

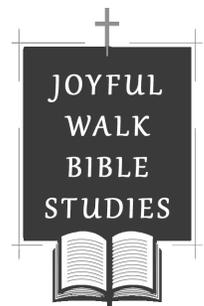
CONNECTING FAITH TO LIFE ON PLANET EARTH



The Story of God's Perfect Creation, Its Corruption
through Evil, and God's Work of Restoration

(A study of Genesis to Revelation)

MELANIE NEWTON



Connecting Faith and Life on Planet Earth is a revised version of an older study, *The 7 C's of a Firm Foundation*. We extend our heartfelt thanks to the many women who served as editors for this updated study guide including Aimee Jones, Diane Bohannon, Gail Warner, Julia Gendron, Katie Byrd, Sharon Anderson, and Alice Morgan. A special thank-you goes to Michelle Burns who was willing on the spur of the moment to read through changes made to a lesson. Without your help, we would never have accomplished this monumental task in a timely manner.

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The phrase "What we see in God's World agrees with what we read in God's Word" was adopted from the creation science teaching of Dr. Gary Parker.

Melanie Newton is a discipling speaker, author, and trainer with Joyful Walk Ministries. She is the author of *Graceful Beginnings* books for anyone new to the Bible and *Joyful Walk Bible Studies* for growing Christians. Melanie can be contacted at melaniemnewton.com.

We pray that you and your group will find *Connecting Faith with Life on Planet Earth* a resource that God will use to strengthen you in your faith walk with Him.





MELANIE NEWTON

Melanie Newton is a Louisiana girl who made the choice to follow Jesus while attending LSU. She and her husband Ron married and moved to Texas for him to attend Dallas Theological Seminary. They stayed in Texas where Ron led a wilderness camping ministry for troubled youth for many years. Ron now helps corporations with their challenging employees and is the author of the top-rated business book, *No Jerks on the Job*.

Melanie jumped into raising three Texas-born children and serving in ministry to women at her church. Through the years, the Lord has given her opportunity to do Bible teaching and to write grace-based Bible studies for women that are now available from her website (melanienewton.com) and on Bible.org. *Graceful Beginnings* books are for anyone new to the Bible. *Joyful Walk Bible Studies* are for maturing Christians.

Melanie is currently a discipling trainer with Joyful Walk Ministries. She equips and encourages Christian women everywhere to pursue a lifestyle of discipling. Her heart's desire is to encourage you to have a joyful relationship with Jesus Christ so you are willing to share that experience with others around you.

"Jesus took hold of me in 1972, and I've been on this great adventure ever since. My life is a gift of God, full of blessings in the midst of difficult challenges. The more I've learned and experienced God's absolutely amazing grace, the more I've discovered my faith walk to be a joyful one. I'm still seeking that joyful walk every day."

Melanie

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Using This Study Guide

Connecting Faith to Life on Planet Earth is an 11-lesson study that covers God's perfect creation, its corruption through evil, and God's work of restoration revealed to us from Genesis to Revelation. The lessons are threaded together by an easy-to-remember series of words called "The 7 Cs of History," developed by a creation apologetics ministry called "Answers in Genesis."

The theme of creation and restoration are consistent from Genesis to Revelation and can be seen in these 7 C's of Bible history:

- **Creation**—This covers the original perfect work in 6 days, the celestial objects, land and sea, plants, animals, and man.
- **Corruption**—The original perfect creation was corrupted due to sin, which has affected the whole creation as described in Romans 8:20-22.
- **Catastrophe**—The Flood affected the planet surface entirely for more than 1 year. Afterwards, man's diet (and the animals' diet) was changed by God to include eating meat.
- **Confusion**—This forged the spread of the populations after Babel. The existing population was divided into language groups that spread out and repopulated the earth, taking the accounts of Creation, the Curse, and the Flood with them. This affects archeology.
- **Christ**—God promised begin to restore all things through His Anointed One.
- **Cross**—The beginning of God's restoration came to believers because of the Cross.
- **Consummation**—God restores His creation to perfection again.

A proper understanding of Genesis 1-11 (the first 4 C's) is important because nearly every Biblical doctrine is based on that section of the Bible. Those lessons also include scientific and historical facts that support the biblical text to give you confidence that what is revealed in God's Word is seen in God's World around you as well. The other 3 C's demonstrate God's work of restoring His creation and humanity back to what God intended, the completion of which is still in our future.

THE BASIC STUDY

Each lesson includes core questions covering the passage narrative. These core questions will take you through the process of inductive Bible study—observation, interpretation, and application. The Inductive process is the best way to study the Bible. The process is more easily understood in the context of answering these questions:

- What does the passage say? (*Observation: what's actually there*)
- What does it mean? (*Interpretation: the author's intended meaning*)
- How does this apply to me today? (*Application: making it personal*) Questions identified as "**Connecting Faith to Life**" lead you to introspection and application of a specific truth to your life. Knowing how the Bible ties everything together will help you connect your faith to life as you see it around you.

STUDY ENHANCEMENTS

Study Aids: To aid in proper interpretation and application of the study, 6 additional study aids are located where appropriate in the lesson:

- Historical Insights
- Scriptural Insights
- Scientific Insights
- From the Hebrew/Greek (definitions of Hebrew and Greek words)
- Focus on the Meaning
- Think About It (thoughtful reflection)

Discernment Practice (optional): At the end of the lessons are short articles from the news containing both facts and assumptions. You will learn to discern anything you read or hear to separate the actual facts being presented from biased interpretations or assumptions being stated as fact.

Creation Answers (optional): These are scientific or historical fact-based explanations that support the biblical text to give you confidence that what is revealed in God's Word is seen in God's World as well. These are written by Melanie Newton unless otherwise noted.

For more information (optional): At the end of the lessons are suggestions for further research of subjects to gain information that would significantly enhance the basic study for you. Easy access to online resources is helpful, but two websites are especially recommended at the end of the lessons as quality sources for credible creation science information (www.answersingenesis.org and www.icr.org). Both are trustworthy sources of information and especially in their professional way of handling controversial subjects. Three other websites are especially beneficial for gaining historical, archeological, and theological information—www.christiananswers.net (archeology information), www.probe.org (historical information and apologetics plus other topics of interest) and www.bible.org (a great source of biblical information).

OLD TESTAMENT SUMMARY

About 1700 years after God created everything, He sent judgment on a rebellious people through a worldwide Flood. He later separated the nations with different languages and scattered them from Babel. Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob were founding fathers of the Hebrew people. Sold into slavery, Joseph became a powerful foreign leader. The Israelites developed into a great nation for ~400 years in Egypt, until their deliverance from bondage. Then Moses took the people across the Red Sea and taught them God's Law at Mt. Sinai. Joshua led the Israelites into the Promised Land after a 40-year trek in the wilderness because of their unbelief.

During the transition toward monarchy, there were deliverer-rulers called "Judges," the last of whom was Samuel. The first three Hebrew kings—Saul, David, and Solomon—each ruled 40 years. Under Rehoboam, the Hebrew nation divided into northern and southern kingdoms, respectively called Israel and Judah. Prophets warned against worshipping the foreign god Baal. After the reign of 19 wicked kings in the north, Assyria conquered and scattered the northern kingdom. In the south, 20 kings ruled for ~350 years, until Babylon took the people into captivity for 70 years. Zerubbabel, Ezra, and Nehemiah led the Jews back into Jerusalem over a 100-year period. More than 400 "silent years" spanned the gap between Malachi and Matthew.

The 39 books in the Old Testament are divided into 4 main categories:

- "The LAW" (5 books)—the beginning of the nation of Israel as God's chosen people; God giving His Laws to the people that made them distinct from the rest of the nations.
- "HISTORY" (12 books)—narratives that reveal what happened from the time the people entered the Promised Land right after Moses died until 400 years before Christ was born.

- “POETRY and WISDOM” (5 books)—take place at the same time as the history books but are set apart because they are written as poems and have a lot of wise teaching in them.
- “PROPHETS” (17 books)—concurrent with the books of history and, except for Lamentations, reflect the name of the prophet through whom God spoke to Israel.

NEW TESTAMENT SUMMARY

The New Testament opens with the births of John (the baptizer) and Jesus. About 30 years after his birth, John challenged the Jews to indicate their repentance (turning from sin and toward God) by submitting to water baptism. Water baptism was a familiar Old Testament practice used when a Gentile converted to Judaism (to be washed clean of idolatry).

Jesus, God's incarnate Son, publicly showed the world what God is like and taught His perfect ways for 3 – 3½ years. After preparing 12 disciples to continue Christ's earthly work, He died voluntarily on a cross for mankind's sin, rose from the dead, and returned to heaven. The account of His earthly life is recorded in 4 books known as the Gospels (the biblical books of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, each named after the compiler of the account).

After Jesus' return to heaven, the followers of Christ were then empowered by the Holy Spirit and spread God's salvation message among the Jews, a number of whom believed in Christ. The apostle Paul and others carried the good news to the Gentiles during 3 missionary journeys (much of this recorded in the book of Acts). Paul wrote 13 New Testament letters to churches and individuals (Romans through Philemon). The section in our Bible from Hebrews to Jude contains 8 additional letters penned by five men, including two apostles (Peter and John) and two of Jesus' half-brothers (James and Jude). The author of Hebrews is unknown. The apostle John also recorded Revelation, which summarizes God's final plan for the world. The Bible ends as it began—with a new, sinless creation.

DISCUSSION GROUP GUIDELINES

1. **Attend consistently** whether your lesson is done or not. You'll learn from the other women, and they want to get to know you.
2. **Set aside time** to work through the study questions. The goal of Bible study is to **get to know Jesus**. He will change your life.
3. **Share your insights** from your personal study time. As you spend time in the Bible, Jesus will teach you truth through His Spirit inside you.
4. **Respect each other's insights**. Listen thoughtfully. Encourage each other as you interact. Refrain from dominating the discussion if you have a tendency to be talkative. 😊
5. **Celebrate our unity** in Christ. Avoid bringing up controversial subjects such as politics, divisive issues, and denominational differences.
6. **Maintain confidentiality**. Remember that anything shared during the group time is not to leave the **group** (unless permission is granted by the one sharing).
7. **Pray for one another** as sisters in Christ.
8. **Get to know the women** in your group. Please do not use your small group members for solicitation purposes for home businesses.

Enjoy your Joyful Walk Bible Study!

1. CREATION: "In the Beginning, God"

KNOWING WHERE TO START

When you look around and see so much evil, conflict, and trouble in the world, do you wonder how this place we call home got so bad? Do you long to know what God's original creation might have been like? Are you hopeful that there is something better in the future?

This study will answer those questions. *Connecting Faith with Life on Planet Earth* starts with Genesis 1-11. Nearly every Biblical doctrine is based on Genesis 1-11. You begin with the story of God's perfect creation followed by its corruption through evil. From there, you will see how the rest of the Bible carries out the theme of God's work of restoring His creation back to perfection. The theme of CREATION and RESTORATION are consistent from the first book, Genesis, to the last book, Revelation.

God's work of creation and restoration is for your life as well. When you trust in Him, you are made into a new creation and brought into a relationship that restores what God wanted for all humans when He made us. Doing this study will grow your appreciation for who God is and all that God has promised for your future. Knowing how the Bible ties everything together will help you connect your faith to life as you see it around you. And, God's promise of restoration will give you hope for today and for the future.

We begin with God's perfect CREATION ...

DAY ONE STUDY

Creation is a hot topic. In fact, the validity of everything recorded in Genesis 1-11 is a hot topic, though not a new topic. The concept of some type of naturalistic explanation for the origin of the earth, universe and its inhabitants has been around since the ancient Greeks. But it did not affect mainstream life until a couple of scientists promoted their ideas through books in the 1800's—Charles Lyell (who proposed that the earth was much older than what the Bible said it was) and Charles Darwin (who is known for pushing biological evolution as an alternative to creation).

Then in 1925, the newly formed ACLU decided to target a law in Tennessee that demanded creation be taught in school. They found a man willing to be the scapegoat—John Scopes—although he had only been a substitute teacher for 2 weeks in a biology class and had not really taught evolution. The message perpetuated by the ACLU throughout the trial was that science was the new source of authority and truth. The Bible was no longer relevant. It was simply the fallible work of humans. Christians must let scientists interpret anything that deals with origins.

What's ironic is that every single piece of evidence produced in that trial **has since been shown to be false**. In the mid 1990's, TIME magazine ran an article about its own senior editor, Charles Alexander, which said:

"In the years before he got into journalism, senior editor Charles Alexander taught science at two high schools in Tennessee. He told his students about early man and the origins of life and touched on the dinosaurs, 'And just about everything I taught them,' he says, 'was wrong.'" (*TIME* magazine, March 14, 1994, p. 4)

Knowing Where to Start

What is my point? You have to **know where to start**. Decide what will be your source of truth.

“All biblical doctrines have their foundation ultimately—directly or indirectly—in the book of Genesis. The doctrine of marriage; why we wear clothes; the reason Jesus came to die on a cross; why there’s death in the world; why man has dominion over the earth—all of these are dependent on a literal Genesis. The only reason we understand the meaning of sin is because we read about the literal rebellion of the first man when he disobeyed God. Actually, if Genesis were taken out of the Bible, you’d have to throw the rest away. It’s all dependent on the historical accounts in this first book.” (*Answers in Genesis Weekly News*, October 10, 2003)

Genesis, the first book in the Bible is an account of the origins and history of all life and the universe. It tells of the creation of different kinds of animals and plants as well as the creation of Adam and Eve, the first people. Genesis explains the entrance of sin and death into God’s Creation, and a judgment by water when a worldwide flood destroyed the original world. We are told of the event of the "Tower of Babel" that is important in understanding cultures and nations existing today. And, in Genesis, we are given glimpses of God’s plan for restoration of His creation.

It is impossible to study Creation, the Curse, the Flood or the Tower of Babel without studying the relevant scientific and historical information as well. **Knowing** what happened in the past can give us a basis for explaining the present. If we start with what has been **revealed** about the events of the past, we have the ability to come to some right conclusions about geology, culture, geography, biology, etc. If we have the revealed Word of One who knows everything and was there, then a basis exists for having right interpretations about the facts of the present. If we ignore that, then we can never know for sure whether our interpretations are right! Science is constantly changing. But, the Word of God remains unchanged.

Taking captive every thought

There are 3 scriptures that are foundations for our trust in the Bible to be true:

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.” (2 Timothy 3:16)

“... when you received the Word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is at work in you who believe.” (1 Thessalonians 2:13)

“Jesus said, ‘Sanctify them through your truth: your Word is truth.’” (John 17:17)

This is where we start. Now knowing where to start, we can do what is said in 2 Corinthians:

*“We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we **take captive every thought** to make it obedient to Christ.” (2 Corinthians 10:5)*

Think with me about the messages you receive through the media about this issue:

- Science is the source of authority and truth.
- Evolution is scientific fact. Untouchable. Not going away.
- The Bible is only a human work.
- Christians, stay out of anything that deals with origins. Stick to religion.

So, how do we respond? Is compromise the only comfortable solution? Sadly, many religious leaders have done just that and are even holding science as the authority over biblical interpretation. This is most often because of 2 things: 1) the fear of being ridiculed (as happened in the Scopes trial) and 2) not knowing that true science has facts that support Scripture.

Half of us are probably not affected by this. The rest of us are split personalities. Just say, “believe Genesis,” and our thoughts are going crazy on one side of our brains! Our minds fill with “yeah, but.” And we think of every TV show, every book and magazine that teaches with confidence that this earth is billions of years old and man evolved from animals. We say to ourselves, “What do I do with those thoughts?”

In this study, we hope to help you take those thoughts captive so you can be whole again. We ask you to come to this study with an open mind. You will not get all your questions answered. Maybe not even half. However, you can ask the One who knows all to reveal to you some ways for you to believe that His record of beginnings is literally true.

Please be assured of this ...

You can still be a Christian and believe that the earth is 4.5 billion years old and that you got here through evolution. Salvation is based upon faith in Jesus Christ alone. We ask that you give the biblical text a chance to give answers to your questions about origins. We'll do our best to provide information for you to help you learn to think about this issue based on factual information.

Our approach for this study ...

The plain reading of the biblical text leads us to consider the earth and universe to have been created in 6 days in a perfect state, altered by the curse and death *after* creation, then completely reshaped by a global Flood—all less than 10,000 years ago. It is also reasonable to consider that God has a plan to completely renew His creation in the future. He will do what He has promised.

True science belongs to God. No believer needs to be afraid of it. True science will also provide information that agrees with what is revealed by God in the Bible. Here is a statement that we hope you will see to be very true as you do this study:

What we read in God's Word agrees with what we see in God's World.

We hope this helps you connect your faith to life on planet Earth.

1. **Connecting Faith to Life:** Reflect and respond to what you just read. What do you hope to learn through this study? What questions do you hope to have answered?

DAY TWO STUDY

Let's get started ... and the best place to start is Genesis 1:1.

Read Genesis 1:1.

Scriptural Insight: "The first verse of the Bible is the most important and basic of all. 'In the Beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.' When one *really* believes this verse, he will have little difficulty believing all the rest of God's Word." (Henry Morris, *The Beginning of the World*, p. 10)

2. What does Genesis 1:1 tell you about God and the reality (or truth) of the world around us?

There are literally hundreds of verses about God as Creator. We will only study a few in this lesson.

3. Read Psalm 90:2. What does this verse tell you about God and our world?

4. Read Psalm 100. What does this psalm tell you ... ?

- About God—
- About yourself—

Think About It: When I come to the realization that God is God, and I am not. This is the beginning of true worship. I no longer limit God to my own understanding of Him and His works. Is this true for you as well?

5. The book of Job is full of discourses where Job and his friends try to figure out "why" Job is suffering and ultimately question God's actions. Read God's response to them all in Job 38:1-14. What does He say to Job and to us?

6. What do the following verses say about God as Creator?

- Romans 1:18-21—

- Acts 14:15-17—

- Acts 17:22-31—

- Revelation 4:8-11—

Summary:

Focus on the Meaning: The word *genesis* in Hebrew means "origin," and the Book of Genesis gives the only true and reliable account of the origin of all the basic entities of the universe and of life. Consider how Genesis contains the origin of (1) The Universe, (2) Order and Complexity, (3) The Solar System, (4) The Atmosphere and Hydrosphere, (5) Life, (6) Man, (7) Marriage, (8) Evil, (9) Language, (10) Government, (11) Culture, (12) The Nations, (13) Religion, and (14) The Chosen People. We will be covering all of these in this study.

Scriptural Insight: “The Biblical account of creation is ridiculed by atheists, patronized by liberals, and often allegorized even by conservatives. The fact is, however, that it is God’s own account of creation, **corroborated by Jesus Christ** (Mark 10:6-8), who was there! We are well advised to take it seriously and literally, for God is able to say what He means, and will someday hold us accountable for believing what He says!” (Dr. Henry M. Morris)

9. Read Job 40:1-2. Notice that God stops speaking and waits for Job's answer. Read Job's answers in Job 40:3-5 and 42:1-6. To what conclusions does Job finally reach about God?

10. **Connecting Faith to Life:** After reading all these passages concerning God as Creator (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit), what conclusions do you reach about God?

DAY FOUR STUDY

Creation Answers—Knowing Where to Start

Cynthia Heald in her book, *A Woman’s Journey to the Heart of God*, writes,

“Years ago, I discovered the freedom and power of making **pre-decisions** in order to take captive every thought and make it obedient to Christ.”

There are several pre-decisions or principles that are the foundation for taking captive every thought we read, hear, and see to make it obedient to Christ regarding creation science.

Principle #1: In the beginning, God.

God existed forever. God created everything. This world is real, not an illusion. It had to come from somewhere. We have only 2 choices:

- Nothing suddenly became something without a cause or
- God, who always existed, created something out of nothing.

There is no other choice. It is easier to believe that God always existed and then created something, than it is to accept that nothing created something. That's where we'll start.

Principle #2: God told us what and how He created

When it comes to this physical universe, God told us in audible and written form that He created what is and how He did it.

- Genesis 1—God described how He took six days to create everything in the universe and the earth.
- Exodus 20:11—God spoke audibly before 2 million people. “For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day.”
- Exodus 31:17-18—God repeated what He had previously said—first, audibly to Moses. Then, God wrote it Himself by His own finger on 2 tablets and handed that to Moses
- Exodus 34:28—God dictated the same information to Moses who wrote it down.

God used at least 5 different ways to communicate this fact about Himself to us. Yet many say Genesis 1 is a myth.

Let's take captive our thoughts here. God created humans with intelligence and the capacity for a trusting relationship with Him. Why would our almighty yet personal creator God start out His entire revelation with a story that isn't true if?

Why would a God who cannot lie do that? To think so is illogical. So, let's not tell God that He was wrong, that He didn't mean what He said every time He said it.

God addresses that very presumption in Job 38 by asking Job, “Were you there when I laid the foundations for the earth?” (Job 38:4) What's the answer? Of course not. So, who was there? God. Wouldn't He know what He did? The Bible is true and the beginning source of truth. Man's ideas are not.

Principle #3: True science is repeatable, testable, and falsifiable.

As defined by the Supreme Court, there is a difference between operational science and historical science.

- *Operational science* is repeatable, testable, and falsifiable. It describes natural laws and how they work in our world such as used in electronics, medicine, cars, etc. It describes what you can observe and repeatedly test in the present.
- *Historical science* is not repeatable, testable, and falsifiable. It describes observations made in the present in order to make “educated guesses” about the past. It is heavily influenced by one's personal belief system.

The two have become fused together into one term called “science.” That's what really gets a stranglehold on us. A lot of us don't know the difference. But ...

Principle #4: Science belongs to God

He is the one who designed the DNA of every creature, how minerals and crystals form as well as what makes a bird fly and the sun produce light and heat. I can go to Him and ask for enlightenment on any issue. And, this is what I can trust: there are scientific answers out there that support what He said He did to create, curse and flood this earth. Specific answers may not come today, but they may be there tomorrow if I am looking. So ...

Principle #5: Examine the evidence, ask questions

We should evaluate everything we read and hear in light of the Scriptures. It's remarkable what we find when we are willing to examine the evidence and look at facts. We can ask all the questions we want because God has left us enough clues to know that His Word, even in Genesis, is true.

No one can prove creation or evolution. But, we can start with this: we look at the historical record given in the Bible and build a model. If the Bible is true, what would we expect to find? What do we find? We can examine facts in light of that model. Both evolutionists and creationists can look at the exact same facts but apply them to different models based on their personal belief systems.

So, what are the facts in a news report? What are the assumptions? Separate the two. What did they really find? When what is presented as facts doesn't agree with the model, there may be a problem with the model or the facts (how they were derived).

We believe that God's Word is true. So, if the facts to support it aren't available yet, we are confident that they may one day be available. Scientists are constantly studying this planet finding out new things. So, let's practice examining what is presented as scientific fact and how it fits with the biblical creation model.

Discernment Practice

So much information that is proclaimed in the media (news, magazines, movies, internet, and books) is biased against the biblical truth presented in the Bible. Often, there is a morsel of fact mixed with a ton of assumptions that are presented as facts, even if they are pure speculation. Every believer needs to be able to discern the truth from speculation.

We will give you a "Discernment Practice" activity at the end of each lesson related to Genesis 1-11 to help you learn discernment in anything you read or hear. You can follow the steps below to separate the actual facts being presented from biased interpretations or assumptions being stated as fact.

1. Look for the facts. Discern facts from interpretation. Mark the facts.
2. Then, mark the interpretations or assumptions. Question the assumptions used to derive the facts and/or interpretations.
3. Consider the same facts with the assumption of Biblical history.

Look at the following example:

“Chilled Crawfish” by Alexandra Witze, Dallas Morning News, 7/13/1998

Ordering crawdads on ice has a new meaning now that geologists have found the oldest fossil crawfish ever—in Antarctica. The discovery of the 280 million-year-old crustacean suggests that the climate around the South Pole was relatively balmy at the time—at least in the streams and lakes where crawdads live ...

The scientists found just a fragment of the ancient crawfish in the Transantarctic Mountains in the central part of the continent. The fossil was a part of a claw that had been gnawed on by a predator, perhaps in search for a primitive etouffee. The researchers also found large burrows, dated to about 240 million years ago, that had been dug by crawfish in another part of Antarctica. The burrows indicate that crawfish had evolved their social activity much earlier than scientists had thought.

The fact that crawfish could live in the lakes of Antarctica at the time supports other evidence that Antarctica was experiencing a warming trend at the time, the scientists wrote.

Now, let's evaluate the above article to determine facts from assumptions. Facts are marked in grey highlighting; interpretations and assumptions are underlined.

Ordering crawdads on ice has a new meaning now that geologists have found the oldest fossil crawfish ever—in Antarctica. The discovery of the 280 million-year-old crustacean suggests that the climate around the South Pole was relatively balmy at the time—at least in the streams and lakes where crawdads live ...

