

Evolution & Intelligent Design

Session 8

II. Creationism – Then and Now

2. Scientific Creationism (cont.)

Field Evidence Against a Single-Event Cause (the Flood)

Footprints and Egg Nests in Sedimentary Layers

An area that popular creationists seem to ignore or seldom post explanations regards those observable characteristics of the sediment layers that preclude being produced in a single-event scenario like the Flood.

One such characteristic is the footprints of animals, including dinosaurs, in pristinely preserved slabs of mud that could not have survived intact in a Flood scenario.



Nests of dinosaur eggs (which are found in the layers for the dinosaurs) would likewise not have been picked up intact, transported undisturbed and re-deposited intact by the Flood.

The question of course is how tracks laid by animals during the flood event would not have been scoured away by the waters, but preserved in pristine condition?

How did animals have time to lay nests and why weren't the nest subsequently swept away and dispersed?



Some evidence includes such delicate impressions as rain drops.

Nor can these be posed as having been made after the Flood subsided and the land was drying off. The layers in which these are found are well down the sequence not near the top.

Pollen and Other Dry Deposition Materials

The discovery of ancient pollen in the surfaces of Permian rock layers suggests that these layers were exposed to the air in order for the pollen to have deposited before being overlain with the next layer of sediment. Pollen is a substance that is so buoyant in water that it is questioned whether it would ever have settled at the bottom, no matter how much time passed. It would disintegrate into molecules before particles would ever sink.

Other minerals like dolomite, salt, gypsum, anhydrite and potash form under conditions of evaporation on the surfaces on which they have been deposited. Their formation is completely inconsistent with deposition in water.

Grouping by Body Types

Dinosaurs said to be lumbering and slower than mammals would have sorted out before the more agile mammals. But many dinosaurs were small and agile. Many could easily out run a bear. But none of the smaller agile dinosaurs are found in later layers or with the mammals, which would be the expectation in a Flood model. Instead, their consistent isolation with the larger dinosaurs supports the expectation that they lived and died a considerable time before the appearance of mammals.

Consistent Isolation of Animal Types Despite Living Together

Modern mammals (horses, cattle, camels, elephants, rhinos, bears, hippos, giraffes, apes, whales) all appear consistently as the latest and highest fossils in the record. Yet the creationist is obligated to have them appear in the same week of creation as all other animals.

The Flood explanation offers that even though all animals types lived at the same time before the Flood, they still would sort out of the Flood waters by body type and agility. So horses would appear later because of their agility and speed of escape.

But many mammals would have been as slow as numerous dinosaurs. It is inconceivable that every mammal would always be separated all over the world in the same manner.

And the question is why did the larger mammals not sort out with the more lumbering dinosaurs, if they were living at the same time?

Creationist Groups

ICR and Creation-Evolution Debates (Gish, Morris)



In the seventies and eighties, the *Institute for Creation Research (ICR)* engaged cooperative professors from colleges and universities in debates on evolution and creation, with the intent to debunk evolution and promote creation.

The terms Creation Model and Evolution Model were coined to set up hypotheses that could be evaluated in front of the audience against the data from the field – primarily that of the fossil record.

The key presenters on tour with these debate engagements were the principal scientists Duane Gish (microbiologist) and Henry Morris (geologist).

Creation-Evolution Debates and Flood Geology

Although discussed at length above, it was the creation-evolution debates that introduced this hypothesis to the general public. Interestingly, geologists and evolutionists did not take on a refutation of this hypothesis at the time. Had that been done, as was later done in the 1990s it's not clear where the debates would have gone or how effective they would have been.

Adversarial Atmosphere

The difficulty in these engagements is that most evolutionary scientists and professors were well beyond the fossil record and emphasizing new work in genetics per the New Darwinism. So the arguments of Gish and Morris were simply dragging them back into a line of evidence they had already abandoned.

The venue was almost always in large churches where the audience was biased against the secular debater. And debates were also opportunities for the IRC team to utilize quick laugh slogans like “Fish to Gish” or “Horse to Morris.” These and similar features of the general atmosphere eventually gave the debates a less than objective character that resulted in fewer and fewer evolutionists willing to participate.

Answers in Genesis

The Australian group led by Ken Ham has been prominent in recent times by defending the Genesis account of creation in contrast to past programs merely debunking evolution. AIG literature and presentations do discuss some aspects of Darwinism and its inadequacies, but primarily strive to strengthen and renew confidence in the Genesis record of Scripture.

The result is a boiling down of the issue to simply making a choice: believe the Bible or believe science – with a notably strong caution that if you care about what God thinks, you'll choose the Bible.

In addition to their website and public speaking, AIG offers literature and articles by a team of professionals on their staff that answer many of the technical questions that arise from their challenge to accept the Genesis record.

Several of their thesis statements reveal their ultra-fundamentalist position:

- no death before the Fall
- dating creation at 4004 BC.

