Addendum to An Investigation into Creation Claims and the Implications

“I find it as difficult to understand a scientist who does not acknowledge the presence of a superior rationality behind the existence of the universe as it is to comprehend a theologian who would deny the advances of science.” Wernher von Braun, rocket scientist.

As time goes by some material may require additional clarification, new discoveries may surface, and, because many have such a difficulty with Young Earth claims reconciling them with scientific findings, that they will not consider the legitimacy of Christianity; and for those who are following Young Earth Claims to even give in in the slightest means for them abandoning God (not true!), this section is needed. Consideration that there is an Intelligent Designer (not the same as the Intelligent Design movement) immediately draws the reaction in the public schools, colleges and universities that this is really Young Earth Creationism. It is not. You might say “What difference do opinions on when Creation started make?” Well here it is: Recent Earth Creationism or Young Earth Creationism has been very successful in getting God removed from the classroom. They give atheism so much ammunition. Just bring up God in the education circles and immediately they associate it with YEC. I repeat, no other movement has been so successful in getting God removed from the classroom and causing so many to lose their faith. The young people especially in public education who are our future will not hear about God nor view Christianity as valid. All because of the often willful misunderstanding of “days” in Genesis 1. Try to talk to someone in the YEC movement and watch their reaction. Instant wall. Contrary evidence which becomes ever more substantial with time is a threat to them. This is because they have built their belief system as to Creation on a false premise.

Years ago, like many, I tried and tried to make things fit both from Scripture and the physical evidence as I was unaware of the ancient Hebrew language and how the ancients thought as they viewed the world in repeating cycles. It needs to be understood that each day in Genesis 1 contains a grouping or subject that God is the Creator and is part of a cycle that is repeated every seven days. Genesis 1 is in poetic form which explains a lot. Hebrew poetry does not have rhyme or meter as found in today's poetry. Some claim it is not poetry, but in narrative form. Even if it were a combination, narrative poems can be in many different forms including by groupings, parallels, somewhat chronological, even fictional-- so let's be careful with such claims. See pages 6-8 in this Addendum.

I found out as time went by numerous experts have traced today's Young Earth Creationism back to George McCready Price, a follower of the “prophetess” Ellen G. White's visions claiming they were from God about Creation and the Flood, spreading this into various Christian denominations. It did not help that Ussher's chronology in the early 1600's was unfortunately included in the King James Bible, the Scofield Bible and others including the widely distributed Gideon Bible (until 1976). When one reads Genesis 1 it seems like a daily sequence not realizing over the centuries verb tenses not found in the ancient Hebrew and headings such as “God created the heavens and the Earth in six days” were added. Such additions are in violation of the warnings found in Deuteronomy and Revelation that Scripture is not to be added to. Many do not realize it was George McCready Price who came up with Flood Geology in order to support White's visions of Genesis 1 and 7. A universal Noah Flood is essential to support the Creation in six days as an attempt to explain the numerous layers and thousands of feet of geologic time. This is the key. Without it the YEC claims fall. (See Noah's Flood section in this Addendum). But there is no evidence of a universal flood. That was geologically proven long ago. However, there is evidence of local Mesopotamian floods (alternative could possibly be the Caspian Sea area) which left silt several feet thick especially one about the time of Noah. (See varves in this Addendum). Even though Price's claims such as his Flood Geology were discredited (he was not a
geologist) by geologists it was resurrected in the early 1960's by Morris and Whitcomb (neither were geologists, but updated McCready's book under their names) which revitalized the Young Earth Creationist movement. Morris was a member of the Deluge Society which Price helped found. The question becomes why would the visions and claims by a "prophetess" such as there were tall people on Jupiter take precedence over Scripture and evidence from the physical Creation itself? On June 6, 1863, the prophetess had a vision she claims was received from God concerning health issues that lasted 45 minutes in which was revealed that vegetarianism was the diet to be followed. The Apostle Paul wrote in I Timothy 4:1, 3-5 “Now the Spirit expressly says that in the latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons...commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. For every creature of God is good, and nothing is to be refused if it is received with thanksgiving; for it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.” Once again, think of the consequences resulting from the claim that all of creation was made in a literal 6 twenty-four hour period about 6,000 years ago and the Flood vision. Talk about a clever successful plan of deception to make the Scriptures look false. This is it. (You can read about what is associated with those who come with visions, signs and wonders towards the end times on this site under An Investigation into Signs and Wonders).

No matter how contrary the evidence, unfortunately such advocates are trapped and they have to come up with fanciful explanations and even distort Scripture. Back in the 300's AD Saint Augustine in his Literal Meaning of Genesis wrote “Reckless and incompetent expounders of holy Scripture bring untold trouble and sorrow on their wiser brethren when they are caught in one of their mischievous false opinions and are taken to task by those who are not bound by the authority of the sacred books. For then, to defend their utterly foolish and obviously untrue statements, they will try to call upon Holy Scripture for proof and even recite from memory many passages which they think support their position, although they understand neither what they say nor the things about which they make their assertion.”

Interestingly, the early founders of Fundamentalism accepted scientific findings that the Earth and Universe are very old and certain prominent ones accepted evolution as an explanation as the mechanism God used for what was observed. Even the Institute for Creation Research admits this. See last paragraph page 12. This was because in the 1700's and 1800's it was actually Christians in most cases who were revealing the discoveries in geology, biology and astronomy the Universe was quite old. Up until recently all major church creeds including the Nicene Creed and the Apostolic Creed only mention God as the Creator without mentioning the age of the Earth or Universe as there were many different opinions.

