

## APPENDIX A

### Biblical Questions and Comments

In the course of this book, we've touched on a great many commonly-asked questions regarding the Bible, creation, and evolution. Following is a brief recap of those questions, as well as others that didn't seem to fit anywhere else in the book.

#### A. How old is the earth?

There is no way we could know exactly how old the earth is unless someone who was there - God - told us. He did not. All we can legitimately do is use a number of methods to estimate a maximum and minimum age of the earth.

We've seen that of all the methods we could use to set upper or lower limits, only a few radioactive dating techniques point toward an age of billions of years. These techniques are notoriously unreliable. Many other indicators point toward a much younger age for the earth, perhaps as young as six thousand years or so. Without God telling us, though, we can't be sure of the exact age.

The only reason to believe the earth is very old is that evolutionists say it has to be. Of course, God could create as quickly or slowly as He wanted to. He has given us some solid Biblical indications that He created quickly and recently.

1. The Hebrew word translated "day" in Genesis is *yom*. Throughout the Old Testament, every time this word is used with a specific number (over 350 times), it always refers to a literal 24-hour day. One may disagree with the author of Genesis, but it is his obvious intention to convey the idea of 24 hour days.
2. God Himself reiterated this in the Ten Commandments (Exod. 20:11). He said that in six days He created the heavens, the earth, and everything that is in them. Anything in the heavens or the earth, even the angels, must have been made during these six days.
3. Throughout the Bible we see that neither animals nor humans died before Adam sinned. The fossil record is composed of preserved remains of dead things. The fossils must have formed after Adam.

One may disagree with the Bible, but there is no mistaking its implication that the earth is only a few thousand years old.

#### B. Did God create the universe and the earth with an appearance of age?

"Appearance" is in the eye of the beholder. God created a fully operational universe and earth. We decide how old it looks to us. Our opinion of its "apparent" age probably matters very little to Him.

#### C. The "Gap Theory ."

*Was there a gap between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2, and when did Lucifer rebel against God?*

Evolutionists insist that the earth is billions of years old. The "Gap Theory" says that this expanse of time took place between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2.

In scientific terms, this is not a Theory at all. A theory has been supported by repeated experimentation, which is impossible to do with the prehistoric past. Instead, it should be considered as nothing more than a belief. Throughout this book we have seen scientific reasons to reject this belief, such as indications that the universe and earth are young, evidences of catastrophe throughout the earth, the total lack of transitional forms in the fossil record, etc. Now let's consider some Scriptural arguments against this doctrine.

1. The Gap Theory was not even dreamed of until evolution began to gain popularity in the late 1700s and early 1800s. It was not introduced by scientists, but by theologians attempting to compromise the Word of God with the word of men. Thomas Chalmers of Edinburgh University was one of the earliest proponents, first including this theory in his lectures in 1814. Ever since Scofield put it in his footnotes in 1909 many have accepted it as if it were part of the inspired text.

The Gap Theory is an attempt to reach a compromise between the literal Genesis account and evolutionists' claims that the earth is about 4.5 billion years old. Why do they claim this great age? The evolutionary time scale is based on *uniformitarianism*, the doctrine that the geologic record is the result of slow, gradual processes operating over billions of years. Evolutionists reject the plain statements of Scripture that there was once a worldwide flood. (St. Peter warned us to beware of this in the last days in 2 Pet. 3:3-7). Yet in an attempt to compromise with evolution, which rejects *any* worldwide flood, the Gap Theory requires not one but *two* of them! It is a poor compromise indeed.

The Gap Theory fails as a compromise in another extremely important detail:

- Evolutionary geologists claim that the fossil record took billions of years to produce by gradual, continuous processes.
- The Gap Theory says that only at the very end of the pre-Adamic period did a Luciferian Flood destroy all life. Thus, the fossil record was produced in a very short time, measured in years rather than billions of years. It should show only a snapshot of the conditions at the end, not those of the previous four billion years. If death entered the pre-Adamic world only at the very end of its existence, some of the animals and humans had to have been alive for billions of years before they finally died!

The theory fails as a compromise. It satisfies neither the evolutionary geologists nor those who believe the literal truth of Genesis.

2. The Gap Theory presupposes that Lucifer is powerful enough to destroy the entire world Almighty God created. This ascribes far too much importance to him. He is only a finite created being whose power is nothing compared to that of the infinite Creator. He can only do what God allows him to do. (See the Book of Job, Chapters 1 and 2.)
3. One of the key ingredients in the Gap Theory is the belief that Lucifer rebelled against God many years before Adam was created, ultimately causing the destruction of the whole earth. We have no way to know exactly when Lucifer rebelled, but God does. He tells us in 1 John 3:8 that the devil sinned "from the beginning." This must have happened shortly after the conclusion of the creation week rather than billions of years after the original pre-Adamic creation postulated by the Gap Theory.

