

Evolution, Science and the Bible - Part II

Genesis 6:1-8

Genesis 6:1-8 Short recap of last week. Old earth destroyed in judgment of Lucifer; about six thousand years ago the present creation. Asah verses Bara *Do we really believe there was a man named Noah who built an ark to save the animals? Yes! Noah is identified in many of the lineages discussed in the Bible providing an actual historical record of his life and the flood.

I. Two ways of looking at the geological record.

A. Catastrophism. Georges Cuvier, the father of geology, held that there was a pattern of great catastrophes that led to extinctions followed by new creations. He believed that the earth was very old because some of the animals that were extinct were different than any on earth today, but because of the sudden appearance and complexity of animals he was strongly against any kind of evolution. He had no thought of trying to reconcile what he found to the Biblical record.

1. Cuvier: “It has long been considered possible to explain the more ancient revolutions on its surface by means of those still existing causes; in the same manner as it is found easy to explain past events in political history by an acquaintance with the passions and intrigues of the present day. But we shall presently see that unfortunately this is not the case in physical history; the thread of operation is here broken, the march of nature is changed, and none of the agents that she now employs were sufficient for the production of her ancient works.” (The Structure of Evolutionary Theory; Harvard Press, Stephen Jay Gould, 2002, 488) *He only observed and refused to impose an interpretation.

B. Uniformitarianism. While on the Beagle, Darwin read a book called “The Principles of Geology,” by Charles Lyell that introduced the geologic column and the idea of uniformitarianism in geology. We can measure the past by assuming that things have always been as they are now – therefore the farther you go down the older fossils are. We can predict the future as well – uniformitarianism gives you power to explain. Lyell’s column was arranged with plants on the bottom, then fish and birds, followed by land animals, and then most recently human beings. Darwin latched onto Lyell’s ideas and made them central to his theory of gradualism through micro-mutations. Everything has been slowly evolving, uninterrupted for billions of years producing what we now see through natural or random selection. *Catastrophes would ruin evolutions gains.

1. * Gould about Lyell: “To circumvent the literal appearance of geologic catastrophes, Lyell imposed his imagination upon the evidence. ‘The geologic record,’ he (meaning Lyell) argued, ‘is extremely imperfect

and we must interpolate into it what we can reasonably infer but cannot see.” (Ever Since Darwin , 150) *Interpolate – We can’t see it but it makes sense. There is no cut and dried geologic column. It’s all based on assumptions.

C. Gould – “I know of no greater irony in the history of science than the inverted posthumous reputations awarded to Lyell and (Cuvier) for their supposed positions on objectivism in science.” (486)

D. Gould - “Yet Darwin’s defense was so successful that it led to over a century of no research on mass extinctions. Merely to suggest catastrophe was apostasy.” (1303) *Alvarez changed that.

II. Evidence for a recent world-wide flood .

A. Cuvier believed that the most recent catastrophe happened about 5,000 years ago and was a worldwide flood. His essay: “The Concurrence of historical and traditionary testimonies, respecting a comparatively recent renewal of the human race, and their agreement with the proofs that are furnished by the operations of nature.” (489)

1. Testimonies: 360 Cultures have a flood legend with the following similarities:

- a. 95% are worldwide floods
- c. 88% favor one family
- c. 66% the family was forewarned
- d. 66% it was the result of man’s sin
- e. 70% survival was by a boat
- f. 67% animals were saved
- g. 57% survivors landed on a mountain
- h. 35% birds were sent out

B. The Pleistocene extinction – Over 200 entire species disappeared almost overnight: wooley mammoths, mastodons, toxodons, saber-toothed tigers, woolley rhinos, giant ground sloths, and many other large animals.

