

Ancient History and Technology

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Introduction

The modern secular view of history is consistent with its general worldview that everything evolves slowly but inevitably toward increasing sophistication and moral improvement without a supernatural entity (evolutionary view), and that man is his own god in that he determines ethical standards and whose death is the final end of his story (humanism). Therefore, the history of man is seen as beginning with a primitive culture and gradually evolving with increasing degrees of knowledge and technology.

The Biblical worldview is a theistic worldview, which believes there is a God who created the universe and all life in it and is the source of ultimate knowledge, purpose for life, human ethical standards, and life beyond this present existence, and to whom we will be held accountable for our conduct. This worldview believes that God created everything perfect but that man's moral fall into evil (sin) resulted in moral and physical degradation and the Second Law of Thermodynamics, which is that all things, animate and inanimate, naturally tend to gradually deteriorate and/or die.

These two worldviews are opposite from each other and cannot be reconciled. This paper is written from the Biblical worldview and attempts to demonstrate from both Biblical and secular sources that human history has not been continually evolving toward greater knowledge and sophistication but that ancient history strongly suggests that man once had great scientific knowledge and a high level of technology and then lost it and has been slowly recovering it.

Although several sources of information were used in research for this paper, we are particularly indebted to Rene Noorbergen (d. 1995), a Dutch-American journalist, researcher, and writer, for much of the data regarding ancient monuments, ooparts (out-of-place artifacts), and legends found in his book *Secrets of the Lost Races*, published by Barnes & Noble Books in 1978.

Higher Criticism

Higher Criticism is the school of thought within more liberal Protestant Christian circles that resulted from the secular movement called the Enlightenment that arose in the middle of the seventeenth century and dominated in the eighteenth century. It insisted that there must be a natural explanation for everything rather than any supernatural explanations and that human reason was the most important element in determining the natural law that explains everything, in addition

to observation and experimentation. By or even a little before the nineteenth century, Higher Criticism became the standard approach that more liberal scholars took to the Bible. In doing so, they rejected the miracles and the miraculous and tended to doubt the history recorded there as well. Instead, many historical events were interpreted as mythological in nature rather than as literal historical events. The process of demythologizing the Bible began in the nineteenth century especially by German Protestant scholars. Naturally, Darwin's theory of evolution, introduced in his book *On the Origin of Species by Natural Selection*, published in 1859, only added fuel to the fire of Higher Criticism.

Is the Bible history or mythology?

Higher Critics insist that most of the Bible's history, especially its account of the more ancient history, is mythological rather than historical. If true, then nothing the Bible says about ancient history like Creation, the Flood, and the story of the Tower of Babel can be trusted. This is the reason that Genesis chapters 1-11 are particularly the focus of Higher Criticism's critiques. But is it true that these stories are mythological and do not describe real history?

First, the word *mythology* is derived from two Greek words, *mythos*, meaning *story of the people* and *logos*, meaning *word or speech*. Thus the word *mythology* literally means *spoken story of the people*. In other words, it is an oral story or legend that has been handed down over the centuries (whether eventually written or not). Its major characteristics are as follows:

- Myths are often set in pre-historic (pre-writing) times, where gods, goddesses, supernatural monsters, or other mystical beings exist.
- Myths tend to have an abundance of stories where natural laws are bent or broken.
- Myths focus on the mysterious or the unknown.
- The hero in a myth is often a sophisticated story-teller.
- Myths tend to be concerned with the cosmology of a culture, not with ordinary life.
- Myths often take the form of an allegorical narrative, a symbolic fictional narrative that teaches something about the origins of life, about rewards and punishments involved in the struggle between good and evil, and with the afterlife.

Certainly, the Bible speaks of one God and declares that Jesus was God who became a man. However, this is hardly consistent with the myths of the Greeks and Romans, who have a multiplicity of gods and goddesses who act capriciously with mankind and are just as selfish and

evil as people are. The story of Jesus has nothing in common with the Greek Hercules, the son of Zeus, for example. The miracles in the Scriptures do represent disruptions of natural law, of course, but they are not like the mysterious events you find in mythical literature in general. Bible writers often tell a story, but the narratives are not particularly told in a fantastical manner. While the Bible sometimes concerns itself with heavenly realities, it is far more concerned about mankind and his everyday life. Therefore, we believe that an honest reading of the Christian Scriptures will reveal that that it is not mythological literature. Instead, it reads as if it wants to be taken seriously as straightforward history.

Creation

The philosophical foundation for the evolutionary view of history that denies any possibility that ancient civilizations possessed sophisticated levels of knowledge and technology is the biological theory of evolution. While we have examined the scientific arguments for and against evolution elsewhere, here we will cite nine different reasons why the Biblical worldview is completely incompatible with evolution.

First, the Creation account in Genesis 1 does not contain mythological characteristics. It does, of course, speak about God's all-important role in Creation. But it reads like straightforward history and not like the fanciful myths of Creation so prevalent in many ancient cultures.

Second, even if Genesis 1 were figurative rather than literal, its two major points flatly contradict evolutionary theory. Evolution says that life evolved naturally and randomly with no design or purpose. But Genesis 1 suggests design and purpose because the first three days speak of light, the division of the atmosphere from the waters on the surface of the earth, and dry land, respectively. Then the fourth day speaks of the creation of the sun and moon (perhaps the stars also), the fifth day of filling the sky with birds and the water with fish and other sea creatures, and the sixth of filling the land with animals and humans. That forms a perfect pattern, implying design and purpose, in addition to the fact that God got down in the dirt to intentionally form man (Genesis 2:7). Another major teaching of evolution is that all life today originated from the same single-celled amoeba which branched off into different organisms from there. But Genesis 1 is definite in teaching that God created all living things, including plant life, each *according to its kind* (vv. 11-12, 21, 24-25).

Third, each day of Creation week in Genesis 1 is a literal 24-hour day. This is true for several reasons. One reason is that in Hebrew whenever the word for *day* (*yom*) occurs in association with a specific number, it refers to a literal day unless the context requires it to be understood symbolically of a longer period of time. But even when it is symbolic, the only way a day represents a longer time period is for a literal year (Numbers 14:34; Ezekiel 4:6). This is particularly true for the time periods in the apocalyptic prophecies of Daniel and Revelation. A

second reason is that Genesis 2:1-3 tells us that God did three specific things on the seventh day of Creation week: (1) He rested; (2) He blessed that day; and (3) He sanctified (made it holy, set it apart) that day. In the Sabbath Commandment in Exodus 20:8-11, the very reason given for keeping the seventh-day Sabbath is that God did those three things mentioned in Genesis 2:1-3. Everyone agrees that the Sabbath in ancient Israel was a literal 24-hour day. Therefore, the rest of the days in Creation week must also have been literal 24-hour days. Finally, if each day in Creation week represented millions of years, all plant life (created on day 3) would have died for lack of carbon dioxide because birds were not created until the fifth day and animals and humans not until the sixth day—all life that breathes out carbon dioxide so that plants can take that in and give them oxygen in return.

We would add that if all people observed the seventh-day Sabbath there would be no way for the theory of evolution to have ever begun, let alone gotten a foothold among humanity. The seventh-day Sabbath was given to mankind before sin entered the world and long before there was a Jew. Therefore, there is nothing distinctly Jewish about the Sabbath, and there is nothing inherently legalistic about keeping it holy.

Fourth, the New Testament agrees with the literal account of Creation recorded in Genesis 1. See Romans 1:19-20, Hebrews 4:4, James 3:9, and II Peter 3:4-5 as representative examples of this truth.

Fifth, Hebrews 4:3 states, in the context of Creation week, that *the works were finished from the foundation of the world*. In other words, God finished His work of Creation at the same general time frame that He began that work (laid the *foundation* for Creation).

Sixth, the Bible's description of Creation as the result of an instantaneous act of God is incompatible with long eons of time for the universe to form and for life on earth to have evolved. The very best text that illustrates this truth is Psalms 33:9: *For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast.*

Seventh, the Bible teaches that death came into the world as the result of sin. See Genesis 3:19, Romans 5:12-17, and I Corinthians 15:21. But evolution says that death was part of the natural process by which all living things evolved.

Eighth, the Scriptures teach that God is love personified, not merely loving (I John 4:8, 16). It is inconceivable that a God of love would use death as an important means by which He "creates."

Finally, if death came before sin entered the world, then there could not have been a fall of mankind into sin and there would consequently be no need for a plan of salvation, a Savior, or a final judgment and eternal rewards.

For all of the aforementioned reasons, it should be abundantly clear that there is no way to reconcile any theory of evolution with the Christian Scriptures. They are completely and irretrievably incompatible with each other. This means that the Biblical worldview is also not in harmony with the evolutionary view of history because man is not improving or evolving, but *devolving*. Of course, it is to be expected that his knowledge of science and his use of that in technology would gradually increase. But that does not mean that it must *always* be *continually* progressing toward greater knowledge and increasingly sophisticated technology as the evolutionary view of history must believe. This permits the person adhering to the Biblical worldview to allow the evidence from the Bible, secular history, archaeology, ancient legends, and other physical evidence to speak for itself. This paper is designed to do just that. When you examine the evidence cited herein from the Biblical worldview, we think you will agree that at least some ancient civilizations possessed advanced scientific knowledge and a high degree of sophisticated technology, lost it, and that we have just recently arrived at the place that some ancients had already been before us.

