

**KNOWING GOD - part 6**

**33. Do Genealogies Support A Young Earth?** [Robert Reymond, *Systematic Theology*]

Some scholars suggested that by determining the birth date of Abraham and totaling up the ages of the patriarchs listed in the genealogies of Genesis 5 & 11, one may determine when Adam was created, and accordingly (assuming the days of Genesis are ordinary days), when the universe was created. This procedure has yielded a date for the creation at 4,004 B.C (James Ussher) to 6,000 B.C. But the mathematics is not so simple:

- a. Genealogies in Scripture are sometimes abridged. When Mt 1:1 say that Abraham is the father of David, and David is the father of Jesus, it omits many generations. In Mt 1:8, we read that "Joram beget Uzziah," which omits 3 generations: Ahaziah, Joash, and Amaziah. Similarly Ex 6:20 gives the impression that Amram (by Jochabed) was the immediate father of Aaron and Moses - compare Numbers 3:17-19, 27-28 (the Amramites, together with the families of Amram's three brothers, Izhar, Hebron, and Uzziel, numbered 8,600 males, 2630 of whom were ancestors of Moses and Aaron, separated from them by 300 years!). Cainan (Luke 3:36) was omitted and must be placed between Shelah and Arphaxad in the Genesis 11 list.
- b. Co-regency and overlapping reigns of the judges and kings of Israel & Judah complicates the computation of dates. Secular chronologies of Egypt and Babylonia were also incomplete.
- c. Hence, from the Bible we are unable to determine the accurate age of the earth. But it is more likely in the range of thousands of years, not millions of years.

**34. Are There Evidences For A Young Earth?** [J.W. Beeke, *Bible Doctrine*]

- a. Comets. Each time a comet orbits and passes close to the sun, it is heated. This results in some of its matter being vapourised and lost as seen in its hazy tail. Based upon the rate of material loss and maximum possible original size, the maximum comet lifespan can be computed and found to be only thousands of years.
- b. Earth's Magnetic Field is weakening at a measurable rate per year. Projecting this rate backward yields a young earth of several thousand years old.
- c. Earth's Atmosphere. Decaying processes of radioactive elements (uranium, radium) form helium. The small amount of helium in the earth's atmosphere tells us that the earth could not have been more than thousands of years old.
- d. Earth's Surface. Millions of tons of dust from meteors and meteorites fall to the earth's surface every year. These particles contain large amounts of nickel and cobalt. The measurable amount of these materials on earth and in oceans reveal an earth age of thousands of years, not millions or billions of years.
- e. Volcanism. If the present rate of volcanic lava production has been constant for 4.5 billion years, the amount of lava produced would equal the size of the earth!
- f. Earth's Oceans. Approximately 27 million tons of sediment are being removed from the earth's land and deposited in the ocean floor each year. If this rate has been maintained for 1 billion years, each continent would have lost the top 38 miles of its surface, and 18.5 miles of sediment would have settled onto the ocean floors. Fact: the average depth of sediment on the earth's ocean floor < half a mile.
- g. Earth's Human Population. The increase of earth's human population from the time of the flood to the present day (including all wars, famines) reflects a slightly lower rate of increase than the two percent annual world population growth. The present earth's population of 7 billion is consistent with a normal projection rate of population growth over thousands of years, not millions of years.