1. Alaska – Hibben 1946 “The evidence of the violence of nature combined with the stench of rotting carcasses was staggering. The ice fields containing these remains stretched for hundreds of miles in every direction. Trees and animals, layers of peat and mosses, twisted and mangled together like some giant mixer had jumbled them some 10,000 years ago, and then froze them into a solid mass. (Sanderson 1960) The evidence immediately suggests an enormous tidal wave which raged over the land, tumbling animals and vegetation within its mass, which was then quick-frozen.” www.atlantisquest.com/Paleontology.html)
2. Massive piles of mastodon bones were discovered near Bogota , Columbia , whole mastodons, toxodons, giant sloths and other animals have been found in Venezuela quick-frozen among the mountain glaciers. (Berlitz, 1969)
3. Siberia : “The mammoths died suddenly, in intense cold, and in great numbers. Death came so quickly that the swallowed vegetation is yet undigested... Grasses, bluebells, buttercups, tender sedges, and wild beans have been found, yet identifiable and undeteriorated, in their mouths and stomachs.” (Sanderson, 1960) It has been confirmed that out of thirty-four extinct animal species represented by frozen remains in Siberia, at least twenty-eight were species adapted only to temperate conditions (Okladnikov, 1970) In addition, the types of food found frozen in the mouths and stomachs of these animals point to a much more temperate environment.
4. Ice Age fossils often display a strange mix of animals that would not be expected to co-exist. Remains of animals adapted to the cold are found much farther south than expected. Warmth-loving animals are found as fossils much farther north than they would venture today. Yet, they apparently thrived in the Ice Age environment. This peculiar mixture of animals has been given a special name — disharmonious associations. Disharmonious associations have garnered much controversy. Although difficult to explain, most scientists have now accepted that the disharmonious associations during the Ice Age are real. The reason for the dilemma is that an Ice Age climate is assumed to have been much colder than present-day climates. However, the evidence from the Ice Age fossils instead implies an equable climate with mild winters and cool summers. It is difficult enough to accept that animals, as well as plants and insects, were disharmonious during the Ice Age. But scientists also are faced with explaining why this mix of animals came to an abrupt end with mass extinctions at the close of the Ice Age — at a time the climate was supposed to be warming and the living area expanding. In North America alone, 135 species in 33 genera of large mammals disappeared. Twenty-two genera of birds went extinct from North America at the end of the Ice Age. Other continents were hit hard with extinctions during and soon

after the Ice Age, including South America and Australia . In all, 167 genera of large mammals greater than 100 pounds (45 kg) disappeared from entire continents. Why?"

www.answersingenesis.org/home/area/fit/chapter3.asp

Scientists do not know why the extinctions occurred, and the question has tortured their minds for more than 200 years! Mass extinctions at the end of the Ice Age, when the climate and environment was improving, remains an enigma to this day. Ward writes: "This great extinction — truly a mass extinction — represents one of paleontology's most fundamental mysteries." (Frozen in Time; Chapter 3)

5. Leonard in 1979: "The event was worldwide. The mammoths of Siberia became extinct about the same time as the giant rhinoceros of Europe; the mastodons of Alaska and the bison of Siberia ended simultaneously. The same is true of the Asian elephants and the American camels. The cause of these extinctions must be common to both hemispheres. If the coming of glacial conditions was gradual, it would not have caused the extinctions, because the various animals could have simply migrated to where conditions were better. What is seen here is total surprise, and uncontrolled violence."

C. Fossils of ocean fish, mollusk shells, and sea shells have been discovered on various mountains including the Sierras, the Swiss Alps, the Himalayas , and many more.

(http://www.earthage.org/EarthOldorYoung/scientific_evidence_for_a_worldwide%20flood.htm)

*Ancient sea vessel at 13,000 feet on Mt. Elburz in Iran .

D. In the rock on the summit of Mont de Sautenay in France the remains of wolf together with those of lion, bear rhinoceros, horse, ox and deer with no evidence of them devouring each other caused professor Albert Gaudry (Jardin des Plantes) to ask, "Why should so many animals have ascended a hill isolated on all sides?" His conclusion: They had fled there to escape rising waters.