The Flood

The Flood as History

We cannot prove in a scientific way that the global Flood story is true or that it is not true. However, we choose to view the evidence on the earth as validating the global Flood account in Genesis. First, we know that a cataclysmic Flood is one plausible way to explain the numerous canyons and other features on the earth's surface. It does not require millions of years of slow erosion to create such features. Second, we know from the eruption of the Mount Saint Helens volcano in 1980 that petrification of wood can occur in a matter of months and that it does not require millions of years. The global Flood would have undoubtedly unleashed tremendous forces that would have quickly buried large amounts of organic material with such pressure and heat as to create the fossil fuels so prevalent in the world today. Finally, the presence of millions of fully intact sea fossils, especially in the upper regions of the world's mountains, speaks of their sudden and cataclysmic destruction by water. Reasonable people can rely on the principle of uniformitarianism if they choose to do so. But it is not necessary for that principle to be true in order to explain what we find on the earth today. Moreover, the best explanation for the intact sea fossils, especially in the high mountain regions all over the world, is a global Flood.

Finally, more than 250 ancient civilizations found all over the world have a global Flood legend. The two most famous are the Genesis Flood story and the *Epic of Gilgamesh*, a Mesopotamian flood legend. They nearly all have three common elements in their different stories: (1) there was a global Flood that destroyed the whole earth by water; (2) a few people and animals were saved in a boat; and (3) God or the gods started over with those few people and animals to repopulate the earth. A fourth element, common although not universal, was that human wickedness was the cause of this global Flood.

We have three choices from which to choose as to how we interpret the fact that so many ancient Flood legends scattered all over the world exist. First, it could be that they are all different accounts of some original devastating but not global flood, such as the *Epic of Gilgamesh*. Second, each of those civilizations experienced one such devastating flood that they all mistakenly believed was global in extent. Third, there really was a global Flood that different civilizations attached legendary material to after so many generations of people.

Regarding the first option, why would a local flood, no matter how devastating, become a matter of oral history in more than 250 different and scattered human civilizations? Ancient people were not as ignorant as we tend to think they were. It is unreasonable to believe that all of those civilizations would have incorporated a local flood from Mesopotamia into their oral histories. As for the second option, the ignorance of ancient peoples was not as such that they would believe a local flood in their own region, no matter how devastating, was actually global in extent. Therefore, the most logical explanation for this phenomena is that there actually was a global Flood. Remember also that most historians believe that there is some grain of truth in ancient legends even though fictional material undoubtedly would have been added after 150 to 200 years of time after the essential truth of the story. This is not proof of the global Flood, but it does illustrate that reasonable people can believe in it.

Interestingly, the ancient peoples considered to be the best reporters of history are the Jews and the Chinese. Both of their Flood legends are very similar. Chronologically, they both date their Flood stories to about the year 2300 B.C. Both stories tell us that a hero named Noah (or Nu-wah in the Chinese story) and his wife, their three sons and their wives—a total of eight people—were saved in a boat. In fact, the Chinese written word for *ship* is the picture of a boat and eight mouths.

Chronology

How do we know that the long ages given in the genealogies of Genesis 5, 10, and 11:10-26 are really true and accurate? After all, scholars know that Biblical genealogies sometimes skip whole generations. They do so when, according to the ancient custom, a genealogy is listed to highlight the prominence of a person. For example, the purpose for Matthew's genealogy of Jesus is to prove that He is a descendant of King David, something the Messiah must be (Matthew 1:1-17), because Matthew was apparently writing for a Jewish audience. Matthew 1:17 says his genealogy was given in three sections of 14 generations each. The number 14 is the numerical value of King David's name and was apparently a convenient memory aid. The purpose of Luke's genealogy of Jesus in Luke 3:23-34 is to show that He was truly part of the human race in taking it all the way back to Adam. By the way, the word *son* in the translations of Luke 3 is not in the Greek manuscripts, and even if it were, the word *son* in the Scriptures can mean any close male relative. The differences in the genealogies of Matthew and Luke can be resolved if we view Matthew's genealogy as Jesus' line through Joseph and Luke's as His line through Mary. By contrast, the

genealogies in Genesis appear to have no purpose other than to provide a historical record. Therefore, it should be accepted as true and accurate.

As to the long ages of the antediluvian patriarchs, the Bible offers the possibility of four different plausible reasons for them: (1) their relative closeness in time to the Creation and the Tree of Life suggests a greater vitality; (2) superior food quality before the Flood (suggested by #3 and #4); (3) the existence of a heavy water canopy over the world before the Flood (Genesis 1:6-8; 2:5-6; 7:11-12) prevented much radiation from entering into the earth's atmosphere and probably meant a higher air pressure (we know that living cells seem to function much more efficiently under higher atmospheric pressures); and (4) secular science's measurements since the early nineteenth century suggest that the earth's magnetic field was probably much stronger than it is today (and up to a limit, of course, a stronger magnetic field appears to be healthier for living organisms).

It is also interesting to note that the ancient Babylonian records speak of ten antediluvian kings just as Genesis 5 refers to ten antediluvian patriarchs. Note the comparative lists below:

<i>Genesis Patriarchs</i>	<i>Babylonian Kings</i>
Adam	Alorus
Seth	Aloparus
Enosh	Almelon
Cainan	Ammenon
Mahalalel	Amegalarus
Jared	Daonus
Enoch	Aedorachus
Methuselah	Amempsinus
Lamech	Otiartes
Noah	Xisuthros

Xisuthros, the last of the Babylonian kings, is said to have been the hero that saved mankind in the global Flood, making the entire Babylonian list of ten kings to have lived before the Flood. In addition, some of the Babylonian names mean essentially the same as the Genesis names do. For example, the third king Almelon's name means a man; Enosh, the third Genesis patriarch's name means moral or weak mankind. The fourth names on the lists, Ammenon and Cainan, each mean craftsman. There is no reasonable doubt that these two lists refer to the same leaders in the pre-Flood era of human history. Babylonian sources also speak of these kings as living very long lifespans as does Genesis. Therefore, the Bible is not the only historical source for the long ages of people who lived before the Flood.

The seven Biblical historical documents we have for Genesis do not agree on the exact years for each of the ten patriarchs given in Genesis 5. Those sources are (1) the Masoretic Text, originating in the sixth century A.D. and completed in the tenth century and the basis for our Christian Old Testament today; (2) the Septuagint (LXX), a third and second century B.C. Greek translation of the Jewish Scriptures made by Jewish scholars in Alexandria, Egypt; (3) the Dead Sea Scrolls, mostly Hebrew texts dating to the second and first centuries B.C.; (4) the Samaritan Pentateuch, traditionally believed to have been produced in the first or second centuries B.C. (because it is written in a Hebrew script with the Samaritan alphabet and has many similarities with the Septuagint) and the only Bible of the Samaritans (the mixed Hebrew-Gentile descendants of the northern kingdom of Israel); (5) the earliest Jewish Targum (Aramaic translations from an earlier Hebrew text written by Jews in the first and second centuries A.D.); (6) the Syriac Bible (translated from the Hebrew into Syriac, a form of Aramaic, in the second century A.D.); and (7) the Latin Vulgate, translated from an earlier Hebrew text (except the Psalms was translated from the Septuagint) by a priest and theologian named Jerome (d. ca. 420 A.D.) from what is now part of Croatia in southeastern Europe and is the basis for the official Roman Catholic Old Testament. The Samaritan Pentateuch disagrees from the Masoretic Text for three of the ten patriarchs, while the Septuagint disagrees with seven of them, with the eighth patriarch (Methuselah) having one age at his son's birth in some manuscripts and another age in other manuscripts. In six patriarchs the Septuagint's difference is exactly 100 years older at the age of his first son's birth. It is not so much the lifespans that are greater in the Septuagint but the total length of the antediluvian world and thus of the earth (with the Septuagint lengthening it by 606 years).

In the genealogy in Genesis 11:10-26 the Septuagint increases the age of most of the fathers when they had their sons and also expands the ages of most of the patriarchs from Shem to Terah (Abraham's father) by a total of 654 years, thus adding that number of years to the age of the earth. It also inserts Cainan between Arphaxad and Salah, which adds an additional 130 years, for a total of 784 years. Combined with its record of the genealogy in Genesis 5, the Septuagint adds 1,390 years. Then in I Kings 6:1 it subtracts 40 years from the chronological connection between the exodus of Israel from Egypt and Solomon's start of the Jerusalem Temple. Thus the Septuagint adds a grand total of 1,350 more years to the age of the earth than the Masoretic Text gives. [Note: Complicating matters even more is that different manuscripts of the Septuagint differ on the exact numbers for three of the names in Genesis 11, making the 1,350 number not precise. Concerning the insertion of an extra name in the Septuagint's list in Genesis 11, Luke 3's genealogy includes the same name, but he, like all the New Testament authors, usually quote from the Septuagint. Thus his inclusion of the extra name does not necessarily mean the Septuagint is the correct reading. Noteworthy is the fact that none of the other ancient sources for the Old Testament have the extra name (Samaritan Pentateuch, Dead Sea Scrolls, the Jewish Targum, the Syriac Bible, and the Latin Vulgate; neither does first-century A.D. Jewish historian Flavius Josephus)].