Critique

AIG is to be commended for the powerful witness they present toward reviving confidence in the Bible as a faithful account of the origin of life. Many of its literary offerings help to scientifically explain certain logical problems with biblical claims such as the canopy of water above the earth that aided the effects of the Noahic Flood, and how Noah could accomplish the housing and feeding of the animals for a year.

However, AIG leaves many questions about its claims unanswered, and instead appeals to the statements of Scripture, which were never intended to answer problems of scientific detail. This is viewed as simply avoiding questions.

No Death Before the Fall

This assertion is not specifically stated in Scripture, but is said to be strongly concluded from no mention of death until after the Fall. The declaration that man will die if he eats of the tree is sometimes alluded as an inference that death began with this act. But it can be argued that this death was spiritual since Adam did not die physically. If that death was not physical then it can't be used in a physical death context for among animals before the Fall – no physical death before sin.

More to the point is the provision of plants for food prior to the Fall. Genesis 1:29 states that God gave vegetation to all animals for food. But was this for all animals everywhere or just land animals only?

Did the shark eat vegetation?

Clearly their teeth were designed at creation for another purpose.

But if so, how would a shark manage vegetation with teeth like we see today? Nor can we pose they had different teeth originally and acquired the carnivorous teeth later.



Fossil evidence collected about the dinosaurs clearly shows marks of predation and death by other animals.

AIG offers that these fossils all come from the period after the Fall, not from before, obligating the believer to accept that dinosaurs and man lived together and were taken into the ark to then live carnivorously thereafter.

Also many carnivores can't digest plant material having no rumination or multiple stomachs required. And there is the problem of sharp teeth being very different from grinding teeth (far right).



Which brings us to their next position –

4004 BC for the Creation

This is rigidly based in the calculations one can perform in the genealogies of the patriarchs in the Bible. Despite the classic explanation that these contain gaps, and that a man's father need not be his immediate father, there simply isn't room for such gaps in the specific wording of the genealogies.

The Scripture provides the age of the offspring when he gives birth to his son. This makes a hard connection in years between the father and son, and allows no room for skipped generations, accommodated in a grandfather or great-grandfather being a certain age at the birth. (see handout for Session 6)

Counting back from a date for Abraham of 1996 BC, we arrive at 4004 BC for the week in which Adam is created. On the basis of a literal six-day creation, the universe, the earth and all life are created within the five days before Adam.

Egypt and a 4004 BC Creation Date

This date for creation means the Flood occurred approximately 2350 BC (on the same calculations of life spans down to Noah). This would obligate the assertion that the pyramids - which were completed shortly before this date – would have suffered the effects of the Genesis Flood.

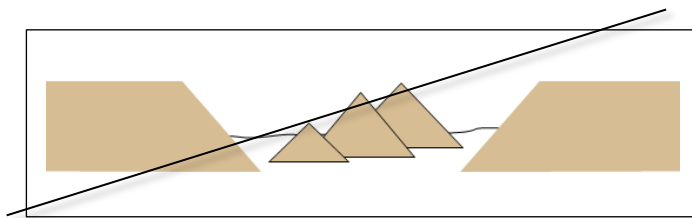
Yet there is no indication that they were underwater for a year or more, being buried also by the sedimentation of the Flood as it subsided. While the pyramids

are in bad shape on their exteriors, no one has offered that this was due to water damage.

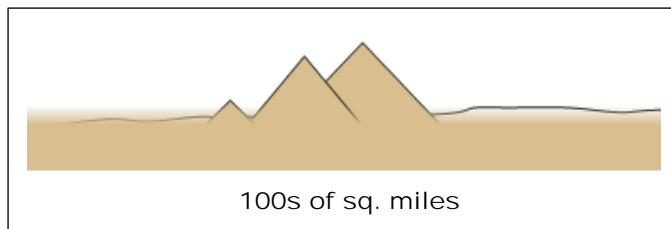
To the contrary, the interiors of many pyramids still had the ancient dry sand on the stones surfaces of passageways, which would have been washed away by flood waters bursting into the pyramids. (The pyramids weren't hermetically sealed against water.)



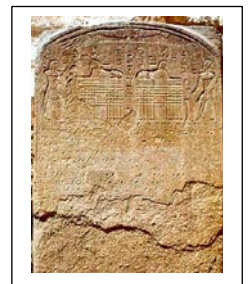
Also, the project to clear the sands and sediment from the pyramids would have been equal if not larger than the pyramid projects. A clearing project limited to just the vicinity of the pyramids would be smaller, but we don't see anything evidence of this sort today at their sites.



Instead, the assumption required is that the entire area we see today (hundreds of square miles) was cleared by the Egyptians at some unknown time after the Flood, which is why the area is clear today.



As for mentioning it in the annals of Egypt, some say it would have been too small to mention. Ironically we have the considerably smaller project of the same type - just clearly encroaching sand from the Sphinx by Thutmose IV - duly recorded in the famous Dream Stele.



Every expectation exists that such a clearing project would have been mentioned, but nothing is known in any inscription or account.

Because of these problems, AIG doesn't actually require the pyramids be pre-Flood. They propose instead that they were simply part of the post-Flood world that grew up after leaving the Ark.