Back to the Days

When Genesis was written and even many centuries thereafter into about the 1500's both the day and night portions were considered the cycle of the entire Universe. In other words the entire Universe was composed of a repeating cycle that contained day and night. But there is no day or night cycle on our sun, the stars, the galaxies, or throughout the Universe. Except for Mars there is not even close to a 24-hour cycle of day and night on any of the planets in our solar system and not even on the Moon. The Earth is but a tiny speck compared to our Sun which in turn is among billions of suns and galaxies. Yet, if one reads Genesis in a literalist way, that is what it says not realizing Genesis is written in a poetic liturgical form using “day” as a poetic tool. (This is covered in}
the Investigation series on Creation of which this Addendum is a part). In ancient cultures throughout the Earth cycles were very important such as night and day, phases of the Moon, seasons, etc. This is why Moses used the day/week system as they were continually repeated and would continue going on in the future to present the various selected groupings that it was God that created them. After all that is what they saw. The day portion included the Sun, and the night included the Moon and stars. To the ancients in the Middle East the day and night were parts of a dome that rotated over the Earth (See Dome discussion). (Although there were suggestions earlier it was not until Copernicus that the Earth was not considered at the center of things and it was the Earth that rotated around the Sun.) Most people back in those days considered the Sun that resided in the dome the day portion, and the Moon and stars that resided in the dome in the night portion gods. (You will note in Genesis 1 verses 14-16 the Moon and Sun are not named. Rather they are called the “lesser light” and the “greater light”. This most likely was done because the names used in ancient surrounding cultures for the Moon and Sun were gods.)

The 7 days of Genesis were a cycle to fit into a Mesopotamian setting where the early Hebrews originated and were to return. The 7 day cycle was not universal as in the 10 day Egyptian week system from which they fled nor in other cultures around the world as they had various day/week systems. (As time went by beginning with Rome the 7 day week spread.) Also, uniquely in Mesopotamian culture the 7th day was considered a day of evil and people were not to work, but Moses turned it into a day of good for thankfulness and praise to God. Moses made the seventh day of each week a holiday to celebrate the Creator for His Creation. On that day the Hebrews were not to work. They were to rest from their work. The 7th day also represents where God dwells for He invites us to join His rest (defined in the New Testament) which is eternal. The “rest” of God is different in that Scripture says God never tires nor rests (In Genesis 1 the seventh day has no evening or morning, no beginning or end = eternity). (For the meaning of God's rest and the symbolism of the seventh day look up Hebrews 3:1-16 and Hebrews 4:1-16. It is also interesting in Mark 2:23-28 Jesus states “The sabbath was made for man” even though He and the disciples were out gathering food on the Sabbath showing the issue was not physical work, but pointing to something else. That the 7th day Sabbath represents an open period of time see Hebrew 4:4-7. This shows why it is repeated every 7 days in the Hebrew ritualistic cycle as a reminder every human week).

It has been claimed by those advocating a recent Earth that is about 6 to 10 thousand years old was recognized by both Moses and Jesus in the following verses:

Exodus 20:11 “For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea and all that in them is, and rested on the seventh day: why the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.” This is found in the King James Version. But the word “in” is not found in the original Hebrew. Even earlier King James Bibles italicized the word as it was not found in the original Hebrew, but later editions just made it as if it was already there. In looking at many other editions except for Young's Literal Translation they also have the word present without italicizing it.

The word “in” does not appear in the original Hebrew in Exodus 31:17 either, yet, except for Young's Literal Translation which leave in out, in has been added in the King James Version and other translations.

Both Exodus 20:11 and 31:17 with the word “in” added which is not in the original Hebrew “...significantly distorts the meaning. The absence of the 'in' removes the interpretation that...
all making must take place within the six creative times and voids the asserted inclusion of the 'bara' of Genesis 1:1.” (“READING GENESIS ONE: Comparing Biblical Hebrew with English Translation”, Rodney Whitefield). Also, as has been pointed out previously the translators changed the original Hebrew into the past tense when making the English versions that has been repeated ever since in later versions even though the original Hebrew verbs could mean past, present, future, or even a continuing process.

Another verse cited by Young Earth advocates is Matthew 19:4 “and he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female,” (KJV). YEC seize on the words “at the beginning”, but let's look at Young's Literal Translation: “And he answering them, 'Did ye not read, that He who made [them], from the beginning a male and a female made them'...” In the word for word Westcott & Hort GNT-Literal Translation:

“The-one moreover having-been-separated-off it-had-said, Not ye-had-acquainted-up to-which-a-gone the-one having-created-to off of-a-firsting to-male and to-female it-did unto to-them,” The subject was marriage and divorce between humans and nothing else and Jesus said from the beginning of their creation, not the Universe. This is further supported even in the KJV by verse 8 “He saith unto them, Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives; but from the beginning it was not so.” This is referring to a human husband and wife relationship, the intent, and not to the beginning of creation. The subject was about human divorce.

Mark 10:5-6 “And Jesus answered and said unto them, For the hardness of your heart he wrote this precept. But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female.”

