based on their philosophy, not a scientific research. It is patently false.

Dinosaurs supposedly died out 65 million years ago, so very few evolutionists want to discuss the fact that dinosaur bones with DNA and red blood corpuscles in the marrow of the bone have been discovered in Alaska (1998) and in Montana (2005). To continue to believe that these bones are 65,000,000 years old is ridiculous, yet hard core evolutionists keep their faith in spite of hard evidence in soft tissue! So, what do these facts do to the “geology chart” that rejects flood geology? Blows it apart!!!

- b. The term “flood geology” is too narrow, although the Biblical flood has huge implications. A much better term is “Biblical geology.” This would encompass the fact that in the original creation, at first the whole earth was covered with water, then God made the dry land appear and gathered the water all into one place. This means there was one super continent and one huge ocean. There was also a pre-flood canopy above the earth producing a hot-house environment. The plants were watered by a mist, not by rainfall. At the flood, all the fountains of the great deep burst open, as well as the windows of heaven. Biblical geology must take into account all of this:

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- 1) Pre-flood conditions on the earth.
 - 2) The powerful effects of the flood on geology.
 - 3) The powerful post-flood effects, including the ice age and massive flooding at intervals after the major flood.
2. I frankly don't believe that Al Cornell has done his homework. I think he is woefully lacking in understanding the strides of research being done by creation scientists around the world. His paragraph about radioactive decay convinces me that he is not up on the current research that has been done and is being done by Institute for Creation Research. Perhaps he's been reading too much of Hugh Ross, whose humanistic speculations are pitiful.

Al puts tremendous stock in speculative human reasoning and speaks as though it is a fact that the mountains are ancient. Do you remember when I told you how two creation scientists in 1995 took samples from the lava flow of Mt. St. Helens and sent them to science labs for testing? They asked, "How old are these rocks? When was this lava rock formed?" The answers varied from .35 million years to 2.8 million years. Wrong! Sorry! That lava rock was only 15 years old – from the explosion of Mt. St. Helens on May 18, 1980. Do you see how much the evolutionary worldview entered into the dating process?

However, there are some much more objective ways to measure the age of the earth. One very practical and objective measure of the approximate length of time that people have lived on earth is the rate of population growth. Since population grows exponentially, the current population of the earth can easily be accounted for by eight people (Noah, his wife, their three sons and their wives) approximately 4500 years ago. This is in spite of all negative factors – wars, famine, pestilence, etc. But if you try to figure a million years – or even 200,000 years of population growth you encounter huge problems. People wouldn't be trampling each other to get at Wal-Mart super specials – they would be trampling each other because the earth would be overcrowded. (However, these statistics do not give license to human beings to murder babies in the womb. That type of action is usurping God's authority.)

Why don't we just believe that God did it like He told us He did? On the fourth day God put the sun, moon, and stars in the sky to give light on the earth. "Is anything impossible with God?" Actually, if we believe Genesis 1:1, "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth", we should have no problem believing any other verse in Scripture!!!

3. I also notice that Al Cornell uses eisegesis rather than exegesis: that is, he reads into the text his distorted opinion rather than reading out of the Biblical text what it actually says.

4. I also notice that Al Cornell uses very poor hermeneutics (laws of interpretation) in another way. One of the most basic laws of interpretation is to recognize that the Bible is made up of very different types of writing: 1. Law 2. History 3. Poetry 4. Prophecy. Even a freshman student in a literature class learns that you do not read poetry the same as you read history or law. The first five books of the Bible are history and law, yet Al Cornell, in commenting on Genesis 1 wrote, *“It blends a poetic essence into a prose substance...”* What does that mean? It means that he is following the lead of the rank liberal scholars down their primrose path of distortion. If he follows them far enough down that liberal theology road of distortion, he may end up sanctimoniously sanctioning the insanity of sodomy! By renaming Genesis “poetry”, then liberal theologians can shape it like play dough into the image of their own theories. Then they can be “progressive creationists” who can blend into academia easier because the paradigm of academia in the universities is locked into naturalism, secularism, and evolutionism – which require billions of years as their undergirding. The millions and billions of years are based on philosophical presuppositions – not on hard evidence of scientific research. And remember that all scientific research is interpreted by the scientist according to his basic pre-suppositions. (We wouldn’t want to be considered “ignorant creationists” by the elite academia, now would we?) Why not? The Greek philosophers (the academia of the first century) had strongly influenced the thinking process of the believers in Corinth, so Paul deals with this issue in the first chapter of his first epistle to Corinth:

“I know very well how foolish the message of the cross sounds to those who are on the road to destruction. But we who are being saved recognize this message as the very power of God. As the Scriptures say, ‘I will destroy human wisdom and discard their most brilliant ideas.’ So where does this leave the philosophers, the scholars, and the world’s brilliant debaters? God has made them all look foolish and has shown their wisdom to be useless nonsense. Since God in his wisdom saw to it that the world would never find him through human wisdom, he has used our foolish preaching to save all who believe. God’s way seems foolish to the Jews because they want a sign from heaven to prove it is true. And it is foolish to the Greeks because they believe only what agrees with their own wisdom. So when we preach that Christ was crucified, the Jews are offended, and the Gentiles say it’s all nonsense. But to those called by God to salvation, both Jews and Gentiles, Christ is the mighty power of God and the wonderful wisdom of God. This ‘foolish’ plan of God is far wiser than the wisest of human plans, and God’s weakness is far stronger than the greatest of human strength. Remember, dear brothers and sisters, that few of you were wise in the

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world's eyes, or powerful, or wealthy when God called you. Instead, God deliberately chose things the world considers foolish in order to shame those who think they are wise. And he chose those who are powerless to shame those who are powerful. God chose things despised by the world, things counted as nothing at all, and used them to bring to nothing what the world considers important, so that no one can ever boast in the presence of God” I Corinthians 1:18-29 NLT.