The scientists found just a fragment of the ancient crawfish in the Transantarctic Mountains in the central part of the continent. The fossil was a part of a claw that had been gnawed on by a predator, perhaps in search for a primitive etouffee. The researchers also found large burrows, dated to about 240 million years ago, that had been dug by crawfish in another part of Antarctica. The burrows indicate that crawfish had evolved their social activity much earlier than scientists had thought.

The fact that crawfish could live in the lakes of Antarctica at the time supports other evidence that Antarctica was experiencing a warming trend at the time, the scientists wrote.

- *Facts: A portion of a claw identified to be from a crawfish in Antarctica.*
- *Assumptions: The age of this fossil piece, the social structure of the animals that it represents, and the presence of burrows.*
- *Conclusion: The crawfish did exist. It was likely buried during the Flood. Structures identified as burrows may or may not be real. They could be escape attempts from creatures being buried by sediments in the Flood. The warmer South Pole fits with the expected pre-Flood climate.*

2. CREATION: The Six Days of Creation, Part 1

CREATED FROM THE BEGINNING

DAY ONE STUDY

Christians today are ensnared in the trap of not thinking critically. In the Bible, we read that God created all things in 6 days. But, we've heard that all educated people know that evolution has been proven. We need to train ourselves to think, to recognize the difference between scientific facts that can be observed in the **present** and ideas about the **past** that are used to interpret those facts we see in the **present**.

There are 4 prevailing theories regarding the origin of the universe, the earth, and life itself predominant in our culture—both secular and Judeo/Christian. Here is a brief exposition of each one.

- **Naturalism (Naturalistic Evolution)**—Naturalism allows no place for God, miracles or divine intervention. Natural processes can explain everything. Evolution is based on naturalism.
- **Theistic Evolution**—God created matter, and then everything else evolved with or without occasional help from God. Some say God directed the evolutionary process. It's basically evolution with God added. This position denies the truth of Scripture.
- **Old Earth Creation or Progressive Creation**—The “days” of creation were long periods of time or ages during which God created the universe and all its contents. Evolution and the geologic column basically fit with the sequence of events of the creation week although you have to really twist and creatively interpret the text to make it do so. Many Christians have bought into this teaching because it sounds plausible. However, in Mark 10:6, Jesus combined Genesis 1 creation days with creation of man as happening at the same time, not millions of years later.
- **Young Earth Creation or Literal Creation**—Young earth creationists adhere to the plain reading of the text. This position believes that God did His creating just as He told us in Genesis 1 and 2. This position is the easiest to describe and explain but the hardest for many to accept even when plainly understood.

So, you ask, “What do I do? How am I supposed to decide what to believe?” Remember that we have the revealed Word of One who knows everything and who was there! Trust His Word, study it, consider what you would expect to find if it is true, and then examine the evidence in the world.

Definitions to know for this study:

- "Creation" is defined simply as *the work of God in bringing all things into existence*. Only God is eternal—everything else in the universe had a beginning. True creation is creation *ex nihilo* (out of nothing) and is not merely a reworking of materials already in existence.
- "Evolution" is defined, in its broadest sense, as *the theory that all things have been derived by gradual modification through natural processes from previous materials*. According to this concept, all forms of life have developed from earlier, simpler forms, and even life itself spontaneously came into existence through a complex organization of previously nonliving chemical molecules.

Read Genesis 1:1-2:3.

1. What repeated words or phrases do you observe?
2. What can you learn about God from His spoken word (“And God said, ‘Let...’”) and His sovereign power (“And it was so”)?
3. According to Scripture (Genesis 1:1-2:3), how many days were involved during creation?
4. Read Exodus 20:11. This is one of the 10 commandments which was spoken by God to Moses, then written by the finger of God on stone tablets (Exodus 31:18) and given to Moses. In it, He refers to the six days during which He created everything. Using words from Genesis 1, how does God define “day” so there should be no confusion?

From the Hebrew: The Length of a Genesis 1 Day—What does the Hebrew word for “day” mean in the context of Genesis 1 and in other contexts?

- 1) **Yom** (the Hebrew word translated “day”) *always* means an ordinary day when used with a modifying number (1, 2, 3, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc.) all 358 times elsewhere in the Old Testament. Why would Genesis 1 be an exception?
- 2) The defining phrase “evening and morning” is used 38 times outside Genesis 1 and always means an ordinary day. Why would Genesis 1 be the exception?
- 3) Exodus 20:11 tells us that God worked for 6 days and rested for 1 day to give us a pattern to follow. Making 1 day = millions of years makes no logical sense!
- 4) **Yom** is never used to mean a definite, long period of time, such as the geological ages.
- 5) **Yamin** (plural, “days”) is used 700+ times in the OT, always referring to a regular day.
- 6) God Himself distinguishes days from years in Genesis 1:14.

Why does it matter? Never allow the fallible theories of sinful men to dictate what the words in the Bible mean. Take God at His Word. If it is obvious from the words and their context what the meaning is, then accept this and do not try to interpret God’s Word on the basis of other’s opinions.

5. God repeated the phrase "after/according to their kinds" 10 times in Genesis 1. Any phrase repeated that often is repeated for emphasis. What could the phrase mean? What is God trying to tell us in terms we are supposed to fully understand and not get wrong?

6. **Connecting Faith to Life:** How aware are you of the created world in your everyday life? What in creation fills you the most with a sense of God's glory?

Scientific Insight: Some say a great span of time existed between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2, allowing for an earlier time when the earth appeared somewhat like it is now, was destroyed because of Satan's rebellion, and then was restored to the way it appears now. This "Gap" is supposed to explain an old age for the earth plus layers of rocks & fossils but without evolution. The problem with this position is that any catastrophe that left the earth shapeless and empty would have destroyed anything as orderly as the continuous rock layers. So, the Gap Theory is no longer considered a credible alternative to young earth creation.

DAY TWO STUDY

When God first began His creating, the earth was described as "formless and empty" (v. 2). "Formless" just means it needed shape. It was covered with water, the deep. "Empty" means just that, unfilled. God spends 2½ days *separating and gathering* to give the earth form (1:3-10). God spends 3½ days *making and filling* to remove the emptiness.

Read Genesis 1:3-5 (the first day).

7. Make a list of firsts or beginnings that occurred on Day 1. Example: "In the beginning" tells the beginning of time.

8. The fact of the day/night cycle is evidence of regular rotation of the earth. This does not contradict science but is mutually supported by scientific observation. God does not tell us the source of light on the first day since the sun, moon, and stars weren't created yet. Light is given off by other physical sources such as radioactivity, crystals, volcanoes, rocks moving against one another, fire, gaseous clouds, etc.

- Is it really significant that we know the exact source of the light?
- Read Revelation 22:5. What will be our future source of light?
- How does this verse help you understand that light can exist apart from the sun (Genesis 1:3-5)?

Think About It: God created light so it is not Himself. He divided the light from the darkness. Also, He refers to day and night and evening and morning. Because God is eternal, this also indicates the creation of time for the benefit of His creation. We are not told the source of the light if other than God Himself.

Read Genesis 1:6-8 (the second day).

9. God spent the first 3 days separating and gathering to give the earth form. What was separated and gathered on Day 2?

10. God gives us more information about the expanse (sometimes translated as "firmament") in Genesis 1:9, 20.

- What information is given about this expanse?
- What could be the meaning of the water under the expanse and the water above it?
- So, how might the earth have looked at the end of Day 2?

- 2 Peter 3:3-5—

So, how might the Earth have looked midway through Day 3?

Scientific Insight: From the text, it appears that the land was all in one land mass. This doesn't preclude having rivers and lakes on the land, though, as described in Genesis 2. You would expect evidence of one large landmass with set boundaries between the ocean and the land. We do find evidence of a supercontinent that has since split apart. Continental shelves and slopes are set boundaries between the ocean and the land. God spoke the super-continent of the pre-Flood world into existence all at once on Day 3 of the Creation Week.

14. After forming the earth and space, God began filling it to take away its emptiness. Describe what He did next.

Scientific Insight: According to evolution, seed plants didn't "evolve" until after bacteria, invertebrates, fish, amphibians and some land animals. Once again, the Days of Genesis cannot be matched up with the theoretical Geological Ages. Based on what God said He did on Day 3, we would expect to find evidence of fully formed and functioning plants, fruit and seeds from the start of life on earth. We find just that. Pollen is found in some of the oldest rocks supposedly millions of years older than the first pollen-forming plants.

15. Give some examples of the types of plants described here.

16. Why were plants created? See also Genesis 1:29-30 and 2:9a.

Scientific Insight: Plants do not generally grow on bare rock. When God said, "Let the earth sprout vegetation," He had already prepared whatever was necessary for plant life to grow. Yet, the generation of soil from rock supposedly takes many years. If you could go back in time to this point on the third day of creation, the earth would appear to be very old. This appearance of age is required for a mature creation to be fully functioning

from the beginning. Yet, it definitely skews "age-dating" methods that rely on observation of present processes and the rate at which soil is now being produced.

17. **Connecting Faith to Life:** Ponder the marvelous diversity and complexity of plant life in general as well as the many functions of plants in serving us—food, shade, enjoyment, etc. What are your favorite plants and why? Meditate on the Creator's loving hands fashioning these for you.

DAY FOUR STUDY

Discernment Practice

In the article below, mark the facts (underline, circle, colored highlighter, etc.). Then, mark the assumptions/interpretations with a different mark. Then, answer the questions below. Compare your evaluations with the ones given in the "Discernment Practice: How Well Did You Do?" Section after Lesson Eleven.

"Arctic Redwood" from GSA Today, January 2002

'Spectacularly preserved' *Metasequoia* wood has been found at the Fossil Forest site of Axel Heiberg Island (Canadian High Arctic). 'Some of this stuff looks about like driftwood on the beach, but it's 45 million years old,' said one researcher. 'These fossils are chemically preserved at a level you usually would expect to see in something that's only 1,000 years old.'

- *Facts:*
- *Assumptions:*
- *What is the researcher deliberately ignoring?*

Creation Answers—No Harm in Killing Time

In this Creation Answers, let's address one of the biggest hot buttons—the age of the earth and universe. We're going to kill some time. In this case, there's no harm in killing time. Where do we get the idea that the earth is billions of years old? Not from the Bible, but the world's teaching uses man's theories to reinterpret God's Word.

Is it really radical to believe in a young age for the Earth?

A warning light goes off in your head. How can I believe in a young age for the earth? Haven't scientists proven that the earth is very old—billions of years? What about all the evidence that the earth and universe are billions of years old? It's just too radical to believe in a young earth.

This is the answer: what evidence? There is more verifiable evidence that the earth is less than 10,000 years than that it is very old. Did you know that?

Why is there such an insistence in the science world and media that the universe and earth are billions of years old? Think about it. If you eliminate God and any divine aspect to creation, then you depend strictly on naturalistic processes. And, there's the key—TIME! Evolution, if true, needs a long TIME for it to take place. So, the evolutionary scientist looks for any way to "prove" lots of time has passed.

What's the prevailing theory?

About 15 billion years ago (BYA) compressed matter exploded with a Big Bang. As this explosion took place, the elements in the periodic table cooked their way into existence and were hurled outward. They began to condense and to cool, galaxies were formed as well as nebulas. Out of one of these spiral nebulas, a solar system condensed and in this particular solar system, the planet Earth spun out of a molten fireball about 4.6 BYA. Where do some scientists get 4.6 billion years for the age of the earth? Meteorites! Supposedly the sun and its planets condensed at the same time. Some meteorites are thought to be remnants of a planet that broke up after condensing. Therefore, meteorites are the same age as the earth. That's the pet theory of the majority of evolutionary scientists.

What questions should you ask?

What did God ask Job in chapter 38? "Were you there?" How did that compressed matter suddenly appear out of nothing? We've already looked at what God said He did and how. The biblical model is easier to believe. That God created everything mature and fully functioning from the beginning.

Remember that neither rocks nor fossils have birthdates stamped on them when they are collected. Fossils are usually dated by the false assumption of evolution, which demands old age. Did you know that there are about 100 "process" dating methods recognized? Nearly all of them (95%) suggest much younger ages for the earth and life than billions of years (earth's magnetic field decay, supernova remnants, amount of mud on the sea floor, helium decay measurements and more). And, the radioisotope dating methods that give very old ages for rocks have been called into question over the past 20-30 years. So many anomalies and inconsistencies exist that you cannot accept the experiment-derived dates as reliable.

One of best evidences that the earth is a lot younger than thought comes from diamonds. Diamonds form as carbon atoms are subjected to intense pressures deep in the earth and brought to the surface through volcanic activity. According to secular scientists, they should be billions of years old and have no measureable carbon-14 in them. But they do! Carbon-14 has a short lifespan (no more than 50,000 years). The presence of carbon-14 suggests that the earth could be no more than ~50,000 years old. If you look at the available evidence, you can see that most process clocks agree that the earth is considerably less than that.

So, holding to a young age for the earth based on the biblical text is completely logical and scientifically verifiable.

Five facts to remember when it comes to the age of the earth:

1. The earth has not been scientifically proven to be billions of years old.
2. The Bible teaches a literal 6-day creation.
3. Many scientists do believe in a literal 6-day creation about 6,000 years ago.
4. New evidence from nuclear decay supports a young earth model.
5. There are many scientific evidences for a young earth.

For more information ...

True science that is testable and falsifiable supports a young earth. To find out reliable scientific information regarding the age of the earth, go to www.icr.org or www.answersingenesis.org and do a search on topics such as age of the earth, radioisotope dating, distant starlight, creation days, young earth, etc.

3. CREATION: The Six Days of Creation, Part 2

DESIGNED, NOT DESCENDED

DAY ONE STUDY

Read Genesis 1:14-19 (the fourth day).

1. With what does God fill the sky?

Think About It: Notice the emphasis on separating light and darkness. Light filled the expanse that day. These heavenly bodies were fully functioning in a mature state from the beginning. Actually, the creation of light before the sun is evidence of authenticity of Genesis 1. Only an eyewitness would dare to write that.

2. How and why did God create the lights in the sky? See what these verses say about it.

- Genesis 1:14-18—
- Psalm 33:6—
- Psalm 148:3-6—
- Isaiah 40:26—
- Jeremiah 31:35—

3. Since much of pagan worship included worship of the sun and other celestial bodies, what message was God giving by waiting until Day 4 to create the sun, moon and stars? See also Deuteronomy 4:19; 17:2-5.

Scientific Insight: Did you know there is no scientific proof that the sun is billions of years old? "There is no evidence based solely on solar observation that the sun is 4.5-5 billion years old. I suspect that the sun is 4.5 billion years old. However, given some new and unexpected results to the contrary, and some time for frantic recalculation and theoretical readjustment, I suspect that we could live with Bishop Ussher's value for the age of the earth and sun. I don't think we have much in the way of observational evidence in astronomy to conflict with that." (Dr. John A. Eddy, Solar Astronomer at the High Altitude Observatory at Boulder, CO)

Bishop Ussher (~1600 AD) calculated the earth/sun to be ~6500 years old based on Gen. 1-11. Today's scholars using the Masoretic text of the Old Testament plus the determined date of 2166 B.C. for Abram's birth can say that Earth's "birthday" was around 4128 B.C.

4. **Connecting Faith to Life:** On a dark night, spend some time outside and watch the stars while reading Psalm 104 by flashlight. If you like to study constellations, also read Amos 5:8. Or, watch a sunrise or sunset and read Psalm 19:1-6. Use any creative means to express what you see and your response (poem, song, drawing, craft, essay).

DAY TWO STUDY

Read Genesis 1:20-23 (the fifth day) and Isaiah 45:18.

5. God formed the earth to be inhabited. All the materials necessary for animal life—water, air, light, plants, and the basic materials of the earth—were now available. With what did God fill the earth on Day 5?
6. What does the phrase "living creature" mean in Genesis 1:20, 21?
7. Why aren't plants called "living creatures?"

Scriptural Insight: Are plants alive? The Bible makes a sharp distinction between plants & animals. On Day Three, God commanded the inanimate earth to "*bring forth*" plants while on Day Five, He "created...*every living* creature that moved." At this point, and on Day Six to follow, He instituted the concept of giving "life" (Hebrew *nephesh*) to nonliving matter—something He did not do for plants. The Bible never refers to plants as living. They grow, flourish, wither, fade but they do not "live" or "die." Plants do not have *nephesh*, nor "breath of life" nor "blood" (Lev. 17:11). They are biologically alive but not biblically "living."

8. Name some types of water creatures represented by the descriptions given here.

From the Hebrew: It is possible that these "sea monsters (NAS), great whales (KJV), sea creatures (NIV)" actually included the great marine dinosaurs. The word in the original Hebrew (*tanniyn*) is actually the same word translated "dragons" in later Scriptures. Remember that the term "dinosaur" wasn't even invented until the mid-1800's.

9. The Hebrew term translated "winged bird" denotes anything that flies. Name some types of creatures represented by the descriptions given.

10. Current evolutionary theories say reptiles (land animals) evolved into birds. Notice the order of creation in vv. 20-21. What is distinctive about the Genesis account that causes it to conflict with current theories?

Scriptural Insight: The creation order contradicts the proposed evolution of the universe and life on the planet at more than 20 points. For example: Marine creatures weren't created until day 5, but evolution says that they came before the land plants. Seed plants didn't "evolve" until after bacteria, invertebrates, fish, amphibians and some land animals, but creation says they came first. Bees "evolved" before flowers. You have to twist Genesis 1 to make it match up to evolution.

Read Genesis 1:24-31 (the sixth day).

11. With what did God fill the earth on Day 6?

12. Name the types of land creatures represented by the descriptions given.

13. What was the grand climax of God's creative activity (vv. 26-31)? [Note: We will study this more fully in the next lesson.]

14. What instructions were given regarding food (vv. 29-30)? To which creatures? What are the biological and ecological implications of this?

15. God didn't do a halfway job. Everything mentioned thus far was fully formed and functioning, each ready to do its preordained job. We're not going to get all our questions answered although most do have logical answers already supplied through Scripture. Using Hebrews 11:1-6, discuss the role of faith in considering God's creation.

16. **Connecting Faith to Life:** Spend some time thinking about various animals. Perhaps visit the zoo or local pet shop with your family. Read Job 38:39-39:30 as God tells about the specialness of some He created. What are your favorite animals and why?

DAY THREE STUDY

Read Genesis 1:31-2:4 middle.

17. In v. 31, how does God evaluate His creation?

18. Why is it not logical that disorder, decay, suffering or death could have occurred or could be occurring in God's world as described in Genesis 1?

19. God created a well-ordered, functioning world for man to enjoy. Read Romans 1:20-25.

- What should be our response to God's self-revelation in the created world?

- What are the consequences for refusing to recognize God as Creator?

20. What occurred on the 7th day and why (Genesis 2:1-4)?

Think About It: God told us how long creation took and how complete it was. God rested because He was finished. Nothing formless or empty remained. The biblical model reveals a fully functioning, mature creation: (1) Continents with topsoil and rivers flowing from a source of water, (2) Rocks with crystalline minerals in them—some already beginning the radioactive process to add warmth and other elements to our planet, (3) Stars visible from earth, (4) Plants bearing seed and fruit; bees pollinating flowers, (5) Marine animals swimming; birds flying, and (6) Land animals creeping and running; adult Adam and Eve talking—all capable of reproducing. Creation is complete.

21. **Deeper Discoveries** for those who like research: Consider the astronomical basis of the day, month, and year in contrast to the lack of such basis for the week. Why is this important? Did any cultures in ancient history besides the Jews have a 7-day week?

22. **Connecting Faith to Life:** Read Exodus 20:11. Did God create man with a need for rest and relaxation from work? Have you stopped to rest for at least part of a day this past week? What do you do to rest?

DAY FOUR STUDY**Discernment Practice**

In the article below, mark the facts (underline, circle, colored highlighter, etc.). Then, mark the assumptions/interpretations with a different mark. Then, answer the questions below. Compare your evaluations with the ones given in the “Discernment Practice: How Well Did You Do?” Section after Lesson Eleven.

“Bees' Nests Baffle Boffins” from Daily Telegraph (London), May 26, 1995

Ancient bees' nests in Arizona's Petrified Forest are baffling evolutionists. How, they ask, could the bees have survived for more than 100 million years before the evolution of the flowers they fertilize and depend on for nectar?

Paleobiologist Dr. Stephen Hasiotis, from the US Geological Survey, discovered that fossilized logs in the Petrified Forest are riddled with holes which he believes are the nests of bees. The logs with the nests are dated at 220 million years old on the evolutionary time-scale, while the flowers that provide nectar for bees allegedly date from only half as long ago. Evolutionists are forced to conclude that either flowers appeared earlier, or the first bees did without flowers for a long time.

- *Facts:*
- *What are the assumptions?*
- *What evidence points to biblical creation?*

Creation Answers—It's All about Information

What evidence from life in the present would we expect to find if evolution is true? First, you would expect to see life coming from non-life. This is the biggest problem for evolutionists. No one has ever produced life from non-life in a laboratory. It's not occurring spontaneously anywhere on the planet, either. Then, you would need to find beneficial mutations that continually create new systems in every living creature observable in the present. These mutations would be producing billions of transitional forms—a hypothetical organism that is "between" evolutionary stages. We should have transitional structures for every part of every system of every living creature in the present. And, then, we should see things getting better—no death due to aging or disease. This is not what we actually see in our world.

What evidence from life in the present would we expect to find if creation is true? You would expect to see evidence of intelligent design in all living things. You would also expect to find separate, distinct kinds of creatures with much variation within them, death and disease because of the Curse, and extinction of many creatures because of the enormous ravaging work of the Flood. This is precisely what we do see in our world.

Intelligent design in all living things is obvious.

Every time a student looks through a microscope or a telescope or looks at the *real world*, he/she is bombarded with evidence for creation. Even the simplest single-celled organism is unthinkably complex. A virus, which isn't even complete in itself, can baffle our best scientists and all our technology!

All of life is governed by the marvelously complex genetic code, which contains not only design and order, but what is equivalent to written INFORMATION. This DNA code must not only be written correctly, but the rest of the cell must read it and follow its instructions to live and reproduce. This code had to be present at the origin of life. How could it have written itself, and how could all the various parts of the cell learn how to read and obey it? IMPOSSIBLE!

Separate, distinct kinds are evident; transitional forms are non-existent.

For amoeba-to-man evolution to be possible there has to be a mechanism that adds **new genetic information** to the DNA recipe of cells—information that performs a new function that was not previously present. No such mechanism is known. The proposed mechanism is through a series of mutations that add new information to the DNA. Upward progress is supposedly made because of natural selection.

“Natural selection” means that the creature with the right stuff will: 1) have the best chance of surviving a given habitat, 2) beat out those who don't have the right stuff, and 3) pass on their winning stuff to their offspring. According to evolution, the right stuff is beneficial mutations.

Mutations are inherited copying errors in the DNA “recipe” of an organism. Evolutionary theory requires some mutations to go “uphill”—to ADD NEW INFORMATION. The mutations we observe are either neutral (information not effectively changed) or go “downhill”—the parent genetic information is lost or scrambled.

In rare cases, a mutation may benefit a creature in a particular environment. It looks beneficial, but in every case these involve loss of information. For example, wingless beetles cannot produce beetles with wings again. It's all about information.

If evolution were true, we should find billions of transitional forms representing the progression from one creature to another in the present. Besides mutations, the examples commonly cited as “evolution happening today” usually involve variation or adaptation coupled with natural selection. Variation and adaptation are evidences of design more than of evolution.

- God placed within the DNA of creatures the potential for variety in certain parts of the creature. Everyone gets 2 sets of genes—1 from mom, 1 from dad. So, lots of potential for variation in hair color, eye color, skin color. But, there are limits on natural genetic variability. Humans will always have hair rather than fur and two eyes rather than 10. Noses can change shapes, but gills are never substituted for noses. Limited variety is present within every type of creature. There is variation in dogs, but all of them are still dogs; variation in cats, but they are all cats; variation in humans, but we are still all humans—and so on.
- Adaptation is a design feature in a plant or animal that makes it more suited to live in its environment by using pre-existing information to make the necessary adaptations to an environment. For example, when people change their elevation from sea level to mountaintop or warm climate to cold climate, their bodies will produce more red blood cells to fuel their “engines” with oxygen and warmth. The trait must be there before it can be selected! It's all about information.

Things are not getting better.

Creatures get sick, get old and die. Any evolutionary process that goes from amoeba to man would have solved this problem ages ago. It's illogical to think otherwise. The bottom-line is this: evolution is not being observed in the present.

God created all plants, animals, and man according to kinds with lots of room for variation and adaptation within kinds. Each was subsequently affected by the curse. **THERE IS A CREATOR!**

For more information ...

Go to www.answersingenesis.org or www.icr.org. SEARCH for anything related to this lesson such as evolution, starlight, humans, animals, design, adaptation, biblical kinds, etc. Select an article to read or video to watch.