We believe the Masoretic Text is the accurate rendering of the ages of the patriarchs for several reasons. First, even though the completed Masoretic Text is about 1,000 years newer than the Septuagint, the Jews in Alexandria, Egypt who translated from Hebrew versions in their day are known to have made some changes in other parts of Scripture to align with their more liberal theological views. Second, the Greeks had a tradition of a long prehistoric age in the time of their mythical heroes, so elongating the age of the ancient world would better appeal to them. The Samaritans are also known to have made some changes elsewhere to align with their more liberal theological views. Some scholars believe the Masoretes altered some Scriptures because the early Christians used the Septuagint for their Old Testament. However, why would they make relatively minor changes in the genealogies of Genesis and not in any of the Messianic prophecies that pointed to Jesus as the Messiah? Finally, we know that the Masoretes followed extremely meticulous rules for copying Hebrew manuscripts. From the Dead Sea Scrolls, which date more than 1,000 years earlier than the completed Masoretic Text, the two are very closely aligned with each other. In fact, the Dead Sea Scrolls, the Jewish Targum, the Syriac Bible, and the Latin Vulgate all agree with the Masoretic Text in all of the data in both Genesis 5 and 11 (as well as in I Kings 6:1). For all these reasons, we have confidence that the Masoretic Text on which our Protestant Christian Old Testaments are based is the preferred and most accurate of the Biblical documents. This means that we accept its ages of the patriarchs and of the age of the earth. On the basis of that Biblical chronology, which we have shown elsewhere, the probable date of Creation is 3958 B.C., making the age of the earth to be approximately 5,980 years old (in 2021). This Biblical chronology also dates the global Flood to 2302 B.C.

Technologies in Noah's Ark

According to Genesis 6:15-16 Noah's ark was 300 cubits long, 50 cubits wide, and 30 cubits high. Since a cubit was approximately 18 inches, or 1.5 feet, this made the dimensions of the ark to be about 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high. With three decks or stories, the total square footage was about 101,250 square feet. This is approximately a 6:1 ratio of length to width, which we know today is about the best ratio a ship can have to ensure its stability on the ocean waters. What is intriguing is that there are things stated or implied about the ark that necessitate the conclusion that the antediluvians possessed scientific knowledge and a technology beyond what secular scholars say they had. We will examine five of these.

Genesis 6:14 tells us that Noah was to use *pitch* to seal the ark and make it watertight. The word *pitch* means *to cover*, in this context as in *bitumen* or *asphalt*. But natural occurring bitumen or asphalt is the result of tremendous pressures and temperatures. It can also be manufactured by placing petroleum under heat-refining temperatures to distill it; the residue from this process creates a black, sticky substance called bitumen or asphalt. Today we can also create it from non-petroleum organic materials like molasses and rice, corn and potato starches, tree and gum resins, algae, and even vegetable oils. It is made by superheating these organic materials in water at great

pressures in order to turn a certain percentage of them into a black, sticky substance that can be used in place of petroleum-based asphalt. Entire roads in some places have been made with non-petroleum produced asphalt. Since petroleum was created by the great pressures and heat unleashed by the Flood, it would not have been available before that time. Therefore, Noah's use of asphalt implicitly means that the antediluvians had a high degree of knowledge of chemistry and must have produced asphalt from organic materials. Some of that knowledge must have also been carried through the ark into the post-Flood era because the root word for *chemistry* is reflected in the ancient name for Egypt, *khem*, as the land of Kham (related to the name Ham, one of Noah's sons, Genesis 5:32 and 6:10).

A second fact concerning Noah's ark that implies a higher degree of sophistication in science and technology than they are credited with by secular history is the source of light they must have had. Genesis 6:16 says that Noah was to build *a (one) window*. The Hebrew word for *window* can mean *a light, window, light opening*, or even a *roof* and comes from a root meaning *to glisten*. The fact that it could be opened (Genesis 8:6) means that it was a door that opened to the outside. However, that could not have been a light source for the ark because even if it were made of clear glass (a technology that they *may* have possessed but if they did it was lost and not recovered until about A.D. 100; it requires temperatures of about 3100 degrees Fahrenheit), (1) the extremely cloudy conditions during the Flood would not have allowed much light in, and (2) it would not have been useful for the other two floors.

Also, the light source could not have been a hole in the roof because that would have let water in during the 40 days and 40 nights that it rained profusely (Genesis 7:11-12). And holes in the sides of the ark might have endangered the ark from water splashing in through them. Neither could light have come from olive oil lamps or even from oil manufactured from other organic materials (requiring great pressures and heat) because that would have exposed the interior of the ark to the smoky fumes since any ventilation system to the outside world might endanger the ark to rushing waters. Therefore, either (1) the ancients knew how to make clear glass and Noah had several large windows built into the sides of the ark, or (2) they had artificial lights and some form of electric power source like a battery. In fact, in 1938 several clay pots from ancient Mesopotamia with elements and evidence of corroded acid that could only mean they had once been ancient batteries were discovered, dated to about the time of Christ. It is therefore likely that Noah's ark had electric lights.

The air supply is another area in which the antediluvians must have possessed a higher level of technology than is supposed. Taking in air from the outside would have risked the ark to water intake. But even if the outside air could have been utilized, the fact that the plant life must have been killed early on by not only the flooding waters but also by the quick burial and great heat meant that they could not take in the carbon dioxide of the people and animals on board the ark and give oxygen to them in return. Unfortunately, the ark was undoubtedly too small for Noah to

have positioned a sufficient number of plants in order to maintain the necessary balance for the oxygen-carbon dioxide cycle to sustain all life on board. These facts strongly suggest that Noah made oxygen from carefully channeled outside water by the process of electrolysis, dividing the water into hydrogen and oxygen.

Before examining the potable water and food supply necessary for the people and animals on board the ark, let us first see what kind of numbers of animals we are talking about. Genesis 6:19-20 says that Noah brought two each of every bird, animal (mammal), and creeping thing (reptile) into the ark, qualified in Genesis 7:2 to mean two of each unclean and seven of each clean, in addition to himself, his wife, and his three sons and their wives, eight people in total (Genesis 7:13). Leviticus 11 defines a clean bird as that which is not a scavenger and a clean mammal as that which has both split hooves and that chews the cud. Today it is estimated that there are between 9,000 and 10,000 species of birds, about 6,495 species of mammals, and more than 8,200 species of reptiles in the world. All reptiles and most birds and mammals are considered unclean, but we really have no idea how many species of clean birds and mammals exist.

However, there would only have to be two (or seven for the clean ones) of each *kind* of animal, for according to Genesis 1, every creature reproduces after its *kind* (vv. 21-22, 24-25), which probably translates into our use of the word *family* for the division of the animal kingdom. We know that each basic kind of creature contains in its genetic code all of the possible variations for the different species, which can be created by different dietary habits and climate conditions, which thus change which genes are dominant and which become recessive (in a process called genetic adaptation). For example, only two canines had to be taken into the ark, and from them over time developed all of the canines we know today, such as the various domestic dogs, wolves, coyotes, foxes, and jackals. There would also only have to have been two felines, which later developed into the various species of cats, such as the various domestic cats, lions, tigers, leopards, cheetahs, jaguars, pumas, and lynx.

Some scholars have classified animals and birds as to their approximate size, with about 2,410 kinds of animals of the average size of a cat existing today. That would give almost 20 square feet for every animal (2 of each kind, but 7 for the relatively few clean animals) and person on the ark, which although crowded, would be possible.

They also needed to store food and drinkable water for all of them for at least 382 days—7 days they were in the ark before the Flood began (Genesis 7:7-10), the 150 days for the Flood itself (Genesis 7:24), and the time it took for the waters to subside enough for them to leave the ark (cf. Genesis 7:10-11 with Genesis 8:13-14). That means they had to have food and water to feed and water all those animals for more than 12 and-a-half months.

The ark was probably too small to store the amount of water they needed. If so, that implies they knew how to purify water, carefully drawn in from the outside, and to desalt it (for some of that would certainly have been seawater). Food could be stacked up so that it would take up less square footage. Even so, there might not have been sufficient space on the ark to carry that much food. This, in turn, implies that they may have known simple ways unknown to us today to slow the metabolism of the animals so that they would not require the normal amount of food they would otherwise require, thus reducing the space needed for storing so much food.

Dinosaurs

It has been empirically proven that dinosaurs once existed because we have dug up the bones and entire skeletons of such creatures. Thus, it is not a matter of conjecture or even educated guesses as to their existence. Most of them were probably destroyed in the Flood, although the Jewish book of Job suggests that some were around after the Flood (Job 40:15-24 and 41:1-34). I do not find the description of *behemoth* in Job 40 to be a description of an elephant or a hippopotamus as some have theorized, for no elephant or hippopotamus has a tail like a cedar (Job 40:17). Neither do I agree that the leviathan described in Job 41 is some kind of large crocodile, which has been suggested for that creature.