### 35. Doesn't Carbon-14 Dating Prove An Earth Millions Of Years Old?

- a. How Does Carbon-14 Dating Work? [Ken Ham, *The New Answers Book 1*]
- i.  $^{12}\text{C}$ ,  $^{13}\text{C}$  &  $^{14}\text{C}$  are naturally occurring carbon atoms in the atmosphere.  $^{12}\text{C}$  &  $^{13}\text{C}$  are stable. But the  $^{14}\text{C}$  atom is unstable and radioactive, over time it will decay and lose one electron, becoming Nitrogen-14 ( $^{14}\text{N}$ ). If  $^{14}\text{C}$  is constantly decaying, will the earth eventually run out of  $^{14}\text{C}$ ? No,  $^{14}\text{C}$  is formed in the atmosphere when atoms are bombarded by cosmic rays from outer space.
  - ii. All living things should have the same ratio of  $^{14}\text{C}$  to  $^{12}\text{C}$  in them as in the air we breathe. As long as an organism is alive, it will continue to take in  $^{14}\text{C}$  from the air. However, when it dies, it will stop taking in  $^{14}\text{C}$ , and the dating process begins. Since  $^{14}\text{C}$  is unstable (decays into  $^{14}\text{N}$ ), the amount of  $^{14}\text{C}$  in a dead organism reduces over time, but the amount of  $^{12}\text{C}$  within the same organism remains the same over time. Therefore, part of the dating process involves measuring the amount of  $^{14}\text{C}$  &  $^{12}\text{C}$  that remains in a dead organism. Scientists use an Accelerator Mass Spectrometer (AMS) to determine the ratio of  $^{14}\text{C}$  to  $^{12}\text{C}$ .
  - iii. We need to know: (1) How fast does  $^{14}\text{C}$  decay? (2) What was the starting amount of  $^{14}\text{C}$  in the creature when it died?

b. How Fast Does  $^{14}\text{C}$  Decay?

- i. The half-life of  $^{14}\text{C}$  is 5,730 years. For eg. If we start with a jar containing all  $^{14}\text{C}$  atoms today; 5,730 years later, it will lose half the number of  $^{14}\text{C}$  atoms, and be left with half  $^{14}\text{C}$  atoms and half  $^{14}\text{N}$  atoms (half-life). At the end of 11,460 years (2 half-lives), it will contain one-quarter of  $^{14}\text{C}$  atoms & three-quarter  $^{14}\text{N}$  atoms.
- ii. Since the half-life of  $^{14}\text{C}$  is known, what remains for scientists to determine is the starting amount of  $^{14}\text{C}$  in a fossil. Since no one was there to measure the amount of  $^{14}\text{C}$  when a creature died, scientists devised a method by comparing the level of the stable  $^{12}\text{C}$  atom. The smaller the ratio of  $^{14}\text{C}$  to  $^{12}\text{C}$  measured, the longer the organism has been dead. The current ratio of  $^{14}\text{C}$  to  $^{12}\text{C}$  in the atmosphere is about 1  $^{14}\text{C}$  atom to 1 Trillion  $^{12}\text{C}$  atoms (1 to 1T). *If this ratio has remained the same over time*, by comparing this ratio with the corresponding ratio in the fossil, we can compute the number of half lives and hence, the age of the fossil.
- iii. The following table illustrates how the fossil age is determined using this ratio:

<b>% <math>^{14}\text{C}</math> remaining</b>	<b>% <math>^{12}\text{C}</math> remaining</b>	<b>Ratio</b>	<b>No. of Half-Lives</b>	<b># Years Dead (Fossil Age)</b>
100	100	1 to 1T	0	0
50	100	1 to 2T	1	5,730
25	100	1 to 4T	2	11,460
12.5	100	1 to 8T	3	17,190
6.25	100	1 to 16T	4	22,920
3.125	100	1 to 32T	5	28,650

- c. A Critical Assumption In Carbon Dating is that the **ratio** of  $^{14}\text{C}$  to  $^{12}\text{C}$  in the atmosphere has always been **the same** in the past as it is today, and is in equilibrium (1 to 1 trillion). Dr. Willard Libby, the founder of the carbon-14 dating method, assumed this ratio to be constant based on the evolutionary belief that the earth must be billions of years old and enough time had passed to achieve equilibrium. Is this assumption valid? It is important to note that, *in Dr. Libby's original work, he observed that this ratio did not appear to be in equilibrium and yet chose to ignore this discrepancy*. Because of this false assumption, any age estimates using  $^{14}\text{C}$  prior to the global Flood will give much older dates than the true age. (Batten, D, *Age of the earth: 101 evidences for a young age for the earth and universe*, 4 June 2009).
- d. Factors That May Affect Past Levels Of  $^{14}\text{C}$ :
  - i. *The earth's stronger magnetic field in the past* might have prevented cosmic rays from reaching the earth, resulting in a smaller production of  $^{14}\text{C}$ . This magnetic field is getting weaker today. Hence, dating by the  $^{14}\text{C}$  method would incorrectly