4. CREATION: Humans, Home and Family

PURPOSE AND PLEASURE

DAY ONE STUDY

Read Genesis 1:26-31.

1. What information is given about God's creation of humans in vv. 26-27? Notice the use of the plural pronouns both here and in Genesis 3:22.

2. Image and likeness are synonymous in both the Old Testament and the New Testament. What might it mean to be made in the "image of God?" Clues are in the following verses. Try to find other verses to support your answer.
 - Genesis 1:26-31—

 - Genesis 2:15-17, 19-20—

 - Colossians 3:9-14—

 - Other verses—

Think About It: We are to be walking, talking, visible representatives of the invisible God.

3. How many times does God use the word "created" in Gen. 1:27? _____
Why is this significant? What information is He trying to get across to us?

4. Review Genesis 1:28-31. Together, as male and female, God gave them a function on earth that was equal in responsibility and accountability. What are their responsibilities?

5. So, what does God declare in verse 31 about His creation that includes both man and woman?

6. **Connecting Faith to Life:** God created man and woman with intellect, emotion and a will through which every human can choose to love and serve God. We are not puppets nor are we programmed to do the same things year after year as the animals do. Contemplate this "endowment" from the Creator.
 - In what ways are you thankful for this ability to choose?

 - How does knowing the truth that you are created in God's image affect how you feel about yourself?

 - Read Psalm 8. How is God mindful of your life (v. 4)?

DAY TWO STUDY

Genesis 2 is supplemental, not contradictory to what we read in chapter 1. Jesus quoted from both chapters together at once in Mark 10:6 showing that He considered it to be a unit. Genesis 2 reveals important details about God's highest creation—humans, the one creature intended to have a spiritual relationship with God.

Historical Insight: It is likely that as Moses wrote the book of Genesis, he used records that had been handed down through the generations, each record associated with the man who wrote it. Genesis 2:4a says, "This is the *account* of the heavens and the earth when they were created." There are 9 more of these lines found in Genesis seemingly at the end of a section, like a signature at the end of a letter. The first one is God's, obviously given by direct revelation. The second one is Adam's in Genesis 5:1 and is called a *book or written account*. In fact, the word "generations" (Hebrew *tholedoth*) was translated into

English as "Genesis." It also appears in Matthew 1:1 "*The book of the generation (genesis or genealogical history) of Jesus Christ.*"

It's now known that writing was common before Abraham so it's reasonable to think these early records were also written. By the way, the many intimate details and descriptions throughout Genesis indicate that these were eyewitness accounts. Probably written on stone or clay tablets. Moses, guided by the Holy Spirit, then compiled and organized them into a continuous narrative. God used the same method in inspiring the other historical books of the Bible which were either written by eyewitnesses or from the direct verbal or written testimonies of eyewitnesses. All of this is not proven but quite probable.

Read Genesis 2:4-17.

7. Describe the Garden of Eden as God prepared it for Adam and Eve. What is growing there? [Note: shrub/plant of the field are those requiring cultivation.] What is the temperature? What about the watering system?

Historical Insight: We don't know where the Garden of Eden was located. Yet, we can study sedimentary deposits to rule out possible locations for it. Maps drawn by geologists show that an area of shallow seas probably existed across much of the Middle East, including Israel. Based on research, the likely locations of the Garden are in what is now Canada, Brazil, West Africa, Asia, or even Greenland, depending on which direction was eastward of the place referenced in Genesis 2:8. The Flood would have totally restructured the surface of the Earth, wiping away all traces of the Garden except what may be found as fossils. God placed an angel at the entrance to the Garden to keep pre-Flood men from returning. That was no longer necessary after the Flood obliterated it. After the Flood, Noah and his descendants gave familiar names to the new rivers and places they encountered as they migrated, just as American settlers have done for 300 years.

8. The phrase "breath of life (lives)" is an interesting one. Read Job 12:10 and Job 34:14-15. What further information is given to us?

Focus on the Meaning: On the previous days of creation God said, "Let there be ..." But the creation of man is different. Genesis 2:7 says, "The Lord God *formed* (means to shape and mold with loving care) the man ... and *breathed* into his nostrils the breath of life (literally, *lives*)." The name used for God is YHWH, the personal God, and He gave Adam "the breath of life." Animals also had the breath of life in them, but God personally gave it to Adam as mankind's representative.

9. **Connecting Faith to Life:** After reading the "Focus on the Meaning" above,

- What does this tell you about God's relationship to humans as opposed to the animals and the rest of creation?

- What does knowing this truth mean to you personally?

10. Read the command God gave to Adam in v.16. Adam already had knowledge of "good." All he had seen and experienced was "good." Discuss God's command regarding the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil—what it involved, what would be gained/lost, why choosing to eat from that tree would be so bad ...

11. The Tree of Life is mentioned in other passages as well. Glean information given about it in ...

- Genesis 3:22-24—

- Revelation 2:7—

- Revelation 22:2, 14, 19—

Think About It: So, what was God's intention by placing the Tree of Life in the Garden of Eden? Although we don't know its exact composition, we do know that it represented a choice. True love involves a choice. There has to be the possibility of rejection in order for there to be true love.

12. By having access to the fruit of the Tree of Life, God showed that His will and intention for them was life—continual physical life. The results of eating from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil was death, best translated "dying, you shall die." Why do you think the penalty was so severe for choosing to disobey?
13. **Connecting Faith to Life:** God prepared a beautiful garden for the man and woman, one in which they would both work and enjoy. Spend some time in a garden setting this week—garden, yard, or park—where you can enjoy the trees, various shades of color in leaves and flowers, fragrances, etc. A garden can be an inspiring place. Ponder the beauty of God's creation. God made all those wonderful plants for you! How does a beautiful garden inspire you?

DAY THREE STUDY

Read Gen. 2:4-25.

14. God created humans with the tools of intelligence, observation, and language. Discuss the task God gave to Adam in Genesis 2:18-20.
15. As God brought certain animals to Adam, what is soon revealed? Read also Ecclesiastes 4:9-12.

From the Hebrew: Although made in the image of God, a perfect handiwork, Adam was not complete. In fact, this is the first thing in creation that God calls "not good." God decided that Adam needed a helper. The Hebrew word *ezer* means "one who assists another in reaching complete fulfillment." It is used 19 times in the Old Testament: 4 times as equal to equal, 15 times as God to man, NEVER used as an inferior helping a superior. For example, see Isaiah 41:10 and Psalm 10:14.

16. Compare and contrast the timing and method of the creation of Adam to that of Eve.

- What are the similarities?

- What are the differences?

Think About It: Could all the events recorded on the 6th day of creation really have taken place during a normal, 24-hour-type day? The Bible does not say that Adam named all the living creatures on that day, only those God brought to him from three groups—livestock (cattle), beasts, and birds. In the opinion of many researchers, the purpose of Adam's task may have been to discover his unique aloneness. The number of animals would be determined by how long it would take Adam to fully get the point!! So, would the God who spoke everything into existence have difficulty creating the animals, creating Adam, planting a Garden, talking to Adam, bringing certain animals to Adam, waiting for Adam to name the animals and creating Eve—all in a day's time? The answer is a definite NO!!

17. Discuss Adam's response to Eve. [Note: The Hebrew word translated "woman" (*ishah*) is the feminine form of *ish*, which is translated "man."]

Think About It: "She is his (man's) peer in capacities of intellect, moral worth and sensibilities. She can think, feel, imagine, reason; she can sell goods, plan buildings, make statues, diagnose diseases, construct philosophies or write epics. In a word, what is open to a man as a human being is open to her." (Dr. Allen Ross, Hebrew Scholar)

18. **Connecting Faith to Life:** We must understand who we really are as women, by God's design, in order to have a proper view of our value as persons and our responsibility to function as God intended. God did not make either man or woman to be totally independent of one another nor did He make woman to be inferior to man—intellectually, emotionally, morally, or spiritually. Knowing these truths will free you to become the woman God wants you to be. Spend some time thinking about God creating you as a woman rather than as a man. List all the benefits and blessings of womanhood. Use your creativity to praise your Creator for His marvelous design.

19. Read Genesis 2:21-25 again. Notice the progression of "leave," "cleave" and "unite." Define these three words using a dictionary:

- Leave—
- Cleave—
- Unite—

20. So, what was God's intention for Adam and Eve and their descendants regarding future marriage? See also Malachi 2:15-16 and Jesus' support of this in Matthew 19:4-6.

21. The first marriage was performed ("husband" and "wife" are used in Genesis 3). This was God's institution. He invented it to be one man, one woman for life. Discuss Genesis 2:25. What does being naked without feeling any shame mean?

Think About It: "Marriage is the decision to identify with another person and adopt a 'team approach to life.' Identification is the building of a **partnership**. We must therefore 'die to singleness in order to be alive to marriage.'" (Tim Stevenson)

22. **Connecting Faith to Life:**

- *If you are married*—God has given you the gift of a marriage partner for intimate community so that you will not be doing life "alone." Consider how to give your **marriage priority** this week over other relationships and activities—over children and their activities, church responsibilities, school, job, house, perfectionism, shopping, etc.
- *If you are single*—How do you connect with other adults in intimate community? Consider what you might do to make sure you are not doing life "alone."

DAY FOUR STUDY

Discernment Practice

In the article below, mark the facts (underline, circle, colored highlighter, etc.). Then, mark the assumptions/interpretations with a different mark. Then, answer the questions below. Compare your evaluations with the ones given in the “Discernment Practice: How Well Did You Do?” Section after Lesson Eleven.

“Evolution in pollution?” from ANSTO, www.ansto.gov.au, 17 Sep 2002

Under a headline ‘Darwin’s theory holds true in Northern Territory,’ the media release from the *Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation* explained that, ‘thanks to 40 years of evolution,’ fish in Australia’s Finnis River have learned to live with copper pollution from mine wastes.

‘Each year a majority of rainbow fish were killed in the first flush of heavy metals downstream at the start of each wet season,’ said one researcher. ‘However, the few remaining fish passed their ability to survive onto their offspring.’ But the downside is that the adaptation to high levels of pollution ‘may have occurred at the expense of some other traits that are important for their survival.’

- *Facts:*
- *Assumptions:*
- *How does the conclusion leave out evidence for biblical creation?*

Creation Answers—Designed, not Descended

There are *billions of dead things buried in rock layers laid down by water all over the earth* represented by bones, shells, molds, leaves, teeth, skin imprints, footprints, dung. Scientists have been examining the fossils and the rocks in which they are found for hundreds of years.

As a way of reconstructing evolution’s past history, scientists have set up a “Geologic Time Scale” where the rocks with the “most Primitive” fossils are assigned the oldest ages and the rocks with the “most Advanced” fossils are considered the youngest with various stages in between. However, there is no place on earth where all the rock layers, with the kinds of fossils listed in the geologic time scale, are found in the sequence listed. The geologic time scale is a nice graphic, but it doesn’t represent reality.

What evidence from life in the past would we expect to find if evolution is true? We would expect to see that fossils show a progressive change from one organism to another—the Transitional Forms I mentioned in the last “Creation Answers” discussion at the end of Lesson 3.

What evidence from life in the past would we expect to find if creation is true? We would expect to see that each basic kind appears in the fossil record complete, with no incomplete ancestors. We would also expect to see fossils similar to living forms, possessing some variations. That does represent reality. This is what we find in the fossil record. Each creature on earth is designed, not descended.

Complex and diverse life appears abruptly in the fossil record.

So many kinds of organisms suddenly appear at the lowest level that it's called the "Cambrian Explosion." Thousands of very complex organisms suddenly appear in these rocks such as fish, sea urchins, and trilobites that have a segmented body and complex vision. No ancestral forms can be found for any of these. They appear in the fossil record fully formed and distinct.

No evolutionist can explain how this happened. They have dug deeper into "older" layers to hopefully find the "earlier stages of developing forms," and it doesn't get any better for the evolutionist. Complex jellyfish and segmented worms are found there. So, the evidence says, "**It's designed, not descended.**"

Each basic body style has been present right from the start.

No new body plans have appeared from the lowest levels of fossils. Shells look like shells; eyes look like eyes. For instance, clams are found in the bottom layer, the top layer, and every layer in between. There are many different varieties of clams, but clams are in every layer and are still alive today. There's no evolution, just clams!

The existence of many living fossils also challenges the supposed hundreds of millions of years of earth history. A living fossil is one that is the same in fossil and living form. And, some of these fossils are missing from intervening strata that supposedly represent millions of years of evolutionary time, again indicating that there were no time gaps. For example, supposedly "530 million-year-old" starfish, jellyfish, and snails look very much like those living today.

Transitional forms are absent.

Darwin predicted that the fossil record would show numerous transitional fossils. Yet, millions of fossils later, all we have are a few disputed ones.

Dr. Colin Patterson of the British Museum of Natural History, an evolutionist, said, "there is not one ... for which you could make a water-tight argument." (*Answers to the 4 Big Questions*, page 10, note 4)

But, evolutionists are desperate for transitional forms and so are those who support them. Popular magazines frequently publish articles claiming the latest transitional form has been found, having a nice artistic drawing on the front only to have to retract their statements in a short sentence tucked away in the back somewhere a few months later. Beware of what you read. Always separate the facts from the assumptions.

Remember one thing. All we find is bones, sometimes skin. Beware of what you see in Natural History Museums. Don't assume the skeletons are real fossils. Often, complete skeletons are reconstructed from 1-2 bones. Then, flesh is put on that skeleton based upon the artist's evolutionary bias.

By the way, there are thousands of examples of "Out of Place" fossils. That means they aren't where they are supposed to be according to the Geologic Time Scale. So, don't think every fossil that is found fits neatly into the expected time category. You just don't hear about the ones that don't.

Human evolution is imaginary.

Nobody has demonstrated step by step how any ape-like set of features could have transmuted into any of the long list of specifically human traits, including skeletal arrangements that enable

mankind's peculiar and efficient "knees pointed forward" manner of walking. The Creator of all life said in His Word that He created mankind specially and in His image, and the fossil evidence bears this out. Some fossils are not informative enough to accurately identify. Thus, any given "hominin" fossil is either unknown, or from a human, or from an ape. Based upon the actual fossil evidence, the conclusion is this: all life, including human life, is **designed, not descended** through an evolutionary process.

For more information ...

Go to www.answersingenesis.org or www.icr.org. SEARCH for anything related to this lesson such as Garden of Eden, tree of life, out of place fossils, living fossils, human fossils, human family, marriage, creation of woman or similar phrase. Select an article to read or video to watch.

5. CORRUPTION: The Problem of Evil

THE CONSEQUENCES OF SIN AND THE PROMISED REDEEMER

DAY ONE STUDY

Read Genesis 3:1-6.

1. In Hebrew, the word *Ha-satan* (literally, "the accuser") describes Satan's nature as an accuser, adversary and a hater. [Note: By the time of 1 Chronicles, the article was dropped and *Satan* had become a proper name.] What is revealed about him in the verses below?

- Job 1:7, 9; 2:2—
- John 8:44—
- 1 Peter 5:8—

Scriptural Insight: Who is this serpent? The serpent, one of the subtlest of God's creation, is recorded to have spoken to Eve. The Apostle Paul accepted the historical account of the serpent—and his ability to deceive—as a real phenomenon. To the Christians in Corinth, the apostle wrote, "I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ." (2 Corinthians 11:3). In Revelation, John describes Satan when he notes, "And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the Devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world (Revelation 12:9; 20:2)."

2. Back to Genesis 3:1-6, notice how the serpent rephrased what God said to Adam in Genesis 2:16-17 about the tree of knowledge. Which portion of the serpent's statements are true and which are false?

- True—
- False—

3. Compare Eve's response in Genesis 3:2-3 with what God actually said and did in 2:9, 16-17. So, in what way did Satan lead Eve ... ?

- To doubt God's Word—
- To distrust God's character—

Read Genesis 3:7-13.

We will now see the effects of sin on us as individuals, on our relationship with others, and our relationship with God.

4. Once Adam and Eve had eaten the fruit, *"the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked"* (v. 7, NIV). Compare this with Genesis 2:25 and what the serpent "promised" in 3:5.
 - What had actually been gained?

 - What had really been lost?

Scriptural Insight: What is evil? Evil is not something God created as a counterpart to good (as often taught in other religions). In the beginning, God created all things "very good." Evil has only a parasitic existence. It is a diminishment, misuse, or perversion of something good that God created. Why does God allow evil to exist? We don't know the answer to that question. But, we do know that the possibility of evil is inherent in God's choice to create beings with free will. God cannot simply annihilate evil without destroying free will, but He can and will defeat it. In the future, God plans to destroy evil forever (see Lesson 11). We also know that God limits evil. Satan has boundaries beyond which he cannot cross (Job 1-2). God takes evil seriously and so should we. The presence of evil around us and the seeds of self-destruction in us should remind us of our need for dependency on Christ. Anything that causes us to rely on Him more is good for us. (adapted from *"When World-Views Collide,"* Tim Stevenson, Mark Series, Message #47.)

5. How did Adam and Eve try to solve their problem of "nakedness?"

6. Discuss what happens in vv. 8-11 including the apparent emotions of Adam and Eve.

7. ***Connecting Faith to Life:*** Though Adam and Eve were hiding, God sought them. He knew where they were. Read Psalm 139. Is it really possible to hide from God? Does His consistent presence give you comfort? Why or why not?

8. Discuss the attempts of both Adam and Eve to avoid responsibility for their individual actions (vv. 12-13).

9. **Connecting Faith to Life:** Do you have trouble accepting responsibility for your own actions? Who or what do you usually blame?

DAY TWO STUDY

Read Genesis 3:14-19.

10. After the questioning, God proceeded to pronounce consequences on all the parties involved—the serpent (& Satan), the woman and the man. Discuss what God said to each one and what it means. Look for evidences of God's grace to each as well.
 - The **Serpent** (vv. 14-15)—

 - The **Woman** (v. 16)—

 - The **Man** (vv. 17-19)—

Scriptural Insight: Death enters the world. Instantly Adam and Eve died spiritually (separated relationship from God), and they began to die physically until they actually returned to dust. And, physical death of living creatures, including man, began with God's judgment on man's sin. If you think about it, adding millions of years of animal death before the creation and Fall of man contradicts and destroys the Bible's teaching on death and nullifies the redemptive work of Christ on the cross. It also makes God into a bumbling, cruel creator who uses (or can't prevent) disease, natural disasters and extinctions to mar His creative work, without any moral cause, but calls it all "very good." If God originally intended death to be an integral part of His creation, then God should allow death to continue into eternity. But, He doesn't. All the prophecies of the future talk about a restoration to harmony in nature, animals eating only plants, and man living long on earth. Paul calls death the last enemy. Revelation 22:3 says the curse will be removed in the new Earth. Death will be vanquished for good.

Adam and Eve began to die physically on that very day, just as God promised. Remember the literal translation of the Hebrew at the end of Genesis 2:17 is "dying, you shall die." As we will soon see, their source of perpetual life was removed from their reach. But, physical death was not the only aspect of life involved. We will study spiritual consequences later in this lesson.

11. Eve rightly recognized that she had been deceived (v. 10). Consult a dictionary for the definition of "deceive."

12. What can and should you do to root out deception and prevent it from happening to you?

- 1 Peter 5:6-10—

- Ephesians 6:10-13—

13. The good news is that we don't have to live in fear and defeat because of temptation and the problem of sin around us daily. As the one who remained faithful in temptation, He (Jesus) became the model for all believers when we are tempted. We have an Advocate! Read the following verses. In times of temptation, what does the Bible say about the living presence of Jesus helping and encouraging us?

- Hebrews 4:15—

- 1 Corinthians 10:13—

- Hebrews 2:18—

14. Satan experienced victory over Adam and Eve in the garden. But, God declared his ultimate defeat in Genesis 3:15. What did God say would happen?

Focus on the Meaning: The term *seed* has a biological connotation and usually refers to man's part in conception. One could be a physical seed of woman, "her seed," only if there was no male seed involved in conception. This necessitates a virgin birth.

15. This verse refers to the *seed* (singular) of the woman. Contrary to the ordinary meaning of seed as referring to a man's descendant, the use of *seed* in this instance refers to a woman's descendant. Who is the only man born to a woman without benefit of a man's sperm? Read the following verses:

- Isaiah 7:14—
- Luke 1:31-35—
- Galatians 4:4—

Scriptural Insight: God made His first Messianic promise in Genesis 3:15. He proclaimed essentially the first Gospel to Adam and Eve, promising victory over Satan and victory over his power against them.

16. Who or what is meant by "the seed of the serpent?"

- John 8:44—
- Acts 13:10—
- 1 John 3:8—

17. **Connecting Faith to Life:** Sin has consequences. But, as the hymn goes,

"Marvelous grace of our loving Lord, grace that exceeds our sin and our guilt.
Yonder on Calvary's mount outpoured, there where the blood of the Lamb was spilt.
Grace, grace, God's grace, grace will pardon and cleanse within.
Grace, grace God's grace, Grace that is greater than all our sin."

Read and reflect on Romans 5:12-21. How has God's plan benefited you?

23. God prevented Adam and Eve from eating from the Tree of Life by driving them out of the garden. Why is this both a punishment and an act of mercy?

24. **Deeper Discoveries (optional):** What other information is given in scripture about the cherubim and the sword? See Ezekiel 1:4-8; 10:1-22; 28:14; Revelation 4:6-8 plus any others you find.

25. What remained the same and what was different regarding Adam's job description before the Curse as opposed to afterward? Compare Genesis 1:28; 2:15 and 3:17-19,23.

BEFORE

AFTER

26. **Connecting Faith to Life:** Almighty God loves man and woman—stubborn, disobedient, selfish, and frail—so much that He provided suitable clothes for them. Covering that provided protection and warmth. And, He planned to redeem them, us, making it possible for us to once again have perfect fellowship with Him. Read John 1:29 and John 3:16 and meditate on the meaning.

DAY FOUR STUDY**Discernment Practice**

In the article below, mark the facts (underline, circle, colored highlighter, etc.). Then, mark the assumptions/interpretations with a different mark. Then, answer the questions below. Compare your evaluations with the ones given in the “Discernment Practice: How Well Did You Do?” Section after Lesson Eleven.

“Iiwis Reduce Their Bill” from *Nature*, Vol. 375, May 4, 1995

A Hawaiian bird is evolving a shorter bill, evolutionary researchers claim. They say that the iiwi (pronounced ee-EE-wee), a honey-eater with a long, down-curved bill, has changed its eating habits because its main food source, the lobelioid flower, has become rare.

The iiwi's long bill is ideal for extracting nectar from the base of the deep corollas of lobelioids. But with the large-scale disappearance or extinction of several species of the flowers, the iiwi now feeds largely on the flowers of the ohia tree. Other honeyeaters that feed on ohia flowers have short bills, because these flowers lack corollas. Researchers who compared the size of living iiwis' bills with the bills of museum specimens collected before 1902 show that the length of the iiwi's bill has shortened 2-3 per cent. Other features have remained stable.

- *Facts:*
- *Assumptions:*
- *How does the evidence fit with biblical design?*

Creation Answers—Cursed Creation

John Milton's epic poem *Paradise Lost*, the second longest poem in English literature begins with these words:

Of Man's first disobedience, and the fruit
Of that forbidden tree whose mortal taste
Brought death into the World, and all our woe,
With loss of Eden, till one greater Man
Restore us, and regain the blissful seat,

Genesis 2-5 contains the account of “Paradise” and “Paradise Lost” for us.

Genesis 2—The perfect world

Genesis 2 reveals important details about God's highest creation—human kind, the one creature intended to have a spiritual relationship with God. From Genesis 1 and 2, we glean some specific details.

- Animals and humans were vegetarian so there was harmony in nature.
- God specially designed both the man and the woman with purpose.
- God made man and woman (not the animals) in His image and established a relationship with them.
- Mankind and most of the animal world would have continual life. Death was not expected.
- God pronounced His creation “very good” at the end of the 6th day and rested from creating.

Any evidence of disorder, suffering, decay, and death which we now see in the present world or in the records of the past cannot possibly be attributed to anything occurring during the six days of Creation. Something obviously corrupted this “very good” perfect world, turning it into the world we see today. The answer is found in 1 Corinthians 15:21 which says, *“By man came death.”*

Genesis 3—Man’s sin and “Paradise Lost”

Corruption aptly describes what happened to God’s perfect world. Corruption affected all of life. Do you know that many cultures have in their traditional histories (before ever having contact with a Jew or Christian) an account of a perfect world that was marred by disobedience? A “paradise lost.” Some even involve a tree.

Death enters the world. Instantly Adam and Eve died spiritually (separated relationship from God), and they began to die physically until they actually physically returned to dust. Since Adam and Eve were appointed to exercise dominion over the earth, their dominion also would begin to “die.”

Paul describes this in Romans, “Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned.” (Romans 5:12) “World” is the Greek word “kosmos” which is used to refer to the universe and the entire earth. Death did not enter only the experience of humanity but also the whole creation, which would include the animal kingdom—the other living creatures besides man.