Archaeological evidence suggests that plants and animals were often larger than they are today. If we postulate that the Genesis Flood story is true, the extra air pressure on the earth as a result of the huge water canopy covering the planet would have been necessary to sustain such larger living things. Hyperbaric chambers are machines that greatly increase the air pressure so that a person placed in one of them has his cells' functions performing with excellent efficiency. Such a natural condition in the earth's atmosphere would allow for gigantic growth of plants, animals, and people compared to the normal sizes of life forms after the Flood. This would also account for the eventual extinction of large dinosaurs if any of them were preserved during the Flood, as indicated in Job.

The Different Races

The word *race* as we understand it today, based primarily on skin color, is not known in the Bible. Technically, a race of people is a group of people who share the same language, geography, history, and culture. If the Flood story is true, then all humans today are related to Noah and his immediate family. Of course, beyond that we are also related to Adam and Eve, the first humans on earth. According to Genesis 11, there was originally only one language on the earth. This is confirmed by linguists today, which have demonstrated that all human languages are related to each other. But when people began to build the Tower of Babel (not long after the Flood) in an attempt to keep the world's people unified (v. 4), God instantly "created" numerous different languages to confuse them and apparently to disperse them all over the earth according to their languages.

The many different climates, food sources, and geographical conditions eventually produced the different races, including skin colors, through the process of switching certain genes off and switching others on. Naturally, the people within each racial group intermarried, which continued to perpetuate each race of people. By the way, the curse pronounced on Canaan, Ham's son (Genesis 9:22-26), was not on Ham himself. The curse was limited to the Canaanites, whose later history shows that they were the initial enemies of God's people Israel. Therefore, there is no Biblical basis for the old theory that the Hamites, who settled south in Africa, were cursed to be the slaves of other peoples.

The Ice Age

Secular scientists believe that numerous ice ages have occurred over the last two or three million years. However, they have no natural mechanism to adequately explain how these periodically reoccur. The many theories that exist testify to the fact that it is difficult to explain ice ages by natural means. The most commonly accepted one today (although by no means universally believed) is that changes in the earth's orbit and rotation over long periods of time eventually change the amount of sunlight on the earth, and the cooler periods sometimes produce an ice age. But the problem with this theory, which many evolutionist astronomers point out, is that such changes are so small that they could not explain an ice age.

Christians should not doubt that there was one ice age because (1) the huge number of large creatures called woolly mammoths have been discovered buried in ice in the Arctic region, and (2) numerous lake beds and other scarred surfaces on the earth show signs of having been scraped out by ice. If the woolly mammoths had been killed in the global Flood, we would find them in sedimentary rock where we find the vast majority of other fossils. But the fact that they were buried in ice and not rock suggests they lived and were destroyed after the Flood by ice. The difference between secular scientists and Biblical scientists is that the former believe there have been about 50 ice ages and Biblical scientists believe there was just one.

Biblically, the global Flood offers the best explanation for an ice age. The enormous upheaval caused by the Flood created great friction heat and numerous volcanoes. The great heat on the sea floor warmed the oceans, increasing evaporation, and thus the amount of snowfall in higher latitudes of the earth. Meanwhile, volcanic action sent particles into the atmosphere which blocked part of the sunlight and cooled air temperatures. This led to the large snowfalls freezing and forming huge areas of ice in the polar regions of the earth. Then huge sections of ice called glaciers moved slowly, scarring the earth and carving out numerous large hollows that eventually became lakes. As the ocean temperatures gradually cooled and the volcanic action diminished, the ice age ended. No one knows how long the ice age lasted. But based on Biblical chronology that the Flood occurred in 2302 B.C., the beginnings of the ice age would have been shortly after that date.

The Tower of Babel

We believe the story of Babel because it is consistent from what we know from other historical and geographic sources. First, the passage tells us that the Tower of Babel was built in Shinar (v. 2), which we know is southern Mesopotamia. The tower was almost certainly a ziggurat, temple-towers that were famous in that region. Second, verse 3 says the builders used bricks and asphalt for mortar, and we know that region built with those materials because it was largely devoid of large stones (which were used extensively in Canaan to the west) but had many open asphalt pits. Third, Herodotus (d. ca. 425 B.C.), a Greek historian and the Father of History, wrote about the tallest ziggurat being built at Babel or Babylon by Nimrod, in agreement with numerous Jewish sources (first-century A.D. historian Flavius Josephus, the Talmud) and consistent with Genesis 10:9-10. Fourth, linguists tell us that all languages are related to each other and were derived from one original language, consistent with Genesis 11:1. Fifth, the account in Genesis 11 contains no mythological elements but instead reads like straight-forward history. So Aristotle's (Greek philosopher, d. 322 B.C.) dictum that documented history should be accepted unless there is proof to the contrary applies here. Finally, we believe that God exists, so He is certainly capable of supernaturally creating many languages instantaneously just as the account says He did (vv. 7-9).

Genesis does not tell us that God destroyed the Tower of Babel, only that He confused the languages of the people so that they abandoned the project and scattered to other parts of the world. Numerous other Jewish sources tell us that the tower was mostly destroyed by God, with the remainder left standing until people eventually took all the remaining bricks, apparently to build other buildings. Nothing remains in that area today.

There is sufficient data in Genesis 11 and secular history to discover the general time frame for the story of the Tower of Babel, but we cannot pinpoint it to a specific year. Nimrod built the tower and was associated with Accad (Genesis 10:10), a city in the Akkadian Empire about 40 miles north of the city of Babylon. This city was destroyed with the end of the Akkadian Empire at some point between 2200 and 2154 B.C. If Nimrod built the Tower of Babel, then it must have happened no later than 2154 B.C. According to the Biblical chronology explained earlier, the global Flood occurred in 2302 B.C. Therefore, the story of the Tower of Babel must have occurred at some point between 2302 and 2154 B.C.

The date can be further refined by calculating the birth year of a man named Peleg, born in the fourth generation after Shem (Genesis 10:22-25; 11:10-16). Peleg was born 101 years after the Flood, which makes him born in 2201 B.C. What is fascinating is that the name Peleg means *division* and refers to the time when the earth was divided (Genesis 10:25). Jewish and Christian scholars have differed as to the two possible interpretations of what it means that *the earth was divided*: (1) the division of the continents or (2) the division of the people who were scattered by language groups at the time of the Tower of Babel.

Our view is that it refers to the latter for two reasons. First, the context of the genealogy in Genesis 10 contains four statements about people being *separated* according to language (v. 5), *dispersed* (v. 18), *according to their families and languages, in their lands and in their nations* (v. 20), and *divided* (v. 32). Second, for the earth's super continent to be divided after the Flood would have required such a massive upheaval that it would have resulted in another global flood, which God had promised Noah would never happen again (Genesis 9:11, 15). By the way, secular geologists believe that there was originally just one super continent but that some type of catastrophic upheaval must have split it into several different continents, which then drifted (called the continental drift) further apart during the several million years following that split. The primary evidence for this is the observation that Europe and North America appear to be like two jigsaw puzzle pieces that fit together, as do Africa and South America; Europe could have been connected to Africa as well, if the Mediterranean Sea were land instead of a sea. This idea of an original super continent seems confirmed by Genesis 1:9, which says that God gathered *the waters under the heavens...together into one place* and separate from the land on the third day of Creation week (v. 13). The difference is that Biblically the current separation of the continents occurred all at once at the time of the Flood rather than slowly over millions of years. Of course, it is possible that *some* continental drift could have occurred after the Flood but only to a very *minor* degree.

The name Peleg ("division") had to have been given to him after the dispersal at the time of the Tower of Babel [It was a common, albeit not universal, practice in Bible times to assign a new name to someone from something associated with his lifetime.]. From the ages when each patriarch had his son in Genesis 11:10-26, and knowing the date of the Flood (2302 B.C.), we know that Peleg was born in 2201 B.C. and died in 1962 B.C. Also, since the ice age occurred as the result of the Flood's actions, the Tower of Babel story must have occurred quite early in the 2200s, not long after a century after the Flood itself. This is consistent within the lifetime of Nimrod, for he was a grandson of Ham (second generation from Ham, Genesis 10:6, 8). On the basis that the second generation from Shem arrived 37 years after the Flood (Genesis 11:10-12), then Nimrod could have been born about 2265 B.C., which would make him 64 years old when Peleg was born. Therefore, it is evident that the story of the Tower of Babel probably occurred some 100 to 125 years after the Flood.