The Gospel of Mark according to the experts is likely the oldest of the Gospels in the New Testament. However, up until the 4th century we only have fragments of copies and they show some differences between them. This is because as churches started forming copying was done by church members (laymen, not scribes) for distribution. Then only a few professional scribes copied Mark from what was available compared to the other Gospels noticing some differences in some words. There are not major differences concerning theological fundamentals in the first chapters, but on several fragments there are scribal side notes showing that there were questions as to certain words or wording. Comparing the earliest copy fragments followed by later copies have shown that copyists added and changed words to fit their understanding. From “The Gospel of Mark in Codex Sinaiticus: Textual and Reception-Historical Considerations” by Peter M. Head, Cambridge University, including actual photos of the text: “The Greek text of the Gospel of Mark is certainly the worst attested of all the canonical gospels. It is extant in only three papyrus manuscripts, none of which are by any means complete, and of which only one is definitely earlier than the fourth century uncialis; while one other is perhaps contemporary with them. Thus our knowledge of the text of Mark is more dependent on the early uncial texts than is the case with the other gospels, where early papyri and more substantial comments in church fathers supplement the early texts.” In “Paleography Greek Writing” according to Herman C. Hoskier there are for the Gospel of Mark 567 textual variations between codices Sinaiticus and Vaticanus, and that does not include the differences between the earlier Greek fragments the codices are based upon.
Here is the actual word for word translation directly from the best copies of earliest Greek to English from Westcott & Hort GNT-Literal Translation of Mark 10:6 “Off moreover of-a-firsting of-a-creating, to-male and to-female it-did-unto [to-them].” This fits well with Matthew 19:4 and in verse 8 from Young's Literal translation given above showing Jesus was referring to the beginning of marriage between humans, and not to the beginning of creation as the subject in the verses before and after were about human divorce.

Beginning with Mark 16:8 there are major differences including scribal notes that the last part had been lost. Although there are copies with the additional verses these differ from each other perhaps by scribes adding sections to the abrupt ending because they felt it incomplete. This is why nearly all Bible translations make note of this. Then we add to all of this the King James Version where earlier Greek and Latin versions from the even earlier Greek are added in to come up with the English version—enough said.

The problem is not understanding that God is outside our time. Since God is the Creator of time when our Universe began He does not need our time to create in. How does God know the beginning from the end? Ecclesiastes 3:11b “yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end” is stating God has already accomplished all there is to be! One of the best explanations I have come across several years ago is that He is able to see all the contents over time and be involved continually in them similar to the way we look at a road map. In the “days” of Creation God made proclamations by saying “Let there be.....”. He also commanded the Earth to bring forth as He said “Let the waters bring forth...”, “Let the land bring forth...” “Bring forth” implies over time. These statements include all there is to be. That means every plant, insect, fish, mammal, and human who was to exist throughout time is included. Ecclesiastes 3:11a “He has made everything appropriate in its time” shows that all was not created in a literal 7 day week. There was an age for dinosaurs for example.

You will note the Earth definitely did not exist the first day and likely not until the third day if you are literalist. Day 1 consisted of light and dark. Day 2 consisted of two vaults (the “water” above today we call sky as back then it would appear blue like water and was where rain came from, and “waters” under from which in day 3 dry land appears called “earth” upon which people stand. These are realms yet to be filled.)

The Sun, Moon and stars for a literalist were not created until the fourth literal day. So for a Young Earth advocates who also claim all the contents of the Universe were created within a literal 6 day period, if the stars were created only 6,000 to 10,000 years ago, then how can the stars appear in the night sky on the 4th day considering otherwise light would have to be already traveling from them 6,000 to 10,000 years earlier? This would then make their age much older! In other words Adam and Eve would not see any stars nor would anyone else unless the stars were very close and as time went by each night a whole new array of stars would suddenly appear like popcorn as the night went on. The closest star is 4.24 light years away. For a YEC literalist Adam and Eve would not see except for the Sun, Moon and 5 visible planets any stars for at least 4.24 years and then it would be only one. Because of the tremendous distance over which light (which has a proven constant speed) has to travel there would be no Milky Way composed of billions of stars or the billions of galaxies visible even today. But we see them because they were already there testifying to their antiquity. We know from ancient art, hieroglyphics, and later written material such as the Babylonian star catalogs and Scripture humans saw stars all along. Even the Milky Way is depicted in ancient rock petroglyphs and in later
Egyptian hieroglyphics. This again points to the poetic and chiastic structure, not a chronological structure, of Genesis 1.

Getting back to the first paragraph found in this section all that people considered back then was that the Universe to them consisted of only a day and night cycle of 24 hours. But as revealed by astronomy while the Earth on one side is experiencing night it is day on the other side simultaneously. Also, we now know the poles depending on the season can be in continuous light or dark. They didn't know it was the Earth that rotated and not the sky! They had no concept the Earth is a planet. For them “earth” was what they stood on. The Earth takes 24 hours for one complete rotation. Then when we factor in the Moon it has no 24 hour day or night (it is 27.3 days), except for Mars (24 hours 39 minutes) there is no 24 hour day or night cycle on the other planets: Mercury (58 days 15 hours), Venus (243 days), Jupiter (9.9 hours), Saturn (10 hours 47 minutes), and Neptune (16 hours 6 minutes). There is no 24 hour day on our Sun as it is always “daytime” with no night, nor evenings and mornings. There is no 24 day cycle on other stars or galaxies throughout the Universe. The Earth is just a speck in our own galaxy which in turn is a speck amongst billions of Galaxies. Yet for the literalist Genesis states there was day and night even before the Earth came into being. This would mean the whole universe is subject to a 24 hour day and night cycle at least through Day 1 and likely through Day 2. This is yet another reason why Young Earth claims cannot be correct. Once again the days of Genesis serve as a framework done in poetic form whose contents (groupings for each day) are to remind the Israelites that it is God who created all.