A cursed creation affected everything! The ground became reluctant to yield its food. Instead it required man’s toil, sweat and tears before anyone could eat. Some creatures and plants were changed. Women would experience pain and sorrow in childbearing. Some plants would now produce thorns and thistles rather than just useful fruit and vegetables.

Relationships were affected. Pain, decay, suffering and aging would become part of the daily experience, as would animals eating one another. We will see later that humans weren’t told to eat meat until after the Flood (Genesis 9). The curse not only affected mankind, but also the earth and all of creation itself. Romans 8:20-22 describes how the whole creation is groaning because of sin, waiting for its restoration.

“For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.”
(Romans 8:20-22)

Did God change creatures so they would become fierce, eat meat, and die? Or, did God create them with those capabilities in the first place and just “turned it on” after the curse? There’s argument for both ideas. Here’s a brief synopsis of the two theories regarding these defense/attack structures (DAS):

- The defense/attack structures were already present and used for different purposes before the Curse.
- Design alterations were made after the Curse to allow such defense / attack structures.

Consider sharp teeth. Even today, creatures with sharp teeth do not always use them to rip other animals apart. The giant panda's sharp teeth are used for bamboo munching. The fruit bat eats fruit with its fangs. Some originally vegetarian animals become accustomed to eating meat when they are exposed to it. So, it's not unlikely to think that they could have all been vegetarians to begin with, but God allowed them to "branch out."

What about disease? While some organisms cause disease in one type of creature, those same organisms are beneficial to other creatures. Many *E. coli* bacteria are very helpful to the human body, especially aiding digestion.

Physical changes were definitely made to plants producing thorns and to the serpent in losing its legs. These changes were passed along to offspring. Man (and animals) would no longer live perpetually but age and die.

Both of these ideas may be true. We just don't know how God did it. But, He did something that permanently affected the perfect "very good" world. Through it, God is allowing mankind to experience what it wants—life without God.

For more information ...

Go to www.answersingenesis.org or www.icr.org. SEARCH a word or phrase from today's passage such as sin, angels, Satan, curse, or death and suffering. Select an article to read or a video to watch.

6. CORRUPTION: The Lost World

HEART RESPONSE & HERITAGE PASSED ALONG

DAY ONE STUDY

Though no longer perfect, life moves on. And, God is in it.

Read Genesis 4:1-16.

From the Hebrew: In this story, we find Cain and Abel providing an offering to God. The word used for offering in this context is *minchah*, which means "meal (cereal) offering; offering; tribute; gift; sacrifice." *Minchah* is often used to refer to ANY "offering" or "gift" made to God, whether it was a "vegetable offering" or a "blood sacrifice." In later Old Testament texts, *minchah* is commonly used to designate grain or cereal offerings, usually mixed with oil, to be offered alone or with a burnt animal sacrifice. The Hebrew word *olah* means a burnt animal sacrifice and first occurs in Genesis 8:20, when Noah built the altar to the Lord and sacrificed burnt offerings on it. The same Hebrew word for offering, *minchah*, was used for the offerings of BOTH Cain and Abel. Scripture does say that Abel brought "fat portions of some of the firstborn of his flock" which means he brought the "choicest parts." (*Vines Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words*)

1. What insight do the following verses give about the Lord's acceptance of Abel's offering but not Cain's?
 - Hebrews 11:4—

 - 1 John 3:10-15—

2. In the following references, why was the offering unacceptable?
 - 1 Samuel 15:3, 21-23—

 - Malachi 1:6-10—

3. In the following references, what is considered a pleasing sacrifice or better than a sacrifice?
 - 1 Samuel 15:22—

 - Psalm 51:16-17—

 - Proverbs 15:8—

4. So, after answering the previous two questions, what does God really want?

5. How does Cain respond to the Lord looking with favor on Abel's offering but not his own (v. 5)?

6. God personally communicates with Cain. What does the Lord ask Cain?

7. After explaining that Cain should take responsibility by doing what is right in order to be accepted, God also points out that if "you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it." Explain what you think God means by this.

8. Cain did not master sin. What were the consequences—for himself, his brother, his family, and his descendants?

9. Throughout this whole passage, on whom or on what is Cain's focus?

10. **Connecting Faith to Life:** Read Psalm 139:23-24. *Memorize* these verses and *pray* them often this week. Be sensitive to what the Holy Spirit reveals to you about your own heart. Think about what areas of your life need to be yielded to the Holy Spirit so that you will do what is right and have mastery over sin.

DAY TWO STUDY

Read Genesis 4:10-17.

11. Discuss the following:
- God's judgment upon Cain—

 - God's mercy to Cain—

From the Hebrew: The Hebrew word translated "city" in verse 17 refers to any permanent settlement. It is logical to conclude that Adam and his clan were already building a permanent settlement in their homeland by this time.

12. Just as the location of Eden before the Flood is unknown, the location of Nod is also unknown (vv. 16-17). The name Nod just means "wandering, exile." Discuss the changes that then took place in Cain's life as a result of God's judgment upon him.

Historical Insight: Where did Cain get his wife? This is a question that has plagued scoffers for years. The scripture does not say he found a wife in Nod nor does it prevent him from having already been married before he murdered Abel. Since Adam and Eve had sons and daughters (Genesis 5:4), and since God had not prohibited marriage between close family members (not until the time of Moses), it is reasonable to conclude that Cain married a sister or a niece. According to the historian Josephus, Jewish tradition held that Adam and Eve had 56 sons and daughters. Considering their lifespan of more than 900 years and their perfect physical condition, it is not impossible to believe. (Taken from *The Genesis Record*, page 142)

Read Genesis 4:18-24.

Historical Insight: The remaining portion of Genesis 4 gives a most intriguing, even tantalizing, picture of life in the antediluvian (pre-Flood) world. This is almost the only information we have about that first human civilization, which was later so completely destroyed by the great Flood. Archeological excavations deal almost entirely with post-Flood deposits. Other than semi-legendary recollections of the world's first "golden age," the brief Biblical record is still the only fully reliable account we have of that first age. (*The Genesis Record*, page 142)

13. Notice the type of heritage that Cain passed down to his descendants, particularly Lamech who is in the seventh generation from Cain. The word translated "killed" in verse 23 means "to slay, slaughter" and is the same word used of Cain's murder of Abel. Comment on Lamech's activities and attitudes towards others, himself and God.

14. What aspects of *civilization*, *culture* and *intellectual achievement* BEFORE THE FLOOD are found in the following verses from Genesis 4-5? Comment about ALL the skills involved in each. Be specific!

- 4:17—

- 4:20—

- 4:21—

- 4:22 [Think through the phrase "all kinds of tools."]—

- 5:1 [The word translated "book" means "written account."]—

Scriptural Insight: Some commentaries suggest that the above evidences of culture and civilization are the by-products of a godless people, such as Cain's descendants, since the activities are described in Cain's lineage rather than in Seth's. On the other hand, God has gifted man with the abilities needed to do these things and even given directions to godly men in scripture to perform similar works of "civilized" behavior (Exodus 25; 1 Kings 5-8; Deuteronomy 3:6-25; Matthew 25:14-28).

15. Are these the works of primitive, uncivilized, slow-witted "cave-men" humans? Explain.

Historical Insight: Assuming there are no "gaps" in these chronological genealogies (a possibility which cannot be ruled out completely, but one for which there is no internal evidence), and that the years are not anything other than normal years (the Jewish year was 360 days), there seems to have been 1656 years from the creation of Adam to the Flood. The record is perfectly natural and straightforward and is obviously intended to give both the necessary genealogical data to denote the promised lineage and also the only reliable chronological framework we have for the antediluvian (pre-Flood) period of history. Taking the recorded ages at face value, it is interesting to note that Adam lived until Lamech, the father of Noah was fifty-six years old. Most likely the oldest of the living patriarchs maintained the primary responsibility for preserving and promulgating God's Word to his contemporaries.

The scriptures indicate that the antediluvians (those who lived before the Flood) lived to very great ages (averaging 912 years!) and that most families were quite large. The antediluvian world was substantially different from our own ... not much time had passed since the perfectly created human body began to be plagued by such mutations that became hereditary. As we study Genesis further, it will be noticed that life spans begin a slow and steady decline after the Flood, showing evidently that they were connected with the pre-Flood atmosphere and environment. All in all, there is no reason whatever not to take this list in Genesis 5 as sober history in every way. The names are repeated as well in I Chronicles 1:1-4 and Luke 3:36-38. This confirms that they were accepted as historical by the later Biblical writers, of both Old and New Testaments. (Adapted from *The Genesis Record*, pp. 153-155)

[The long lifespans of Genesis 5 are discussed in "Creation Answers—The Lost World and Its People" at the end of this lesson.]

18. **Connecting Faith to Life:** If you have a relative who prayed or is praying for you and shared the gospel with you, spend some time thanking God for that person.

DAY THREE STUDY

Read Genesis 6:1-13.

It is speculated that by this time (~ 1656 years after Creation), the population of the earth would have been in the millions. Longevity of life (average lifespan of 912 years) and large families would have contributed to a large population, perhaps several million people. Genesis 6:1 bears witness to the fact that mankind had indeed multiplied.

Who were those sons of God?

The phrase "sons of God" has caused interpreters quite a bit of difficulty for years! You will likely find several interpretations mentioned in your commentaries/study Bibles. Here are the most prevalent views:

- A. They were angels, either angels who joined Satan in his rebellion against God previously (demons) or angels that rebelled at this time.
- *Support for this view:* The technical phrase "sons of God" is used elsewhere of angels in the Old Testament (Job 1:6; 2:1; Job 38:7; Psalm 29:1; Daniel 3:25) and in Jewish literature, generally referring to those who were created by God, not born (like humans). Also, the progeny of these seem to be excessively wicked as would be expected of demonic origin. The references to spirits now in prison (1 Peter 3:19-20; 2 Peter 2:4) and Jesus' encounter with demons who didn't want to be locked up (Luke 8:31) may be referring to God's judgment upon those wicked angels of Genesis 6.
 - *Objections to this interpretation:*
 - 1) How could demons be referred to as "sons of God," a phrase usually associated with those who revere and honor Him?
 - 2) Angels do not marry (Mark 12:25) or procreate after their kind. However, we do know that men of Jesus' day were indwelt by demons and participated in the daily activities of life while being "demonized," even exhibiting superhuman strength. If these (Gen. 6) were angels, they did on this unique occasion cohabit with human women to produce human offspring.
- B. The "sons of God" were godly men, believers, such as are represented in the line of Seth. The "daughters of men" represented the unbelievers, such as are described in the line of Cain. So, the wickedness developed as a result of breaking down the wall of separation between believers and unbelievers, the godly and the ungodly.
- *Support for this view:* Expressions *equivalent* to "sons of God" often refer to human beings, though not in similar contexts (Deut. 14:1; 32:5; Psalm 73:15; Luke 3:38). We also know that the families of the Sethites were involved in the wickedness of the time as well as those of Cain because both were destroyed in the Flood (except for Noah and family). And, Adam and Eve had several sons and daughters besides Cain and Seth so all of their descendants were involved in the wickedness. Also, God's judgment upon the earth was directed at humans. There is no mention of blame upon any angels who may have caused the problem.
 - *Objections to this interpretation:* It is not very well supported by the terminology used or the context of the passage. Why would such believer/nonbeliever unions lead to universal corruption and violence?

C. These were powerful rulers who may or may not have been controlled (indwelt) by fallen angels. It may be that fallen angels left their habitation and inhabited bodies of human despots and warriors, the mighty ones of the earth, who then married commoners.

- *Support for this view:* It is believed from Ezekiel 28 and Daniel 10 that great kings of the earth have "princes" ruling behind them—demonic power. In ancient literature, kings are described as divine, half-divine or demi-gods. Many mythological traditions describe them as being the offspring of the gods themselves such as in the Sumerian traditions.
- *Objections to this interpretation:* It does not fit the context of the passage. How could this lead to universal violence and corruption?

So, have we confused you enough? The point is that NO ONE REALLY KNOWS who those "sons of God" were. Therefore, we are giving you several possible interpretations but will concentrate on *the rest* of this passage in the questions rather than discussing this topic.

19. Regardless of interpretation, Genesis 6 describes how corrupt the world had become as a result of sin in less than 1700 years. Describe the moral characteristics of the people of Noah's day as God described them.

From the Hebrew: Genesis 6:4 also generates lots of discussion and interpretation. Who or what could have been the *Nephilim*? (KJV uses "giants of the earth".) *Nephilim* comes from a Hebrew word meaning "to fall" so the word can be translated "fallen ones." However, it can also refer to those who fall upon others such as attackers/bullies. The term came to be used after the Flood of men who were excessively tall (giants) and/or fierce, behaving as bullies. See Numbers 13:31-33. The Greeks translated the Hebrew word *nephilim* into *gigantes* (giants). So, this term may be referring to the physical characteristics of pre-Flood humans and animals. Interestingly, nearly all modern animals and plants were once represented by larger fossil ancestors. Giant cockroaches; armadillos 6 feet tall; birds with wing spans of 52 feet; and, of course, dinosaurs—20 feet tall, 50 feet long and weighing 7 tons! Detailed analysis of the few pre-Flood human bones and footprints studied suggest the men and women who made them were at least 6'8" to 7'5" tall. So, it would not be unreasonable to conclude there were indeed "giants" in those days.

Who were the mighty men, "the men of renown?" The Hebrew term translated "mighty" refers to power and strength and is often used of warriors. "Men of renown" refers to men of reputation. So, this phrase may refer to men whose exploits of strength and violence had made them famous in song and fable in all nations in the ages following the Flood. Perhaps these were the source of the heroes of Greek, Roman, and Sumerian mythology. To men of later times, especially rebellious men, they were revered as great heroes. But in God's sight, they were as described in your answer to the previous question.

20. How does God feel about the social climate on the earth?
21. What does He plan to do about it and when?
22. Whom does God notice to be the exception to the corruption on the earth?
23. **Connecting Faith to Life:** When all around us is total depravity, we individually have the choice of God's ways or the world's ways. How does it make you feel to know that God notices even just one person, such as He did Noah, and such as He does you?

DAY FOUR STUDY

Discernment Practice

In the article below, mark the facts (underline, circle, colored highlighter, etc.). Then, mark the assumptions/interpretations with a different mark. Then, answer the questions below. Compare your evaluations with the ones given in the “Discernment Practice: How Well Did You Do?” Section after Lesson Eleven.

“Superbug’ did not evolve” from Nature, 1 August 2002, p. 469

A new strain of *Staphylococcus aureus* which is resistant to the antibiotic vancomycin has been found in a hospital patient in Michigan, USA. DNA sequence analysis revealed that the new strain did not ‘evolve’ resistant genes, but acquired them by gene transfer from relatively harmless gut bacteria called *enterococci*, carried by the same patient.

- *Facts:*
- *Assumptions:*
- *How does the evidence fit with biblical design?*

Creation Answers—The Lost World and Its People

It is speculated that by this time (~ 1600 years after Creation), the population of the earth would have been in the millions. Take the average lifespan of 912 years plus 9 children per family. Just including only those families listed in Genesis 5 and taking into consideration the violence prevalent on the earth, there may have been 200 million people alive at the time of Noah.

If there were that many humans alive, we might expect to find lots of human fossils, right? Yet, most human fossils are found in what is classified as post-Flood sediments or in caves, not in Flood deposits. Why is that? Good question. Since the waters of the Flood took weeks to cover the earth completely, humans could have climbed to higher ground, grabbed onto floating debris, then died and decomposed rather than being buried. The speed at which water and other forces eliminated all traces of bodies in the 2004 Asian tsunami absolutely shocked scientists. 43,000 victims were never found. Dead humans bloat and float rather than sink.

The Big Three—characteristics of the pre-flood Earth

What was that “Lost World” like? Three particular evidences scream out about this lost world. I call them the Big Three.

1) Long life spans for humans

According to the Bible, humans lived for more than 900 years (at least Seth’s line did from those genealogies in Genesis 5). Then, after the Flood, lifespans dropped significantly.

2) Appearance of a worldwide tropical “greenhouse” climate

Geologists admit there’s evidence of a worldwide tropical climate throughout the fossil record. Statements from geology books about the past geological time periods include these descriptions: “The earth had a tropical or sub-tropical climate over much of its land surface, & abundance of lush vegetation. The land was low, & there were no high mountains forming physical or climatic barriers.”

Scientists have found fossils of tropical plants and animals from the North Pole to the South Pole and on top of the highest mountains. Remember the “Chilled Crawfish” in Antarctica? Below Alaska’s Prudhoe Bay inside the Arctic Circle, an ancient tropical forest is found 1100 to 1700 feet down—palm trees, pine trees, and tropical foliage in great profusion.

Another indication of warmer climate is coal—compressed plant material that becomes carbonized as all its cells are replaced by carbon. Huge coal seams everywhere represent massive vegetation existing all over the land being buried and decaying at the same time. Nothing like that is occurring today.

3) Gigantism in fossil plants and animals

According to the fossil record, nearly all modern animals and plants were once represented by larger fossil ancestors. There were literally giants in the past and not just dinosaurs weighing 40 tons (although the average size was that of a sheep). Here are some other examples: 6-foot tall armadillo (Florida), 12-foot tall bison, 6-foot long beaver, 20-foot tall camel (India), 9-foot tall donkey (Texas), 11-foot long turtle (Texas), and a 17-foot tall rhinoceros. Pigs grew to be the size of cattle. Wombats were the size of a small car. Giant birds were nearly 10 feet tall, weighed over 500 pounds, and could swallow a dog in a single gulp.

Cattails (like those that grow along the edges of a pond) grew to be 60-100 foot tall. Club mosses (only a few inches high today) were 120 feet tall in those pre-Flood days. Dragonflies had a wingspan of 25 inches. Insects similar to scorpions and centipedes were 3-5 feet long. Yikes!

Giants were in the land! Then all of a sudden, the large animals and plants disappear. We don't have them today—except for the whale. Why is that?

Secular geologists say that the giants have “devolved” to smaller representatives. That doesn't make sense to me when it comes to survival of the fittest. Evolutionary theory doesn't do that great a job of explaining why such large animals were the ancestors of the smaller animals living today. It's one thing if all these extinct animals are different species than exist today (and they are in some cases) but quite another if the primary difference is that they were giant animals. Scientists solve this problem by the use of the scientific term, “LIKE.” For instance, if a 12-foot St. Bernard were to walk across their lawn, they would describe it as a “Dog-Like creature, rather than a dog.

Something was different about the pre-Flood world! But what? God created some kind of greenhouse environment for the earth that produced a worldwide tropical climate and protection from harmful radiation. All this resulted in longer life spans for man and animals.

Explanations for The Big Three

1) Pre-Flood versus Post-Flood life spans of humans.

From the study of modern family lines that include centenarians (100-year-olds) and the process of cell division, some believe that lifespans were affected by both environmental factors and genetic ones. Noah still lived another 350 years in the post-Flood atmosphere. The decline reached a plateau by the time of David. Apart from disease and accidents, there is no biological reason why people could not live much longer than they do at present, if they had the appropriate genetic makeup.

2) Appearance of a worldwide tropical “greenhouse” climate

Creation scientists propose a pre-Flood climate model that includes:

- The absence of tall mountain ranges and ice caps at the poles. Based on Genesis 1:9, we can propose all the land was together in one landmass (some call it Pangaea) with fewer, lower mountains as the geologists also propose. The combined continents centered around the equator, extending not nearly as far north as today. This would result in a more tropical climate over most of the land as opposed to today. There were likely no deserts yet.
- The existence of shallow seas over much of the continental-interior areas trapping heat and providing moderate temperatures to the land. Everything today grows bigger in the more tropical climates. Given this, though, a likely explanation from some creation scientists for tropical plants & creatures being buried at the poles is that during the Flood, the plants and animals, even live animals, floated to high latitudes from their tropical origins on gigantic floating mats of vegetation. Similar mats are seen during local floods today and after tsunamis scour shorelines.
- Larger concentrations of atmospheric carbon dioxide leading to a greenhouse effect, increasing forestation and the resulting coal deposits. We do find tremendous amounts of fossilized vegetation everywhere, including current deserts. In spite of adverse publicity about carbon dioxide (CO₂) today, the opposite side is that forests would soak it all up!

3) Gigantism in fossil plants and animals.

How did the animals and plants grow so big? We know that many living reptiles and even some mammals (elephants) can grow slowly throughout their lifetimes. A cottonmouth snake can grow to the size of a tire. That's an “old” snake. Comparing bones of juvenile dinosaurs, scientists believe that dinosaurs experienced rapid growth in their youth and then continued slow growth the rest of their lives. If dinosaurs lived hundreds of years, as people did before the Flood, they had plenty of

time to develop into the enormous creatures we find as fossils. Maybe some fossils of giants are the ones originally created by God. Also, the climate as described above seems to favor optimal growth of animals and plants. Remember that everything had been created perfectly. There hadn't been much time for the cumulative effects of inherited mutations to show up in genetics. And, there is indication from post-Flood evidence that the largest creatures were killed by humans. There were still **giants in the land** after the Flood.

Conclusion

It is reasonable to consider the pre-Flood earth having some kind of greenhouse effect, greater shielding from radiation by both water vapor and the magnetic field, and habitable land space actually being closer to the equator with fewer mountains to block air currents. These plus genetic factors contributing to long lives could easily contribute to not only man living for a long time, but also gigantism in animals and plants.

For more information ...

Go to www.answersingenesis.org or www.icr.org. SEARCH a word or phrase from today's passage such as Cain and Abel, pre-Flood civilization, Nod, Nephilim, Noah, pre-Flood, giant animals, etc. Select an article to read or video to watch.

7. CATASTROPHE: The Flood and the Fossils

BILLIONS OF DEAD THINGS ARE BURIED IN ROCK LAYERS LAID DOWN BY WATER ALL OVER THE EARTH

A word of caution: While scripture is the infallible Word of God, study notes in your Bible and commentaries are the interpretations (sometimes best guesses) of educated, though fallible, humans and may give confusing or inaccurate information regarding the Flood. The best approach is to study the biblical text first. Look to see what the Bible actually says both in the passage and elsewhere in Scripture about that passage. Build a model based on what it says. Ask the question, "If this is true, what would I expect to find?" Then, observe what is found in the world. That's the approach of this whole study.

DAY ONE STUDY

Read Genesis 6:8-13.

From the Hebrew: Genesis 6:8 is the first reference to *grace* in the Bible. The Hebrew word translated "favor/grace" (*chen*) is from a root word meaning "to bend or stoop," and thus came to mean condescending or unmerited favor of a superior person to an inferior one.

1. From Genesis 6:8-13, describe Noah's character.
2. From the following verses, what quality of Noah caused him to find favor with God?
 - Genesis 6:22; 7:5—
 - Hebrews 11:1-7 (A similar description of Noah is found in other ancient documents.)—
3. What could "he walked with God" (Genesis 6:9) mean? Read also Deuteronomy 13:4; 2 Kings 23:3; Isaiah 66:2; Micah 6:8; and Malachi 2:6.

4. **Connecting Faith to Life:** Noah was the only one in his generation who was found righteous. Isn't it wonderful to know that because of Christ and His Church, a Christian is surrounded by brothers and sisters who are like-minded, also found righteous because of what Christ has done for them? Yet, like Noah ... Think of a time when you may have felt like you were the only one who was trying to be righteous and walk with God in your family, job environment, neighborhood. How do you deal/did you deal with such isolation? Share scriptures that have given you direction and comfort for such times.

Read Genesis 6:14-7:16.

5. Describe the Ark that Noah is to build, paying attention to the *minute details* of both exterior and interior layout.

6. What skills and tools would be needed to carry out God's instructions? Be specific! [Note: The ancient cubit ranged from 17.5 to 24 inches, averaging 18 inches.]

From the Hebrew: *Ark* comes from an ancient word for "box," meaning to float upon water. It's the same word used in Exodus 2:3 to describe the basket that Moses' mother made for him to float in the Nile River. *Gopher wood* is unknown but speculated to be either a hard, dense wood similar to oak or a laminated wood product. *Pitch* literally means "to cover (verb)" or "a covering (noun)." It's the same word used for "atonement" in Leviticus 17:11. Pitch was probably some resinous substance. It would be the perfect covering for the Ark, keeping out the waters of judgment, just as the blood of the Lamb provides atonement for the soul.

7. Compare the information you learned today to your previous concept of Noah's Ark *and its purpose*.

- Read 1 Peter 3:20. Why would God be patient?
- Was the Ark big enough to carry other people as well? Did any others respond?

From the Hebrew: Noah is described as a “preacher of righteousness.” The Greek word *kerux* refers to a herald, or “one who announces.” His labor on the Ark would be a visible message to the people. Add to this any words he announced about what was coming and how they could be saved from it by repenting of their wickedness.

10. Reread Genesis 7:1-10, 13-16.

- What words or phrases are repeated?
- Repetition implies emphasis. What could God be trying to emphasize to us as we read this part of Scripture?