- assume that more  $^{14}\text{C}$  had decayed out of a specimen than what has actually occurred, thus giving the error of older dates.
- ii. *The Genesis flood might have reduced the amount of carbon.* Fossils commonly show evidence of rapid burial in water-carried mud - as in a great flood. The rock layers containing these fossils were not laid down slowly and gradually. Hence fossils do not support the age of the earth as 'millions of years' old. The global biblical flood would have buried large amounts of carbon from living organisms (plant and animal) to form today's fossil fuels (coal, oil, etc.), and created layers of rock containing fossil. The amount of fossil fuels indicates there must have been a much larger quantity of vegetation in existence prior to the Flood than exists today. This means that the biosphere just prior to the Flood might have had 500 times more carbon in living organisms than today. This would further dilute the amount of  $^{14}\text{C}$  in the air, resulting in the  $^{14}\text{C}/^{12}\text{C}$  ratio to fall to 1/500 of today's level.
  - iii. When the Flood and the decay of the earth's magnetic field are taken into account it is clear that *the assumption of equilibrium of  $^{14}\text{C}/^{12}\text{C}$  ratio is false.* Because of this false assumption, any age estimates using  $^{14}\text{C}$  prior to the Flood will give much older dates than the true age.
  - e. 8-year Research by the RATE Group (began 1997) found evidence that coal and diamonds cannot be millions or billions of years old.  $^{14}\text{C}$  levels found in fossils at all layers of the geologic column and in coal is evidence which confirms the biblical timescale of thousands of years, not billions. Diamonds are made of carbon and were supposedly over a billion years old, which meant all  $^{14}\text{C}$  should have decayed. But the radiocarbon labs detected significant levels of  $^{14}\text{C}$  in diamonds, which suggests the diamonds are only thousands of years old. Hence, *carbon dating actually supports a young earth.* As  $^{14}\text{C}$  decays so fast, something a million years old would contain hardly any  $^{14}\text{C}$ .

### **36. Does Science Contradict the Bible?** {LBPC Web - Rev Charles Seet}

- a. The Bible Provides the Basis of Science. When King David pondered deeply on the marvel of his own bodily functions, he exclaimed, "I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are Thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well." (Psalm 139:14). Science should also make us realise how small we are. As David said in Psalm 8:3,4- "When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?" Johann Kepler (1571-1630), the founder of physical astronomy, wrote "Since we astronomers are priests of the highest God in regard to the book of nature, it befits us to be thoughtful, not of the glory of our minds, but rather, above all else, of the glory of God." Michael Faraday (1791-1867), the great physicist who developed the foundational concepts of electricity and magnetism, was active in the various ministries of his church and had an abiding faith in the Bible and in prayer. James Simpson (1811-1879), who discovered chloroform and laid the foundation for anesthesiology, said that his motivation for the research which led to his discovery was a fascination with Adam's deep sleep during the time when Eve was made from his side (Genesis 2:21). You can learn more about these scientists and others like them from the book *Men of Science, Men of God* by Henry M. Morris, Ph.D. It presents 101 biographies and testimonies of eminent scientists who believed in the Bible and in the Living God.
- b. The Bible Speaks Accurately Whenever It Deals with Science. Job 26:7 - "He stretcheth out the north over the empty place, and hangeth the earth upon nothing." When this was written about 3,500 years ago, many believed that the world was supported by a giant turtle, and others thought that it was carried on Atlas' broad back. The foundation upon which the earth rests is now known to be nothing. Job 38:31 - "Canst thou bind the sweet influences of Pleiades, or loose the bands of Orion?" This refers to the constellation of stars called the Pleiades. But what does the

'binding' refer to? Photographs taken with powerful telescopes show the principal stars of this constellation as enveloped and "bound" together by delicate streams of nebulous matter. These are some passages that show that the Bible is consistent with true science. However when people claim that there are scientific mistakes in the Bible, what they are talking about is speculative theory. E.g. evolution speculates about the origin of life on earth.