So in the verses that were cited, hopefully, Moses and certainly Jesus understood that the “days” of Genesis mean something very different as God is outside of time although the Holy Spirit gave the words to the prophets throughout the Old Testament, but they did not necessarily fully comprehend what they were told (1Peter 1:10-12). The Bible says Jesus is the divine Creator (see Investigation into the Trinity paper on this site). He was before time as He created it. Because of earlier translations the notion of a literal 7-day creation is perpetuated. It is a misunderstanding of earlier translators as they incorporated verb tenses not found in the original Hebrew and repeating earlier headings added to the book of Genesis that were not in the original as was pointed out in the main paper upon which this Addendum is added.

[Comment: When I go through stacks of material, papers and books, and numerous sites on the internet I come across arguments back and forth. There are at times good arguments on both sides such as the meaning of “day”, but many times they are based on presumptions. I find this problem especially in the YEC group. One's check on reality and whether a presumption is incorrect must be based on evidence. This includes Scripture. Both the geologic record and definitely the information from astronomy such as the Hubble Space Telescope show beyond the shadow of a doubt the Earth and the Universe are very old. If you review again the section on astronomy you can see why. So as I provide additional material in the Addendum, I will limit it because the arguments get so tedious. If YEC wants to continue damaging the credibility of Christianity then they will have to answer to God. God has provided the evidence both Scriptural and evidentiary. The Bereans mentioned in Acts examined the claims of those who came to them to check whether what others said was true. They were complimented for that. Don't say “I don't know” because if you made it this far you do know the truth of the matter.

Let's look at it another way: Why would God, as we make further and further discoveries, make it appear from the geological layers, paleontological evidence, archaeological evidence, and from
astronomical observation would the direction be pointing to a very old Earth and Universe when in fact as claimed it is very recent within six to ten thousand years? Why are not the discoveries and observations pointing the other way? Oh, yes, the Young Earth Creationists claim they are making recent Earth discoveries, but they often have to make elaborate explanations with lots of “maybe it could be this” or “maybe it could be that”. So in effect they are saying the things we see and observe are really illusions that the Earth and Universe are very old. So I would ask “Why is God trying to deceive us? I thought that was Satan's area. Satan is not the Creator. God is and gives us the evidence. Long ago the people were not ready for the scientific findings. Are we ready today? I was reading about the Fundamentalists of the 1800's. As mentioned earlier they were accepting the findings and the fact the Earth and Universe were very old. James Orr was one of those who began the Fundamentalist movement and wrote “…few are disquieted in reading their Bibles because it is made certain that the world is immensely older than the 6,000 years which the older chronology gave it. Geology is felt only to have expanded our ideas of vastness and marvel of the Creator's operations....” But along came the “prophetess” and her followers. Why are the claims of a “prophetess” through her visions accepted both over Scriptural and physical evidence? We covered that issue in the main paper.

What is the Literary Style of Genesis 1?

This is a very important issue. I looked at various Young Earth Creationist sites such as Answers in Genesis, and Institute for Creation Research, and they all deny Genesis 1 is in the form of poetry or if any poetry is involved it is minimal and has nothing to do with the prose showing a chronological progression according to them. The reason is, if indeed there is a prominent poetic component in it, that indicates the “days” are used as a poetic tool. By checking experts in ancient Hebrew as to the literary genre of Genesis 1 here is what I found:

It is obvious the Psalms are in poetic form. From Wikipedia.org “The Biblical poetry of Psalms uses parallelism as its primary poetic device. Parallelism is a kind of rhyme, in which an idea is developed by the use of repetition, synonym, or opposites.” We see this quite prominently in Genesis 1 as well.

This one you can also find on You Tube: “Genesis 1 is Hebrew Poetry” which comes from Poetic Style and Parallelism in the Creation Account, Frank Polak, Department of Biblical Studies, Tel Aviv University:

“Literary scholars have recognized Hebrew poetry was not characterized by rhyme, rather 3 reoccurring patterns: parallelism, poetic imagery and repetition.”

Repetition
“And God said…”
“let there be…”
“was good”
“......day” as in first day, second day, etc.
“and there was evening and morning the.....day”

Every stanza begins with the words “and God said” and “let there be”. And every stanza ends by “and God saw it was good” and “it was morning and evening”.
Parallelism

God creates the heavens on day 1; God populates the heavens on day 4.
Separation of the waters on day 2; filling of the waters on day 5.
Dry ground day 3; let the land produce day 6.
God creates sky on day 1 and populates it on day 4.
God creates water separation on day 2 and populates it on day 5.
God creates land on day 3 and populates it on day 6 culminating with man

'So God created mankind in his own image'
'In image of God he created them'
the literary device is very characteristic of Hebrew poetry.