11. Who closed the door to the Ark, and why is this important?

Scriptural Insight: There was one door. All must enter and leave by the same door. Eight people willingly did so; the rest of humanity did not! Noah preached while he worked on the boat (1 Peter 3:20; 2 Peter 2:5). God closed the door in Gen. 7:16. It wasn't Noah who closed the door.

12. **Connecting Faith to Life:** Have you thought about the wonderful capability God instilled in mankind to be able to build things? Think about how God has gifted you to be creative, productive in your own way. In prayer now, give praise to Him. Dedicate your skills to Him and to His work. Remember that Noah chose to be faithful even when he could not visualize the reason for his labor.

DAY TWO STUDY**Read Genesis 7:6-12.**

From the Hebrew: The word for "Flood" (Hebrew *mabbul*) is only applied to the Noachic Flood; other floods are denoted by a different word in the original. *Mabbul* is related to an Assyrian word meaning "destruction"; the phrase "a flood of waters" (Genesis 6:17) could properly be translated by "a catastrophe of waters." Similarly, when the Genesis Flood is referred to in the New Testament, the Greek *kataklysmos* ("cataclysm") is uniquely employed. (Dr. Henry Morris, *The Beginning of the World*, page 107)

13. According to verses 11-12, the Flood was brought on by more than just 40 days of rain. Looking at the 2 physical mechanisms that caused the Flood, what physical effects would each have upon the earth?

- Springs or fountains of the great deep—

- Floodgates or windows of the heavens—

Scriptural Insight: "Springs" refers to the places where water issues or bursts out of the earth. Other scriptures refer to them existing since creation. "The great deep" means the deepest water—the ocean and subterranean reservoirs. This would include great amounts of water, entrapped below the crust, building up temperatures and pressures until finally being released. "Burst forth" means "to cleave, split, break open, break through, to fault" as in the parting of the Red Sea. We see the same thing in Zechariah 14:4, "*the Mount of Olives will be split in two from east to west, forming a great valley.*" The phrase is also used in Numbers 16:31 for the ground "splitting asunder." Two times God is said to "split open" rocks or the ground to provide water for His people (Psalm 74:15; Isaiah 48:21). The earth was split, fractured. You would expect great volcanic explosions and eruptions, accompanying earthquakes, and tsunamis (sometimes called tidal waves). The phrase "windows/floodgates of heaven" conveys the image of a great amount of water previously held back but now being released. *Geshem* in the Hebrew refers to the most violent rain. In Ezekiel 13:11-13, violent rain is described as destroying mortared walls! So, the water for the Flood came from three sources: (1) Subterranean fountains of water, etc. bursting forth; (2) Violent rain from above; and (3) Waters from the existing ocean spilling over the land.

Read Genesis 7:11-24.

14. What information is given to us about the first 40 days of the Flood?

15. Notice the frequent use of the terms "increased" / "prevailed." The Hebrew term means "overwhelmingly mighty." What is the author plainly trying to convey to us?
16. Skeptics claim that the Flood of Noah must have been only confined to a local area or regional at most (just involving the Mesopotamian river valleys in modern day Iraq). How would you prove that the Flood was truly global from this passage? For example, think of the implications of having floodwaters covering even a short mountain by ~22.5 feet (which may have been the draft of the Ark).

Scientific Insight: Anyone holding to the view that this was a local or regional flood needs to consider the implications of floodwaters covering even a short mountain by 22.5 feet (which may have been the draft of the Ark). Water seeks its own level. It doesn't flow uphill. To cover a hill 800 feet above sea level near Dallas, Texas, water would also be covering most of Texas and the Gulf Coast, the East Coast, and the West Coast except for the mountain ranges. And, that's just a small hill. The Hebrew word *kasah* translated "covered" in Genesis 7:20 means "overwhelmed to the point of washing away." Any hill completely covered by raging floodwaters would certainly be overwhelmed like that. The waters rose and covered the whole earth for 150 days. That's 5 months, way too long for a local flood! Building such a large ark would have been a ridiculous waste of time and resources when God could have sent Noah and his family to a neighboring region. Also, the animals could have just migrated. This was no local Flood. You would be better off saying it never happened than to try to make it local. This had to be a global phenomenon!

Read Genesis 8:1-5.

17. Up to this point, the Flood narrative has been an account of judgment upon a very wicked world. From this point on, it is a story of REDEMPTION. God "remembered" Noah. To "remember" in the Bible is not merely to recall to mind. It is to express concern for someone, to act with loving care for him. Read the following verses. In what ways did God act with loving care for someone?
- Genesis 19:29—
 - Exodus 2:24-25—
 - 1 Samuel 1:15-20—

After 40 days of violent, heavy rain and water rising from the deep followed by 110 days of it prevailing over the earth ...

18. What three specific things did God do (in vv. 1-3) on behalf of Noah and his family and all the animals so that the water stopped rising and began to recede?

Scientific Insight: The Ark rested upon the mountains of Ararat (modern Armenia). The mountain known as Mount Ararat is volcanic in origin. It is speculated from studying the glass rocks, salt domes, and volcanic structures found there that the mountain may have been only 6,000 feet in height at the time of Noah's landing. Today Mt. Ararat itself (now 17,000 feet in elevation) abounds in what is known as pillow lava, a dense lava rock formed under great depths of water. The mountain also includes certain sedimentary formations containing marine fossils. It was the highest mountain in the region by far. A rather large number of reported sightings of the Ark have come from explorers or travelers on this mountain during the past century, as well as during ancient and medieval times, but we still have no definitive evidence. If found, this would surely be the most important archeological discovery of all time.

19. The water also had to have a place to go. Part of Psalm 104 may be referring to the work of God at this time. What information is given in Psalm 104:6-9?

Scriptural Insight: After the first five months, God closed the ocean geysers and restrained (limited, restricted) the rain so that it was no longer torrential. The waters stopped rising. Genesis 8:3 says the water "decreased," meaning the height had been reached by then and started falling down at that time. God caused the Ark to come to rest on the mountains of Ararat. This is God's grace also, to protect the occupants from what happened next. God put forces into place to turn the raging waters into receding waters. Genesis 8:1 says He sent a wind. Psalm 104 says that God rebuked the water, implying the waters were a chaotic force to be calmed and conquered. Notice that the mountains rose up, the ocean basins sank. The continents were raised up above sea level as new mountain chains were formed. That just doesn't happen without a lot of lava also being released. Water ran downhill forming new valleys and filling large, deep ocean basins now defined by the nearly vertical continental edges. God altered earth's topography to set the boundary. The evidence can be readily seen in: (1) Continents once below sea level having thick deposits of marine layers. (2) Soft sediments being folded, thrust, overturned and uplifted in a short time. (3) Massive volcanic deposits throughout the rock record. (4) Mass erosional features from receding waters. (5) Larger and deeper ocean basins to hold the receding water. The landforms we see today are a result of the Flood, not Creation or millions of years.

20. From Genesis 8:6-12, what actions did Noah take to determine whether or not the ground was dry enough for them to leave the Ark.

Historical Insight: Scholars have worked out the date for Abram's birth to be 2166 B.C. Taking the lifespans in Genesis 11 from Abram back to the Flood, it can be proposed that the Flood began in the year 2472 B.C. The Flood began on the 17th day of the second month (600 years after Noah's birth). On that day, two things happened—springs of the deep burst forth *and* the floodgates of the heavens were opened. It wasn't over until 370 days later! The Hebrew year was 360 days long. That was no local flood.

21. In the entire passage of Genesis 6:12-8:14, count the number of times (in your translation) the words "all," "every," or "everything" are used. Total = _____ times. What is the author plainly trying to convey to the reader?

Think About It: The record of the Flood in Genesis gives every indication of being an eyewitness account, written originally by Noah or his sons. Despite the efforts of many commentators to explain it away as a local flood, it is obvious that the writer intended to tell of a worldwide, uniquely destructive cataclysm. In fact, it would be difficult to imagine how the concept of a universal Flood could be better presented than in the words actually recorded in Genesis. (Dr. Henry Morris, *The Beginning of the World*, page 116)

22. **Connecting Faith to Life:** God lifted huge mountain ranges out of the earth to make the water drain off the land into the newly deepened ocean basins, leaving behind beautiful landscapes. Spend some time meditating on the beauty and majesty of mountains. Have you traveled to the mountains? What do you like about mountains? Do mountains inspire you? If so, how? Feel free to be creative in expressing your thoughts about mountains and landscapes in the space below.

"Once we understand how the receding waters of the Biblical Flood cut the landscapes of the world, sightseeing takes on a new excitement. With our new 'glasses', we can interpret our world from a Biblical perspective, and it makes wonderful sense." (*Creation* magazine, Vol. 24, No. 3, page 23)

DAY THREE STUDY**Read Genesis 8:15-22.**

The covenant (promise) God made with Noah before the Flood apparently became the standard for ancient governments and contracts after the Flood between a king and his subjects in which sovereign protection is offered in exchange for faithful obedience.

23. Read Genesis 6:13-22; 7:1-9; 7:13-16.

- What protection did God offer Noah?

- What was Noah's responsibility?

24. During the Flood, God made good on His promise, carrying out His sovereign protection of Noah. After the Flood, how did Noah show his thankfulness to God for this protection?

Focus on the Meaning: This is the first mention of an altar in the Bible (although we don't know how Abel presented his offering in Genesis 4). The first mention of a concept or practice is always significant to understanding its meaning for the rest of Scripture.

25. Discuss Genesis 8:21-22.

- Why and how was God pleased?

- What did He declare?

- How does His promise affect us?

26. **Connecting Faith to Life:** Regarding the Biblical account of a global flood, scoffers abound. Read 2 Peter 3:3-6. The concept of a local flood, lasting over a year, covering all the local high mountains by a depth of 22.5 feet but not leaving any destructive evidence or affecting the rest of the planet is illogical.

- What was the purpose of the Flood?
- Did God accomplish His purpose?
- What does this tell you about evaluating scripture that describes future judgment upon the earth?
- If you have chosen to place your faith in God's Son Jesus Christ, God has chosen to save (deliver) you from any future judgment upon the earth. How does this make you feel?

Read Genesis 9:8-17. (We will cover verses 1-7 in the next lesson.)

27. God establishes a new covenant with Noah that does not depend upon anyone's faithful obedience. This is an unconditional divine promise. What are the terms of this new covenant, AND what is the sign that God gives that He is keeping His promise?

28. The rainbow as a sign of the new covenant obviously had significant meaning to Noah. It is possible this may have been a new thing for Noah to see. As a symbol associated with God, it is also found in 3 other Scripture passages. How is it used?

- Ezekiel 1:28—
- Revelation 4:1-6—
- Revelation 10:1—

29. **Connecting Faith to Life:** Skeptics dismiss the idea of a global flood and claim that Noah's Flood was merely local. Read Genesis 9:11 again. We still have local and regional floods that are often very destructive and deadly. Does that mean God has broken His promise? Why or why not? What assurance is there for us today that His promised protection is still operating?

Scriptural Insight: Here are 7 clues from scripture that the Genesis Flood was global and not just regional or local.

- #1: Size of the Ark. Need for an Ark.** Genesis 6:14-16, 19-21. Its size, construction, and stocking would be totally unnecessary for a local flood—a lot of work and materials.
- #2: Purpose of the Flood.** Genesis 6:17-18. To wipe out wickedness and violence on the earth. If the purpose of destruction was for the punishment of sin on earth, the purpose couldn't be accomplished if only part of humanity had been affected.
- #3: Depth of the Flood.** Genesis 7:17-24. The Flood covered “all the high mountains under the entire heavens” by ~22.5 feet. All breathing creatures outside the Ark perished. None escaped by swimming, climbing, or flying. The Hebrew translated “covered” is *kasah*, which means “overwhelmed to the point of washing away” (Psalm 104:6).
- #4: Duration of the Flood.** 21 weeks of rising and prevailing; 31 weeks of receding for a total of 371 days (including the time waiting to disembark from the Ark). The Hebrew word translated “prevailed” means that the floodwaters were “overwhelmingly mighty.” Job 12:15 refers to this.
- #5: Use of universal terms.** All, every, everything used more than 30 times. The word God uses for the Genesis Flood is not the same word used for a local flood in the rest of the Old Testament. Also, the phrase “all under the entire (whole) heavens” is a double emphasis in the Hebrew.
- #6: Promise of no more floods.** Genesis 9:15. There have been many floods, even regional floods, even in Mesopotamia since Noah's day. If this was merely a local flood, then God broke His promise, and the rainbow covenant means nothing.
- #7: The rest of Scripture.** 2 Peter 2:5; 3:5-6; Psalm 29:10; 104:6-9; 1 Peter 3:20; Hebrews 11:7. Jesus clearly stated in Luke 17:26-27 that all men were destroyed by the Flood. See also Matthew 24:38-39. Also, God's covenant with Noah after the Flood is meaningless if only part of humanity had been involved. The New Testament uses *kataklysmos* (cataclysm) for the Flood rather than the usual Greek word for flooding.

Conclusion: It had to be universal and it had to have left lots of evidence!!

DAY FOUR STUDY**Discernment Practice**

In the article below, mark the facts (underline, circle, colored highlighter, etc.). Then, mark the assumptions/interpretations with a different mark. Then, answer the questions below. Compare your evaluations with the ones given in the “Discernment Practice: How Well Did You Do?” Section after Lesson Eleven.

“Evolutionary Back-Tracking” from Science, 10 May, 2002, pp. 1112–1115

Fossil tracks from a sandstone quarry in Canada—made by a 30 cm-long arthropod (a segmented animal with external skeleton, like a millipede)—have astounded experts because they are in Cambrian rock, allegedly 544 million years old. The date at which sea animals came ashore was once claimed to be the Silurian, which allegedly started 440 million years ago. Then it was the Ordovician, which started 490 million years ago, and now this evidence pushes it ‘back’ another 40 million years.

The date at which many-celled animals first arose has also been pushed back. Current theory says it was 600 million years ago. But now impressions in sandstone rocks of Western Australia that appear to be the trails of an earthworm-like creature have been ‘dated’ at over twice that age, from 1.2 to 2.0 billion years old. For evolution-believers, this leaves even less time for evolution to have supposedly wrought its work.

- *What was found?*
- *What are the assumptions?*
- *How does the evidence fit with biblical creation?*

Creation Answers—Raging Waters and Buried Dead Things

The most universal of legends is that of a worldwide flood. More than 270 cultures have one. This is unexplainable apart from common experience. Add to that some undeniable observations about our planet that tell us something different happened in the past to change its surface drastically and radically different from what’s going on today. Is the Flood just legend or was it a real event? If true, what would we expect to find.

From your study of the passage in Genesis 6-8, you know that the Genesis Flood was more than just a 40-day rainstorm. It consisted of subterranean fountains of water shooting out from the splitting and distorting of the crust along with violent rain for months. Waters from the existing ocean rose up and spilled over the land, lasting for 150 days at least. That’s a long time!

We now see cracks in the earth's crust circling around the globe like the seams on a baseball. It's a fact. There is no explanation for it. The continents appear to have separated. Massive water-lain deposits of mud and debris cover the earth. Studying the continental shelves and slopes plus drowned canyons extending out from land-based rivers indicate sea level was once several thousand feet lower than it is today. Some parts of the sea bottom have definitely dropped and

“seamounts” (non-volcanic, flat-topped drowned islands) cover the middle of the ocean. What would happen when that great amount of water and magma was released from below the crust? Most likely, sinking of the land above it. So, the evidence matches the prediction. The model may be accurate after all. The Flood may have really happened just as the Bible said it did.

There is no way that such a lengthy, global flood could have occurred without leaving any evidence! If there had been a year-long worldwide flood, what would the evidence be? **Billions of dead things buried in rock layers laid down by water all over the earth.** What do we find? Billions of dead things buried in rock layers laid down by water all over the earth.

Most of the rock layers could have been formed in 1 year rather than in millions.

All that soil, sand, and clay plus rock from the fountains breaking up would be scoured from the surface, worked by the water, and deposited elsewhere. Any evidence? You bet! Sedimentary layers up to 40,000 feet thick cover the surface of the earth. The question is not whether thick sediments exist, but whether they were deposited slowly over millions of years or rapidly. How rapidly can sediments be deposited?

Some geologists say that 1,000 years are needed to accumulate 5 inches of sediment and then deep burial and thousands of years are needed for cementation to take place. Evidence found in the world does not agree, however. Water is a great sorting agent, especially fast-moving water. Particles of rock and organic matter are sorted by size and density so that particles of similar size are deposited together, giving a layered effect. It is now known that sediment layers do form quickly on river floodplains during floods, in shallow marine areas during storms, and in deep water by turbidity currents as well as the result of other catastrophic events (tsunamis and mud flows). The fountains *burst forth*, not sneaked out, requiring lots of earth movements and massive erosion! Water-laid deposits take a lot of churning, fast-moving water, not necessarily a lot of time!

You would expect to find and do find thick extensive beds of similar materials extending over wide areas with varying thicknesses. One example is the Dakota Sandstone—one of the most distinctive rock layers in the Rockies seen throughout New Mexico, Colorado and beyond. No process today is forming similar deposits. Also, the Morrison Formation, famous for its dinosaurs, covers parts of 11 states. Thick sandstones reach from the Grand Canyon eastward to the Appalachian Mountains. Names change along the way, as does the thickness, but the layer is the same.

Great thicknesses of red to reddish brown sediments cover North America in a continuous sheet that extends west through the Grand Canyon and eastward to the Appalachian Mountains, commonly several thousand feet thick. The color is due to the presence of hematite, an iron mineral, the color of which is so dominant that a very small amount of it will color the rock a faint shade of red. Volcanic rock contains a wealth of iron minerals. When these are decomposed in water, hematite is formed. Iron comes not only from the weathering of volcanic rock, but also from the associated hot waters released by volcanoes, water that is highly charged with iron. Extensive volcanism during a worldwide flood would release tons of mineral-rich water to mix with sediments as they are deposited, resulting in red coloration.

Either the rock record is the evidence of millions of years, or it is largely the evidence of the Genesis Flood. It can't be both. I think the evidence weighs heavily on the side of the Flood.

Fossils we find in the rocks could have been buried by Noah's Flood.

A fossil is formed when an organism is trapped and buried very quickly under sediment that seals the organism in and holds its body together. As the sediment turns to rock, so do the creature remains. The soft parts may rot away leaving only hard parts like teeth, bones and shells which are replaced by minerals from the sediments. Or, molds of the original creature are left. Fossils must

be buried quickly, or they don't form at all. Flooding is the most likely way for an animal to be buried since floods come by surprise, trapping and burying animals.

Everywhere you look is evidence of rapid burial of **billions of dead things** buried in rock layers laid down by water all over the earth. There are many examples of fossilized creatures in the process of eating or giving birth, perfectly preserved, which can only happen with rapid and complete burial. Thousands of intricately detailed fossil jellyfish (which disintegrate rapidly) are found in rocks. Myriads of fossils extend through multiple layers (called "polystrate" fossils) that span millions of years of geological ages. For example, a complete preserved skull of an ichthyosaur (an extinct marine reptile) was found buried in a vertical, nose-down position through several layers. Unlike most fossils, the head was preserved in three dimensions, and had not been flattened by the weight of sediment above it. It's impossible except if the layers had been deposited rapidly and deeply to bury the ichthyosaur and keep it from decaying.

Thousands of marine and land creatures are buried together in great "fossil graveyards," tightly packed in a jumbled heap, choked with sediments, buried before they had time to decay. Fish, birds, reptiles, mammals, insects, and plants—creatures that don't live together—have been piled together and preserved. Whole herds of animals were buried at one time. At Fossil Butte National Monument in Colorado, multitudes of perfectly preserved fish, crocodiles, insects, turtles and palm fronds are fossilized with no signs of decay so they must have been buried rapidly. The most massive, continuous, fossil deposit known on the planet is the Karoo deposit of southern Africa. At least 800 billion vertebrate fossils are buried in a 20,000-foot thick deposit of sandstones and shales stretching out for hundreds of miles. Nothing like this is happening today.

And, millions of years aren't necessary for a bone to become fossilized. Researchers have found that chicken bones and wood can be petrified in just five to ten years. Perhaps a dinosaur bone would only take a hundred years to completely mineralize. Besides, not all fossil remains have yet turned to stone. Pieces of the original shell and bone as well as soft tissue are commonly present in sedimentary layers.

Then, there are the unfossilized bones. The most sensational, of course are the dinosaur bones. Scientists from the University of Montana found Tyrannosaurus Rex bones that were not totally fossilized. Sections were like fresh bone and contained what seem to be blood cells and hemoglobin. If these bones really were millions of years old, then the blood cells and hemoglobin would have totally disintegrated. Also, there should not be 'fresh' bone if it were really millions of years old. News reports abound of such fossils still containing collagen or blood.

The sequence in which fossils are found does not prove evolution.

The sequence in which fossils are found does not prove evolutionary development. Rather, it is evidence of sorting and differential abilities to escape floodwaters. Consider that 95% of all fossils are marine creatures, particularly shellfish. That makes sense considering ocean waters swept up from the ocean bottom onto the land. The other 5% is plants and land invertebrates. Less than 1% are vertebrates—mostly fish, and most land vertebrate fossils consist of one bone.

Burial sequence could definitely be influenced by where the organisms lived. You'd expect that large numbers of various marine organisms would be buried together. Above them are the free-swimming vertebrates. Then, at the higher elevations—birds, mammals, and finally man because the ability to escape would affect burial. Larger creatures can climb or swim; plants can float. Both could be buried later in the process. But, that's not all ...

Floodwater sorts out objects according to similar shape and size. Streamlined objects settle out first; larger creatures with arms and tails settle out last. And, based on the nature of churning water

and wave action, there is reason to believe that many initial sediment deposits were reworked and deposited elsewhere. So, you can't go by the way they are found in the layers anyway.

Pre-Flood uplands affected the death and burial of humans and larger animals

As geologists study the lowest sedimentary deposits on the 3 largest land areas that were once joined together, it is evident that some areas were definitely uplands during the time of deposition. Sedimentary deposits become thinner in the direction of those uplands (often referred to as crystalline shields). In fact, many of these interpreted upland areas are completely devoid of sedimentary rock or have very thin layers. According to Genesis 7:20, the highest hills were only flooded by a modest amount of water, likely leaving little room for thick sedimentary deposits to accumulate. This provided a place for large mammals and humans to congregate in an attempt to escape the flood waters. Scientists have identified a pre-Flood land mass across the central United States that is labeled "Dinosaur Peninsula." And it appears that the highest areas—the so-called shield areas—were the most likely locations of human habitation.

The lack of sediments preserved across the pre-Flood uplands may also help explain the lack of human fossils in the rock record. Most pre-Flood humans likely survived until close to Day 150 and probably congregated on the areas of highest ground. As the water levels crested on Day 150, humans were wiped off their higher gathering spots, and their bodies were washed away and transported in all directions. This process lessened the likelihood of finding any concentration of human fossils. It also made it less likely for them to be buried deeply enough in sediment to be preserved as fossils. And 4,500 years of post-Flood erosion would affect the highest strata the most. Any human remains buried in the uppermost feet of sediment most likely would have been eroded and destroyed. (Dr. Tim Clarey, "Assembling the Pre-Flood World," *Acts & Facts*, April 2018)

Studying sedimentary deposits also helps to rule out possible locations for the Garden of Eden. Maps drawn by geologists show that an area of shallow seas probably existed across much of the Middle East, including Israel. Based on research, the likely locations of the Garden are in what is now Canada, Brazil, West Africa, Asia, or even Greenland, depending on which direction was eastward of the place referenced in Genesis 2:8.

Uplift of sediment-covered land formed mountains and plateaus.

The continents, once below sea level now with thick water-laid sediments full of marine fossils on them, have been uplifted thousands of feet, folded, thrust and overturned on a gigantic scale. Major faults (due to cracking and shifting of rock) dominate the landscape. Most of the present mountain ranges have been uplifted almost simultaneously and during relatively recent times. Marine fossils are found at the top of the highest mountains, including Mt. Everest and the Andes mountains of South America.

No continents are underwater today for the simple reason that continental crust is made of lighter rock than oceanic crust making the continents more buoyant in the mantle like Styrofoam floating on water. And, nowhere can you find flatness of a shallow continental sea for hundreds of miles in all directions as the sediment deposits demand and have it stay that way for supposedly millions of years as pile after pile of sediment is laid down. Grand Canyon is currently 7-8000 feet above sea level. The land supposedly went up and down several times, remaining almost completely flat. The ocean was over the continent each time. That is harder to believe than considering it a onetime event!

The best answer is that release of water and magma during the Flood would cause readjusting of oceans and continents. As new ocean floors cooled, the rock became denser and sunk deeper into the mantle allowing water to flow off the continents. Movement of the water off the continents and into the oceans would have weighed down the ocean floor more and lightened the continents, resulting in the further sinking of the ocean floor, as well as upward movement of the continents. The collision of the tectonic plates would have pushed up mountain ranges also, especially towards the end of the Flood.