There are four possible sins or reasons that resulted in God confusing the languages at the Tower of Babel:

- The people were congregating together to keep world unity in opposition to God's command to *fill the earth* (Genesis 9:1).—Genesis 11:4
- The people were guilty of pride and self-sufficiency in wanting to make a name for themselves.—Genesis 11:4 (cf. v. 6)

- The people were engaged in false worship, for the tower was almost certainly a ziggurat, a temple-tower built for the worship of false gods in Mesopotamia. Moreover, the name *Babel* in Akkadian means *gate of god* (in Hebrew it means *confusion*); therefore, it is a way to God that leads to confusion.
- Perhaps the people built the Tower of Babel partly to escape another global Flood (*a tower whose top is in the heavens*), not trusting God's promise never to send another global flood on the earth (Genesis 9:8-17).—Genesis 11:4

Cave Men

Beginning in the nineteenth century, archaeologists have discovered the fossilized bones of prehistoric men all over the world. A fossil is the remains of an organism, plant, animal, or human. By far the largest number of fossils found have been bones and teeth. Most fossils are found in sedimentary layers because such sediment protects the harder portions of an animal or person from decomposing long enough for minerals from water to replace the organic substance (by entering into the tiny pores in bones), leaving a rock replica of the organic bone, teeth, or horn. Since under normal conditions this process of fossilization is estimated to take at least 10,000 years, all fossilized bones are considered to be prehistoric, for documented history goes back no further than about 5,000 years or so (depending on one's interpretation of historical records). Also, the fact that nearly all fossilized human bones have been found in areas associated with ice age activity suggests that they are prehistoric. [Note: Any remains of organisms are considered fossils, including the impressions of organisms made under great pressure and even whole organisms found frozen in ice.]

The fossilized human bones suggest there were some significant differences in appearance from people today. For example, Neanderthals, usually discovered in western Europe, have pronounced foreheads and larger skulls. And *homo floresiensis*, called *hobbits*, were only about three feet tall. Because of these differences, and the fact that they were prehistoric, secular scientists conclude that these different classes of prehistoric men represent the different stages of the evolutionary journey to the modern man (*homo sapien*). Moreover, because they were prehistoric and based on the theory of evolution, it is assumed that these were primitive in their living, general knowledge, and technology. Thus they have been nicknamed *cavemen*.

There are reasonable explanations for these fossilized human bones and skeletons that fit the Biblical view of history. First, the type of fossilization of bones and teeth (and horns too) is called remineralization, which I described above. Scientists assume that it takes about 10,000 years for remineralization to be completed because they date the bones to about 10,000 years ago. But since I have earlier shown that all our ancient dating techniques are based on the assumption of uniformitarianism, we cannot be certain of the age of these bones. Even Dr. Willard Libby (d.

1980), inventor of the carbon-14 dating technique, was disappointed that it was not reliable beyond about 5,000 years. Second, the differences in appearance from modern man can be plausibly explained by one or both of two explanations: (1) genetic changes produced by a poorer diet and harsher environmental factors and/or (2) close inbreeding because of relatively small and isolated communities. For example, the fact that hobbits have been found only in one place, Indonesia, suggests that their particular gene pool could have been impacted by close inbreeding.

Even though these bones may be less than 10,000 years old—and Biblically they would have to be—the fact that they have been remineralized means they must be ancient and thus prehistoric human remains. And the fact they are all associated with the ice age would then date them back to no more than a few hundred years after the Flood. Finally, since they have been found all over the earth, it must mean that they lived after the dispersal at the time of the Tower of Babel. All this suggests they lived in the range of approximately 2200 to 2000 B.C. The ice age would also explain the harsher environmental conditions and the lack of available high-quality food, at least for those who scattered to the far reaches of the world. It is reasonable to assume that there were some relatively small groups of people who probably migrated into isolated regions. That would make the gene pool much smaller for such groups, resulting in inbreeding and subsequent changes in physical appearance. It is noteworthy that the differences in appearance between prehistoric “cavemen” and modern man are not so great as they once thought. It is therefore reasonable that genetic adaptation due to the factors I have suggested is just as scientifically valid, if not more so, than the theory that prehistoric man represented various different pre-human species.

Finally, the popular view that these prehistoric men were primitive and ignorant is not warranted. First, while there is evidence that some prehistoric men lived in caves, this does not mean they all did. Several archaeological sites where prehistoric tools have been found have no caves anywhere near them. Moreover, many prehistoric stone dwelling structures made with great precision have been excavated. Second, the fact that no metal tools have been found at prehistoric sites—only stone or bone tools—does not mean they did not use them because metal objects will disintegrate from weathering processes in just a few thousand years. Furthermore, many prehistoric iron-ore and copper mines have been found all over the world, strongly suggesting that prehistoric man did know how to mine, smelt, and make metal objects. Third, despite the image of a caveman dressed in animal skins, several caves depicting authenticated prehistoric artwork etched on stone walls show people dressed much like later people did—in robes, pants with belts, coats, hats, and boots.

Finally, at least four ancient documents speak of people who lived isolated lives apart from the mainstream society in prehistoric times and occasionally interacted with known civilizations. For example, the *Epic of Gilgamesh*, the Mesopotamian epic poem originally dated to the eighteenth century B.C. and containing the oldest written account of the global Flood, the hero Gilgamesh meets a companion called Enkidu. Enkidu is described as one who had lived in the wild, ate herbs that he gathered, and was generally unkept in appearance until he was captured and taught the

ways of civilization. The description of his encounter with civilization is such that his captors apparently knew about these “wild” people, so that he was not simply a “lone wolf.” Two great Indian epic poems are the *Ramayana*, estimated by scholars to be dated anywhere from the fifth to the first century B.C., and the *Mahabharata*, whose composition is estimated to have been from about 400 B.C. to A.D. 400. They both speak of a group of ape-like people in prehistoric times who lived in wilderness areas and sometimes interacted with Indian civilization. The Chinese have an ancient document known as *Shu King (Book of Documents)*, composed at an unknown date but predating Confucius, who died in 479 B.C. The *Shu King* refers to an ancient prehistoric race of people who lived in wilderness caves and were feared as robbers and troublemakers of the earth. The fact that these ancient documents describe a group of prehistoric people who lived in caves or other wilderness areas and interacted with civilization suggests that prehistoric people lived contemporaneously with human civilizations and thus could not be lower forms of men in the evolutionary chain.

[Note: Some have suggested that the book of Job describes a race of prehistoric men in Job 30:3-8. However, they are said to have existed in Job’s day, and based on the only reference in a documented source, Job was the grandson of Esau—well into historic times. It is, therefore, highly probable that the “wild” men in Job’s time were not prehistoric men.]

Evidence from Genesis 4 and 5

Genesis chapters 4 and 5 provide some intriguing evidence for relatively high levels of scientific knowledge and technology in the antediluvian world. The word *antediluvian* comes from the prefix *ante*, which means *prior* or *preceding*, and from the word *deluge*, meaning a *massive flood of water*.

Cain was the first son of Adam and Eve (Genesis 4:1). After he killed his brother Abel (Genesis 4:2-8), Cain was cursed by God to be a wanderer (4:11-12). In fact, the land he lived in was called the land of Nod, which literally means *wanderer* or *the land of exile* (Genesis 4:16). However, according to Genesis 4:17, he went against God’s curse and built the first city in history and named it after his son Enoch (Enoch City). This Enoch should not be confused with the Enoch in Genesis 5:18-24, who was Jared’s son. By the way, it is interesting that the first city ever built was an act of disobedience to God. Perhaps it is no wonder that cities today are known as havens of iniquity. The fact that a city was built implies a high level of knowledge of mathematics, construction, engineering, and architecture. Then Genesis 4 quickly moves through four generations before pausing to give us some details of Lamech (not the Lamech of Genesis 5:25-31). The record mentions three of Lamech’s sons, two of whom offer us evidence of cultural or technological development. Jubal is said to be *the father of all those who play the harp and flute*, with *flute* literally meaning *pipe* (Genesis 4:21). This, then, is the origin of stringed (harp) and wind (flute) instruments. So the invention of musical instruments just six generations after Cain

tells us that culture developed very early. Another son of Lamech was Tubal-Cain, who is called *an instructor of every craftsman in bronze and iron* (Genesis 4:22). This means that by or before the sixth generation after Cain (the seventh after Adam) mankind had mastered the science of mining, smelting, and making metal objects.

Seth was a younger brother of Cain whose lineage is recorded separately from Cain's in Genesis 5. Methuselah represented the seventh generation from Seth (eighth from Adam). His name means *man of the dart*, and is derived from a Hebrew root for a shoot of a plant or a missile of attack, which is usually understood to refer to a spear and/or an arrow. In any case, it must mean that he was a prominent military officer. Given the fact that by Tubal-Cain's day men had already begun mining, smelting, and making metal tools (Tubal-Cain lived one generation earlier than Methuselah), it is conceivable that Methuselah's weapons were more sophisticated metal ones—perhaps even on the order of modern missiles.

Genesis does not provide us details of the technological development of human society. But that is to be expected since the Bible is primarily concerned with the relationship between God and mankind and thus with man's spiritual and moral condition. However, the clues that it does give us imply an even higher development of technology. First, it is reasonable to assume that people living closer in time to Creation and the Tree of Life probably used a higher percentage of their brains than the estimated 10 percent we use today. Second, the very long ages of men given for Adam and his descendants through Seth was just over 900 years. [Note: This average age is derived by adding the ages given in Genesis 5 and dividing by 8. Even though 10 names are given, Enoch went to heaven without seeing death, and we excluded Noah because he lived well beyond the Flood.] This affords those working in the fields of science and technology the opportunity to advance further than people can today.