The bottom line is that we are going to look foolish to somebody whenever we take a stand. I would rather be considered a fool for God (by the world) than to be considered wise by the world, yet a fool in the eyes of God. How about you?

And for those who want to compromise and just blend in, I have a story. I heard that during the U.S. Civil War a man tried to blend in with both sides by wearing grey pants, and a blue jacket. So what kind of results did his compromise get him? The Union soldiers shot him in the pants and the Confederate soldiers shot him in the jacket. Compromise is much more dangerous than conviction, especially from an eternal perspective.

Yours & His,
Rick

Summary

Now to you, my friend, the summary of the information in these letters is found in Colossians 2:8-10. *“Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ. For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.”*

CHAPTER 7

Potent Perspectives Examining God's Creation from the powerful devotional book A Closer Look at the Evidence

June 1

Only the Bible starts with the special creation of all things by an eternal, all-powerful, personal God. **The Bible has a unique and reasonable solution to the origin problem**—“In the beginning, God created....” Other religious books reveal ignorance on this point. They all propose ideas for the evolution of the universe from existing matter, but do not explain how the matter originated.

For example, the *Babylonians* stated in their “Enuma Elish,” that the universe began with a primeval chaotic mixture of three kinds of water. The *Greek myths* proposed an initial state of matter randomly coming together. *Roman writers*, like Lucretius, assumed that there was a universal blind interplay of atoms. The *Orphic myths* supposed the universe developed out of a primeval world-egg. Similarly, *the modern theory of evolution* begins with eternal matter in one form or another. No other book (including modern evolutionary “science” books) is able to go beyond the present order of things to a real first cause.

Only the Bible explains the origin of matter by the existence of God. He is outside of matter, time, and space. He brought matter into existence and can take matter out of existence.

June 3

If a great flood did indeed wipe out everything on the earth about 5,000 years ago, then the oldest human records should only date back that far. This is exactly what we find. **All civilized cultures on Earth seem to have appeared suddenly approximately 5,000 years ago.**

Even more revealing is the fact that most ancient cultures began in an advanced state. There is no trace of “primitive” generations leading up to the sudden explosion of advanced civilizations across the world. Take, for example, the great Pyramid of Cheops near Cairo, Egypt. The intricacy and stability of this monument of human engineering is unbelievable. The detailed planning necessary

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to construct this massive monument is phenomenal. Legends from surrounding people insist that the forefathers of the Egyptians (before the Flood) were even *more* knowledgeable! It has been widely reported that the Egyptian culture extends back 9,000 years or more, but the current trend among Egyptologists is to revise these dates to a more recent date. This agrees well with the biblical timetable.

The sudden appearance of advanced civilizations supports what the Bible states: **man was made in God's image** (Genesis 1:26). From the beginning, man was a rational, creative, and very intelligent being. Anthropology, the science of origin, culture, and the development of human beings, confirms this fact.

June 4

Every culture in the world organizes their schedule around a seven-day week. Historians who reject the Bible have always been puzzled concerning the origin of this system. The seven-day week does not fit into the 365 1/4 days of the solar year nor the lunar month of 29 days. The seven-day week could only have come from the pattern set by God as a reminder of the seven-day creation period. **Throughout documented history, experience has proven the seven-day week to be the most satisfactory way of organizing man's life.**

For example, both the French and Russian revolutionaries tried to abolish it, as did the government of Sri Lanka (Ceylon) in the 1960s. In each case it was a disaster. One rest day out of eight or ten days is too long an interval—one day in six is too short—one day in seven is just right. All three governments had to revert back to a seven-day week. How interesting that **even communist and atheistic cultures are forced to acknowledge the Creator in how they organize their calendars!**

June 15

Hundreds of giant fossils have been discovered over the years. These include ten-foot turtles, dragonflies with a two-foot wingspan, and 50-foot-long crocodiles. Could the size of these creatures be the result of long lives and/or a more protective atmosphere? **It is interesting to note that some reptiles today never stop growing, but continue to get larger as long as they live.** The large size for prehistoric (i.e., pre-flood) reptiles, including dinosaurs, probably indicates very long lives. Even today, scientists do not fully understand what causes us to age and die. Given more ideal conditions and fewer genetic problems before the Flood, it is not hard to believe that pre-flood man could have lived 10 times longer than modern man.

Most likely the cause of the longer life expectancy before the flood was fewer genetic problems. Contrary to what evolutionists would have us believe, with every passing century the number of mistakes and problems on our genes increases. There is also an intriguing possibility that the original earth was protected by a water-canopy above the atmosphere. This protective canopy would have shielded living things from the harmful radiation which shortens life. This

may help account for both early man's long life span and larger animals. Josephus (a Jewish historian in 100 A.D.) records that the historians from *nine* other nations report people living up to 1,000 years old before the great Flood.

