Dear Readers,

The somewhat sensational post I sent last week (see above) on the DNA studies placing Eve at 4000 BC and the Flood at 2500 BC, did have something I had overlooked. A youth pastor in Goshen, Indiana pointed this out to me. Thanks Darin!

The Y-chromosome study, statistically dates the time of the divergence of masculine DNA ... not the time of the Flood! And that divergence ... occurred during the time after Noah's 500th birthday, and before the Flood ... when his three sons were born. I had worried some that the Flood was 4354 yrs ago while the Y-date gave 4500 yrs ago.

The 146 year difference, would really not be a problem because --- the Y chromosome date would naturally be a statistical average of the birthdates of Noah's sons Ham, Shem, & Japheth --- which all seem to have been born between 2454 BC and 2354 BC. The only nail-down date I could find in the Bible was Shem's birth, at 2452 BC, 98 yrs before the Flood.

So, the Y-date is for the average birth-years of the three boys ... not for the date of the Flood. So that makes the Y-date of 4500 yrs ago ... better than I thought! Instead of being as much as 146 yrs off ... it's really more like only about 50 yrs off! Amen.

Thanks again, brother Darin! I hadn't thought about that! Dr J

PS - I've gotten emails reminding me that this whole thing is based on hypothetical assumptions -- anyway -- like that mutation rates remain the same. The DNA theory should definitely give you relative dates ... but really cannot give you absolute dates.

You can subscribe to Dr. Charles Jackson's Points of Origins e-mail posts by going to: www.pointsoforigins.com

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As it is Written, but by whom?
By Tom Hill

The secular view of ancient man is an arrogant one: beings of low intelligence, little or no skills, and no understanding of the world around him. Does this agree with a Biblical view of our original parents? It does not.

The secular view is that ancient man taught himself to speak over eons of time by refining “grunts and moans”. However, scripture is very clear that Adam and Eve had a fully functional, highly developed language: Adam naming the animals on day six, Adam speaking with his wife Eve, Satan confronting Eve, and all three speaking with God their creator. These were not simple conversations conducted with “grunts and moans”. The
abstract concepts and consequential outcomes were profound by any standard you may wish to apply.

What would a Biblical view of writing teach? Certainly the first eleven chapters of Genesis do not discuss writing. But neither do they preclude the possibility that Adam and Eve had a written language in the garden. Secularists insist upon the use of “oral traditions” to explain the Biblical understanding of creation and other ancient creation story traditions. Two primary reasons are sited to support oral traditions. The first reason stems from the arrogant view of the low intellect of ancient man as discussed above. The second reason is that we do not have examples of writing that can be dated prior to about 5000 years ago. Could it be that in fact these examples should be dated at about 4500 years? We do not find older examples because such writings would have been destroyed by Noah’s flood.

Another point made in the secular literature is that writing was probably developed by Sumerians, Egyptians, or some other non-Hebrew people. Why is this? The examples of 4500-year-old writings that we find are inscriptions on monuments celebrating the accomplishments of men. If we refer to scripture we find that the Hebrews and their forefathers celebrated great events by building altars to God. No inscriptions, no carvings of any kind are ever prescribed by the God who delivered them. Just an altar of stone for sacrifice.

A biblical view of the ancients could easily suggest that Noah carried written records of the creation, the garden, and all the events leading to the sixth chapter of Genesis. These documents have long since been destroyed. But we have ample reason to believe that our history was written with clarity. While many ancient stories may depend upon speculative oral traditions, Creationists should stand on a clear concise record of events that was written by our forefathers and delivered to us by our creator God.

For many years, the thrust of modern creationism has been the scientific interpretation of historical observation. Certainly this is the venue where the enemy has been engaged. But we must not forget other obvious consequences of a complete Biblical interpretation of the facts.

"Biology is the study of complicated things that give the appearance of having been designed for a purpose."

"Evolution has been observed. It's just that it hasn't been observed while it's happening."
- Richard Dawkins PBS interview by Bill Moyer, 12/3/04

"We don't need evidence. We know it (evolution) to be true."

“The more statistically improbable a thing is, the less can we believe that it just happened by blind chance. Superficially the obvious alternative to chance is an intelligent Designer.”

ANCIENT MAN – A PROBLEM FOR EVOLUTION AND FOR OLD EARTH CREATIONISM

Archaeologists keep making discoveries that upset the traditional view that the “cave-man” was little more than an animal. Time and again, they find that ancient man was more advanced than formerly believed.