Finally, the antediluvian world existed for 1,656 years (derived from adding all the ages of the patriarchs when a son was born to them and adding Noah's age when the Flood occurred—Genesis 5; 7:6). Think about this: What really propelled modern man into the industrial age was the invention of the steam engine. Although the principle had been discovered in the first century A.D. by a Greek from Alexandria, Egypt, it was the early seventeenth century before anyone attempted to use that knowledge in a practical way. And it was not until James Watt (d. 1819), a Scottish inventor, that an efficient steam engine was patented in 1769. It took less than 250 years from the invention of an efficient steam engine until railroads, automobiles, airplanes, radio, television, nuclear energy, satellites, computers, and all of our modern technologies were invented. It is therefore quite reasonable to believe that when men lived longer and used a larger portion of their brains, that the rate of scientific and knowledge and technology was significantly faster. This does not prove, of course, but it certainly would allow for the possibility that antediluvian world might even have surpassed our current state of scientific knowledge and technology.

Ancient Maps and World Surveys

Ancient maps and historical records of antiquity tell us that the entire earth was explored and mapped very early in the post-Flood era. The most famous of these maps is the Piri Reis map, drawn by a Turkish naval captain (and later admiral) in 1513 whose full name was Ahmed Muhiddin Piri (d. 1553); Piri Reis means *Captain* or *Admiral Piri*. The map was lost after his death but discovered accidentally while someone was cleaning old debris in the Topkapi Palace in Istanbul, Turkey in November 1929.

No one paid much attention to it until a copy of it was given to the U.S. Navy Hydrographic Office in Washington, D.C. in 1956. Experts there examined the map in detail, and other experts followed suit. Studies of the map revealed that (1) its placing of continents, and even islands like Cuba, Hispaniola, the Azores, and the Canary Islands, on a longitude and latitude grid were very accurate; and (2) it showed the continent of Antarctica with the correct positioning of its bays and islands without ice that were not verified until modern seismic measurements were taken.

Some amazing things about the Piri Reis map is that Antarctica's existence was not even confirmed until 1819. It also included a whole mountain range in Antarctica that was not discovered until 1952. Therefore, the map could not be a hoax because no one knew many of the details about Antarctica reflected on it in 1929. Moreover, in 1513 longitudes had to be determined by guesswork because instruments to measure it were not invented for about two centuries later. Some experts who have actually studied the map agree that the original sources for the map had to have been drawn by someone who had explored Antarctica before the polar ice had covered the continent, that is, before the last ice age (Biblically, read only one ice age). This means that the map was made, and thus that the entire world was explored, after the Flood when the one supercontinent was divided into the current seven continents but probably before the Tower of Babel (or else the ice age would have certainly covered Antarctica with ice by then), which would be sometime in the 2200s B.C. Not only does that imply safe, well-engineered ships or perhaps aircraft in order to explore the world, but also the development of sophisticated navigational instruments to measure the longitude and latitude of the various continents and islands.

Conventional secular experts discount the map, not as a hoax, but as perhaps depicting a different and fictional land mass other than Antarctica, and based on evolutionary assumptions that ancient peoples could not possibly have had the technology to navigate the seas and map the entire world. Of course, their assumptions are just that, and they are based on an evolutionary worldview, which we reject. Moreover, modern seismic and satellite examinations do demonstrate the accuracy of the Piri Reis map. One would have to believe that its accuracy was purely coincidental, but the odds of that are astronomical. Therefore, we believe the Piri Reis map to be valid evidence of prehistoric knowledge and technology.

Three ancient pieces of literature also provide information that suggests the earth was explored and mapped in prehistoric times. The western version of *Targum Jonathan*, composed in the second to third centuries A.D. (ca. A.D. 150-250), is an Aramaic translation and paraphrase of the Hebrew Scriptures. For Genesis 10:26, speaking of Almodad, a seventh-generation descendant of Noah in Shem's line (cf. vv. 22-26), it is said that he "measured (or "lined") the earth with lines." Almodad was a nephew of Peleg (Genesis 10:25-26), who was named after the division of the earth by the different language groups at the Tower of Babel. That would put Almodad in the correct time frame to have been one of those who "measured the earth," probably in the mid-2100s B.C., after the Tower of Babel story and before the ice age had completely covered Antarctica with ice. [This latter conclusion is based on the fact that the Piri Reis map showed most of Antarctica ice-free.]

The *Shan Kai King* ("Book of Mountains and Seas") was a multi-volume Chinese document on geography and travel stories which according to Chinese tradition was written by an official named Yu in the first century B.C. Yu was later the Chinese emperor. But other historical information strongly suggests that it predated Yu, but no one knows for certain its age. Originally, there were apparently 32 books in the set, but only fragments of the whole book and two condensed versions remain. The book is full of fanciful tales about spirits, an archer who killed nine suns, and similar stories. That, coupled with the fact that no Chinese explorer could locate any of the places described in China, led even the Chinese to discount the entire book as a kind of fairy tale.

Nevertheless, in the twentieth century some scholars began to take a second look at it. Some have been impressed that although there clearly were fanciful stories woven into discussions of geographical places (not unusual for works of antiquity), many of the descriptions of locations and how to get there does not read like a fairy tale. Rather, it reads like a straightforward description by someone who actually traveled there and measured the distances and saw the terrain and animal and plant life there. This is particularly true for the section called the *Book of Eastern Mountains* far beyond the "Eastern Sea." Theorizing that the Pacific Ocean would likely be called the Eastern Sea by a Chinese author, some made a detailed study of that document and discovered that it uncannily describes places we can today identify in the western part of North America. Mountain peaks were especially noted in the book. From the detailed descriptions of the peaks, the animal and plant life near them, and the specific distances to get to each one, several mountain peaks have been identified. Among them are Hart Mountain (in Manitoba, Canada), Moose Mountain (in Saskatchewan), Wolf Mountain and Medicine Bow Peak in Wyoming, Longs Peak and Summit Peak in Colorado, Chicoma Peak, Cooks Peak, and Animas Peak in New Mexico, and extending further southward into Mexico. Mount Burkett in Alaska, Mount Olympus and Mount Rainier in Washington State, Mount Hood in Oregon, Mount Shasta in California, as well as others have been identified as being accurately located in the book. Clearly, this cannot be a coincidence. Someone in antiquity traveled to North America and measured the precise location of numerous mountainous landmarks in the western portion of that continent.

The *Puranas* are a collection of 18 books composed in Sanskrit and part of the Hindu scriptures. The word *purana* means “ancient” or “old” but no one knows who wrote them or when they were written, with estimates ranging from the fourth century B.C. to the fourth century A.D. The *Puranas* refer to contact that the people of India had with different peoples from all over the world. They seemed to know about Western Europe, specifically England and Ireland. The Sanskrit word for England is translated as “the Island of the White Cliffs.” Irish legends tell of Dravidian people from India who visited Ireland in the distant past in order to survey their land.

The Piri Reis map and some important ancient documents testify to the reality that some group of people in prehistoric times traveled the earth exploring and mapping it. In order to accomplish this task, sophisticated shipbuilding, navigational instruments, and other measuring devices were required. Therefore, this is another type of evidence that the ancient world was more scientifically and technically advanced than the evolutionary view of history can admit.

Ley Lines

Ley lines are invisible straight lines in which manmade structures, like mounds, stones, towers, and sacred temple sites, run along in the straight line. They were named by Alfred Watkins (d. 1935), an English businessman and amateur archaeologist, who discovered a series of such straight-line structures in England in the early 1920s. The word *ley* is an Old English word for a “cleared space”, which he gave for his discovery since several settlements along these lines had *ley* in their name. He and others in Germany and France discovered the same phenomena in their nations and the Netherlands in about the same time frame.

The pattern is too uncanny to be coincidental, although critics retort that several of these ancient sites were dated to have been built at different times. However, that might simply mean that the sacredness of these lines was handed down to different generations and that subsequent generations of builders may have been attempting to recover the magic they attributed to those lines. Since then, ley lines have been discovered on six continents all over the world—in Europe, Africa, Asia, Australia, North America, and South America.

Ancient legends in all of these places speak of these lines having a magical energy associated with them. Historians generally believe that ancient legends usually have a core of truth in them but have been corrupted or lost over the centuries or millennia. These legends nearly all agree that the major use of the ley lines was in agriculture, to improve the soil and grow better crops. The Druid legends in Britain also say that they were used in some kind of human flight with a machine. Today we know from experiments that plants grow much faster in an artificial magnetic field. Of course, we also know that the earth itself is one large magnetic field whose currents fluctuate with the different position of the sun and moon respective to the earth, much like the moon affects the tidal waves of the earth’s oceans. Given these facts, it is apparent that the ancients had discovered how to identify these energy lines on the earth and to manipulate them for their use. This also may

well provide an additional reason to explain the ancient world's preoccupation with astronomical phenomena.