June 16

For many years academics have taught that the Bible, especially the book of Genesis, came to us as a result of traditions and story telling. **The implication is that the Bible is not the literal word of God** which was guided by the Holy Spirit to be believed in a straightforward manner. We are taught that it contains exaggerations and should not be trusted to reveal true history.

According to these experts, the historical accounts in the Bible are fanciful stories written down by some unknown scribes, compiled by an unknown editor, and combined to form the Book of Genesis. **Genesis is not even in story form.** Genesis 5, for example, is a record of the chronological genealogy of the ancestry from Adam to Noah. There is absolutely no evidence for the idea that Genesis is merely a collection of ancient stories. It is clearly written as the account of factual historical events.

The biblical experts who teach that the Bible is a collection of ancient myths are not basing their theories on facts. Rather, their ideas are based on the mistaken theory of evolution, which includes the idea that early man could not write. Wherever we find civilized mankind, we find writing—as early as 3000 B.C.

June 19

The Mississippi River dumps an average of about six million gallons of water into the Gulf of Mexico every second. **Where does all that water go?** The vast surface of the ocean allows enormous amounts of evaporation to take place. High in the atmosphere this invisible water vapor condenses into clouds, which produce rain or snow, which in turn fall onto land surfaces. The water then completes the circuit by flowing into rivers and then back into the ocean again.

No one really understood or accepted the idea of the complete water cycle until the late 16th and early 17th centuries. Pierre Perrault, Edme Mariotte, and astronomer Edmund Halley all contributed valuable data to the concept of the water cycle. Yet Solomon and Isaiah both wrote about it in the Bible.

In Ecclesiastes 1:7 King Solomon describes the water cycle as follows, *“All streams flow into the sea, yet the sea is never full. To the place the streams come from, there they return again.”* This hydrologic cycle was quite accurately described in the Bible thousands of years before it was understood scientifically.

June 24

The Bible is unique in how it deals very openly with the sins of people. Biographies are generally biased and tend to exaggerate the character traits,

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depending upon the viewpoint of the writer. For example, if we look at the prominent men and women in history, we see that most are portrayed as great with few personal flaws. Examples abound, from Washington to Lincoln, Mother Teresa to Voltaire, Freud to Darwin; we hear about great accomplishments, but little about personal failures.

The Bible does not follow this pattern. It shows people as they are: sinful, lost, and in need of a Savior. Moses, David, and the apostle Paul were all murderers. Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob were all liars. The disciples were cowards. The genealogy leading directly to Jesus included prostitutes, liars, thieves, idolators, cowards, and murderers. **This is hardly a ringing endorsement of the goodness of mankind nor a book likely to have been written by the deceitful human heart.**

June 28

In 1961 the bones of three dinosaur species and two tropical reptiles were reported on the Alaskan tundra near Prudhoe Bay. Today, this area is far too cold to support such life. The remains of many other warm weather species have also been discovered in the far North. Were these organisms carried there by the worldwide Flood, or was the climate on the earth vastly different in the past?

The most recent creation research indicates that the climate around the Arctic Ocean would have been quite mild for centuries after the worldwide flood. **This area would have remained relatively warm until the oceans cooled off from the tectonic and volcanic flood activity.** Once this body of water permanently froze the climate rapidly changed, trapping temperate animals and vegetation into a permanently frozen state.

Other Earth characteristics such as the *worldwide Flood*, the *roundness of the globe*, the *paths of water in the ocean*, the *weight of air*, the *hydraulic water cycle*, and many other recent discoveries of Earth science are specifically mentioned in the Bible. Modern science has confirmed the total accuracy of these statements.

While we don't depend on science to prove the Bible accurate, scientific findings have never disagreed with the clear and straightforward statements which the Bible makes about science and Earth history.

July 7

Skeptics are forever trying to discredit the Bible. In the 1800s an interesting puzzle was proposed as proof that the Bible could not be trusted. The book of Luke states that Quirinius was governor of Syria when Christ was born. Other passages would indicate that this birth took place in the year 4 B.C. Nonreligious historical records, however, show that Quirinius governed Syria after 6 A.D. This ten-year discrepancy was used by Bible critics in the nineteenth century as proof that the Bible could not be divinely inspired.

The puzzle was solved with further archeological evidence which confirmed the Bible. In 1912 an inscription was discovered which said that Quirinius was governor in Syria and Cilicia around 10 B.C. Apparently Quirinius ruled Syria and Cilicia twice. He was ruler at the time of Christ's birth, exactly as reported in the Bible. **How much damage was done to people's faith based on partial evidence and false assumptions?**

Through in-depth study, every so-called contradiction in the Bible invariably proves false. Throughout all of human history there is no book which comes close to the Bible in accuracy or influence.

July 8

Dr. Nelson Glueck, President of the Hebrew Union College and one of the greatest modern Palestinian archaeologists, said that, **“absolutely no archaeological discovery has ever controverted a biblical reference.”** He also writes, “Scores of archaeological findings have been made which confirm in a clear outline or exact detail historical statements in the Bible.”