Is there any evidence that this is what happened in a shorter time than is currently taught? The answer is, "Yes!"

- In many mountainous areas, strata thousands of feet thick are bent and folded into hairpin shapes. If the rocks were old at the time of folding and uplift, having been deeply buried and cemented for years, they should behave in a brittle fashion, shattering in the process. But, we see evidence of soft-sediment deformation instead in these tightly bent rock layers. You can see this in the Grand Canyon, the Rocky Mountains, and the Appalachian Mountains.
- During the past, lava evidently flowed much more freely than now, spouting from craters and pushing upward from immense cracks. Massive volcanic activity built up huge blocks of land. The Columbia Plateau in the northwestern U.S. was built up by oozing lava flows stacked one on top of another in rapid succession, several thousand feet deep covering 65,000 square miles. India's Deccan Plateau was formed by a lava deposit that is two miles thick! No doubt, lava poured out of the earth for years after the Flood ended.

Rapidly receding waters left behind distinctive land formations.

The rapidly receding floodwaters have left behind leveled-off land with remnant high spots, terraces from receding water levels, and huge drainage gullies. Initially, rapid withdrawal of water would have scoured wide, flat surfaces across the landscapes though sometimes being deflected around resistant areas forming remnant hills, mesas and buttes. Some examples are: 1) the Llano Estacado or "Staked Plain," an almost featureless surface that stretches hundreds of miles across Texas and New Mexico and 2) mesas and buttes throughout west Texas, New Mexico and other places in the west such as Monument Valley.

The Great Plains in the heartland of America became one gigantic alleyway of floodwaters draining off the continent into the Gulf Coast. Wedge-shaped deposits, thicker on the Gulf end (40,000 feet) and nearly horizontal (tilting 1°), extend from the Dallas area toward the Gulf. A surface rock layer near Nacogdoches is buried 14,000 feet below Galveston. It would have taken more water power than the few river systems located in east and southeast Texas—the Sabine, Trinity, Brazos, and Colorado—to lay down up to 40,000 feet of sediments, thousands of square miles in area! Massive sheet erosion might explain the absence of human and large animal fossils in the remaining Flood sediments. The last to be buried—the floating, less streamlined creatures—would be the first to get eroded away and redeposited in the ocean basins.

Other evidences of receding waters are terraces and remnant valleys. Ancient water lines can be clearly seen along the coasts of all continents. California cities are built on them. In less flat areas, the receding waters split into channels, which cut deep valleys in the soft, unconsolidated earth. Practically all river valleys are far deeper and wider than their present river systems require, indicating they once carried a far greater volume of water. This is more in line with a flood than river erosion. So, there's evidence of receding waters. A lot of water, not a lot of time.

Deepened oceans dropped sea level.

Studying the continental shelves and slopes plus drowned canyons extending out from land-based rivers indicates that sea level was once several thousand feet lower than it is today. Some parts of the sea bottom have definitely dropped. This is particularly noticeable in oceanic “seamounts” (or, *guyots*)—about 70,000 volcanic, flat-topped drowned islands in the middle of the ocean. The cones have been seemingly chopped off at an average depth of 5-6,000 feet below sea level. Evidently, those volcanoes on the ocean floor grew up to the surface of the lowered ocean where their peaks were eroded and flattened by wave action. Later, sea level rose several thousand feet as ocean basins sank deeper, water continually drained off the land, and glaciers melted. There is no other credible explanation for the seamounts being there.

Mature landscapes rapidly developed.

The land surface quickly took on the look of a mature landscape, one that had been there a long time. I say this because observations in the world show that mature landscapes don’t take millions of years to develop. Erosion of fresh surfaces takes place very rapidly then slows down as equilibrium is reached with the stability of the surface, plant coverage, etc. Just watch a recent excavation and preparation of land for building. If it rains right after sloping land is smoothed out, gullies will form in the soft land with little effort. Over the next few weeks, if it rains again, the gullies will deepen. But, that will stop as grass and weeds take hold on the unconsolidated earth and as the size of the gully becomes adequate to handle water flow on that slope. It will stop changing. And, within a few months, the slope will look like it had been there for years. You’ve seen that before, haven’t you?

We don’t have continents currently going up and down below sea level to observe, but volcanic mountains make excellent laboratories. Within 3-5 months of Surtsey Island’s appearance in 1963 near Iceland, the waves had worked the island edges into level, sandy beaches. Within a few years, wind and rain had weathered the lava into soil for hollows and glens to become lush meadows. Despite the extreme youth of the growing island, one encounters a landscape so varied that it gives the appearance of being thousands of years old. The same thing has been seen at Mount St. Helens since its massive eruption in 1980. If, however, the bulk of the past geologic activity took place under intense conditions in a brief space of time, it’s not unreasonable to determine that mature landscapes could have developed within a few years rather than millions of years.

Ripe conditions were also available for the rapid development of underground caves—soft limestone, earth movements tilting the land, and groundwater draining off the land dissolving the limestone at a rapid rate. In tropical areas, caves and their formations develop much faster than those in more temperate regions because of higher annual rainfall. Large stalactites are also found growing everywhere—in shopping centers, schools, universities, and even in multi-story car parks. None of those are older than 100 years! One stalagmite in Carlsbad had grown so fast it was able to preserve a complete bat before the creature had time to decompose. A newly formed cave in Mexico has crystals as large as telephone poles that scientists say may have formed in 30-100 years because of the extreme temperatures and humidity. It’s possible to consider that caves and their formations resulted more from the after-effects of the Genesis Flood than through slow and gradual processes over millions of years.

Then, there are the large canyons on the earth’s surface. Nearly all canyons are vastly larger than the river systems they contain. This fact and other recent observations cast new light on canyon formation. A new canyon formed last century near Walla Walla, Washington in less than 6 days due to dammed up water being suddenly released. In less than a week, what once was an insignificant ditch became a gully, then a gulch then a miniature Grand Canyon—1500 feet long, 120 feet deep—carved through silt, sand and solid rock! At Mount St. Helens in one day’s time,

layers of ancient solid rock, 500-ft thick, were eroded by fast-moving mud flows and water to produce several mature looking canyons 100 feet deep only 4 years after the initial eruption. Later, creeks formed at the bottom of the canyons. The canyons caused the creeks, not vice versa!

The Grand Canyon did get eroded, but probably not by the Colorado River. One current explanation is called the "Breached Dam" theory. There's evidence that large lakes once existed upstream. It is speculated the canyon formed as the natural dams were breached, releasing huge amounts of rapidly flowing water. Later the river developed at the bottom of the canyon. Some geologists are recognizing that the Channeled Scablands of Washington were formed in a similar way as waters breached an ice dam holding back ancient Lake Missoula in Montana. Also, at Yellowstone National Park, a canyon called "The Grand Canyon of Yellowstone" is now said to have been gouged out in one week by the water that broke through an ice dam.

So, it is possible to interpret Grand Canyon rocks as having been laid down by the Flood, the area uplifted late in the Flood year, with trapped Floodwaters carving out the canyon itself while draining off the uplifted continents. Interestingly enough, Havasupai Indian legend says that there was a flood over the earth, then the canyon formed by excessive drainage from the flood.

"One can physically walk along the sequence of rock units that go back before the Flood, then right through the Flood event up until post-Flood times. While the sequence is not complete, nowhere else is such a complete sequence exposed, nor is there so much evidence for the Flood and its catastrophic nature." (Dr. Andrew Snelling, "Rock-solid for creation," *Creation ex nihilo*, Vol. 18 No. 3, page 22)

Conclusion

The fossil record is best understood as the result of a marine cataclysm that utterly annihilated the continents and land dwellers. Genesis 7:23 "Every living thing on the face of the earth was wiped out." You would expect to find ... Billions of dead things are buried in rock layers laid down by water all over the earth. The evidence matches the prediction.

The earth's features appear to have been fashioned largely by rapid, catastrophic processes that affected the earth on a global scale. Could it be the effects of the Genesis Flood? Yes. The evidence matches the prediction. A lot of water, not a lot of time. It was a new world for Noah and his family as well as for the animals.

For more information ...

Go to www.answersingenesis.org or www.icr.org. SEARCH a word or phrase from today's passage such as Flood water, mountain-building, springs of the deep, the Ark, canyons, caves, fossil graveyards, sedimentary layers, etc. Select an article to read or video to watch.

the ones in North America survived. You wouldn't expect to find fossils of those creatures in other parts of the world unless those fossils had been buried by the Flood. For man and animals, they left the Ark to brave a new world.

2. Read the following verses and fill out the chart.

Verses	What does God value?	What responsibility does He delegate to man?
Genesis 9:5-6		
Exodus 21:12-14, 28-32		
Numbers 35:16-32		

3. When you compare Genesis 6:11-12 with 9:5-6, what do you think God is wanting to restore to His creation?

Think About It: You can read an excellent article, "Capital Punishment: A Christian View and Biblical Perspective" by Kerby Anderson, at probe.org/capital-punishment.

Read Genesis 9:18-29.

4. This is a less than noble picture of Noah. What *do you think* is the reason for this incident to be recorded in Scripture for us?

5. The ways Noah's sons reacted to their father's drunken state revealed their character. Discuss the reactions and character of ...
- Ham—

 - Shem and Japheth—

Parents often have great insight into the strengths and weaknesses of their children. Let's look at Noah's prophecies about each of his sons.

6. What did Noah discern and prophesy about his oldest son Japheth (name means *enlargement/extension/prosperity*)?

Historical Insight: The idea of being enlarged carries with it the idea of enticing/persuading so the thought may be one of mental enlargement; open-mindedness. The Japhethites (especially the Greeks, Romans, and later the Europeans and the Americans) have stressed science and philosophy in their development. And, interestingly, the term "Gentiles" was applied especially to Japheth's descendants.

7. What did Noah discern and prophesy about Shem (name means *honor/authority/character*)?

Historical Insight: The prophecy for Shem included the covenant-keeping name for God—*Yhwh*, suggesting a love for the Lord and faith in God's promises. Shem's blessing seemed to be related to his spiritual nature. Interestingly enough, the Semites throughout history have been dominated by religious motivations centered in monotheism—the Jews, the Muslims, and the Zoroastrians. Through Shem, God's greatest blessing for mankind, the promised Seed of the woman, would eventually come into the world.

8. What did Noah discern and prophesy about the youngest son Ham (name means *hot/swarthy*)?

Historical Insight: The word translated "servant" in the prophecy does not mean "slave." The word can just as well be translated "steward," someone who gives material service to mankind, providing physical needs. The Hamites have been the great "servants" of mankind that opened up the remotest parts of the world to settlement and developed cultivation of most of the basic food staples. They developed most of the basic types of

structural forms, building tools and materials. They developed paper, ink, block printing, movable type, and other accoutrements of writing and communication.

Because Ham sinned as a son, Noah's curse was directed to Canaan, Ham's son. Like his father, Ham would experience the dishonor that a son brings to his father. Noah foretold what the Canaanites would become, a wicked people who rebelled against God by their idolatry. The Canaanites are long extinct, so the curse cannot be applied to anyone today.

9. What is God's opinion regarding mocking/disrespecting one's parents? See Exodus 20:12 and Ephesians 6:1-3.

10. What does Genesis 9:19 declare?

Read Genesis 11:1-9.

A couple of years after the Flood, Noah's grandchildren began to arrive. Soon, he had 16 grandkids. Genesis 10 and 11 relay what happens to those grandkids and their families. Genesis 9:19 boldly declares that the whole earth was populated from Noah's sons. Chapter 11 tells us what happened and thus shows that these events actually came first. Chapter 10 tells us how (as described in 11:9). It is the genealogy of who they were and where they settled. If this is true, you would expect that the oldest civilization developed in that area, which is what we find.

11. What information is given in verses 1-3?

Historical Insight: Noah's descendants moved east to Shinar (Genesis 11:1-2) and built there. Shinar is the whole region of the Tigris-Euphrates valley—the closest fertile area to the mountains of Ararat. The most ancient peoples leaving written, historical records were the inhabitants of that valley (the Sumerians) as expected, followed by the Nile Valley of Egypt and other near-Eastern areas. This area is called Mesopotamia (meaning "middle"). Interestingly enough, modern computer studies have shown that the geographical center of the earth's land areas is located within a short distance of the mountains of Ararat. Coincidence? I think not!

12. What advantages did a common speech give humankind?

Historical Insight: God separated the people by confusing their languages, forcing them to spread out and repopulate the earth. Genesis 10 describes how that happened. Verse 10:5, 20, and 31 all say they spread out by their clans and languages so God gave members of one clan the same language. If this is true, we would expect to find: 1) evidence through archaeology, written records, and language studies that all people have migrated from that area and 2) similarities of cultures in civilizations spread thousands of miles apart, including histories that contained traces of Creation, the Fall, and the Flood.

Two things make it hard to find evidence. Since the 1960's, it is politically incorrect to suggest that a culture did not develop itself independent of others. Also, general archeology is evolution-based with assumptions of slow and gradual cultural development built right in. You have to really glean any news to find out the evidence that suggests otherwise. Here are some things to consider:

- 1) The entire world could have been populated in just centuries. Considering only 6 children per family, within 250 years you would have a minimum of 100,000 people on earth.
- 2) Ice Age land bridges connected England to mainland Europe, Asia to North America through the Bering Strait, and the Malaysian Straits to New Guinea and perhaps Australia.
- 3) They could have traveled by foot, boat, and possibly by wagon. Migration campsites have been found along the way from Asia to the Americas, some indicating they had boats and were capable of offshore fishing. Since the animals had preceded them by several hundred years, hunters could kill bison, mammoths, mastodons, camels and giant sloths for meat as they traveled. Research from the 1990s revealed that there were wagon wheels 5,000 years ago and that the early presence of humans on South Pacific islands means they were able to build watercraft and sail. That they could build boats is not surprising. Much evidence from antiquity indicates that they did!
- 4) Archaeology confirms that many civilizations appeared about the same time, only a few thousand years ago. Not surprisingly, the building of the Tower of Babel was carried with them as well. We find pyramidal shaped buildings in nearly all the ancient civilizations around the world, particularly in those who descended from Ham.
- 5) No group of human beings today (or, in the past) speaks a "primitive" language even those in isolated cultures. Each language has nouns, verbs, etc. The observable evidence tells us that by 2000 BC all the people had broken up into these different language groups already.

But, how long ago? Remember that all *recorded* history has taken place in the past 5000 years alone. Before that is purely speculation. Man is the only reliable recorder of history, and people were already writing on clay tablets and scrolls (books), inscribing with an iron stylus on lead, and engraving in rock slabs. In fact, Job 19:23-24 confirms this shortly after the Tower of Babel time.

Truly verified archaeological dating (based upon written records, not radiocarbon dates) do not predate the time of the Biblical Flood, between 3000-2350 B.C. *Just as expected!*

15. **Connecting Faith to Life:** The Babel builders sought to make a name for themselves by erecting their tower, a foolish thing in the eyes of God. We just studied how God rearranged the plans of the people to bring them in line with His plan. Has God ever done this in your life, and how did you respond?

DAY TWO STUDY

Genesis 10 is called the Table of Nations. One archaeologist, Dr. W. F. Albright, says it's "an astonishingly accurate document" and unique. Many of the nations had disappeared from the historical scene centuries before the Jews were scattered and before Christ was born, making it a very ancient document indeed.

Historical Insight: As the clans grew, individual families separated and migrated farther from one another, their languages gradually changing as well as their lifestyles. Each family group learned how to survive in the land where it had migrated. A pattern seems to have been repeated:

- 1) A tribe moves to a new area, sets up a temporary camp until a more permanent site for their village or city could be established once the area was determined capable of supporting the people—game for hunting, water, and farmland.
- 2) Temporary homes could have been made of stones, hides, or sticks; even caves were used. Remains of these original occupation sites naturally suggest to evolutionists a "stone age culture" when actually they reflect only a very temporary situation.
- 3) Some groups have continued the simple style of living up to the present time; most have progressed to urbanization.
- 4) As soon as material for ceramics and metals could be found, the "stone age" at the site was succeeded by a "bronze age" or "iron age."
- 5) Groups farther away from Babel may have lost much cultural 'know-how', including the loss of previously written, as well as spoken, language. Thus, it is not surprising that they would soon develop an alternative style of writing.

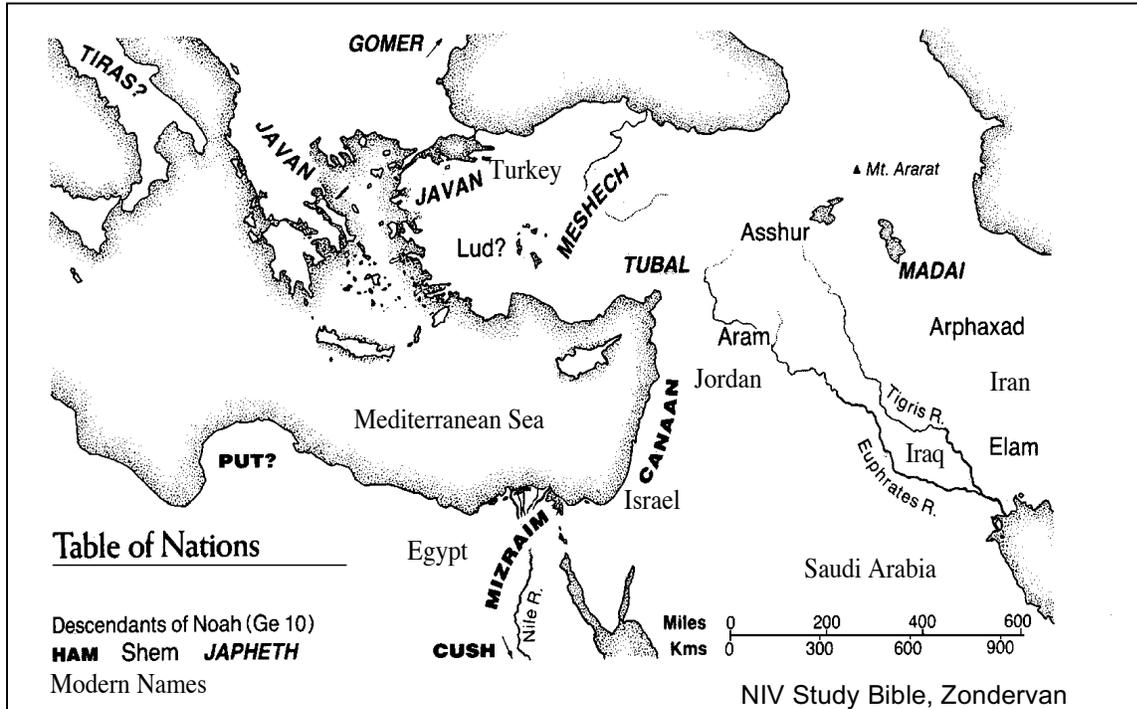
Many of these early nations kept an accurate record down the centuries of their beginnings and wrote down the names of their founding patriarchs, providing us with a surprising link between the ancient post-Flood era (Genesis 9-11) and the rest of recorded history.

The first generations after the Flood lived to be very old, with some men outliving their children, grandchildren and more. For example, Noah lived 350 years and died only 3 years before Abraham was born. People in various areas called themselves by the name of the man who was their common ancestor. They called their land, and often their major city and major river, by his name. Sometimes the various nations fell into ancestor worship. When this happened, it was natural for them to name their god after the man who was the ancestor of all of them, or to claim their long-living ancestor as their god. So, using these clues, we can trace most of the nations that formed from Noah's sons.

Japheth and His Kin

Read Genesis 9:18-19; 10:1-5; Acts 17:26.

16. On the map below, locate the names of JAPHETH'S DESCENDANTS mentioned in this passage. Color the area around each one blue.



17. Which of Japheth's descendants are represented in the following verses, and what information is given about them?

- Isaiah 66:19; Ezekiel 27:13; 32:26—
- Ezekiel 38:6—
- Ezekiel 38:2; 39:6; Revelation 20:8—

Historical Insight: Six of Japheth's sons headed north to Europe (eventually including Great Britain, Ireland, and the Scandinavian countries) and western Asia; 1 headed east to Persia and India. Noting pertinent references in both Scripture and early secular historical writings and on excavated archaeological monuments, we can trace most of these nations and recognize them as ancestors of the Indo-European peoples, a classification based upon common language. The Indo-European family of languages was/is spoken in nearly all of Europe and much of India, Pakistan and parts of western Asia. Here are some fun facts about Japheth's legacy:

- 1) The recorded ancestries (very ancient, predating Christianization) of the early Britons, Irish Celts, Anglo-Saxons, Danes and Norwegians all include their descent from Noah through Japheth. The Saxons considered Japheth, whom they called Scaef, the son of Noah, to be the founder of the European nations and trace their own ancestry through his oldest son, Gomer.
- 2) The Armenians traditionally claim to be descended from 2 of Gomer's sons—Togarmah and Ashkenaz. Some of Ashkenaz's clan later migrated to Germany, giving their name to that nation since Ashkenaz is the Hebrew word for Germany, and German Jews are called the Ashkenazi. This group of Germanic peoples spread into Denmark (the Anglo-Saxons) and the northern islands.
- 3) When first encountered by Christian missionaries, the Maiutso People of China already claimed descent from Japheth through Gomer. Their histories (recorded in the form of ancient couplets recited at all public occasions through the ages) included surprisingly accurate accounts of Creation and the Flood (with names of Noah, his wife and 3 sons) plus a graphic account of Babel and the confusion of tongues that resulted in nations spreading out and encircling the globe.
- 4) In Greek literature, Japheth's name is preserved as *Iapetos*, the son of heaven and earth, the father of many nations, and the legendary father of the Greeks. The ancient Romans perpetuated his name as *ju-Pater* (meaning "Father Jove"), which was standardized to *Jupiter*. Here's an incidence where the ancestor became the chief god.
- 5) The name Japheth is found in the ancient literature of western India and Pakistan as *Pra-Japati* (Father Japheth), the reputed ancestor of the Aryans of India (Aryan is a form of the word "Iran"), deemed to be the sun and lord of creation for those descended from him.

Ham and His Kin

Read Genesis 10:6-20.

18. Using the map again, locate the names of HAM'S DESCENDANTS mentioned in this passage. Color the area around each one yellow.
19. Which of Ham's descendants are represented in the following verses, and what information is given about them?
 - Isaiah 18:1-2—
 - Jeremiah 46:9—
 - Ezekiel 30:1-9; 38:1-6—

Historical Insight: Of Ham's 4 sons, some stayed in Babel and the area of Assyria. Most went south into Arabia or west and southwest to Canaan, Egypt and the rest of Africa. The Bible often refers to Africa as the land of Ham. Yet, Canaan's descendants also headed towards China, eventually populating the Americas through crossing the land bridge that connected Asia with Alaska during the Ice Age. From Alaska south were 2 corridors free of ice and open to travel. *"Afterward the families of the Canaanites were spread abroad (Genesis 10:18)."* Here are some fun facts about Ham's legacy:

- 1) Archeologists have noted a number of similarities between the Hittites (possibly being from Canaan's son Heth, Genesis 10:15) and the people of Mongolia (the art of smelting and casting iron plus the breeding and training of horses). Native Americans have their ancestry in the Mongolian peoples. The Biblical Hittites were known to the Sumerians as Khittae and Assyrians as Khatti which may be the origin of Cathay (the English translation of the tribe visited by Marco Polo in China).
- 2) Biblical and secular references also mention a people in the Far East named "Sinim, Sinae" suggesting some of the descendants of Canaan's son Sin migrated eastward. The Assyrians knew the Biblical Sinites as the Siannu. It is significant that China and the Chinese people have always been identified by the prefix "Sino-" (e.g., Sino-Japanese War), and the name "Sin" is frequently encountered in Chinese names. Recent research of the genetic makeup of Chinese people shows correlation with the people in Africa.
- 3) Research reported in the late 1990s showed all Native Americans have 4 special genetic markers that appear to trace back to modern Siberians and Mongolians.
- 4) About 3,000 years ago, the first civilization developed in the Western Hemisphere—the Olmec culture in Mexico and Central America— around the same time that the Shang Dynasty of China fell to enemies, forcing thousands of refugees to flee across the "Eastern Sea." Researchers have recently recognized at least 100 ancient Chinese language symbols embedded in the motifs that decorate Olmec art! The Shang and Olmec societies shared much in common including transportation skills, worship of earth and ancestors on similarly built mounds, human sacrifice, veneration of the same animals, and art carvings.