Of course, modern secular scientists dismiss this entire concept because they find no scientific evidence that these lines have any more magnetic energy than other places on the earth. However, that view presupposes the evolutionary paradigm of history so that ancient peoples could not possibly have had greater knowledge and technological abilities than we have. Furthermore, we know that the earth's magnetic field has been slowly losing its strength since we have been measuring it. It is estimated that it has lost 9 percent of its strength over the last two centuries. Of course, we know that it has not been losing it at that rate from the beginning because that would put the origin of the field and presumably of the earth in about 2200 B.C., which we know is between 1,000 and 2,000 years too late. We still do not know everything about the earth's magnetic field, but it is at least plausible that the upheaval of the earth at the time of the Flood may have damaged the outer core of the earth and caused a leak in the magnetic field. Since we do not know the cause for this weakening, we cannot know whether it began right after sin, or right after the Flood, or at some later time. But it is very probable that it was much stronger in the immediate post-Flood era when the legends about the ley lines and the ancient stones appear to have originated than it is now.

Given that there is probably a core truth in ancient legends, that the different legends in different cultures concerning the ley lines are very similar, and that today we know about some of the effects of the earth's magnetic field, the ancient peoples of the world probably were manipulating the earth's magnetic field in some way unknown to us.

Since ley lines have been found in six continents all over the world, and they all are prehistoric (pre-writing), the odds are overwhelming that this manipulation of the earth's magnetic field was a global endeavor about the same time in the past. Logic would seem to confirm this because in order to more effectively use the ley lines, the entire global magnetic field would probably have to be manipulated in a coordinated way since the earth's magnetic field is one massive field. In turn, such a global operation suggests a one-world government in order to coordinate the field and benefit everyone. The Bible offers us a possibility in its story of the Tower of Babel in Genesis 11:1-9. It tells us there was only one global language spoken by all people (Genesis 11:1), and that one reason they built the tower was to keep world unity intact (Genesis 11:4). Perhaps the Tower of Babel was being built as a control center for the magnetic ley line system, a kind of central headquarters for an electric power grid. This would explain Genesis 11:6's comment that they were on their way to being able to do whatever they wanted to do. Otherwise, the context in the account does not provide any clues as to why the Lord would have made that statement. Then when God confused the languages at the Tower of Babel, the people had to stop working on the project, and they were scattered.

Megalithic Stones and Other Monuments

One of the most intriguing facts of antiquity is the presence of numerous large stone structures in various places on earth. These are called megaliths, derived from words for *large* and *stone*. Although there are several sites in the world which have these megaliths, Stonehenge in southern England is the most famous. It forms a large circle with spaces allowing a person to stand. Stonehenge is remarkable for at least two reasons. First, studies in the twentieth century proved that it was a large astronomical observatory that was used to predict the beginning of seasons and numerous astronomical phenomena. It may have also been used as a kind of temple for worship of the sun. Second, some of the stones there are estimated to weigh five tons while others range from 40-50 tons each, yet were placed with great precision. These facts alone demonstrate that its builders must have possessed sophisticated knowledge and measuring instruments far beyond what conventional historians believe anyone had at the ancient date—estimated to have originated about 2000 B.C. and added to no later than 1700 B.C.

Furthermore, modern research shows that some of stones were moved from Prescelly Mountain in Wales, some 240 miles away. Other stones were moved from a quarry about 20 miles north of Stonehenge. How were stones this heavy moved over those distances by a culture that supposedly was so primitive? Even in the twenty-first century we possess cranes or other machines that can barely move objects that heavy but cannot transport them over distances. Geoffrey of Monmouth, the twelfth century English cleric and historian, in his *History of the Kings of Britain*, wrote about the legend of how Stonehenge was created. According to the legend all efforts had failed to move the stones until Merlin the Wizard used special “engines” to move them and set them up with great precision and all without human effort. Of course, this story is a legend. But historians often think there is some core truth in most legends. This legend might be telling us that some ancients knew how to manipulate the gravitational force. Although that sounds incredible, no other theory (like many workers using sledges transported by rolling them on logs) is at all satisfactory.

More than 600 other megalithic structures of astronomical significance have been found all over Britain, and most of them have been dated to about the same time period as Stonehenge was built. Hundreds of similar stone megaliths have been discovered over parts of Europe, the Mediterranean, the Middle East, East Asia, the Pacific, and the Americas. Some of them are so remarkable that they also defy all conventional explanations for their construction. For example, at Baalbek, Lebanon, there is an ancient temple dedicated to the sun god. Its stone foundation consists of individual stones estimated to be 1,200 to 1,500 tons each, all fit together with great precision. We still do not have machines that can even budge objects that heavy let alone move them and set them up with such precision.

The most fascinating of these other megalithic structures are located on Easter Island, so named because the first modern human (a Dutch explorer) to discover the island off Chile’s coast did so

on Easter in 1722. There are several hundred stone figures of human faces on the island, with the average weight estimated to be from 35 to 50 tons, and with some as tall as a seven-story building. The stones had been moved from a quarry at the edge of the island's volcano about five miles away. In 1956 Thor Heyerdahl, a Norwegian explorer, was able to use about a dozen workers with ropes and wooden poles to move one of the stones a few hundred feet over 18 days of laboring. However, that did not prove that brute force had moved most of the stones because the one they moved was about 10 to 15 tons. To be sure, that was a remarkable achievement, but it hardly proves that this could have been the method used to move the average stones of 35 to 50 tons each. Some of the smaller, lighter statues have been taken to various parts of the world, the first one being taken by the British in 1868 and now housed in the British Museum in London.

In Peru the Temple of the Sun stands at an elevation of 13,000 feet in the Andes Mountains. It consists of stones of various sizes and weights ranging from an estimated 50 tons to at least 100 tons. How could such stones have been moved and set up there? This is particularly remarkable because at 13,000 feet the air pressure is so low that even a little exertion can result in headaches, nausea, and even heart attacks. Moreover, at that elevation seeds will not sprout. So how did ancient peoples with food that had to have been transported to them from a considerable distance manage to move those stones and erect a building at that elevation, let alone that it is still impossible for us today even at sea level? Other pre-Inca sites at similar elevations and consisting of similarly heavy stones are located in Peru as well, including one at Ollantaitambo near the ancient capital city of Cuzco and another on the outskirts of Cuzco.

Of course, there is also the mystery of the Egyptian pyramids, particularly the Great Pyramid, thought to have been constructed about 5,000 years ago and standing about ten miles west of Cairo. Each of the 2.3 million stones weighs an estimated average of 2.5 tons, although some in the King's Chamber weigh roughly 70 tons each. Some of the stone quarries from which they came are a few miles from the site while as well as one more than 400 miles south of Cairo near Aswan. Inscriptions on some of the stones tell us the pyramid was built by Pharaoh Cheops, whose reign lasted for 22 years. Therefore, it is believed that the Great Pyramid took about 20 years to build. Conventional historians believe that close to 100,000 workers with stone or bronze tools, ropes, pulleys, wooden sledges, and barges cut the stones from their quarries, transported them by boat down the Nile, and placed them in reasonably precise places to form the pyramid during a 20-year period. That would be the cutting, transporting, and placement of 315 stone blocks per day. That is about 26 blocks per hour for a 12-hour day. However, even with our modern tools and machines, we could not accomplish this today. Moreover, according to the inscriptions on two blocks in the Pyramid of Sneferu, which is about two-thirds the size of the Great Pyramid, it only took two years to build that pyramid. This means the Great Pyramid could have been built in just three years—making the impossibility of building the Great Pyramid today even more impossible.

I Kings 6:7 describes the building of Solomon’s Temple in Jerusalem in ancient Israel and says that “no hammer or chisel or any iron tool was heard in the temple while it was being built” (New King James’ Version). The Jewish Talmud implies that such tools as hammers and chisels were not even used at the quarry site. Instead, it says that the huge stones were cut and shaped by a stone called a shamir, which used vibration to do this. Then the Talmud says that the large stones were fitted into place at the Temple site with the shamir by using some form of levitation caused by vibration. Scholars know from secular sources that Solomon’s Temple (the First Temple) was begun to be built in 966 B.C. Was this the secret technology that other ancient peoples used to build the pyramids and other extremely heavy stone monuments? We do not know, but at least the Talmud suggests that perhaps some form of lost advanced technology existed in the distant past to move heavy objects.

Finally, there are the mysterious Nazca Lines located in the foothills of Peru about 250 miles south of Lima. They were first mentioned by the Spanish explorer Pedro Cieza de Leon, who conquered the Incas, in his book published in 1553. Others in the twentieth century saw the mysterious lines from the surrounding hills, but it was Peruvian pilots in the 1930s who confirmed their existence and vast size from the air, which covers a distance of 37 miles long and one mile wide. These lines were made by scraping the dirt on the ground and consist of huge “drawings” of intricate designs and various living organisms like birds, fish, monkeys, and snakes.

The theory proposed by some UFO enthusiasts that this was a runway for alien spacecraft makes no sense in light of the nature of the drawings. Besides, if there is intelligent life elsewhere in the universe other than angels in heaven—and we concede that it is probable—it is highly doubtful that God would allow them to visit and interact with sinful humans.