One of the most controversial narratives from the Bible is the **“long day”** in Joshua 10. To modern man it seems impossible and unbelievable that a day could have actually been extended. It is noteworthy that the Bible is not the only ancient record of this extended day. **Ancient traditions of a long day (or a long night in the case of Native Americans and South Sea Islanders) are quite common.** There is much documentation on this fact. The only reason to disbelieve the account of the long day is the preference for naturalism over God's Word.

July 23

In Ezekiel 26:3-21, specific predictions were made against the city of Tyre. The prophecy stated that this city would be destroyed as many nations came against it. **It was predicted that Tyre would be made bare as the top of a flat rock and that fishermen would spread their nets over the site.** The walls and the towers would be destroyed, the debris would be scraped clean, and Tyre would be left barren. This very specific prediction was made at the height of Tyre's power and importance.

Three years after the prophecy was given, Nebuchadnezzar laid a 13-year siege on mainland Tyre. When he finally entered the city, he found that most of the people had moved to an island ½ mile off the coast. They had fortified a city on this island with powerful walls reaching to the very edge of the sea. Over 200 years later, Alexander the Great laid siege to the island city of Tyre. Since he had no fleet, he demolished the old city of Tyre, cast the debris into the sea, and built a 200 foot wide causeway out to the island. By doing this, Alexander was able to move his army across the land bridge and destroy the island city. Tyre's history doesn't end here. Many subsequent attempts were made to rebuild Tyre, but sieges always destroyed the city. **Today both the original city and the island city are**

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bare rocks where fishermen can be seen drying their nets. The accuracy of biblical prophecy is undeniable evidence for the Bible's authenticity.

August 8

As soon as a plant or animal dies, its DNA begins to decompose. The oldest accurately known DNA samples are from a 4000-year-old mummy. Based on the deterioration of the molecule from samples of this age, **it is estimated that essentially no DNA could survive longer than 10,000 years.** However, DNA segments have been found in magnolia leaves (dated by evolutionists at 17 million years), dinosaur bones (dated at 80 million years), scales of a fossilized fish (dated at 200 million years), and amber-encased insects and plants (dated at 25-120 million years). Evolutionary scientists should be asking how DNA could still be contained in samples this old when more recent samples indicate that the DNA molecule is far too sensitive to have lasted this long. Perhaps there is something wrong with the old-earth dating methods and these fossils still contain DNA fragments simply because they are not as old as believed. These samples have simply been dated wrong due to faulty assumptions of radiometric dating methods.

Evolutionists have a similar problem with *protein* preserved in dinosaur bones. **As with DNA, no protein should last 75 to 150 million years;** yet protein has been found in dinosaur bones. These plant and animal remains are simply not as old as evolutionists need to accept in order to continue to believe in the story of evolution.

September 11

Stars are thought to have taken millions of years to form after the initial “big bang” spewed matter through the expanding universe. According to the current theory of stellar evolution, a star goes through several stages. First, under the effects of gravity, gas molecules supposedly come together until they ignite a nuclear reaction in the star's interior. No one really understands how this can happen. Next the star burns brightly for hundreds of millions of years before expanding into a “red giant.” Eventually this red giant slowly collapses to form a white dwarf. Sirius B is said to be a white dwarf star. **Sirius B is a huge mystery for those who believe the accepted theory of stellar evolution.**

Both Egyptian astronomers (2000 B.C.) and the Roman senator Cicero (50 B.C.) described Sirius B as a red star. Other ancient writers called Sirius B “more red than Mars.” One of the most famous astronomers in history, Ptolemy (150 A.D.), listed Sirius as one of six red stars. There can be no question that Sirius was red. Yet today Sirius B has become a white dwarf star. **According to modern evolutionary assumptions, it should take at least 100,000 years for a red giant to collapse into a white dwarf star.** It is still hotly debated how the red giant Sirius B became a white dwarf in less than 2,000 years.

Sirius B shines forth as a beacon, casting doubt on the most basic theories of stellar evolution and the gradual formation of our universe.

CONCLUSION

A couple of our friends who reviewed this manuscript have warned me of the danger of Biblio-idolatry. **I have very high respect for the Bible as God's Word, but I only worship the one true God who gave it to us.** Jesus said to the Pharisees, *“Search the Scriptures; for in them you think you have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me”* John 5:39. *“The essence of true Christianity is not Jesus pointing us to a book, but a Book which points us to Jesus”* (Carl Ketcherside). Because God is not the author of confusion, and because the Bible **is** God's Word, God-breathed by His Spirit, I believe that it is without **any** errors in its original languages. There are translation problems, but our part is to be like the Bereans in searching the Scriptures daily to see what things be so, to *“test everything and hold on to that which is good”* (1 Thessalonians 5:21) and to obey what Paul wrote to Timothy: *“Study to show yourself approved to God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth”* 2 Timothy 2:15.

To conclude this booklet I want to share with you an awe-inspiring moment on the Crimean coast near Yalta, where we had gathered in May 2008 for the Man and the Christian World-view Symposium.

Euphoria in the Presence of our Awesome God!