At the same time, this is also posing problems for old-earth creationists (OEC’s) because they tend to follow the dating schema of evolutionists. Thus, while OEC’s believe in a literal Adam and Eve, most would hold that they were created around 10,000 BC, and that all cave-man types that existed prior to that were soulless ape-like creatures.

According to National Geographic News, Dec. 22, 2006, the most recent find that man was more advanced than previously thought is the discovery of what has been dubbed the “evidence of humankind’s oldest ritual.” A cave in Africa may have been used for ceremonies of python worship as much as 70,000 years ago – 30,000 years earlier than the oldest previously known human rites.

These assertions are based on artifacts found in a cave in Botswana in 1990. Researchers found a large rock that resembles a 20 foot long python with natural features in the stone forming an eye and a mouth, and several hundred human-made grooves in the rock that resemble scales. Other artifacts in the cave, such as several hundred spearheads, resemble those dated elsewhere at 77,000 years. Many of the projectile points were brought from hundreds of kilometers away and were used ceremoniously within the cave, the researchers say.

Most anthropologists believe that “modern” human behavior requiring symbolic thought did not originate until 40,000 or 50,000 years ago. The article says however, that other scientists remain skeptical of this discovery. But more and more discoveries like these show the OEC’s that these “creatures” could not be animals, and it shows the evolutionists that either something is wrong with evolution or with their dating system – or both.

“You have to be an intellectual to believe such nonsense. No ordinary man could be such a fool.”
- George Orwell

National Geographic News reports (http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2008/02/080222-seabird-d-fossils.html,Feb.22, 2008) that the oldest known bird fossils from New Zealand have been found, dating from the late Cretaceous, 65 million years ago. Scientists
say, “It’s pretty profound stuff.” For now, they are only saying that the “fossils seem to resemble modern seabirds known as cormorants.” (I don’t know about you, but it’s always fun to hear evolutionists say that their new fossil discoveries resemble living species!)

A MODERN DAY LESSON IN THE CONFLICT BETWEEN SCIENCE AND RELIGIOUS BELIEF

With all the advances in the science of genetics over the last few decades, there have occasionally been some interesting findings that confirm events recorded in the Bible. One example is the usefulness that DNA tests have in showing if certain people are related or not. Even whole people groups have genetic markers that will show if they are related to other people groups – or not.

For example, genetic testing of Jews throughout the world have shown that they share common strains of DNA from people in the Middle East. However, that’s not surprising since scientists never had a reason to doubt it, and Christians and Jews would certainly expect it.

Another example: Scientists for years have theorized that American Indians originally came from Asia, crossing a land bridge between Siberia and Alaska. Then in the 1990's it was confirmed by genetics. Simon G. Southerton, a molecular biologist working as a senior research scientist with the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization in Australia, tested 7,300 Native Americans from 175 tribes of Polynesians and indigenous peoples in North, Central, and South America. His findings indeed showed that American Indians were essentially all derived from Asian stock. Again, no surprise – at least not to most people.

But, it was a surprise to Southerton. It was a surprise because instead of actually confirming the popular belief that Indians had their origins in Asia, he had eagerly expected that his research would instead validate his Mormon beliefs. To his great disillusionment, they didn’t.

To those who are familiar with Mormon teaching, you would know that the scientific finding that Southerton made contradicted what the Book of Mormon, and many doctrinal pronouncements of Joseph Smith and other LDS church leaders, had to say about the origin of the American Indian. In no uncertain terms, and in numerous instances, they said that today’s Indians are remnants of the tribes of Israel.

Since Southerton was a devout Mormon and a former bishop in his church, this discovery shook his faith to the core. And when the results were published, it was a blow to many other Mormons as well, causing some of them to abandon the LDS church.

Since devout Mormons believe that their 175 year old Book of Mormon is factual and without error (Similar to Christians believing that the Bible is infallible), the effect that Southerton’s research had on Mormons is an interesting psychological study on how scientific evidence and religious beliefs are sometimes handled when they are in disagreement. Additionally, how the Mormon/DNA controversy is handled by Mormons has striking parallels with the various controversies that exist between the various factions of creationism, as well as between evolutionary scientists.

For example, the language is very similar. In defending the truth of Mormonism against the DNA evidence, one apologists said, "The truth is, the Book of Mormon will never be proved or disproved by science...." Does anyone recognize this argument? It is the “separate magisteria” argument that Steven J. Gould popularized when he insisted that science should be separated from religious beliefs.