E. "About 7500 years ago, a flood poured ten cubic miles of water a day –130 times more than flows over Niagara Falls – from the Mediterranean Sea into the Black Sea . (1993, Ryan and Pitman – Columbia University) Dug up cores of sediment in the Black Sea that show that it used to be dry land, the old shore, and that it had been 2/3 of its present size. Over the entire sea bottom was a thin, uniform layer of sediment that could only have been deposited during a flood.

F. Population growth. *Darwin TeBeest *If you started with 8 people 4,300 years ago the population growth rate would only need to be .479% to get at the 6.6 billion we have to day. *Last year's rate was 1.1%; 2.2 in 1963; .52% from

year 1 until year 2007. Uniformitarianism – using the .52% figure and go back 100,000 years would put the number of people on earth today at 6.75 with 200 zeroes behind it.

III. What about Carbon 14 Dating?

A. Carbon 14 can only be verified up to 4-5,000 years with historical events and tree rings. “The myth is that radiocarbon dating can accurately establish exact dates of the death of organic remains almost as far back as 50,000 years. The reality is that one would have to know the c14/c12 ratio in the environment at the time of the death of the sample. The fact is that we can only infer that ratio for the past 5,000 years or so using historical records. Since the ratio is known to have changed in historic times, it is irrational and unscientific to think that it was constant before historic times.” www.ridgecrest.ca.htm Creation science geologist *Geologists say that Carbon 14 won't work on any organism that dies today because of the radiation released from the atomic bombs and nuclear energy. *A change in the environment, changes the dates given.

B. In a greenhouse type canopy on the earth Carbon 14 “would remain in higher concentrations at the upper levels, and would similarly exist in even lower proportions at ground level than in the present age... This could throw c14 datings for events earlier than 2000 BC into a new light.” <http://www.creationism.org/patten/PattenBiblFlood/PattenBiblFlood09.htm>

C. What is the evidence that the greenhouse effect used to be greater?

A. Holocene climatic optimum. From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia: The Holocene Climate Optimum was a warm period during roughly the interval 9,000 to 5,000 years B.P.. This event has also been known by many other names, including: Hypsithermal, Altithermal, Climatic Optimum, Holocene Optimum, Holocene Thermal Maximum, and Holocene Megathermal. This warm period was followed by a gradual decline until about 2,000 years ago.

B. Where Alaska and Siberia became very cold; the desert regions of today became very hot at the same period of time. “Dramatic environmental changes came to the Mojave Desert with the end of the Pleistocene Era, characterized by harsh climatic conditions with higher temperatures and lower precipitation. Lakes and rivers dried up, and resources available were much reduced.” *The greenhouse would have kept some places warmer and others cooler. When it was removed it led to extreme heat and cold depending on where you were. www.lycos.com/info/pleistocene--pleistocene-era.html

C. A second example is the Sahara Desert . Geologists were astonished to find fossils of elephants, giraffes, buffaloes, antelopes, rhinoceroses, and other animals in the desert. Today, this kind of animal diversity is found in the African savannas. Fossils of various amphibians, hippopotami, crocodiles, fish, clams, and other aquatic organisms confirm the desert was once a wet environment.¹⁷ Dwarf crocodiles survived into the 20th century and lived in isolated lakes or pools along several wadis of the high western Sahara.¹⁸

D. “Antarctica is the southernmost continent and encompasses the South Pole. The warmest period during the Holocene appears to have been roughly 8,000 to 10,500 years ago, immediately following the end of last ice age.”

www.absoluteastronomy.com/topics/Holocene_climatic_optimum

IV. Neanderthals and the lineage of man.

A. Embarrassments:

1. Nebraska Man - found in 1922 by Henry Osborn, and quoted as a recent discovery in the 1925 Scopes “Monkey Trial,” was revealed in 1927 to be the tooth from an extinct pig.

2. Piltdown Man - found in 1912 by a physician named Charles Dawson was called the “Dawn Man” who was 500,000 years old. Forty one years later scientists discovered that the teeth had been filed to fit and the bones had been stained to make them appear old. *Almost as troubling as the fraud was that it was covered over until the discovery of Peking man which replaced Piltdown Man in the order.