- c. The Miracles of the Bible Transcend Science. Miracles do not violate the laws of nature; they transcend the range of natural forces. The proof of miracles ultimately lies in the character of their witnesses and the quality of their testimony. The real evidence of science, as opposed to the misleading claims of scientific theories, will not conflict with truths of the Christian faith.
- d. Science is ill-equipped to deal with the past. When it comes to the past, we depend heavily on our belief system to understand what happened. The assumption that 'the present is the key to the past' comes from an atheistic philosophy that denies the biblical account of history. Scientists have a problem: only the present are available for measurement or testing; the past is not. Observations in the present are extrapolated into the past. Gravity can be investigated in the present, but what supposedly happened millions of years ago on earth is not open to experimental proof.

### 37. What Are Angels Like? [James W. Beeke, *Bible Doctrine*; W Evans, *Great Doctrines of the Bible*]

- a. The Names of Angels.
  - i. *Messenger.* The Greek word for "angel" (angelos) means "messenger" or "ambassador." Angels are also called by the following names:
  - ii. *Sons of God.* Job 1:6 "Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them."
  - iii. *Morning Stars.* Job 38:7 "When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?"
  - iv. *Watcher.* Dan 4:13 "I saw in the visions of my head upon my bed, and, behold, a watcher and an holy one came down from heaven;"
  - v. *Spirits* Ps 104:4 "Who maketh his angels spirits; his ministers a flaming fire:"
  - vi. *Ministers.* Ps 103:21 "Bless ye the LORD, all ye his hosts; ye ministers of his, that do his pleasure." Heb 1:14 "Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?"
- b. Nature of Angels.
  - i. *Angels are creatures*, created by God; they are not God. Therefore we may not worship, or pray to, angels. Rev 22:8-9 "And I John saw these things, and heard *them*. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which shewed me these things. Then saith he unto me, See *thou do it* not: for I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God."
  - ii. *They number in the hundreds of millions.* Rev 5:11 "... I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands;"
  - iii. *They are spiritual creatures.* Heb 1:13-14 "But to which of the angels said he at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool? Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?"). They are different from man who have a body and a soul.
  - iv. *Though they may appear visible to men, and even in human form.* (Gen 19; Judges 2:1; Mt 1:20; Lk 1:26)
  - v. *They possess great power.* 2 Pet 2:11 "Whereas angels, which are greater in power and might, bring not railing accusation against them before the Lord." Rev 20:2, 10 - one angel has power to lay hold of that great dragon, the devil.
  - vi. *Angels are asexual and cannot marry.* Mt 22:30 "For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven."

Angels seem asexual, although wherever the word "angel" is used, it is always in the masculine gender.

vii. *They serve God & man.* (Mt 18:10; Isa 6:2-3; Heb 1:14, 1 Ki 19:5-7).

c. Angelic Orders / Ranks

1. Cherubims	So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden <b>Cherubims</b> , and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life. - Gen 3:24
2. Seraphims	Above it stood the <b>seraphims</b> : each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. - Isa 6:2
3. Principalities	To the intent that now unto the <b>principalities</b> and powers in heavenly <i>places</i> might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, Eph 3:10
4. Powers	And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and <b>power</b> : Col 2:10
5. Thrones	For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether <i>they be</i> <b>thrones</b> , or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: Col 1:16
6. Dominions	Far above all principality, and power, and might, and <b>dominion</b> , and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: Eph 1:21
7. Archangels	For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the <b>archangel</b> , and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 1 Thess 4:16
7a. Michael	Yet <b>Michael the archangel</b> , when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee. Jude: 9
7b. Gabriel	And <b>the angel</b> answering said unto him, I am <b>Gabriel</b> , that stand in the presence of God; and am sent to speak unto thee, and to shew thee these glad tidings. Lk 1:19