Thursday morning, May 15th, dawned an incredibly beautiful day on the Black Sea Coast. The sun was shining, the birds were singing, and the soft breeze was swaying the trees near our hotel balcony as I read from Genesis. I laid my Bible down, leaving it open, while I went back into our room (Sergei Golovin and I were roommates for the symposium), but when I returned to the balcony a few moments later I was puzzled to find it open to Romans 11. There wasn't that much breeze! As I stared at the page, I heard a voice nearby quoting, *“O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!”* It was my friend, Vladimir Komlev, English teacher and pastor of the Evangelical Christian Church in Lugansk, Ukraine, who was also our next door neighbor for the conference. Our balconies were actually connected, with only a small fence between. So, together, Vladimir and I soaked in the beauty of the early morning as we meditated upon the wisdom of God. Vladimir had quoted Romans 11:33, so I continued reading: *“For who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has become His counselor? Or who has first given to Him and it shall be repaid to him? For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to Whom be glory forever. Amen”* Romans 11:34-36. Yes, friends and prayer partners, there is *euphoria* in the presence of our Awesome God!

Concluding Thoughts from the infallible Word of Almighty God

“Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him. Add not unto his words, lest he reprove you, and you be found a liar” Proverbs 30:5-6. Yes, the Bible is without **any** errors when properly translated and understood. Believe it! Don’t change it. Live by its truth! **It is powerful and complete!** Any “science falsely so called” that contradicts the teaching of Almighty God in His Word is a deception of the evil one! I don’t need it and I don’t want it. Whether the pseudo-science comes to me in the costume of evolutionary origin science, theistic evolution, progressive creationism, humanistic psychology, man-centered psychiatry, transcendental meditation, mind science, human potential, or any other garb – if it elevates man and devalues God and His Word, it is **EVIL!** Likewise any so called new revelations that contradict the Word of God or any supposed authority which is elevated above the Word of God is both unnecessary and evil. Since God revealed to us through His apostles and prophets in the first century B.C. *“all things that pertain to life and godliness”*, **why do I need any other authority??** My friend, please consider these wonderful truths: *“Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the **knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord**, as His **divine power** has given to us **all things that pertain to life and godliness**, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these **you may be partakers of the divine nature**, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust”* 2 Peter 1:2-4 (NKJV).

Wouldn’t you like to escape corruption and damnation? Wouldn’t you like to be a partaker of the divine nature? Here’s how:

“Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved – you and your household” Acts 16:31 (NIV).

“Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” Acts 2:38 (NIV).

Do You Still Doubt that the Bible is True?

My skeptic friend, are you still doubting the truth of the Bible and rejecting the authority of its Author, the Lord Jesus Christ, Who arose from the dead to prove His claims? If so, please tell me:

1. How do you explain the conversion of Saul of Tarsus?
2. How do you explain the conversion of Sir William Ramsay, the father of the modern science of archaeology?

3. How do you explain the conversion of Simon Greenleaf, the author of the three volume set on how to evaluate evidence?
4. How do you explain the conversion of Lew Wallace, skeptic general during America's Civil War, who wrote *Ben Hur*?
5. How do you explain the conversion of C.S. Lewis, the brilliant scholar and skeptic of Oxford and Cambridge?
6. How do you explain the conversion of Frank Morrison, atheist journalist and author of *Who Moved the Stone*?
7. How do you explain the conversion of Josh McDowell, brilliant critic and former atheist, who later wrote *Evidence That Demands a Verdict, Volumes 1 & 2, More than a Conqueror*, and many more books about the truth of the Bible?
8. How do you explain the conversion of Lee Strobel, former atheist journalist for *Chicago Tribune*, who wrote *The Case for Christ, The Case for Faith* and other books about the truth of Scripture?

All of these famous skeptics started out to disprove the Bible and its testimony about the Person and resurrection of Jesus Christ - but were converted to Him by the overwhelming weight of evidence. How do you explain these historical facts? These reluctant, but later joyous conversions? Have you read and considered the evidence they present? If not, you have no claim to objectivity whatsoever!!! To be honest, you must admit that you do not believe the Bible because you don't want to believe - you want to rule your own life and be your own god.

The solid evidence for the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ is the real clincher that triumphs over everything else. His tomb is empty! **He is alive! He proved all His claims in His victory over sin, death and the grave! He is the true and ultimate Authority!** Wouldn't you want to have Him as your Savior when you stand before Him as your Judge?

APPENDIX

Is Old Earth Creationism a False Gospel?

This question surfaced from one of my reviewers (by email) because of some very strong controversy which this booklet ignited before publication.

My purpose is definitely not to stir up controversy among Christians; however, if taking a strong stand for the truth of Scripture stirs up controversy, I am willing to take the heat. I do pray often for the unity of the Body of Christ for the evangelizing of the world. Jesus prayed for us, after praying for His apostles, in His High Priestly prayer the evening before He was crucified. ***“I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me”*** John 17:20-21 (NKJV). We must not overlook, however, that the unity of the Body of Christ is to be solidly based on the TRUTH! The so-called unity based on compromising the foundational truths of the Word of God is not “the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” We must not overlook what Jesus prayed in the same prayer just prior to His prayer for our unity, ***“Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth”*** John 21:17 (NKJV).