Another tactic that is being used in defending the Book of Mormon against its critics is to say something to the effect that the passages in question are not being interpreted correctly; and if a correct interpretation were used, it would eliminate the alleged difficulty. Still another argument essentially says that Mormons should have blind faith in the Book of Mormon and in their prophets, and that the critics should be ignored.

There is even a ‘Galileo’ of Mormonism! In 2002, LDS church officials began excommunication proceedings against Thomas W. Murphy, a Mormon anthropology professor at Edmonds Community College in Washington state. He was deemed a heretic for saying ‘the Mormon scriptures should be considered inspired fiction in light of the DNA evidence.’ Murphy’s supporters consequently started calling him the “Galileo of Mormonism”.

Examining all of the arguments and language that is being used, and looking for the parallels in creationist debates would require too much space in this publication. But it should be sufficient if I fast-forward to the conclusion and let the reader explore the details for himself, if he so desires. The bottom line is that the sciences being used to discredit the Book of Mormon and Genesis are quite different in their assumptions.

The science that is being used to discredit the infallibility of the Book of Mormon is “operational science” (a similar term is “hard science”). It involves observable and repeatable results that can be tested in the laboratory, namely, the DNA of Indians and Jews. Therefore it has a high degree of certitude because little interpretation is involved.

However, the science that is being used to discredit the book of Genesis is “historical science” (A similar term is “soft science”). It involves making certain assumptions about fossils, radiometric dating, historical geology, and evolutionary theory, and then deciding if they agree with the stories in Genesis. Therefore, it has a low degree of certitude because a lot of interpretation is involved, and what happened in the past can’t be observed in the present.

So while false religions can not be substantiated historically or observationally, we find that time and time again, the Bible has withstood the tests of its critics by proving itself true whenever observable science is
involved. The assertions made by disbelieving scientists about the past have also been shown to be inconsistent with what can be observed in the present; but the stories in Genesis have shown remarkable consistency with what we can test and observe scientifically. Therefore we have good reason to believe the Bible is valid both historically and scientifically.

For more information pro and con on the Mormon/DNA debate, see:
http://www.signaturebooks.com/excerpts/Losing2.htm
http://www.jefflindsay.com/LDSFAQ/DNA.shtml

A streaming video on the subject can be seen at: http://www.lhvm.org/vid_dna_med.htm

“The scientist who buys into materialistic naturalism has decided that there are no supernatural phenomena. He has closed a door that science by itself cannot close. Then he usually turns around and calls that decision ‘scientific’ as if to give it respectability. This is the height of arrogance.”
Ludwig, Mark A., 1993, Computer Viruses, Artificial Life and Evolution, p. 303

Horseshoe crabs have long been known as “living fossils”, “...because they have survived since ancient times with little change in physical form, and they have no close modern relatives” (Evolutionary definition). New fossils of horseshoe crabs place these creatures being present on earth, looking like they still do today, in the late Ordovician, 455 million years ago. This is 100 million years older than previous fossils (using evolutionary dates).

Plant Seeds Adapt to City Life

Researchers in France, say that a species of plant found in cities has evolved rapidly in order to adapt to the challenges of surviving in the concrete jungle. Crepis sancta growing in urban areas produces heavy seeds that fall to the ground rather than lighter seeds that are dispersed by the wind.

The heavier seeds have an evolutionary advantage because they would fall down into the patch of soil that had supported the previous generation of the plant. Wind-blown seeds would be less likely to germinate because most of them would end up on concrete surfaces, scientists say. Researchers estimate that the change in the way the plant disperses its seeds has taken place in as little as five to 12 generations (five to 12 years).

This is a surprise because they believed evolution takes longer than that. [It makes more sense that the genetic variation for heavy seeds is already in the genome, and that this is just another example of natural selection at work. In other words, no new genetic information is involved, which is what true evolution would be if it actually occurred.]

“I have found that the most effective allies for evolution are people of the faith community. One clergyman with a backward collar is worth two biologists at a school board meeting any day!”

“A Conversation with Eugenie Scott,” Science & Theology News, 4/1/02
http://www.stnews.org/Commentary-1835.htm
ON THE GENESIS MAP

PLACES FROM GENESIS 1 - 11

Accad  Admah  Ararat  Assyria  Babel  Calah  Calneh  Canaan

Cush  Eden  Enoch  Erech  Euphrates  Gaza  Gerar  Gihon

Gomorrah  Haran  Havilah  Lasha  Mesha  Nineveh  Nod  Pishon

Resen  Sephar  Shinar  Sidon  Sodom  Tigres  Ur  Zeboiim