d. Angelic Service

<b>In Heaven</b>	
1. Praising, serving, worshipping God	Praise ye the LORD. Praise ye the LORD from the heavens: praise him in the heights. Praise ye him, <b>all his angels</b> : praise ye him, all his hosts. Psalm 148:1-2
2. Rejoicing over conversion of sinners	there is joy in the presence of <b>the angels of God</b> over one sinner that repenteth. LK 15:10b
3. Bringing souls of believers into heaven	And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was <b>carried by the angels</b> into Abraham's bosom: Lk 16:22a
<b>On Earth</b>	
1. Serving Jesus	And there appeared <b>an angel</b> unto him from heaven, <b>strengthening him</b> [Jesus]. Lk 22:43
2. Serving God's children	Are they not all <b>ministering spirits</b> , sent forth to <b>minister for</b> them who shall be <b>heirs of salvation</b> ? Heb 1:14
3. Announcing Good News	And <b>the angel</b> said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I <b>bring</b> you <b>good tidings</b> of great joy, which shall be to all people. Lk 2:10
4. Protecting God's Elect	Ps 91:11-12 For he shall give <b>his angels charge</b> over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. They shall bear thee up in <i>their</i> hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.
5. Helping to Administer God's Law	Who have received <b>the law by</b> the disposition of <b>angels</b> , Acts 7:53a
6. Helping to Administer the Gospel	But <b>the angel</b> of the Lord by night opened the prison doors, and brought them forth, and said, Go, stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life. Acts 5:19-20

7. Announcing Special Events	And <b>the angel</b> ... lifted up his hand to heaven, And swore by him that liveth for ever and ever, who created heaven, ... that there should be time no longer: Rev 10:5-6
8. Carrying out God's Punishments	And it came to pass that night, that <b>the angel of the LORD</b> went out, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians an hundred fourscore and five thousand: and when they arose early in the morning, behold, they <i>were</i> all dead corpses.
9. Assisting on the Final Judgment Day	So shall it be at the end of the world: <b>the angels</b> shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just, And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Mt 13:49-50

e. When Were Angels Created?

- i. They were not created before the first day (Col 1:16). They could not have been created on or after the 6th day (Gen 1:31 "God saw everything that he had made")
- ii. They were probably created on the first day (Job 38:6-7 "Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof; When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?")

f. How Did Angels Fall?

- i. Angels were created good and morally perfect (Gen 1:31).
- ii. Lucifer, an archangel (Isa 14:12-15, Ezek 28:12-19) fell because of his pride (1 Tim 3:6) and became the devil (Mt 13:39). Angels who joined him became demons (Mt 25:41, Jude 6), sinned without remedy (2 Pet 2:4, Jude 6), and will be cast into the lake of fire (Mt 25:41, Rev 20:10).
- iii. They oppose God's purposes (Dan 10:10-14); afflict God's people (Lk 13:16; Mt 17:15-16); execute Satan's purposes (Mt 12:26, 27); hinder spiritual life of God's people (Eph 6:12).

g. Scriptural Names of Satan

1. Satan - "adversary" or enemy (Rev 12:9)	6. Deceiver of the world (Rev 12:9)	10. The god of this world (2 Cor 4:4)
2. Apollyon (Abaddon) - The destroyer (Rev 9:11)	7. The great dragon (Rev 12:9)	11. The prince of the power of the air (Eph 2:2)
3. Diabolos (The Devil) - The accuser, slanderer (Rev 12:9)	5. Belial - worthlessness (2 Cor 6:15)	12. A murderer (Jn 8:44)
4. Beelzebub - Lord of the flies; dung god; prince of the demons (Mt 12:24)	8. The wicked one (Mt 13:19)	13. The old serpent (Rev 12:9)
	9. The father of lies (Jn 8:44)	14. The tempter (Mt 4:3)

Next week:

**How did we get our Bible?**

- Inspiration
- Authority
- Infallibility, Inerrancy
- Preservation & Bible Versions
- Canonicity