The short answer to the question in the heading is no, old earth creationism is not a false gospel, but it is a very serious false doctrine that undermines the gospel when followed to its logical conclusions. To further clarify this answer I want to share with you two more letters. The first is to a missionary friend, and the second is a letter to me from my publisher, Bruce Malone, about this very issue.

“Dear Friend,

I want to commend you in your clear-headed thinking and distinction about false doctrine and false gospel. You are right, and I agree with you. Also, thank you for opening the opportunity for me to clarify my position. You wrote, “You see belief in an old earth as a false gospel.” I understand why you write this, but it is not accurate. I know brothers who believe and defend the gospel adamantly (even accurately according to Paul’s summary in I Corinthians 15), but yet have accepted the old earth doctrine. I believe they are inconsistent in their defense of the gospel while promoting old earth theology because old earth theology does undermine and destroy the gospel when you trace it to its logical and inevitable consequences. For years it was a non-issue for me because I did not study it out and

think through the consequences, yet all those years I strongly believed the gospel. Consistency is a rare commodity even among most committed Christians. What does puzzle me is why old earth proponents become so agitated and defensive when I point out the logical consequences of their belief system.

Here is a brief summary of why I see both theistic evolutionism and progressive creationism as false doctrines that are very, very dangerous to the gospel:

1. They diminish the power, wisdom, and majesty of Almighty God, Who spoke the universe into existence. Ultimately, they end up promoting the concept of a weak, insipid god who takes billions of years to get it right by the random chance processes of evolutionism. I believe most of them don't realize the consequences of their own viewpoint – but it is inevitable. The one true God revealed in Scripture is the God of infinite wisdom, majesty, and miracle working power. When He speaks, things happen (instantly – if He so desires)!
2. By adopting the allegorical concept of the first few chapters of the Bible (as most of them do), they remove Genesis from the realm of true history. If the first Adam was only allegorical, why shouldn't we believe that the second Adam is allegorical? This will destroy the gospel if followed to its logical conclusions.
3. Also, old earth philosophy leads to the rejection of Biblical geology of both the Creation and the Flood. This also has very serious consequences, which I outlined in the booklet. If the flood was local – not a world-wide judgment upon the earth – will the coming judgment at Christ's second coming also be just a local event? Consider 2 Peter 3:1-14 in this light. Old earth false doctrine even corrupts the Biblical doctrine of the second coming of Jesus to judge the whole earth.
4. Old earth creationism teaches death before sin was already in the world as the normal state of conditions and that human death was the consequence of sin. What about the curse on all creation? If you want to see the consequences of churches adapting compromise with evolutionism, look at Great Britain and most of Western Europe. Ken Ham's State of the Nation DVD shows the devastation.

Shouldn't we be zealous to expose false doctrine that is so undermining to the gospel?

Yours & His,
Rick

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My publisher, Bruce Malone wrote:

Rick,

This is my position on the subject: Old earth creation believers ARE wrong both Biblically and scientifically. They do not understand that there is absolutely no foolproof method for determining the age of the earth or the universe. They typically refuse to see the damage done by not accepting scripture in a straightforward way as it refers to physical issues such as the age of the earth. They accept catastrophic events to prop up their belief in old ages (destruction of the dinosaurs, formation of many of the planets in the solar system, cratering of the moon, and global floods forming the geologic features upon Mars), yet refuse to acknowledge the effect of a global flood upon earth (which easily would have resulted in the RAPID formation of the Hawaiian island chain and essentially every other major sedimentary and recent igneous rock formation upon the earth). Ultimately, such teaching destroys belief in God's Word and casts doubt upon his character because it makes God the originator of death and disease through the natural world - instead of it being a result of mankind's rebellion.

As Jesus stated in John 3:12, "I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe (Jesus is God, ultimately it is Jesus speaking to us through Scripture - Genesis to Revelation), how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things?" Yet old earth Christians steadfastly refuse to acknowledge the reality of a worldwide flood and the type of geological change it would produce upon our planet. It is the fact of this GLOBAL resurfacing event which wipes out the supposed evidence for billions of years in the rock record of our planet. They have never answered the VERY, VERY strong evidence that there is still helium from recent accelerated radiometric decay in granite crystals around the globe...yet the leakage (permeation constant) proves that this cannot exist if these rock layers are billions of years old any more than a helium balloon can remain floating for decades. This completely invalidates the assumptions of radiometric dating and indicates there was rapid radiometric decay during the recent formation of the earth.

In the name of trying to make the Bible more credible to the world, they ultimately destroy its credibility. Many old earth creationists are our brothers in Christ and we must treat them with respect even though they are seriously wrong on this issue. But they are doing far more damage than good by holding onto their ancient earth fallacy. Ultimately, we will meet in heaven because we have accepted the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ for our sins...but I would not like to be in their place as they stand before their maker and try to explain why they discarded the Lord's clear straightforward statements, accepted the fallible and ever-changing opinions of man in its place, and taught others to do the same.