Ezekiel 29:12-19 confirms this. It refers to the "King of Tyrus" as the "anointed cherub" - obviously an angelic being. The context indicates that Lucifer is the cherub in question. The passage describes him as "full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty." Then (v. 13) we read of him that "Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God." Continuing in the same verse we see a further description of his beauty. Obviously, the passage indicates that Lucifer was still beautiful when he first went to Eden. We must conclude one of two things:

- a. God had made a pre-Adamic Eden which Lucifer destroyed. Later, in a nostalgic mood, God decided to make another garden and call it Eden again, just like the "good old days." OR
- b. Lucifer did not rebel until after God created Eden.

The first alternative is clearly ridiculous. Obviously, Scripture indicates that Lucifer rebelled not long after God placed Adam and Eve in the garden.

The Bible says in Genesis 1:31 that at the end of the creation week everything was "very good." It would have been difficult to call it very good if Satan had already rebelled against God and was lurking on the earth awaiting an opportunity to do more mischief.

Though all Scripture is inspired, the Ten Commandments are unique. Rather than relying on human authors, God wrote them on tablets of stone with His own finger. He wanted to make sure we got them right. One of the commandments says that "For in six

days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day..." (Exod. 20:11). Is Lucifer part of "all that in them is"? Of course! He must have been created during the six days of the creation week and rebelled some time afterward.

4. Throughout Scripture we see that only after Adam's sin did death enter the world. A few examples:
  - a. Death only entered the world after Adam's sin (Rom. 5:12);
  - b. The ground was cursed for his sake (Gen. 3:17);
  - c. All of creation suffers because of his sin (Rom. 8:19-22).
  - d. There will one day be a restoration (Isa. 11:6-8). A restoration to what? Millions of years of death and suffering? No! To "Eden-like" conditions.

If animal and human fossils were formed before Adam, then both were dying before he sinned. (Plants are irrelevant to this discussion because they do not die in the same sense we do.) In this case, both the Old and New Testaments are wrong and we Christians are in big trouble! Paul tells us (1 Cor. 15:21-22, 45) that the "last Adam," Jesus, came to bring righteousness and resurrection because the first Adam brought sin and death. But if fossils represent a pre-Adamic creation, then Adam did NOT bring death into the world; it was here millions of years before he arrived. What point, then, to the life and death of the Last Adam, Jesus? If anything died before Adam, the Gospel is a cruel hoax. Jesus becomes either a lunatic or the worst deceiver the world has ever known. If the *first* Adam didn't bring sin and death, what do you need a *Last* Adam for?

Some claim that fossils represent a different order of being from presently living plants, animals, and people. Perhaps, for instance, the humans did not have a soul. This is preposterous. Only beings with a soul are capable of sinning. Sin and its result, death, could not have entered the world through soulless beings. In addition, fossil clams, sea shells, mammal bones, "coprolites" (fossilized animal droppings), teeth, fish, insects and many other types are exactly like their modern-day counterparts.

Museums around the world have not only these kinds of fossils, but also many undisputed specimens of fossilized *Homo sapiens*. Some of them were artists, creating 3-dimensional cave paintings that still cause us to marvel. A cave at Minateda, Spain contains one of these paintings showing a woman and child with their hair tied up and the woman wearing a dress. (Doesn't sound very "soulless.") Some Neanderthals and Cro-Magnons have been found buried with artifacts indicating religious belief. Scofield says they lived before Adam; God disagrees. He says that all humans were descended from Eve. They were Adam's descendants, not his predecessors.

All in all, there is no compelling reason to believe there was a gap between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2. Genesis makes sense as it stands.

### **G. How long were Adam and Eve in the garden before they sinned?**

We have no way to know for sure. It was some time after Lucifer rebelled and some time before they had Cain and Abel. (If they had had children before they fell, the children would not have inherited a sin nature.) Though we can't tell exactly when it occurred, we can estimate an upper limit on how much time had elapsed since they were created.

The Bible tells us that Cain and Abel were old enough to raise sheep and crops before one killed the other. Perhaps Cain might have been as young as twenty. After this, Adam and Eve had Seth when they were 130 years old. Thus, they could have been as much as a hundred and ten years old before Cain's birth. They could have been in the garden for as much as a hundred years before they sinned, though it seems likely that the time was much shorter.