Poetic Visual Imagery (the third characteristic of Hebrew poetry)
“The Earth was formless and empty and darkness was over the surface of the Deep, and the spirit of God was hovering over the waters.”
“And God said, 'Let there be light', and there was light. And God saw that the light was good and separated the light...”

“Notice the juxtaposition between dark and light.”

Other examples are given in the book upon which this video was based.

There were several other articles I examined including in books on the poetic structure of Genesis 1 of using words and even Hebrew letters in various patterns of 7 including chiastic patterns as was shown in the main paper upon which this addendum is written. Some of the misunderstanding “...is due in part to the fact that the translators of the King James Version of the Bible overlooked the poetic structure of the Psalms (as well as other poetic portions of the Old Testament).”  (From Bible.org 2. What is a Psalm). Once again ancients didn't think or view things the same as we do today. This is why trying to force Genesis 1 into a linear or chronological historical sequence does not work. Theories such as epochs of time, punctuated periods, etc., no matter what you do do not fit the actual physical evidence even though there is some similarity. **Genesis 1 is a very sophisticated liturgical piece using Hebrew poetry as a vehicle and memory aid that God is the Creator of all we see, and not how or when He did the Creation.** Genesis 1-2:3 is poetic, while the rest of chapter 2 is mainly in historical prose. This is why the older now discredited theory that there were different authors for Genesis 1 and 2 came about. They once thought Genesis 1-2:3 had to have a Priestly author(s), and the balance of Genesis 2 was from the Jahwist faction.

**Something to Think About**

The theme of Genesis 1 is that there is one God and He is the **single source** of all Creation. Have you considered that the Big Bang began from a single source that became atoms, stars, planets, living things including ourselves? The Universe did not begin from multiple sources. Have you considered that all living things from viruses to humans on Earth share similar DNA that has a very specific structure which according to the evidence so far came from a single source? In both cases the very small and insignificant becomes incredibly complex and wondrous. We see this pattern in Scripture where God often used what was insignificant just as in the parable of the mustard seed.
The Dome

Amongst the ancients they viewed the sky above them contained within a dome. In Hebrew we find the word *raqia* first appearing in Genesis 1:6-8. In the King James Bible it is translated into English as *firmament* based on the Latin Vulgate *firmamentum* (Jerome knew Hebrew and Greek and consulted with Jewish scholars) which in turn came from the Greek word *stereoma* found in the Septuagint used by the Hebrews at the time of Christ. The Septuagint was a translation made about 200 BC from the Hebrew text by Jewish scholars into Koine Greek which at the time was the predominant common language spoken by the Jewish population especially in Egypt. The fact the Jewish scholars used the Greek word *stereoma* shows how the sky was viewed at the time. In the NAS New Testament Lexicon *stereoma* is defined as “that which has been made firm, the firmament, the arch of the sky, which in early times was thought to be solid...on which things rests firmly...” From Brown-Driver-Briggs “the vault of heaven, or 'firmament', regarded by Hebrews as solid supporting 'waters' above it.” From the Jewish encyclopedia “The Hebrews regarded the earth as a plain or a hill figured like a hemisphere, swimming on water. Over this is arched the solid vault of heaven. To this are fastened the lights, the stars. So slight is this elevation that birds may rise to it along its expanse.” Early theologians such as Saint Augustine, Basil, and Aquinas viewed the firmament as solid. Brown-Driver-Briggs along with Young's Literal Translation also give the more modern scientific understanding for the Hebrew word *raqia* as *expanse*.

Here are some examples of how *raqia* was understood at the time:

Psalms 148:4 “Praise him, you highest heavens and you waters above the skies.”

Genesis 7:11 “In the six hundredth year of Noah's, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, the same day were all the fountains of the deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened.”

Deuteronomy 28:23 “And the heavens over your head shall be bronze, and the earth under you shall be iron.” From Young's Literal translation: “And thy heavens which are over thy head have been brass, and the earth which is under thee iron.”

Job 37:18 “Can you, like him, spread out the skies, hard as a cast metal mirror?”

When we read Scripture we must remember about the physical world it is described in ways the ancients could understand. It was hard enough to get them to understand stars were not gods. They would not understand what we know today from astronomy. It was astrology back then. YEC's in order to defend Genesis 1 as being literal and chronologically accurate as well as scientific will claim the word is *expanse* where it says in some verses the heavens were stretched out, but the word can also mean the metal was beaten and stretched out. I think the verses above make it pretty clear how the ancients viewed the sky.

Varves

Varves are thin layers of sediment composed of a light portion of sand from wetter times of the
year and a darker portion of clay and organic material which takes time to settle from suspension and shows up moreso when less moisture is flowing into a lake or sea. Together they form a couplet called a varve. They are shown to be seasonal with one couplet forming per year. In the western portion of Texas they are about 260,000 couplets thick which represents about 260,000 years. If they were a result of the Noah Flood, in one year there would have to be one couplet laid down every two minutes. But over such a large area with such even layering would require water so still it would have to be evaporating at an extremely rapid rate in just a year. Where did all that water go? If the water was draining we would not see such even layering.