The old earth creation position is a lot like rat poison. It is 99% good, harmless, attractive and filling. Yet the 1% poison ultimately kills. The old earth position

will always be more credible to the world because it agrees with what they want to believe. Yet if a person remains logical and follows this belief to its natural conclusion, it will ultimately destroy a person's belief in the Word of God, the reality of history, and our understanding of the character of God. Great ages are the absolute non-negotiable core of evolutionism. They will give up everything else, but never the ancient ages, because ultimately it is the belief in old ages that started evolutionary thought, and it is the foundation upon which their entire belief system rests. It is pure foolishness for sincere Christians to ignore the overwhelming evidence for a recent creation and hand those out to destroy the belief in God's Word the very tool they need to do so.

Blessing,

Bruce

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Search for the Truth Publications

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www.searchforthetruth.net

truth@searchforthetruth.net

RECOMMENDED READING LIST

(Listed in alphabetical order by Publisher, * = Book Title)

The BIBLE

Baker Books

P.O. Box 6287 Grand Rapids, MI 49516

www.bakerbooks.com

**The Collapse of Evolution*, by Scott M. Huse

**None of These Diseases*, by S.I. McMillen, M.D.

Biblical Discipleship Publishers

2212 Chisholm Trail Rockwall, TX 75032

**The Evolution of a Creationist*, by Jobe Martin, D.M.D. Th.M.

Center for Scientific Creation

5612 N. 20th Place Phoenix, AZ 85016

www.creationscience.com

**In the Beginning*, by Walt Brown, Ph D.

College Press Publishing

223 W. 3rd St. P.O. Box 1132 Joplin, MO 64802

www.collegepress.com

**A Humble Defense*, Edited by Mark Scott and Mark Moore

Creation Resources Publication

Box 570 El Dorado, CA 95623

www.awesomeworks.com

**Unlocking the Mysteries of Creation*, by Dennis R. Petersen

Creation Science Evangelism Publications

P.O. Box 37338 Pensacola, FL 32526

**Claws, Jaws & Dinosaurs*, by William J. Gibbons and Dr. Kent Hovind

Dinosaur Institute

9640 SW New Forest Court Beaverton, OR 97008

**Secrets of the Ica Stones and Nazca Lines*, by Dennis Swift

Harper & Brothers Publishers

New York and London

**The Basis of Christian Faith*, by Floyd E. Hamilton, A.B., B.D., Th.M.

Hope for Today

P.O. Box 3927 Tustin, CA 92681

**The Beginning* (CD series on Genesis), by David Hocking

Institute for Creation Research

P.O. Box 59029 Dallas, TX 75229

www.irc.org

**The Genesis Flood*, by John C. Whitcomb, Jr., Th.D. and Henry M. Morris, Ph.D.

**Acts & Facts Magazine*

Kregel Publications

P.O. Box 2607 Grand Rapids. MI 49501

**Boyd's Handbook of Practical Apologetics*, by Robert T. Boyd

Master Books

P.O. Box 726 Green Forest, AR 72638

www.masterbooks.net

**Alien Intrusion*, by Gary Bates

**Already Gone*, by Ken Ham & Britt Beemer with Todd Hillard

**In the Beginning was Information*, by Werner Gitt

**Many Infallible Proofs*, by Henry M. Morris with Henry M. Morris III

**Old Earth Creationism on Trial*, by Tim Chaffey & Jason Lisle

**Refuting Compromise*, by Jonathan Sarfati, Ph.D.

**Refuting Evolution*, by Jonathan Sarfati, Ph.D.

**Scientific Creationism*, by Henry M. Morris

Mt. Blanco Publishing Co.

P.O. Box 550 Crosbyton, TX 79322

www.mtblanco.com

**Fossil Facts & Fantasies*, by Joe Taylor

Review and Herald Publishing Association

Hagerstown, MD 21740

**Origins*, by Ariel A. Roth

Search for the Truth Publications

3275 Monroe Rd. Midland, MI 48642

www.searchforthetruth.net

**A Closer look at the Evidence*, by Richard & Tina Kleiss

**Censored Science*, by Bruce Malone

**Ready to Give an Answer*, by Rick Deighton

**Search for the Truth*, by Bruce Malone

Sovereign Publications

Box 88, Bromley Kent, BR2 9PF England

**True Science Agrees with the Bible*, by Malcom Bowden

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Thomas Nelson Publishers

P.O. Box 141000 Nashville, TN 37214

www.thomasnelson.com

**The Battle for the Beginning*, by John MacArthur

**New Evidence That Demands a Verdict*, by Josh McDowell

Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.

351 Executive Drive Carol Stream, IL 60188

www.tyndale.com

**More than a Carpenter*, by Josh McDowell, Sean McDowell

Whitaker House

30 Hunt Valley Circle New Kensington, PA 15068

www.whitakerhouse.com

**Alleged Discrepancies*, by John W. Haley

Zondervan Publishing House

5300 Patterson Ave. SE Grand Rapids, MI 49530

www.zondervan.com

**Halley's Bible Handbook*, by Henry H. Halley

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Creative Christian Family Life Seminars

Laugh! Learn! Love! Live!

Family Life Seminars in Ukraine and Russia are proving to be an effective evangelistic outreach, as well as a means of strengthening families. If your church is interested in a weekend seminar, please let us know, and we will give you more information and check on scheduling.

The following themes are available.