20. In Genesis 10:8-12, what information is given about Nimrod as a man and the nation he founded?

Historical Insight: The Bible tells of the attitude of men before the Flood in Job 22:15-17, *"Will you keep to the old path that evil men have trod? They were carried off before their time, their foundations washed away by a flood. They said to God, 'Leave us alone! What can the Almighty do to us?'"* That attitude prevailed in some of Noah's descendants in Babylon as well (Genesis 11:3-4). The long war against God gained steam from Babylon outward. Ham's grandson Nimrod is credited with instigating the Great Rebellion at Babel and founding the worst features of paganism, including the practice of magical arts, astrology and human sacrifice. Worshipped from earliest times (by Sumerians, Babylonians, and Assyrians), Nimrod was worshipped by the Romans as Bacchus (son of Cush). Various sites in the ancient world were named after him—Shinar was known as the Land of Nimrod. Ancestor worship also began in this area and, combined with other aspects of paganism, was carried by tribes forming new nations—Assyria, China, the Saxons—

resulting in the spread of polytheism and idolatry. Degrading from there, the forces of nature were given names (pantheism) so that some people considered everything to be a god—Mother Nature, Father Time, natural selection (evolution itself). As God said in Romans 1:25 “they exchanged the truth for a lie.”

DAY THREE STUDY

Shem and His Kin

Read Genesis 10:21-32.

21. Using the map once more, locate the names of SHEM'S DESCENDANTS mentioned in this passage. Color the areas around each one red.

22. Which of Shem's descendants are represented in the following verses, and what information is given about them?
 - Jeremiah 49:34-36—

 - Numbers 24:20-24—

 - Ezekiel 27:23-24—

23. Peleg's name means "division." In Genesis 10:25, what information is given about the time period in which he was born?

Historical Insight: Shem's 5 sons headed east, north and south from Babel. The Elamites settled east of Babel, later merging with the Medes to form the Persian Empire. Asshur's name is preserved in his descendants, the Assyrians, whose culture also included the Hamites (Nimrod and company). Unfortunately, Asshur was one of the earliest men to be deified and worshipped by his descendants. Here are some fun facts about Shem's legacy:

- 1) Arphaxad is the father of the Chaldeans, and his descendants were adept astrologers, magicians, and mathematicians. He is better known by his son, Eber, whose name is possibly preserved in his descendants—the Hebrews.
- 2) Arphaxad's grandson, Peleg, may have been born shortly after the time of the dispersion. According to *Genesis 10:25*, “in his days the earth was divided” which combined with Genesis 10:5, 32 clearly refer to a linguistic and geographical division.
- 3) Aram's name is the Hebrew word for Syria. His sons became the Arameans, equivalent to Syrians. Their language was adopted as the trade language for the ancient world, commonly spoken even among Jews in Jesus' day. Some Arameans migrated to Arabia where Job later lived.

*Shem's descendants—one branch***Read Genesis 11:10-26.**

24. What do you notice about the life spans of the men listed in this genealogy compared to those listed in Genesis 5?

25. Whose ancestry in particular is listed in these verses (see v. 26)? We'll see more of this in the next lesson.

Scientific Insight: What does the Bible say about the races? A total of 70 "families" forming nations is mentioned in Genesis 10. As they migrated out from Shinar and became individual nations, each group developed its own unique physical characteristics. These three streams of nations are *not* three "races." We all have the same color; some just have more of it than others. There are dusky and black people found among all three groups of nations. The Bible never talks about races but about tribes and nations. We are told in the Bible that we are all of one blood, one flesh (1 Corinthians 15:39). There is really only one race—the human race! The modern concept of "race" is based on evolutionary thinking.

Modern genetics shows that when a large, freely interbreeding group is suddenly broken into many smaller groups which from then on breed only among themselves, dominant characteristics unique to each group will arise very rapidly. There are 4 genes for skin color from which a whole range of skin shades may be produced in the offspring from light to dark. All skin color in humans comes from a pigment called melanin. Everyone has the same color, but some just have more of it (intensity). A person with a lot of melanin will be very dark; a little melanin renders her very light. All the information for the variations of skin shades goes back to the original parents—Adam and Eve. A recent news article stated that only one woman's mitochondrial DNA survived to the present day in all of us. *Just as expected!*

26. **Connecting Faith to Life:** You descended from at least one of Noah's sons, perhaps all three. From which nations of people have you descended? What do you appreciate about your heritage? Draw your family tree back through four generations. Which ones were Christians and might have had a positive influence on your life? How?

DAY FOUR STUDY**Discernment Practice**

In the article below, mark the facts (underline, circle, colored highlighter, etc.). Then, mark the assumptions/interpretations with a different mark. Then, answer the questions below. Compare your evaluations with the ones given in the “Discernment Practice: How Well Did You Do?” Section after Lesson Eleven.

“Neanderthal flute?” from The Sydney Morning Herald, February 21, 1996.

The earliest known flute has been discovered in Slovenia in south-east Europe. Archaeologists in the former Yugoslavian republic claim the 12-centimeters (5-inch) flute was made by Neanderthal humans 45,000 years ago. The instrument was made from the leg bone of a bear, and its original four finger-holes are intact. Its lowest note was identified as a B flat or A.

The flute was found in a cave near the town of Nova Gorica, 65 kilometers (40 miles) west of Solvenia’s capital, Ljubljana. The revelation that Neanderthal Slovenes learned to play music is said to have ‘far-reaching implications for human evolution.’

- *What was found?*
- *What are the assumptions?*
- *How does the evidence fit with biblical creation?*

Creation Answers—The Ice Age, Dinosaurs, and a Corrupted Witness to the Truth

This article will attempt to give scientific answers to three questions related to life in the New World after the Flood.

Was there really an Ice Age?

Besides all the changes in the landscape as floodwaters were draining off the land, the climate would have changed as well, at first in the polar regions, later among the tops of the new tall mountains. This could have brought on the “ice age.”

An “ice age” is a time of extensive glacial activity that covers a relatively large area with ice. During the Ice Age, which ended a few thousand years ago, 30% of the land surface of the earth was covered by ice. We know this from the deposits left behind by the advancing and retreating ice sheets plus other surface features. Today’s polar ice caps and alpine glaciers are the remains of those vast ice sheets. The evidence points to just one ice age, though.

To accumulate and maintain large sheets of ice requires 3 conditions: 1) increased evaporation, 2) increased snowfall, and 3) decreased snowmelt. All three requirements are met by the Flood model, especially through extensive volcanic activity during and after the Flood and the residual warm oceans following the Flood.

- 1) For increased evaporation, the key is more heat in the ocean. The massive amounts of hot water and magma released from below the ocean heated the ocean water, rendering a much higher level of evaporation than that in the modern cool ocean. Under such conditions, most of the resulting snow would fall in the middle latitudes and polar regions. Studies of ocean floor sediments show that the oceans were at one time 40° warmer than today. This would encourage evaporation and more snowfall available to higher latitudes and elevations. You would expect to find thick snow accumulation forming ice sheets.
- 2) Increased snow fall is a direct result of warm water evaporating and falling on cold continents. Volcanic dust trapped in the atmosphere following the Flood would have reflected some of the sunlight back to space and caused cooler summers, mainly over large landmasses. Ice cores taken from Greenland and Antarctica show abundant volcanic particles and acids in the sections associated with the Ice Age.
- 3) Slick continents, denuded of vegetation, would radiate heat back to the atmosphere thus decreasing snow melt. Volcanic ash would have reduced incoming solar radiation, enhancing the cooling. The result would be cooler summers, not necessarily colder winters. In 1883, Krakatoa in East Indies sent up 3 cubic miles of volcanic dust into the stratosphere, which was then distributed globally. This caused red sunsets for 10 years and lowered the average temperature of the earth 4°F for about 3 years.

How long did it last? Meteorologist Michael Oard, who specializes in “ice age” studies, speculates that the accumulation of ice to its maximum depth (average 2,300 feet) would have taken about 500 years. The gigantic glacial ice sheets (after the peak in accumulation) would have melted within 200 years. Of course, Greenland and Antarctica would have continued to grow because of their high latitude and altitude. Thus, the total time for the Ice Age is a maximum of only about 700 years (500 years to accumulate, 200 years to melt). This means that from about 2350 B.C. until 1650 B.C., the ice sheets seriously affected life in Europe and North America. Interestingly, there’s a possible reference to this time in the book of Job.

*“From whose womb has come **the ice**? And the frost of heaven, who has given it birth? Water has become **hard like stone**, and the surface of the **deep is imprisoned.**” (Job 38:29-30)*

What about the rest of the land? Land close to the warm oceans and on either side of the equator would still have had a pleasantly warm climate like today. Two-thirds of the land was NOT covered by ice. Present day deserts were well-watered. Israel was once a lush land flowing with “milk and honey” producing abundant, large fruit. People once lived in the Sahara Desert along with a variety of tropical and aquatic animals. They have left countless stone tools, pottery, and pictures of those animals carved on the rocks. Explorers have even found fishhooks and harpoons!

If you had all that water tied up in glaciers, the ocean levels would be considerably lower, in fact the sea level was ~600 feet lower at this time. The evidence for this is the drop off from land’s edge to the continental slope edges. Because of this lowered sea level, land bridges connected continents and islands, thus assisting the migration of animals and later people after the Flood. Eventually, the seas gradually cooled, so evaporation decreased, therefore the snow supply for the continents would also decrease. And as the ash settled out of the atmosphere, allowing sunlight through. So, the ice sheets began to melt. Sea level rose to its current level. Rain declined in the middle latitudes, too, so that deserts formed.

All of these climate conditions affected human migration from the Tower of Babel. Neanderthals were part of Japheth’s Indo-European language group who migrated away from the Tower of Babel and found themselves in harsh Ice Age circumstances especially in northern Europe (average

temperature estimated to be 14°F lower than now). Some were forced to live in caves where their bones and artifacts are now discovered.

So, the answer is, “Yes.” There really was an Ice Age after the Flood. Next question ...

What happened to the dinosaurs?

First of all, the Bible says that God created all the marine and flying creatures on Day 5 (that included plesiosaurs and pterodactyls) plus land animals on Day 6, which included dinosaurs. Human and dinosaur footprints are found together in Texas and in Turkmenia, formerly part of the Soviet Union, plus other places.

Dinosaurs got on the Ark. God told Noah to take all land creatures on the Ark which included dinosaurs. It is likely Noah took juveniles. Those outside the Ark were buried by the Flood. A number of fossil graveyards are known in which dinosaur skeletons are found buried together in jumbled heaps with evidence of mass drowning. Dinosaurs got off the Ark, multiplied and spread to all parts of the world through the land bridges. They died out. Lots of animals have died out from this earth, and the memory of them has faded or been corrupted. The name “dinosaur” wasn’t even coined until the 1800s several years after the first bones of these creatures were found and studied scientifically.

Were dinosaurs really as vicious as they are depicted in the movies? Although Genesis 1:29-30 tell us they were created to be plant eaters before the Fall when creation was cursed by God, enough is known of dinosaurs to strongly suspect that at least some of them ate meat by the time of the Flood. Fish and lizards are found in the stomach contents of some dinosaurs and flying reptiles. Were they vicious? Several types do have sharp teeth, sharp claws, spikes, armor plates perhaps used for offensive or defensive purposes, but many animals today that have sharp teeth use them for strictly peaceful ends—such as the panda and fruit bat. After the Flood, God begins holding the animals accountable for the lifeblood of man so that man-eating dinosaurs may have been punished by God through death. But, they were not forbidden to kill other animals for food.

All the nations of antiquity wrote about dinosaur-like animals called *dragons*. The Biblical writers, inspired by God, wrote about creatures described by the Hebrew word *tanniyn* in over 20 passages. They are depicted as dwelling in different types of habitats and being of various sizes. Up until the last century, that word was translated into English as “dragon” but is now usually translated as “jackal” (Isaiah 34:13; Micah 1:8; Malachi 1:3). It is possible that leviathan and behemoth described in Job 41 were dinosaurs of some kind.

How long did they live after the Flood? Evidently the dinosaurs gradually died out or were hunted to extinction. Their existence has been preserved for us by people all over the world through the many legends of dragons, the descriptions of which closely resemble dinosaurs. Dragon legends are best understood as the faded and/or embellished memories of real human encounters with such beasts. Dinosaur-like animals have been drawn, written about and told about since the beginning of recorded history on every continent. People in India worshipped huge hissing reptiles they kept in caves. In the 10th century, an Irishman wrote of his encounter with a large beast resembling a *Stegasaurus* with “iron” nails on its tail that pointed backwards and a head shaped like a horse. An ancient carving in an Angkor Cambodian temple also looks like a *Stegasaurus*. A Scandinavian legend describes a reptile-like animal that had a body the size of a large cow, 2 long back legs, 2 very short front legs and with very large jaws. Perhaps a T-Rex!

We also know about them through drawings left behind that look very much like known dinosaurs or composite drawings of various types. An ancient Native American drawing found on a Grand Canyon wall looks very much like an *Edmontosaurus*. The ancient Incas sketched creatures that look just like *Triceratops* and other dinosaur creatures. Thousands of dragon stories and pictures

can be found in ancient Chinese books and art. Chinese kings used dragons for pulling royal chariots. In the 1500's, a European scientific book listed several animals, which to us are dinosaurs, as still living back then, though relatively small and extremely rare.

We know about them through written accounts. Flying reptiles have also been seen and described in written form by respected writers (Herodotus, Aristotle, Strabo) in ancient Egypt, Ethiopia, India and Arabia. In 1856 France, a flying reptile was blasted out of a tunnel and died. It was studied by a scientist, declared to be a pterosaur with a 10' wingspan. Stories of giant man-eating birds are common among many Indian tribes of the American Southwest. In Utah's Black Dragon Canyon there is a beautiful pictograph of a pterosaur. These were called "thunderbirds."

The most remarkable descriptions of living dinosaurs are those that the Saxon and Celtic people of Europe have passed down to us. The British Isles have historically been the habitat for lots of reptilian monsters. Over 80 places have been recorded where men, women and children have personally encountered them—not just in the past 100 years and not just in Loch Ness (or any other Scottish lake from which have been numerous sightings). The written accounts of many of these creatures include detailed descriptions of their skin and scale colors and refer to multiple witnesses. One church at Llanbadarn-y-Garrag in Wales contains the carving of a local giant lake-dwelling reptile whose features include large paddle-like flippers, a long neck and a small head. One refers to a creature that spat poisonous venom at its victims. Another describes the creature as "being vast in body, with a crested head, teeth like a saw, and a tail extending to an enormous length." It liked to eat sheep, and shepherds. Local archers tried to kill the beast, unsuccessfully due to its impenetrable hide. At Carlisle Cathedral in England, a 15th century bishop's tomb has brass carvings of creatures that look like dinosaurs.

The Saxon poem *Beowulf* describes 3 specific creatures: a flying reptile (the description of which matches a *pteranodon*), a sea dragon (common in harbors, depicted on Viking ships) and a land monster called a *grendel* that was larger than a human, bipedal with small and puny forelimbs, and slayed with its mouth or jaws—swallowing the body of its victims rapidly in large gobbles! A large carved stone in an old Saxon church (in England) shows such a creature biting the necks of other quadrupedal creatures. Woodcut illustrations in medieval European books also show bipedal, scaled reptiles with large mouths. Too many incidents like these are reported down through the centuries and from all sorts of locations for us to say that they are all fairy-tales.

What happened to them? They died. Lots of animals have died out from this earth. The world after the Flood was much different than before. The environmental conditions with the sparse vegetation and the temperature extremes during the ensuing Ice Age would have caused many animal types to become extinct, a process which continues today. Hunters wiped out mammoths and mastodons; perhaps they wiped out dinosaurs as well. Had there been zoos, maybe some could have been saved. In Wales, the flying reptiles were reckoned to be as bad as foxes for poultry so were routinely killed. Various accounts describe how the marine reptiles hanging around harbors were hunted and killed.

Most creationists believe that dinosaurs have coexisted with man from the beginning, only becoming extinct in the Middle Ages. Evolutionists have difficulty explaining away dragon legends, cave drawings, and even modern sightings. They completely ignore human footprints in dinosaur strata and even inside dinosaur footprints. They can't explain the evolution of dinosaurs or their demise. All they can do is get you excited about their imaginative recreations of a world that only exists in their minds.

Conclusion: Dinosaurs did NOT live millions of years ago; they DID live beside people; they DID go on Noah's Ark; they are mentioned in the Bible; and they DID live after the Flood (Job 40-41). There is MUCH evidence that they have lived up until quite recently. God created all animal types. Dinosaurs did NOT evolve, and there is really NO mystery about what happened to them.

It is important to defend the book of Genesis to our children and ourselves. After all, if the first book in the Bible can't be trusted in our eyes or in their eyes, why should any other? As one woman once asked, "When my church told me that I had to accept evolution, and that Genesis couldn't be believed as written, I must then ask, 'When does God start telling the truth?'" Our God tells the truth from the very first verse!

Are legends a corrupted witness to the truth?

Paul said in Acts 14:15-17,

"We are bringing you good news, telling you to turn ... to the living God ... In the past, He let all nations go their own way. Yet He has not left Himself without testimony: He has shown kindness by giving you rain ... crops ... plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy."

Popular thought supposes that the nations of the world only became aware of the God of Genesis after they were populated by Jews or evangelized by Christian missionaries, not considering the possibility that pagan man was indeed aware of God and of His attributes, and that this awareness had existed and flourished for centuries without any exposure at all to the scriptures.

As people spread out, they took the story of Creation, the Curse, and the Flood with them. Flood legends (over 300), predating any contact with outsiders (especially missionaries), are found in almost every culture around the world, about 30 of them in writing. Some are remarkably close in their details to the story told in the Bible. Of those legends, 66% say that the Flood was caused by the sinfulness of man, 95% say that the whole world was covered by water, 86% say that there was a favored family which was told to build a boat so that the animals could be saved. *Just as expected!* The details are different, but the essence is the same. It becomes clear that the original is, in fact, the Bible story. Here are some examples:

- An ancient Greek document *The Sybil* records this: "When all men were of one language, some of them built a high tower, as if they would thereby ascend up to heaven; but the gods ... gave everyone his peculiar language ... After this they were dispersed abroad, on account of their languages, and went out by colonies everywhere ... took possession of that land which they lighted upon, and unto which God led them ... There were some also who passed over the sea in ships, and inhabited the islands."
- The *Irish Chronicles* reckon the dates of historical events by counting the years since the Creation (4000 BC). Two versions of the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicles* say that 5200 years covered the time from Creation until the year AD 6.
- The epic poem *Beowulf* contains many references to Genesis 1-6 (including Cain, giants and a flood) with an abrupt cutoff at that point. Beowulf himself (a historic person) was a descendant of Saxon kings who claimed their ancestry from Noah through Japheth.
- The Toltec Indians of ancient Mexico record a story of the first world that lasted 1,716 years and was destroyed by a great flood that covered even the highest mountains. Their story tells of a few men who escaped the destruction in a "toptlipetlocali," which means a closed chest. Following the great flood, these men began to multiply and built a very high zacuali," or a great tower, to provide a safe place if the world was destroyed again. However, the languages became confused, so different language groups wandered to other parts of the world. The Toltecs claim they settled in Hue Tlalpan (southern Mexico) 520 years after the great flood. Likewise, the Mayans of Central America measured time from the beginning of their culture after the Flood ~3113 BC.

- The ancient Chinese preserved the truth about man's earliest history in their writings (~2000 BC), referring to a violent catastrophe that happened to the Earth. The entire land was flooded with water reaching the highest mountains, completely covering all the foothills, and leaving the country in desolate condition for years afterwards. This history records that one man, his wife, 3 sons, and 3 daughters escaped a great flood, were the only people left alive on earth, and repopulated the world afterwards. The accounts of Creation, the Fall, and the Flood are revealed in ancient Chinese characters (which combines pictographs to form new ideas) on early artifacts. This shows that these memories were well-established and already exported to other Asian countries before the earliest Christians influenced China, ~640 AD.

For more information ...

Go to www.answersingenesis.org or www.icr.org. SEARCH a word or phrase from today's passage such as Noah and his sons, Nimrod, Tower of Babel, languages, Neanderthals, races, Ice Age, dinosaurs, Flood legends, etc. Select an article to read or video to watch.

6. What did God reveal in the following verses?

- Genesis 13:14-17—

- Genesis 15:13-16—

So, God made a nation for Himself through Abraham. After nearly two hundred years, seventy-two of his descendants went into Egypt to escape a famine. Four hundred years later, two million Hebrews came out of Egypt on their way to the land promised to them earlier by God.

Recall God's provision for the sin of Adam and Eve in Genesis 3:21 which required the slaying of an animal to provide covering for them (Lesson 5, Day 3). The essential component of salvation was introduced at that time—the necessity of a blood sacrifice to provide atonement (covering) for sin. Through Moses, God graciously gave the new nation of Israel a sacrificial system (the Mosaic Law). This Law provided forgiveness for their sins by their obedience through faith in following the system He provided (described in the book of Leviticus). The high point of Leviticus is found in chapters 16 and 17, which are about atonement for all the sins of the Israelites made once a year by the High Priest. Practically every sacrifice included the sprinkling or smearing of blood on the altar or within the tabernacle, thus teaching that atonement involves the substitution of life for life. But, God never demanded or encouraged human sacrifice from His people. He considered it evil (Jeremiah 7:31). The blood of the Old Testament animal sacrifices pointed forward to the blood of the Lamb of God, who gave His own life to obtain "eternal redemption" for His people.

Throughout the Old Testament, God promised to send a prophet to the Israelites from among their own people who would be God's "Anointed One." In Old Testament times, anointing signified being set apart for service, particularly as king or priest. But people were looking for not just an anointed one but the Anointed One—their Messiah. The Messiah would bring restoration to everything.

7. **Connecting Faith to Life:** Notice all the aspects of the promise God made to Abraham in Genesis 12:2-3. Which part of the promise specifically affects you and why? See also Acts 3:25 and Galatians 3:8.

DAY TWO STUDY

The role of the Messiah

From the Hebrew/Greek: The English word Messiah comes from the Hebrew word for "anointed one," *Mashiach*, and the English word Christ comes from the Greek word for "anointed one," *Christos*. We will now begin to examine some of the prophecies of the Messiah in the Old Testament and their fulfillment in the New Testament through Jesus. Jesus claimed to be not *a* Messiah, but THE Messiah.

In the next three sections, we will be reading the Old Testament passages that describe what was promised about the Messiah. These are called Messianic Prophecies. Then we will read the New Testament references to how Jesus' life fulfilled these prophecies as THE Messiah. Note: There are more than 300 prophecies. We can only cover a few in this lesson. Feel free to add other verses showing fulfillment of these prophecies in Jesus.

"He [Jesus] said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself." (Luke 24:25-27)

1. *Messianic Prophecy:* Read Genesis 3:15 (considered the "first gospel" promising the ultimate coming and victory of the Redeemer). We covered this in Lesson 5. What was promised about a future seed of the woman?

Fulfillment: Read Romans 16:20 and Colossians 2:14-15. How is God fulfilling this promise?

2. *Messianic Prophecy:* Read Deuteronomy 18:15-18. What did God promise?

Fulfillment: Read John 7:16; Acts 3:19-23. What was fulfilled through Jesus?

3. *Messianic Prophecy*: Read Psalm 2.

What was foretold about God’s “Anointed One” (Messiah)?	How was this fulfilled in the life of Jesus?
Vv. 1-2—	Acts 4:25-28—
V. 7—	Luke 3:21-22— Hebrews 1:1-5—
V. 8—	Matthew 28:18-19— Other verses—

Think About It: The “Lord’s Prayer” in Matthew 6:9-13 is asking God to do what He promised to do in this psalm.

4. *Messianic Prophecy*: Read Isaiah 9:6. What did God promise to His people?

Fulfillment: What has already been fulfilled through Jesus?

- Luke 2:7—

- Colossians 2:9—

- Ephesians 2:14—

5. *Messianic Prophecy*: Read Psalm 110:1. What is said about the Messiah?

Fulfillment: Read Acts 2:33-35; Acts 7:55-56; Ephesians 1:20-22. What is fulfilled in Jesus?

6. Put yourself in the place of the Jews during the time of Jesus. From these prophetic passages you just studied about the Messiah, make a list of what they were expecting from their Messiah.

Historical Insight: One must realize that by the time of Jesus, the Messianic hope had become greatly politicized in the minds of the people. They were seeking deliverance from the tyranny of Rome. Although the Scripture spoke both of the sufferings and of the victories of the Messiah, the victorious aspect had become uppermost in the minds of the common people because of the Roman domination. (*What Proof Do You Have that Jesus Was the Messiah?* Jewsforjesus.org)

7. ***Deeper Discoveries (optional)***: Look through the gospels to see evidence of who the people thought Jesus was and what they wanted Him to do for them to fulfill their expectations. One example is found in John 6:14-15. What others can you find?

DAY THREE STUDY

The recognition of the Messiah

As you have already seen, the promise of a Messiah is found throughout the Old Testament, which was the Hebrew Bible of Jesus' day. Along with promises about the Messiah's coming, God also gave us the identifying characteristics—ethnic background, place of birth, time frame of his arrival and more—so he could be recognized by his people. These credentials also helped to eliminate imposters. We will now look at a few “credentials” of the Messiah.