The Green River formation covers 40,000 square miles in between mountain ranges where sand and clay washed down from the mountains. The Green River Formation consists of about 7 million couplets and is about 2,500 feet thick, and in addition is on top of another 25,000 feet of sedimentary rock. To get the thickness of the Green River formation would require nearly 5 couplets formed each second for a whole year. One method for dating the various layers is paleomagnetism. Since the Earth changes the magnetic poles at various times this aids in dating the layers besides seasonal layering, radiometric dating, transition in anatomy of fossils found (no fish fossils in the deepest layers) and other methods.

But we see no such layering from records of actual floods. Floods leave jumbled sediment layers up to several feet thick as found in the Mesopotamian area and other parts of the world. Some YEC's claim that because fish fossils can be found through several layers this shows the layers were laid down much faster. It should be noted that the fish fossils found are small and in the bottom of a lake or sea amongst sediment where the oxygen level which accelerates decomposition is low. But most importantly at the time a fish died it would have sunk into what was then soft sediment layers that became hard rock much later.

**Noah's Flood**

In researching for this additional section on the Flood of Noah, frankly, the explanations got so bad on the Young Earth Creationist's sites---well let's cover these so you can see just how embarrassingly bad they are as they are desperately hanging onto Flood Geology knowing that if that falls everything falls. (Interestingly, I could print from Answers in Genesis, but not from the Institute for Creation Research site including their research papers for backup documentation in this Addendum section). One big surprise is that while claiming the Noah Flood occurred about 2350 BC they claim it was followed by the Ice Age! You read that right. This is relatively a new claim as they have to admit there was at least one ice age, but for them it had to be after the Flood. This is because there are large areas of ice left over from the last ice age and the ice is found above fossil layers. The Institute for Creation Research (founded by Henry Morris), Answers in Genesis, and other Young Earth Creationist sites have to claim this as for them Flood Geology is the key to supposedly explaining the geologic layers and fossils. At Answers in Genesis there is an article titled “The Key to the Age of the Earth” which says “...the Flood so crucial ...to the age of the earth”.

Concerning the Ice Age YEC claim during the Flood there was rapid cataclysmic movement on the Earth which explains plate tectonics accompanied by huge volcanic activity due to massive ruptures in the mantle causing the oceans to heat even further from pre-Flood levels resulting in massive snowfalls after the Flood creating the Ice Age where the glaciers became huge and over a mile deep. They agree the ice sheets could not have been formed before the Flood as the Flood would have caused them to
float, and once subsided the base of the ice sheets would not fit the underlying topography nor are there salt water residues in the ice. Then they claim it also melted very rapidly. So, if that really happened we don't find any mention in Genesis about massive earthquakes, formation of new lands and mountain ranges, nor darkened skies for years following with cold temperatures. The warmth loving olive tree grew leaves and Noah started a vineyard right after the ground dried. Considering the hills and mountains of Ararat where Scripture said the Ark settled the latitude is nearly 40 degrees north. So it would have to be low altitude as at this latitude it gets quite cold at night in higher elevations including the fact the last glacial period extended down into Turkey.

Since I have already covered the geology (YEC claim the mountains formed during and after the Flood because there is layering that includes fossils) in the main paper let's look at the Greenland Ice Sheet which still exists after the last ice age. We should find hardly any layers as each would be very thick due to such heavy very dirty snowfall including rather high levels of sulfur from all this volcanic activity. But in the real World, except for occasional layers of darkened ice correlating with volcanic activity over time, we find instead very clean thin ice layers. Glacier melt is noted for the purity of the water. Borings into the ice reveal at least 110,000 layers. Each layer represents a year of ice accumulation. There are other than just counting the visible layers more ways of proving this. During the summer snow and fog right over the ice results in coarser crystals with larger trapped air bubbles and that of winter when there is no sun results in finer crystals together revealing visible annual bands. Dust layers that correlate with seasons can also be seen. As the thickness of layers decreases due to the compression from the weight of ice lasers are used to count the annual layers. The third way is electrical conductivity as during the summer nitric acid is forming but not during the winter when the sun is not shining. The presence of the trapped acid allows an electrical current to pass through revealing the layers.

YEC claims the Great Pyramid could not have existed prior to the Flood they date at 2350 BC as it shows no evidence of a flood and it is built on fossil-bearing rock layers (which is obvious). If you will recall in the main paper it was pointed out other societies were unaffected by the Flood showing it was a local to regional phenomenon. The date they set for the Flood actually comes after the Great Pyramid was built (2566-2589 BC, although they try to deny this). YEC also ignores the fact there were other pyramids and structures that existed prior to the Great Pyramid.

Years ago many of us were told there were no new species, all had been created in the first six days of Genesis 1. Today's YEC will deny that. But let's look at quotes from Henry Morris who is considered laying the groundwork since 1961 for today's Young Earth Creationism:

From the “Scientific Case Against Evolution”: “...evolution on any significant scale does not occur at present, and never happened in the past, and could never happen at all.” “...the fact is that billions of known fossils do not include a single unequivocal transitional form with transitional structures in the process of evolving.” “...even those who believe in rapid evolution recognize that a considerable number of generations would be required for one distinct kind to evolve into another complex kind.” “...instead of filling in the gaps in the fossil record with so-called missing links, most paleontologist found themselves facing a situation in which there were only gaps in the fossil record, with no evidence of transformational intermediates between documented fossil species.” “So how do evolutionists arrive at their evolutionary trees from fossils of organisms that didn't change during their durations?”
From The Case Against Evolution: “...first, there is no evidence of evolution occurring at present and, second, that there is no evidence that evolution has occurred in the past.” “And according to Scripture, creation is no longer taking place.” “God is now preserving everything he had created in the six days, but he is no longer creating anything.”