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1. How to Build Strong Relationships
2. The Biblical View of Sexuality
3. How to Win Over Temptation
4. How to Win Over Bitterness
5. Monstrous Problems—Awesome God!
6. Three Shades of Love
7. How to Restore Romance in Marriage
8. How to Improve Communication in Marriage
9. How to Train Children to Obey
10. Training Positive & Productive Kids
11. Love & Respect (for powerful progress in relationships)

Christian Evidence Messages:

1. Why I Believe in God
2. Jesus, The Carpenter

3. Creation or Evolution—What Difference Does It Make What We Believe?
4. Genesis or Jurassic Park—Which?
5. Monstrous Problems—Awesome God!
6. The Reality of the Resurrection
7. Does the Bible Contradict Itself Concerning Salvation?
8. The Source of Freedom
9. The Power of Perspective
10. Catastrophic Consequences of Darwinism
11. The Place of Creationism in Scientific Knowledge

Other topics:

1. The Church Has Power!
2. The Reality of Hell
3. The Reality of Heaven (Don't Miss Heaven for the World!)
4. Living the Abundant Life
5. Victorious Christian Living (Two messages)
6. Triangle of Triumph
7. Geometry of Joy
8. The Source of Joy
9. The Sufficiency of Jesus Christ
10. The Superiority of Jesus
11. Look Who's Watching You!
12. What is Your Purpose in Life?
13. Worldviews in Conflict

Rejoicing in Jesus,
Rick Deighton

Northwest Science Museum Vision and Additional Information

www.northwestsciencemuseum.org

Mission Statement

The Museum is devoted to understanding and explaining origins, history and our present world as revealed by scientific discovery. We believe that these discoveries interpreted through the worldview of Biblical historical accounting yield a much better explanation to our origins and history of the earth, solar system and universe than the alternative evolutionary view.

This approach will lead people to a better understanding of God by examining His creation. It will also show that creation science can explain the evidence we see in the world around us and that it is not just religion. Evolutionism is a vital doctrine of the religion of Humanism (as recognized by the U.S. Government), therefore is just as religious as creationism. They are opposite and competing worldviews, so we want to show where scientific evidence points us.

This approach will strengthen the visitor's faith in God and the Bible. It will give the visitor the information they need to trust the Bible and what it says about the creation of the universe. So that they will know that *"In the beginning, God created...."* Genesis 1:1

One of the basic goals of the Museum is to distribute the abundance of scientific evidence that confirms the Biblical account of creation and young earth history. This goal makes available the resources necessary for an individual to continue to study Creation Science on his own so that he will be well versed and can give an answer to anyone who asks about creation.

SHORT AND LONG TERM GOALS

Short term goals:

- A. Acquire Funding
- B. Acquire Land
- C. Acquire Building
- D. Build Exhibits
- E. Develop Support Base culture to open minds to the
"Way, the Truth and the Life"

Long term goals

- A. Become self sustaining
- B. Train personnel
- C. To become one of the powerfully impacting influences on our culture to open minds to the "Way, the Truth, and the Life."

Timeline

Key Accomplishments with dates

June 2008 – Initial Plan developed

Aug 2008 – Board of Directors formed

Nov 2008 - First invited meeting

May 2009 – Website established

Apr 2010 – Prospectus completed

For more information please see our website. Look it over – are we dreaming big enough?



Rick Deighton

Board of Directors

Northwest Science Museum

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www.northwestsciencemuseum.org

Catch the Vision for the Northwest Science Museum!

How would you like to see a full-size model of Noah's Ark fully visible from I-84 *right here in Treasure Valley?*

How would you like to see powerful evidence for the truth and accuracy of the Bible displayed inside the chambers of that Ark?
How would you like to see the "rest of the story" – the science that has been **censored** from the national and state parks and museums that are held captive by their evolutionism?

We have the **evidence** – the fossils – the displays that can bring goose bumps to your skin, tears to your eyes, and a lump to your throat. We want to build a museum that will bring glory to our Majestic Creator and bring men to their knees before His throne. **But this evidence is now hidden from view – packed in storage!** Items like:

- A four-foot human femur
- Gigantic fossilized human footprints
- Solid evidence that men and dinosaurs lived *simultaneously*

Would you like to schedule a speaking appointment with one of the members of the Board of Directors?

Brent Carter: (208) 375-9592
Stan Lutz: (208) 466-9812
Rick Deighton: (208) 284-7425
Doug Bennett: (208) 850-2956



You can help by providing...

1. Prayers

The most important thing you can do is pray for God's guiding hand to be on this museum and its staff as we work to bring glory to the Creator.

2. Property

We need a location close to the freeway - hopefully as near to the Idaho Center as possible. (We have searched for available empty buildings to no end.)

3. Provisions

We need donations! All donations are tax deductible because Northwest Science Museum is functioning under the 501(c)(3) of Foundations in Genesis of Idaho. For your donation of any amount, we will give you a **free** copy of the book, *Ready To Give An Answer* by Rick Deighton. The book is designed to prepare believers to be bold witnesses for Christ. You will also receive a copy of the NWSM prospectus.

4. Labor

We will depend on voluntary labor in many areas of skills.

Will you help us?

Log on to: www.northwestsciencemuseum.org

Email us at: inonwsm@northwestsciencemuseum.org

Write to us at: NW Science Museum, P.O. Box 3933, Nampa, ID 83686