“When Apollos wanted to go to Achaia, the brothers encouraged him and wrote to the disciples there to welcome him. On arriving, he was a great help to those who by grace had believed. For he vigorously refuted the Jews in public debate, proving from the Scriptures that Jesus was the Christ.” (Acts 18: 27-28)

8. *Messianic Prophecy:* Read Micah 5:2. Messiah would be born in _____.

Fulfillment: Read Matthew 2:1-6 and Luke 2:1-7. How was this fulfilled in the life of Jesus?

9. *Messianic Prophecy:* Read Genesis 49:10. Messiah would be from the tribe of _____.

Fulfillment: Read Matthew 1:1-3; Luke 3:23, 33. How was this fulfilled in the life of Jesus?

10. *Messianic Prophecy:* Read 2 Samuel 7:16. Messiah would be from the house of _____ and sit on his throne.

Fulfillment: Read Matthew 1:1, 6; 21:9. How was this fulfilled in the life of Jesus?

11. *Messianic Prophecy:* Read Daniel 9:24-26a. Note: 1 week = 7 years. Messiah would come _____ years after _____.

Fulfillment: Read Luke 3:1-2 and Galatians 4:4. How was this fulfilled in the life of Jesus?

12. *Messianic Prophecy:* Read Isaiah 35:3-6. Messiah would do miracles for his people such as

Fulfillment: Read Luke 7:21-23. How was this fulfilled in the life of Jesus?

13. *Messianic Prophecy:* Read Zechariah 9:9. Messiah would present himself by _____

Fulfillment: Read Matthew 21:1-5 and John 12:14-15. How was this fulfilled in the life of Jesus?

14. *Messianic Prophecy:* Read Jeremiah 31:31-34. Messiah would make a new covenant with God's people that included changes in their relationship with God such as ...

Fulfillment: Read Matthew 26:27-28; Luke 22:20; and Hebrews 8:7-13. How was this fulfilled in the life of Jesus?

15. Read John 4:25-26; Mark 14:61-62; Luke 4:16-21; Luke 22:67-70; and John 18:36-37. What did Jesus claim about Himself?

16. Did God give His people (and you) enough information to recognize their Messiah? Explain your answer.

DAY FOUR STUDY

We've seen mainly positive promises about the Messiah so far. The Messiah would be identified by miracles of healing, strong teaching, and presenting himself as their king. What they weren't expecting was a crucified Messiah. The Jews of Jesus' day thought their greatest enemy was Rome, not sin and death. They were content with their sacrificial system that covered sin, though only temporarily. But, God knew their real need was permanent deliverance from sin and its consequences, death. Therefore, Messiah's life would match another description, one that included suffering, trial, death, burial, and resurrection.

"As his custom was, Paul went into the synagogue, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and proving that the Christ had to suffer and rise from the dead. 'This Jesus I am proclaiming to you is the Christ,' he said." (Acts 17:2-3)

17. *Messianic Prophecy:* Read Isaiah 53:1-12. Note: The people did not recognize this passage as describing their Messiah until after Jesus' death and resurrection.

Fulfilled in Jesus	Described in Isaiah
John 12:37-38—	53:1—
Matthew 8:16-17—	53:4—
John 19:34— 1 Peter 2:21-25—	53:5—
Matthew 27:13-14—	53:6—
Matthew 27:57-60—	53:8-9—
Matthew 28:5-7—	53:11—

Historical Insight: The rabbis of that time period (first century) and afterwards were well aware of the many Messianic prophecies which Christians claimed were fulfilled in Jesus. By the medieval times the pressure from those who applied this prophecy to Jesus was so great that a medieval Biblical scholar reinterpreted the chapter and said it referred to the nation of Israel. This interpretation is maintained today by many Jewish scholars, though it only dates back to the Middle Ages. (*What Proof Do You Have that Jesus Was the Messiah?* Jewsforjesus.org)

18. *Messianic Prophecy:* Read Psalm 22. Note: The people did not recognize this psalm as referring to the Messiah until after Jesus' crucifixion. You will see how closely it describes Jesus' experience.

Fulfilled in Jesus	Described in Psalm 22 (give verses)
Matthew 27:46—	
Mark 15:29-32—	
Matthew 27:39-43—	
Matthew 27:35-36—	
Luke 23:33—	
John 19:28—	
John 19:34—	
Mark 15:24—	

Fulfilled in Jesus	Described in Psalm 22 (give verses)
Hebrews 2:11-12—	
Philippians 2:10-11—	
John 19:30—	
Other verses—	

Scriptural Insight: For anyone who is honestly asking, "Who is Jesus?", the evidence speaks for itself. For anyone of Jewish descent who is honestly asking, "What proof do you have that Jesus was the Messiah," the evidence also speaks for itself. Jesus Himself, when quizzing His disciples about what others were saying about Him, asked the question in Mark 8:29 "But what about you? Who do you say I am?" Peter answered, "You are the Christ (Messiah, Anointed One)." Today, He asks the same question of us. "Who do you say I am?" Are you convinced that He is the Christ?

19. **Connecting Faith to Life:** God made many promises of hope to His people and gave many clues so His people would recognize the One embodying that hope. Spend some time meditating upon God's plan to restore us to fellowship with Him. Read John 6:44. Then, spend time in prayer thanking Him that He drew you to Jesus, that you recognized Jesus as God's Son and that you have trusted in Him to be your Savior. You are one of those blessed through Abraham's offspring (Genesis 12:3).

For more information ...

Some of the information used in this lesson came from *Jews for Jesus*, an evangelistic organization of Christian Jews specifically reaching out to their Jewish brethren.

- If you have Jewish friends or family, you will find valuable information at their website, www.jewsforjesus.org, to use in witnessing to them, including most of the questions asked by Jews about Christianity and their objections to what they have heard Christians preach.
- For additional insight into Jesus as the promised Messiah, search for this article [“What Proof Do You Have that Jesus Was the Messiah?”](#)

10. The CROSS: Restoration in Progress

JESUS ... THE LORD SAVES

As God designed and formed the human body, He knew, of course, that in the fullness of time He would become a man. In that day, He would prepare a human body for His Son. And this body would be "made in the likeness of men" (Philippians 2:7), just as man had been made in the likeness of God. Both in body and spirit, Jesus Christ was indeed Himself the image of God.

Why did Jesus have to die on the cross? Why was it so important for Him to be resurrected from the dead? In what ways did Christ's work on the cross and His resurrection free those who believe in Him from the corruption brought about by sin and its consequences? What is God restoring to His creation in the present? We will seek answers to those questions in this lesson.

DAY ONE STUDY

1. Review Genesis 1:26-2:25. List words or phrases describing the relationship Adam and Eve had with God, with each other, and with their environment before sin entered their world. *Example: communion with God*

2. Review Genesis 3:1-21. List words or phrases describing the effects of sin and God's judgment on Adam and Eve. *Example: hiding from God*

Sin is in our nature!

Someone might say, "I'm basically a good person, and I'm very happy with my own religion, so why should I believe in Jesus?" If everyone was good in God's sight, nobody would need Jesus. Oh, to be sure, most of us aren't murderers or thieves or anything like that. We like to think of ourselves as respectable, with no need for major changes in our lives. Yet the picture the Bible presents is that even the best of us is desperately sinful, deeply alienated from God, from each other and even from ourselves. We are all born sinners and continue to live that way.

But God is serious about our sin. We tend to think that sin is exclusively a matter of committing individual acts. But sin is much more than that. The Scriptures show us that sin is a condition of human existence which does not pertain to a particular act, but rather to an attitude, one of arrogance and rebellion. The best of men and women, like Abraham, Miriam, and Moses, all committed acts of sin. Sin is universal. And that's why God provided a way of forgiveness, beginning with the Old Testament animal sacrifices and culminating in the death of the Messiah. The Messiah would bring restoration to everything. What had been corrupted would be restored—beginning with our broken relationship with God because of sin.

12. *Sin's Effect:* Read Romans 5:10 (first part), Colossians 1:21, and James 4:4. How were we described before Christ?

Restored: What has Christ's death and resurrection restored to us as believers?

- Romans 5:10 (second part)—

- Romans 8:31-39—

13. *Sin's Effect:* How had the corruption of sin affected relationships between different people groups before Christ?

- Genesis 11:8-9—

- Acts 10:27-28—

- Ephesians 2:11-12—

DAY FOUR STUDY

Focus on the Meaning: Six terms describe how our relationship with God is changed because of our faith in Jesus Christ—Propitiation, Reconciliation, Redemption, Forgiveness, Justification, and Sanctification. These 6 relationship changes are the direct result of Christ's finished work on the cross so they are often called "words of the cross."

- 1) **Propitiation:** God's holy wrath against sin is fully satisfied by Christ's death on the cross. He is no longer angry at your sin.
 - 2) **Reconciliation:** Your relationship with God is fully restored through your faith in His Son. It is no longer broken.
 - 3) **Redemption:** You have been purchased out of bondage to sin and released to live in obedience to God.
 - 4) **Forgiveness:** The burden of your guilt has been taken away.
 - 5) **Justification:** You have been declared righteous in God's eyes and are now perfectly acceptable to a holy God based on your faith in His Son
 - 6) **Sanctification:** God declares you holy for His purpose because of your faith in Christ. You have been perfected and are no longer flawed in His sight.
15. **Connecting Faith to Life:** Think about what Christ has already restored to you as a believer. *Knowing all this should boost your self-esteem sky high!* You are greatly loved by a great and loving God who desires to free you from the corruption of sin and the judgment that He Himself declared on human sin. You are freed from that corruption—for now in part, in the future *completely!* Spend some time thanking God for His indescribable gift! Feel free to be creative in the space below.

11. CONSUMMATION: Restoration Complete

AND NOW, FOR THE REST OF THE STORY ...

DAY ONE STUDY

Paradise once lost; Paradise to be regained

1. Read Acts 3:20-21. What did Peter assure believers about the future?

From the Greek: The Greek word translated “restore” or restoration” in Acts 3:21 comes from *apo* (back, again) and *kathistemi* (to set in order). It is used of the restoration of estates to rightful owners. (*Vines Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words*, p. 530)

2. Define the word consummation.

Why is this a good word to use in reference to the plans God has for the future?

Scriptural Insight: The climactic theme of both the Old Testament and the New Testament is the promise of the coming of the Messiah to set things right.

Read 2 Peter 3:1-13.

3. In vv. 3-9, what attitudes will characterize the last days, particularly that of the scoffers?

4. How have you seen this prophecy fulfilled in the past 100 years?

5. In vv. 10-13, what information is given about the future?

6. Why do you think God wants to recreate the current heavens ("space," which we call the universe) and earth into something new?

Scriptural Insight: There are a number of passages in the Bible which state unequivocally that the earth, in some form, is going to continue eternally. However, this present earth and its atmospheric heavens must first be purged of all the age-long effects of sin and the curse, which now affect the very elements (or "dust of the earth"). Therefore, "But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare" (2 Peter 3:10). Evidently, this fiery cataclysm is not an annihilation of the earth and its atmosphere, but rather a great exchange of energies. The earth's very elements will probably be converted into sound and heat energies by mass-energy nuclear-conversion processes, in order to burn out the great fossil beds and all other relics of sin and the curse. Then, however, God will reverse the process, converting these and other energies back into matter, thus "renewing" the primeval earth, which originally had been "very good." "But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells" (2 Peter 3:13). It is this new earth (that is, the earth made new) which will then continue forever (Isaiah 66:22), delivered from its bondage of corruption (Romans 8:21). (Henry M. Morris, *Days of Praise*, September 10, 2000, www.icr.org)

7. **Connecting Faith to Life:** Why should the study of prophecy regarding God's future plans for the earth NOT cause you fear and give you hope instead?

DAY TWO STUDY

*The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but **the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever ...** (Deuteronomy 29:29)*

Let's consider a possible timetable for the end. No one knows for sure what will happen and when. But, we can make our best guesses based on what is revealed in the Bible. As Paul writes in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, believers (living and those who have already died) will be "raptured" or "caught up" to meet Christ in the air when the time comes that God has predetermined. Then all believers will go to heaven to be with Christ in new glorified, heavenly bodies.

It is generally believed that a 7-year period of tribulation involving extreme deception, wars, and suffering will either follow or somehow be associated with the rapture of believers. Some people still on earth will become Christians during this time.

At the end of the 7-year period, Christ will gloriously return to earth as He promised (Revelation 19), setting up His kingdom on earth which will last for 1000 years—a millennium—with Jerusalem as His capital (Revelation 20). Those believers who died during the Tribulation period will be given resurrection bodies and, along with the raptured believers, will rule with Christ on the earth in their glorified bodies. The believers who are alive on Earth when Christ returns will remain on Earth to enter the millennial kingdom in their natural bodies. These are the ones who will produce children during the millennial kingdom, not those in glorified bodies (Mark 12:24-25).

The restoration continues during the Millennial Kingdom ...

Revelation 19 describes Jesus' triumphant victory over Satan and his cohorts at the end of the Tribulation. He brings His kingdom to Earth for 1000 years.

8. Read the following verses. What information is given about Christ's millennial (1000-year) reign?

- Revelation 20:1-6—

- Isaiah 9:6-7—

9. All of creation was affected by sin entering the world through Adam and Eve.

- Read Genesis 1:29-31—this is *Paradise* at the beginning. ____
- Read Genesis 3:17-19 and Romans 8:19-22—this is *Paradise Lost*. ____

10. Now read the following verses that give a glimpse of *Paradise Regained* in the future. What is being restored during the millennial reign of Christ as described in Isaiah?

- Isaiah 11:1-10—

- Isaiah 65:20-25—

Think About It: Jesus has all authority over heaven and earth right now. He will one day exercise that authority when He physically rules as king on planet Earth. Evil will no longer have free reign on earth. But, human life will continue. What do you think life will be like during that time?

11. All of the nations were affected by the confusion of languages at the Tower of Babel. We have seen how God restored a oneness to believers representing all nations at Pentecost through the indwelling Holy Spirit who makes all believers part of one Body—the Body of Christ. Read the following verses to see what God will restore to all nations in the future millennial reign.

- Zephaniah 3:9—

- Zechariah 14:9—

- Philippians 2:10-11—

- Revelation 5:6-10—

Think About It: Every language will have “Jesus” only as God. The nations will be one again in spirit and cooperation—united in serving God.

12. Read Revelation 20:7-15. What happens at the end of the 1000 years according to ...

- Verses 7-10?

- Verses 11-15?

13. Even with the perfect, righteous King Jesus ruling all of the earth, humans will choose to rebel against Him. Does that surprise you or not? Explain your answer.

14. **Connecting Faith to Life:** Jesus told His disciples in Matthew 6:10 that we should pray for His kingdom to come and God's will to be done on earth as it is in heaven. That will happen and you, dear Christian, will be in your glorified body back on earth, doing whatever work Jesus gives to you. From everything you have learned in this day's study, picture daily life in your community under Jesus' reign than it is today. What might be the same? What might be different? [Note: it's okay to take what is revealed in the Scriptures about the Kingdom and consider what it might be like to live in it daily.]

DAY THREE STUDY

"Everything old is new again"—restoration complete!

From Revelation 20, we learn that Satan will be bound for 1000 years as Christ reigns on the earth. Worship will center in Jerusalem. There will be worldwide peace between mankind and even among animals. Earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord. But not all will believe in Christ even then because man's sin nature has not been removed from humans born during this time. At the end of the 1000 years, Satan will be freed and will lead unbelievers against Christ. But Christ will defeat Satan and his followers permanently. There will then be a resurrection of all the unsaved from throughout the ages who will be judged as sinners and cast into the lake of fire. God will also do something to heaven and earth so they are both restored to newness. We are confident there is a heaven wherever God is—both now and in the future.

15. When you were a child, what did you imagine heaven to be like?

16. As an adult, what do you imagine heaven to be like?

17. Whom are you expecting/hoping to see there?

Read Revelation 21:1-27.

18. Have you ever wanted to throw out all your clothes and go shopping, and get everything new? Well, God does just that. What does God declare in Revelation 21:5?

19. Focus on 21:1-4. Write down all that happens in these four verses.

Scriptural Insight: There is a glorious future awaiting the redeemed. The current earth and heavens (universe) will be “delivered from the bondage of corruption into ... glorious liberty” (Romans 8:21). God will make them all new again, with all the scars of sin and death burned away by His refining fires. The explicit references in the Bible to these “renewed” heavens and earth assure us that they will be so wonderful that this present earth and its heavens will soon be altogether forgotten. Not only will no sin be present there, neither will the results of sin and the curse. It is this new earth (that is, the earth made new) which will then continue forever.

20. What could be the advantage to not having any large seas? [Note: some think seas are referring to inland seas between land areas like the Mediterranean Sea, not the oceans in total.]

21. So, where will we, believers, spend eternity?

22. From verses 9-27, what are some of the characteristics of the New Jerusalem?

23. **Connecting Faith to Life:** Imagine what it will be like for you to live there in the city with God as well as going forth from the city to places on the new earth. God gives us the description so it is okay. In fact, He wants us to think about that glorious place which will be our future home!

24. Discuss the information given to us in Revelation 21:23 and 22:5. See also Genesis 1:3.

Read Revelation 22:1-21.

Reference is made again to the Tree of Life in this chapter. Review Lesson 4 Day Two Study and Lesson 5 Day Three Study for what you have already learned about the Tree of Life.

25. What will be flowing from the throne of God (vv. 1-2)? See also Joel 3:18 for a description of the flowing water.

26. In Revelation 22:1-5, 14, and 19, what new information is given about the Tree of Life?

27. How does this information help you understand the role of the Tree of Life in Eden (Genesis 2)?

From the Greek: The Greek word translated “healing” or “therapy” (*therapeian*) is similar to a word translated elsewhere as “household” (Matthew 24:45; Luke 12:42). In such cases, “therapy” refers to a staff of servants employed in keeping the affairs of a great house running efficiently. Therapy could mean effective service of the nations (verse 3) that include all the believers since Creation from all over the earth. It could also be translated as “health-giving.” Since there is no sickness in heaven, the tree’s fruit and leaves could also contribute to the physical or emotional well-being of everyone.

28. **Connecting Faith to Life:** Read Genesis 32:30, Exodus 3:6; 33:18-23. Now read Revelation 22:4. At last after all this, we will be able to look at God's face because of what Christ did for us on the Cross (1 John 3:2). How do you feel about this?

PRAISE GOD FOR HIS FUTURE PLANS FOR YOU!

For more information ...

Go to www.answersingenesis.org or www.icr.org. SEARCH a word or phrase from today's passage such as the millennial kingdom, the new heavens and new earth. Select an article to read or watch a video. Another good resource is Randy Alcorn's book *Heaven*.

DAY FOUR STUDY

29. **Connecting Faith to Life:** Reflect on this entire study. What stands out to you the most? How will you apply or have you applied what you learned to your life?

Discernment Practice: How Well Did You Do?

“HOW TO INTERPRET WHAT YOU READ AND HEAR”

Did you notice how much of each news article was based on assumptions and evolutionary theory rather than fact? These are some of the differences we saw in the articles.

Evaluated: Facts are marked in grey highlighting; interpretations and assumptions are underlined.

#1 “Arctic Redwood” from GSA Today, January, 2002

‘Spectacularly preserved’ *Metasequoia* wood has been found at the Fossil Forest site of Axel Heiberg Island (Canadian High Arctic). ‘Some of this stuff looks about like driftwood on the beach, but it’s 45 million years old,’ said one researcher. ‘These fossils are chemically preserved at a level you usually would expect to see in something that’s only 1,000 years old.’

Comment: The fossilized wood looks young but is given an old age because of evolutionary bias.

#2 “Bees' Nests Baffle Boffins” from Daily Telegraph (London), May 26, 1995

Ancient bees' nests in Arizona's Petrified Forest are baffling evolutionists. How, they ask, could the bees have survived for more than 100 million years before the evolution of the flowers they fertilize and depend on for nectar?

Paleobiologist Dr. Stephen Hasiotis, from the US Geological Survey, discovered that fossilized logs in the Petrified Forest are riddled with holes which he believes are the nests of bees. The logs with the nests are dated at 220 million years old on the evolutionary time-scale, while the flowers that provide nectar for bees allegedly date from only half as long ago. Evolutionists are forced to conclude that either flowers appeared earlier, or the first bees did without flowers for a long time.

Comment: Bees did not have to wait 100 million years because these vast ages are only interpretations of the evidence, not facts.

#3 “Evolution in Pollution?” from ANSTO, www.ansto.gov.au, 17 September, 2002

Under a headline ‘Darwin’s Theory Holds True in Northern Territory,’ the media release from the *Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation* explained that, ‘thanks to 40 years of evolution,’ fish in Australia’s Finnis River have learned to live with copper pollution from mine wastes.

‘Each year a majority of rainbow fish were killed in the first flush of heavy metals downstream at the start of each wet season,’ said one researcher. ‘However, the few remaining fish passed their ability to survive onto their offspring.’ But the downside is

that the adaptation to high levels of pollution ‘may have occurred at the expense of some other traits that are important for their survival.’

*Comment: While the headline might shout that evolution is true, closer reading shows that it was not evolution but simply natural adaptation. Fish which already had the genetic makeup to survive copper pollution were present in the population, i.e. no new genes evolved. And in common with many similar examples of adaptation to some new harsh external factor, ‘at the expense of some other traits’ suggests a mutational **loss** of information.*

#4 “Iiwis Reduce Their Bill” from Nature, Volume 375, May 4, 1995

A Hawaiian bird is evolving a shorter bill, evolutionary researchers claim. They say that the Iiwi (pronounced ee-EE-wee), a honey-eater with a long, down-curved bill, has changed its eating habits because its main food source, the lobelioid flower, has become rare.

The Iiwi's long bill is ideal for extracting nectar from the base of the deep corollas of lobelioids. But with the large-scale disappearance or extinction of several species of the flowers, the Iiwi now feeds largely on the flowers of the Ohia tree. Other honeyeaters that feed on Ohia flowers have short bills, because these flowers lack corollas. Researchers who compared the size of living Iiwis' bills with the bills of museum specimens collected before 1902 show that the length of the Iiwi's bill has shortened 2-3 percent. Other features have remained stable.

Comment: A variation in beak size is not evidence of bird evolution. Such minor changes merely offer better survival advantage, but are no evidence that birds evolved from non-birds, as evolutionists claim.

#5 “‘Superbug’ Did Not Evolve” from Nature, 1 August, 2002, p. 469

A new strain of *Staphylococcus aureus* which is resistant to the antibiotic vancomycin has been found in a hospital patient in Michigan, USA. DNA sequence analysis revealed that the new strain did not ‘evolve’ resistant genes, but acquired them by gene transfer from relatively harmless gut bacteria called *enterococci*, carried by the same patient.

*Comment: That is, the information was already present. In every case known, antibiotic resistance is **never** the result of new genetic information evolving into existence.*

#6 “Evolutionary Back-Tracking” from Science, 10 May, 2002, pp. 1112–1115

Fossil tracks from a sandstone quarry in Canada—made by a 30 cm (1 foot)-long arthropod (a segmented animal with external skeleton, like a millipede)—have astounded experts because they are in Cambrian rock, allegedly 544 million years old. The date at which sea animals came ashore was once claimed to be the Silurian, which allegedly started 440 million years ago. Then it was the Ordovician, which started 490 million years ago, and now this evidence pushes it ‘back’ another 40 million years.

The date at which many-celled animals first arose has also been pushed back. Current theory says it was 600 million years ago. But now impressions in sandstone rocks of Western Australia that appear to be the trails of an earthworm-like creature have been 'dated' at over twice that age, from 1.2 to 2.0 billion years old. For evolution-believers, this leaves even less time for evolution to have supposedly wrought its work.

Comment: Evolutionary 'dates' are really just relative positions in the strata that were mostly laid during the global Flood. Dates getting 'pushed back' simply means that a fossil has been discovered at a lower level. Thus, we can expect this phenomenon to keep recurring.

#7 "Neanderthal flute?" from The Sydney Morning Herald, February 21, 1996.

The earliest known flute has been discovered in Slovenia in south-east Europe. Archaeologists in the former Yugoslavian republic claim the 12-centimeters (5-inch) flute was made by Neanderthal humans 45,000 years ago. The instrument was made from the leg bone of a bear, and its original four finger-holes are intact. Its lowest note was identified as a B flat or A.

The flute was found in a cave near the town of Nova Gorica, 65 kilometers (40 miles) west of Slovenia's capital, Ljubljana. The revelation that Neanderthal Slovenes learned to play music is said to have 'far-reaching implications for human evolution.'

Comment: Ignoring the 45,000 year date, which we do not accept, it is no surprise to creationists that early humans were playing music. Genesis 4:21 tells us that Jubal was the father of all who play the lyre and the flute—and he lived not many generations after the first two people had been created.

Sources

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