Remember these quotes as we now look at what YEC is now saying after so much overwhelming evidence including transitional forms have been proven:

From the Institute for Creation Research in an article on their site What Part Does The Flood of Noah's Day Play in Creation Thinking? By John D. Morris, PhD, son of Henry Morris: “Many students of the creation movement have noted that the publication of The Genesis Flood by John Whitcomb and Henry Morris (1961), was used by God to catalyze the modern revival of creation thinking. Up until that time, most scientists and many theologians held to some form of theistic evolution. Most had been intimidated into accepting long ages and evolution.” “…what does the creationist do with the rocks? The answer—the Flood.” In Did Noah Recognize Different Frog Species? By Brian Thomas, MS, “Noah took two of every 'sort' or 'kind'. Does the Bible indicate that Noah took two of every one of today's named species? Certainly not....” In The Impetus for Biological Change by Nathaniel T. Jeanson, PhD, “What does the Bible teach about biological change? In recent articles, the Institute for Creation Research life sciences team has shown that the Bible teaches limited common ancestry and a limit to biological change. But the Bible also suggests that there was a burst of biological change in the more distant past, which leads to the fourth key origins question in biological research—the cause of this change...The key scriptural passage for understanding the cause of biological change is Genesis 6-7.” “Did Noah take on the Ark two (unclean) or seven (clean) representatives of every species on earth today? There are two reasons that this is unlikely. First, all the species alive on earth today would not fit on the Ark. Second, 'species' is an imprecise term that sometimes separates creatures into different categories despite reproductive compatibility between the two. Thus 'kind' and 'species' are not equivalent terms, and Noah likely did not take two or seven of each on board the Ark.” “…it is readily apparent that much diversity has occurred since the Flood... Hence, some process of diversification (currently unknown) appears to have produced a significant amount of diversity from two original pairs in just 4,000 years since the Flood. Thus, Scripture teaches that biological change can happen fast... Since the apparently rapid diversification shortly after the Flood rates of biological change seems to have slowed down...” There are other articles on this site by other authors supporting the views shown here.

From Answers in Genesis “10 Myths About Creationism”: “A popular caricature of creationists is that we teach fixity of species (i.e., species don't change). And since species obviously do change, evolutionists enjoy setting up this straw-man argument to win a debate that was never really there in the first place.” “Species changing via natural selection and mutations is perfectly in accord with what the Bible teaches.” In AIG’s Answer Magazine “Do Species Change?”: “To his credit, Darwin corrected a popular misconception. Species do change. Since Darwin's day, many observations have confirmed this. In fact, new species have even been shown to arise within a single human lifetime.” [Yes, you read that right! I doubt many who believe in YEC are aware of this. If you really want to get shook up go to Addendum 2, pages 2-3 This Will Get Your Attention! Just before the Comment section on page 3 you will find on the YEC site referring to different pre-human and human fossil forms and species “certainly the similarities arise from a common source.”]
From Creation Ministries International: “Creationists have long proposed 'splitting under selection' from the original kinds...”

So why the change? Two reasons: the overwhelming evidence, and they have to explain the millions upon millions of species that distributed and changed from those much fewer species that came off the Ark. So because so many species developed in such a short time after the Flood according to them they are admitting macroevolution to the maximum far outdoing Darwin who showed that changes were usually slow! Of course they can't admit that they got themselves in a trap so now they claim all the species found in the fossil record, and those living today are descendents of “kinds” that came off the Ark and evolution does not exist. But in reality evolution shows that new species slowly come from previous kinds. In an effort to smear the theory of evolution earlier Creationists made false accusations as it threatened their view of Creation. Never mind the facts. Contrary to popular thought among atheists and Creationists evolution does not state whether life came from a Creator or not. That is not in its scope just as in describing a chemical process or a mathematical equation to explain gravity evolution merely describes a mechanism which is easily seen at the molecular level in DNA, in the fossil record, and even among living organisms today.

Just as a Reminder

From the “prophetess” Ellen G. White shortly after the Great Disappointment of 1844 “I was then carried back to the creation and was shown that the first week, in which God performed the work of creation in six days and rested on the seventh day was just like every other week.” This vision was followed by another where she states about humans, animals and trees “…were buried, and thus preserved as an evidence to later generations that the antediluvians perished in the flood....” George McCready Price, a follower of the prophetess, believing this had to be true came up with Flood Geology. It was Henry Morris who revitalized it. It was also Henry Morris in his 1972 book “The Remarkable Birth of Planet Earth” claimed the craters of the Moon may well have been caused by a battle between Satan and the armies of the archangel Michael:

“Since in Scripture stars are frequently associated with angels, it may be that the stars are in some way involved in the ministries of angels...” “The physical stars, which are somehow associated with the spiritual host of heaven, may thus be also involved in heavenly warfare.” “There are a number of Biblical references indicating that in some way the stars may actually participate in human battles...In any case, the possibility is at least open that the fractures and scars on the moon and Mars, the shattered remnants of an erstwhile planet that became the asteroids, the peculiar rings of Saturn, the meteorite swarms, and other such features that somehow seem alien to a 'very good' universe as God must have created it may have been acquired later. Perhaps they reflect some kind of heavenly catastrophe associated either with Satan's primeval rebellion or his continuing battle against Michael and his angels....” [Welcome to Christian Astrology! The Bible continually warned the people in the Old Testament to stay away from this kind of stuff, but here it is. See Gospel in the Stars? On this site. ]

Had enough, I sure have.
Isn't it About Time

Several in the Catholic Church were initially receptive to Copernicus concerning the position of the Earth as related to the Sun and other planets, but there were those who felt threatened and started citing portions of Scripture they thought would support them. It took courage and integrity for the church to admit that such positions were wrong. I find something similar with today's situation. Initially, in the early 1800's many in Protestant churches were receptive to new findings, but then some became threatened and we see the disastrous results today. Will we see the same courage and integrity in the Protestant circles and speak out against Young Earth Creationism?

A Troubling Problem for Many of the Christian Faith

Our considerable advancements in human genetics is showing that we descended from pre-human forms creating a lot of problems amongst especially fundamentalists. A lot of this has to do with assumptions and teachings of some decades ago in the church. Francis Collins, a Christian and former head of the Human Genome project, verifies we did descend from pre-human forms. There are several technical reasons for this which if you are not a geneticist or have a very good understanding of heredity you would not understand. It has to do with the placement of certain genetic codes over time due to mutation, exposure to viruses, etc., that enables geneticists to trace the lineages. We are getting hereditary material from pre-modern human remains and they correlate well with what is literally being dug up. So what are we to make of this? It certainly has to be very disturbing to many as they grew up being taught a certain way. And that is the problem. It just shows how deeply Young Earth Creationism has ingrained itself especially in Protestant culture. Because of the overwhelming evidence even YEC is having to yield some as seen from the quotes on pages 12-13 of this paper and in Addendum 2 pages 2-3 under 'This will get your attention!' where they admit “humans also experienced a post-Flood, intrabaraminic diversification.”.

The Bible tells us Adam was formed from the ground (we are of the same substance as other life) and Eve is related to him (the “rib”). In addition Jesus recognized Adam and Eve along with the Scriptural genealogy lists as real people. The description of Cain and what the others did at that time place them somewhere between the late Neolithic Age and the Bronze Age about 10,000 to 4,000 BC. Throughout the Bible it is stated God was choosing a people for Himself from other humans to be with Him as adopted children. But to do that since God is eternal something else, we call soul, had to be introduced. In addition we are continually reminded of our animal nature with its lusts and that God expects much more of us. It is likely that Adam and Eve were the starting point of something which no other life form on Earth would have—the ability to receive eternal life and be with God. Scientifically we could call Adam and Eve Homo sapiens divinus. As to how this new form of humanity was to spread from pre-human and human lineage is still a mystery. We know both archaeologically and Scripturally (Cain was worried when he was forced to leave the area where Adam and Eve lived others would kill him) the real problem comes in genetically if we claim Cain married one of his sisters as the genetics shows no severe bottlenecks including in the mitochondria that is passed only through females, and Genesis also speaks of the sons of God (easily meaning the line of Adam and Eve) mixing with the daughters of men. (See pages 10-11 of Creation Update for more.)

From the National Genographic Project they note the appearance of the J Haplogroup: “Haplogroup J played a crucial role in modern human development. These were the first farmers, a lineage which
originated in the Fertile Crescent some 10,000 to 15,000 years ago during the time of the Neolithic revolution. These people's success, and extensive migrations, eventually led to the rise of modern, settled communities and cities.” Note this was in the Fertile Crescent, the very area described in the Bible.

I bring this to your attention because this is an upcoming challenge. The facts are very real just as there had to be corrections amongst the faithful when we discovered we weren't the center of the Universe, that the Earth and Universe have been around a very long time, plants and animal species do change, etc. We do not realize much of our earlier attitudes and views stem from Greek thought which became unfortunately incorporated into church theology. A good example is Aristotle who stated the Universe is perfect and unchanging, and we are at the center. This was part of church theology through the middle ages even though not Scriptural. But for the scientifically minded who think religion was without scientific foundation they also need to be reminded that earlier “science” was very primitive, loaded with ideas that later proved false such as spontaneous generation, stars were gods, alchemy, etc. It was not until the about the 1500's our understanding of things began to change, and big changes came beginning in the 1800's. Because most religious people are not scientists, there is always a lag time just as there would be in other non-scientific areas.

Just as God determined humanity was ready for a soul are we ready for what He is revealing to us through science?

My niece made an excellent observation: “It's sad. Christians should be at the front end of science and discovery...not atheists.” Except for a period at the time of Galileo, which the Catholic Church regrets, those at the front of science were once Christians or believed in God. Here is a partial historical list: Nicholas Copernicus, Sir Francis Bacon, Johannes Kepler, Galileo Galilei, Rene Descartes, Blaise Pacal, Isaac Newton, Robert Boyle, Michael Faraday, Gregor Mendel, MaxPlanck, and Albert Einstein (did not believe in a personal god, but there was a creator. Einstein once said “I want to know how God created the world...” He also said “Science without religion is lame, religion without science is blind.”).