More Problems for Egypt After the Flood

The AIG explanation that the pyramids were built after the Flood also places the entire history of ancient Egypt after the Flood.

The chief historical problem is the need to realign every historical event since the Flood on the basis of the new date for the Flood. All the dynasties of Egypt would be near a thousand years off.

Furthermore, this history would come crashing into a firmly established biblical date at the other end – the Exodus at 1446 BC – which is established from I Kings 6:1, not by secular historians.

This would not allow enough time in between for Egypt's unfolding history down to Moses to have occurred. 218 kings would have to fit in about 900 years down to Moses. Those reigns occupy 1700 years.

One suggestion is to have Egypt begin its history before the Flood and continue a history that would include the pyramids after the Flood. Here, the problem is how to have Egypt Part I destroyed by the Flood, while Egypt Part II must start up where it left off. There are no records for Egypt that show a Part I, annihilation, then Egypt starting over again for Part II.

In fact all other histories of the ancient world would need to be redated – Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome, because all these nations and empires relate to Egyptian historical events.

Julius Caesar would now live at the time assigned to Charlemagne. Some have offered, "why not let that happen if the Bible is upheld by this explanation?"

The issue involves more than just changing dates, but coordinating the new chronology with the actual written records of all those nations. AIG seems to propose that it's as simple as re-assigning dates.

Flood Geology and Radiometric Dating

AIG promotes the explanation that the Genesis Flood accounts for all sedimentary layers in the geologic column as discussed above.

As for age-dating methods, AIG repeats many of the common claims of faulty processes, invalid assumptions and ideological bias among geologists without dealing with the problems in proving these claims.

Ironically, they also don't comment on the discrediting of Steve Austin's work in Grand Canyon, rejected for improprieties. Instead AIG continues to site Austin's tests as supportive of their claims.

Holding to these tenets can be seen as commensurate with a conservative view of Scripture and honoring God's Word. But if AIG doesn't wish to shun the scientific community altogether with no intent to evangelize it, but rather wishes to engage it, they have the responsibility to recognize the difficulties these positions create and more actively address resolutions that support continued affirmation.

AIG has attempted to do this in their many FAQs. But these tend to be selective and often gloss over the essential objection being made. Whether they have resolved these issues will be up to you and the reading public.

Conclusion-resolution

Regrettably, there is to date no real resolution between Genesis and old earth dates while maintaining a fundamentalist view of Genesis and the time spans in the genealogies.

There is no doubt that the genealogies paint an unavoidably specific time span back to Adam and the creation. Every believer is obligated to choose the Bible over history and science, even when it appears completely irrational to do so. If science is truly unassailable in posing real facts on the age of the earth, then God must somehow be involved, being the Author of all Truth. If so, this conflict will simply remain unresolved until more light in science or revelation comes to our aid.

Perhaps the resolution is in some fundamental mistake not yet known that makes it a misstep to calculate the genealogies against real history in this way. Perhaps, given enough time science will be forced to correct itself and promulgate a younger earth.

So both truth claims maintain their unacceptable implications going forward. Believe the biblical account via the genealogies and invalidate all of human history. Or believe the history of man and invalidate the tight calculations of Genesis.

AIG opts for the biblical explanations which is in the interim the only position conservative believers can promote with confidence.

Kent Hovind

Kent Hovind is an evangelist, creation advocate, and theme park operator who has lectured, written and recorded his views on evolution and the Bible for many years since 1991. He is best known for his “standing offer” to pay anyone \$250,000 who can present scientific evidence for evolution. He is also known as the founder of *Creation Science Evangelism* in Pensacola Florida.

Aside from criticizing evolution in common creationist ways, Hovind also invented his own theory – the *Hovind Theory*. He offers that the naturalistic event of a meteor breaking up before impacting the earth caused a number of solar system effects, earth effects and was the chief cause for the release of water from below and above the earth during the Flood. Additional effects beyond the Flood include the rings of Saturn and the two polar ice caps of earth.

As such, Hovind has earned the distinction of exemplifying what uninformed faith and ignorance of science can produce. His academic degrees were issued by Patriot Bible University, where diplomas are issued in months rather than years. He has no accredited earned degrees in the sciences.

Hovind’s lectures are characterized by cornball slogans suggestive of a novice making his entry into lectures on science. Critics of his work, including his thesis and term papers, describe it as sub-standard for university level work, largely filled with opinions lacking substantiating support, and misrepresentations of the various fields of science. Hovind is assessed by academia as lacking “knowledge of basic science . . . having absolutely no understanding of Carbon dating” (Karen Bartelt, Eureka College).

Because no careful thinking creationist or evolutionist will engage Hovind professionally, a common criticism is that he appeals primarily to those who have no idea that his theories and views are without merit, and his audience is basically uncritical listeners and superficial students.

Adding to his questionable Christian witness regarding his theories is his current state of incarceration at the U.S. Penitentiary in Atlanta for illegal management related to his theme park, *Dinosaur Adventure Land*.