3. Java Man - Found in 1891 by a Dutch physician named Eugene Dubois who revealed after 30 years that their were human skulls near Java Man on the same level. It was decided that Java man was a large gibbon and not a missing link.

4. Peking Man - Found a dozen pieces in the 1920’s near Peking , but during World War II all but two teeth were lost.

*Gareth Nelson of the American Museum of Natural History has expressed in plain language the practice. “‘We’ve got to have some ancestors. We’ll pick those’ Why? ‘Because we know they have to be there, and these are the best candidates.’ That’s by and large how it has worked. I am not exaggerating.”

B. Neanderthals are different. Many fossils have been found and studies have been done giving the following 16 characteristics:

1. Had brains larger than humans by 13%.
 2. Broad muscled and developed physiques-average height 5'5".
 3. Distinctive characteristics from humans.
 4. Evidence that humans lived before the Neanderthals arrived.
 5. Humans & Neanderthals coexisted for a period sharing living space.
 6. Neanderthals were skilled in tool and weapon making.
 7. They were a battle scarred warrior race.
 8. Neanderthals were skilled in language, and literacy.
 9. They were cultured in music and musical instrument making.
 10. Neanderthals had a general culture of their own similar to humans.
 11. They practised burial of the dead and religious rituals.
 12. Possibly possessed skills in apothecary and, aromatherapy.
 13. Neanderthals lived in warm temperate climate's.
 14. They had possible hybrid characteristics.
 15. Corrected dating places them coexisting with humans 4,400 years ago.
 16. Neanderthals were exterminated suddenly while humans continued.
- www.bric.uk.com/rp.no38.html

C. Nephilim. Genesis 6:4 "The nephilim were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men, and they bore children to them. Those were the mighty men who were of old, men of renown." *Jude and 2Peter indicate that fallen angels committed acts of immorality. Angels cannot reproduce with each other but it appears they did with women. The offspring were wiped out in the flood; the angels have been locked up until the day of judgment for doing this. Nephilim – fallen, or ones who make other's fall; tyrant. *Were they the Neanderthals?

V. Reconciling Geology and the Bible *Meeting with a professor on campus.

A. My assumption: Carbon 14 dating can only be independently verified up to 5,000 years. If the atmosphere before that time has a different C14/C12 ratio, all efforts of dating man and animals would be off.

B. Basic agreed upon facts:

1. The Pleistocene age or ice age ended recently – In the last 10,000 years.
2. The earth then warmed up.
3. There was a time (up to three thousand years) of a more equable climate on earth (warmer in the poles and with increased moisture in the deserts) called the "Holocene Climate Optimum."
4. There were mass extinctions at the end of the Pleistocene age.

5. We are now living in the Holocene age.

C. Current theory - The extinctions occurred when things warmed up partly due to the climate change and partly due to the increased human population that was hunting large animals.

D. Problems with the current theory.

1. It doesn't explain why vegetation did not decompose in the mouths of mammoths.

2. It doesn't explain why warm weather creatures were all around the mammoths in Siberia and Alaska .

3. It doesn't explain how mammoths survived with out the glands of today's arctic animals.

4. It doesn't explain how they survived along side a number of other large animals with so little food supply when elephants today need three hundred pounds of food every day.

E. A more plausible theory.

1. The Pleistocene age ended when God recreated the world less than 10,000 years ago. He created a whole new set of animals and placed them in a moist, greenhouse like climate we call the Holocene Climate Optimum.

2. After a few thousand years God judged the earth with a worldwide flood which removed some of the moisture in the air leading to a world of extreme temperatures – cold on the poles and hot in the deserts. We moved from the Optimum to the Holocene age.

3. Mammoths and other animals were killed in the flood waters, buried in mud and then quickly froze in the change of climate.

4. Man was part of the new creation; the Neanderthals were a race that for a time lived alongside man (The Nephilim) but was wiped out by the flood.

5. His response: "What you have is a theory and it's as good as any other I've heard."