### **H. What was the mark of Cain?**

Regardless what anyone thinks about ethnic groups that look different than his own, we

have no way to know what the mark of Cain was. If it was external it would not have been passed on to his children. If it was an alteration in his DNA it could have been passed on, but the genes would have been destroyed by the Flood unless one of Noah's daughters-in-law had Cain's genes. We have no way of knowing if this happened or if genes had anything to do with the mark.

God did not think it was important that we know what the mark was. Besides, He put the mark on Cain not to shame him, but to protect him (Gen. 4:15).

### **I. How could people live so long?**

1. Effects of the Vapor Canopy
  - a. Ultraviolet and cosmic radiation almost totally filtered out.
  - b. Uniform climate worldwide - no extremes of hot or cold. Less sickness. (First mention of "cold" and "winter" in the Bible is Genesis 8:22 - after the Flood.) No violent storms caused by extreme temperature differences between air masses.
  - c. Atmospheric pressure much higher - perhaps double. Healing much faster. Hyperbaric medicine. (Also - large winged reptiles could have flown much more easily in a denser atmosphere.)
2. Very few mutations.

Even though Adam's descendants were spiritually dead, they had inherited strong, healthy bodies. There would not have been enough time for many harmful mutations to accumulate in the gene pool.

### **J. Are there gaps in the genealogies of Genesis?**

1. It is very unlikely that there were gaps before the Flood. The New Testament book of Jude says that Enoch was the seventh generation from Adam, just as Genesis does. He walked so closely with God that he never died. This great prophet named his son "Methusaleh." According to Dr. John Whitcomb of Grace Theological Seminary in Indiana, the name means "When he dies it shall be sent." What was the "it" which was to be sent? If the Pre-Flood genealogies are complete, then Methusaleh died one or two years prior to the Flood. If there were gaps, his name is meaningless.
2. After the Flood, there may have been a few gaps. For example, the Greek Septuagint and the New Testament Book of Luke include Canaan as a son of Noah's grandson Arphaxad, while the Hebrew Masoretic Text does not mention him. If there are gaps, though, they do not encompass great periods of time - perhaps a few hundred years, but certainly not thousands.

### **K. Were pre-Flood humans primitive and brutish?**

1. Unexplained advanced artifacts from the depths of the earth.
2. Cro-Magnons and cave painting.
3. Neanderthals buried their dead in religious rituals.
4. Highly advanced ancient civilizations: Egyptians, Mayas, Aztecs, Chinese, etc.

### **L. Where did the races come from?**

Though there is only one race, the human race, it is common to refer to different ethnic groups as "races." The most obvious difference between the races is the color of their skin. However, all of us have the same color, a pigment called *melanin*. How dark or light we are is determined by the amount of melanin we have.

Each person's concentration of melanin is determined by his or her DNA. At present it is believed that the amount of melanin is controlled by three sites on the DNA strand, each of which has a place for two genes. Each site has the potential to have two dominant genes, two recessive genes, or one of each. This means that there are many possible combinations of genes, as follows. (Capitals represent dominant genes, lower case letters represent recessive.)

SITE 1	SITE 2	SITE 3	
D1D1	D2D2	D3D3	(all dominant - very dark skin)
D1d1	d2d2	d3d3	(all recessive - very light skin)
D1D1	d2D2	d3D3	(a few of the possible combinations
D1d1	d2d2	D3D3	of dominant and recessive - medium
D1d1	D2D2	D3d3	skin shades)

There are many other possible combinations. In general, the greater the number of dominant genes the darker the skin; the smaller the number, the lighter. Several other genes can influence skin color. For instance, oil can give skin a yellowish tint. Other characteristics such as hair texture and shape of facial features are also determined by genes.

In order to produce all the different skin colors in their descendants, Adam and Eve had to each have all the skin color genes - e.g. D1d1 D2d2 D3d3. As a result, they were probably a medium shade of brown. (This really upsets white supremacist groups!) The genes survived through the Flood in the common ancestors of every human alive today, Noah's three sons and their wives. As long as their descendants were freely interbreeding, there would not have been large clearly defined groups (races) with extremes of skin shade. Most people would have been somewhere in the middle.

Things changed after God separated humans into language groups at the Tower of Babel. Because of the difficulty in communicating, people no longer freely interbred. How did God decide who would speak which language? Perhaps He made His choice according to DNA! Not only does He know how many hairs we have on our heads, He even knows what genes we have. If He made people with similar genes speak the same language, within one or two generations those with exclusively dominant genes would have developed into clearly defined dark skinned groups, while those with only recessive ones would have developed into light skinned "races."

Natural selection would have reinforced the groupings. People with dark skin need more sunlight to manufacture Vitamin D than do those with light skin. The latter group needs less sunlight, and cannot tolerate nearly as much without getting skin cancer. Thus, we would expect that dark skinned groups would fare better in areas with intense sunlight, while those with lighter skin would thrive in latitudes farther away from the Equator. Until the age of rapid transit, this is pretty much the way people were distributed around the globe. The "races," then, are nothing more than very large extended families descended from Noah's sons and their wives. The skin color groupings are a visual reminder of the lesson of Babel: God will not allow sinful mankind to unite in rebellion against Him.

#### **M. How about plate tectonics / continental drift?**

Not only is the modern theory of plate tectonics compatible with the Bible, it is a logical consequence of the statement in Genesis 1 that the dry land was all in one place.

##### **1. When did the continents separate?**

We have been so thoroughly bombarded with the false evolutionary doctrine of uniformitarianism, which says that geologic processes always happen at the same rate, that the Bible's simple account may come as a shock. Most of the separation would have occurred during the Flood. Genesis 10:25, dealing with a period only a few centuries afterward, tells us that Eber named his firstborn son Peleg, because in his days the earth was divided. According to *Strong's Concordance*, "Peleg" means "earthquake" in Hebrew. It could be that at his birth not too long after the Flood, a major earthquake may have further divided the earth. Perhaps after the Flood the continents were connected by land bridges, but the bridges sank at Peleg's time.

##### **2. Rate of continental drift. See Ham, Snelling, & Wieland, *The Answers Book*, pp. 41-64.**

It is interesting to note that the computer model of plate tectonics used around the world



was written by Dr. John Baumgardner, a young-earth creationist. The fact that the modern arrangement of plates can be extrapolated backward to a supercontinent tells us nothing about how long the separation took. Baumgardner's model works better for rapid motion than it does for a very slow process.

#### **N. What does it all mean to me?**

Everything we've considered throughout these lessons is nothing but a mental exercise unless it leads to a deeper relationship with the Creator. The Bible tells us that knowledge by itself puffs us up. Many profess to be wise, but are no more than educated fools.

The point of this course is: all of us belong to a sinful race. We each start out as lost sinners (Rom. 3:23, 5:12-19). Because of our sin, we deserve eternal separation from God in hell (Rom. 6:23). No matter how many good things we try to do, there is no way we can save ourselves from the consequences of our sinfulness (Isa. 64:6).

This leaves us in a totally hopeless state. But wait - God loves us so much that He sacrificed His only begotten Son, Jesus, as complete payment for the penalty for our sins (Isa. 53). Jesus died to give us His righteousness in exchange for our sinfulness (2 Cor. 5:21). What does He expect of us in return? We must turn away from our sins (Acts 2:38, 3:19, 26:20 and many others) and receive Him by faith as our Lord and Savior (John 1:11-13). We must believe in our hearts that God raised Him from the dead, and confess Him as Lord (Rom. 10:9). If salvation were available by any other means than through His death, then Jesus Christ died in vain (Gal. 2:21).

Receiving Jesus as Lord is not a casual act. It requires a total surrender to His will (Luke 6:46). As someone has well said, salvation is free but it costs everything.

Are you willing to surrender yourself to Jesus Christ, to surrender your will to His? Are you willing to give up all your feeble attempts to earn your way into God's favor and admit that you are a lost sinner in need of a Savior? If so, all you need to do is ask. You can use your own words, or if you are not used to praying you can say something like this:

"Dear God, I realize that I am a sinner. There is nothing I can do to save myself. I come to you humbly, asking for Your mercy. The Bible says that Jesus died to pay for my sins. I accept that payment. Jesus, right now I ask You to save me from my sins and be Lord of my life. I surrender my will to You. Come into my heart and take control. From this moment on I belong to You.

"Thank you for sending Your Son to save me. You said that if I would turn away from my sins and receive Him as my Lord, You would save me and make me Your child. I've done what You said to, now I thank You for doing what You said you would. From now on I know I am your child. Thank You, Father, for saving me. In Jesus' name, Amen."

If you prayed that prayer and really meant it, you've just experienced the greatest miracle of all. God has just made you into a brand new creature (2 Cor. 5:17). As far as He is concerned, all your old sinfulness has passed away. No longer do you have to fear His wrath; now you can approach him as any child would approach a loving father.

There are several things you should do now.

- You should tell somebody that you have surrendered yourself to Jesus Christ.
- You should begin to develop a relationship with God by talking to Him as you would a beloved father or friend. That's what prayer is all about.
- You should get to know Him better by studying His Word, the Bible.
- You should ask Him to lead you to a good Bible-believing church where you can unite yourself with other believers and help each other grow in your faith.

Now sit back and watch what He does in your life