[Notes: (1) The best evidence for the existence of unfallen worlds in Scripture is Revelation 12:12, which says in the context of Satan being cast out of heaven, *Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them!* Not only is the word *heavens* in plural form, but the pronoun *them* confirms that the plural *heavens* is not simply a poetic plural. Since heavens themselves do not rejoice, there must be intelligent beings with free will on them who do rejoice. Any objection that the Bible speaks about heavens, earth, the sea, fields, trees, hills, rivers, pastures, and valleys rejoicing (Psalms 65:12-13; 96:11-12; 98:8) in the *poetic* sense of personifying those things is negated by the fact (a) all those references are contained in actual poetry, and (b) Revelation 12:12 complements the *heavens* rejoicing by telling the inhabitants of the earth to be woeful, suggesting that it is also the *inhabitants* of the heavens who react, albeit differently, to the news of Satan’s expulsion from heaven. (2) It is much more likely that the low but real percentage of UFO sightings that cannot be explained are evil angels disguised as part of some unknown plot to deceive at least some human beings.]

The Nazca Lines are significant and mysterious in at least two ways. First, a German archaeologist named Marie Reiche studied them for about 20 years from the mid-1940s to the mid-1960s. She discovered that the lines represent a degree of straightness that is even unmatched by what can be done today and at the very least indicate a knowledge of photogrammetric technology. Some of the lines seem to have astronomical significance, although most do not. It is a complete mystery as to who or why these lines were created. Second, several of the lines, as well as drawings on pieces of pottery found in the same area, indicate a knowledge of creatures that do not live anywhere close to the region. These include a type of penguin indigenous to Antarctica and the Galapagos Islands off the coast of Ecuador and the spider monkey (on pottery) that lives about 1,000 miles away in the deep jungle of the Amazon basin. Etched in the desert is a spider known as the Ricinulei, that also lives in the Amazon jungles. Scholars know it is a Ricinulei because the etching of this spider shows it with one of its legs lengthened and extended. What is remarkable is that this is the posture of the Ricinulei when it is copulating, a posture that can only be seen under a microscope!

Finally, a drawing of the faces of five human females was discovered on some pottery in the region. What is amazing is that each female was a different color—white, black, brown, red, and yellow. This obviously represents the five essential colors of different people groups because it is too uncanny to be a coincidence. These last two types of drawings (animals and different human faces) are strong indicators that the inhabitants who drew the Nazca Lines had seen these different creatures, possessed some form of magnifying technology like a microscope, and interacted with different people groups from all over the world. In turn, this implies a sophisticated means of safe and reliable transportation that conventional historians deny they could possibly have possessed.

Ooparts

Another line of evidence indicating a higher level of sophisticated knowledge and technology in ancient and prehistoric times is the existence of out-of-place artifacts known as ooparts. In the nineteenth and twentieth centuries numerous artifacts of obvious human origin were found in coal, granite, and sedimentary rocks. Coal is formed from vegetation that has experienced enormous pressure and heat. Granite is formed when magma cools rapidly beneath the earth's surface; some of it is spewed out of the earth by volcanoes while the remainder stays beneath the surface. And sedimentary rocks form from great pressure. The Biblical worldview says that there was a global Flood by water that must have produced great heat and enormous pressures. Therefore, it can account for the formation of coal and sedimentary layers of rock as well as new granite. Since Biblical chronology allows that life on earth is only about 6,000 years old, the Flood must account for the ooparts within these substances as well as for oil, natural gas, and fossils. Therefore these ooparts must date from before the Flood in what is called the antediluvian age. According to Biblical chronology based on the Masoretic Text of the Old Testament, the Flood occurred in 2302 B.C. We will refer only to a few of these ooparts, which are representative of many others.

In 1851 the Springfield, Illinois newspaper the Springfield Republican reported a story of Hiram de Witt, a businessman, who came back from a trip to California with a quartz rock about the size of his fist. When it accidentally fell to the floor while showing it to a friend, the rock split apart and revealed an iron nail perfectly straight and with its head intact. Geologists determined that the rock was at least 60 million years old. The problem with that date is that secular scientists believe that our human ancestors did not appear on earth until 5 to 7 million years ago. Since that presents a huge problem for the secular worldview ooparts like this are simply ignored. Of course, Biblical chronology says man originated fully developed from the hands of the Creator-God about 6,000 years ago.

In 1885 an Austrian by the name of Isador Braun found a block of coal dated to be between 2.5 to 66 million years old in what geologists call the Tertiary Period. A metal cube was found inside the piece of coal, which experts showed consisted of a steel and nickel alloy. The cube was obviously manmade because two of its sides were convex, and a groove had been cut around the circumference of the cube about half-way up. Although it has since been lost, fortunately it had already been reported in two scientific journals, *Nature* (in 1886 London) and *The Astronomy* (in 1887 Paris). This metal cube was obviously made by a machine and was itself probably part of a larger mechanism.

In the twentieth century another find of “impossible” ooparts was discovered in a collection of ornaments and other objects made of platinum in Peru. We know that it takes temperatures of approximately 1,755 degrees Celsius in order to melt platinum and form any objects from it. How this ancient Peruvian culture produced that amount of heat in order to make these platinum objects remains a mystery.

Perhaps the most amazing oopart of them all was the discovery of a mechanical device in 1961 by three American rock hunters in the Coso Mountains about 200 miles north of Los Angeles. At an elevation of about 4,300 feet above sea level they found a rock. When it was cut open with a diamond saw blade, the device was found inside. It was a cylinder made of ceramic or porcelain with a tiny magnetic metal shaft in the middle and copper wire wrapped around the entire cylinder. Experts who examined the cylinder said that it reminded them of a spark plug although different. From its design it was evidently some electrical device. Geologists dated the rock it came from to be at least 500,000 years old. This device therefore, from the Biblical perspective, must be antediluvian in origin, indicating that this age knew something about electricity.

Did the antediluvians really know how to create and use electricity? A discovery in a West African uranium mine near Oklo, Gabon suggests this very real possibility. All other known natural uranium in the world contains approximately .72 percent of the uranium isotope U-235, the form of uranium whose atoms can be split to create a nuclear fission. Amazingly, the Oklo mine showed some levels as low as .62 percent of U-235. This discovery was made public in 1972 by Francis

Perrin, a former chair of the French High Commission for Atomic Energy. His conclusion was that some of the U-235 had undergone nuclear fission. Further study revealed the presence of cerium, europium, neodymium, and samarium in the mine—all elements produced as by-products of nuclear fission. Although several conventional scientists discounted the discovery by citing it as impossible, the fact is that the U-235 had been depleted, indicating nuclear fission had occurred.

The problem with this is that a particle accelerator must be used to fire neutrons at the U-235. This step is necessary to begin the process of nuclear fission. It requires a sophisticated knowledge of atomic structure and electromagnetic fields in order to create a particle accelerator. Therefore, because the uranium in that mine is dated by geologists to be 1.7 billion years old, it definitely proves that man-made nuclear fission was produced in the antediluvian world. Then when the Flood occurred, it must have deposited this U-235 depleted uranium where it is today. So much for “primitive” man!

There is also evidence that some knowledge of electricity was preserved by the eight people on Noah’s ark because ancient batteries have been discovered from the post-Flood era, and some ancient legends and historical accounts speak about mysterious manmade lights and other electrical devices. For example, Wilhelm König, a German archaeologist working for the State Museum in Baghdad, Iraq, found some six-inch high clay pots in the museum’s basement in 1938. The pots had been unearthed near a village southeast of Baghdad and found to be about 2,000 years old. Inside each of these pots was a cylinder made of sheet copper soldered with a 60-40 lead-tin alloy. Asphalt had been used to seal the tops of the pots and held an iron rod that extended into the copper cylinder. The rods in these pots showed indications of acid corrosion. König’s conclusion was that these must have been ancient batteries.

After the interruption of World War II ended, this was confirmed by Willy Ley (d. 1969), a German-American science historian. Ley worked with the General Electric High Voltage Laboratory to build duplicates of these clay pot batteries and added various substances (acetic acid to one, citrus acid to one, and copper sulfate to another). These batteries all produced between 1.5 and 2 volts of electricity, something that modern science could not do until about 1800.

In another location near Baghdad other clay pot batteries were discovered, this time with thin copper and iron rods apparently used to connect a series of them together and thereby producing a higher voltage. All of the Baghdad batteries were dated to the Parthian period, a Persian Empire lasting from 247 B.C. to A.D. 224. Electric power is also implied by the existence of electroplated metal objects which have been discovered in southern Iraq in the twentieth century. Since those are dated to about 2000 B.C., it is evident that the immediate post-Flood generation had extensive knowledge of electricity. Still other electroplated objects were found in Egypt buried 60 feet under the earth near the Sphinx of Giza in the nineteenth century by Auguste Mariette (d. 1881), a French archaeologist.

Mysterious Lamps

Some ancient legends speak about artificial lights with an unknown mysterious power source. One of them is recorded in the book *The History of Magic*, written by the French writer Eliphas Levi (d. 1875). It tells the story of a thirteenth century French rabbi named Jechiele, an advisor to King Louis IX, who possessed a lamp that produced a light without oil or a wick. It was also said that he made an iron doorknocker that shocked people who touched it. Unfortunately, Eliphas Levi (a pseudonym; he was not a Jew) was the foremost promoter of occultism in the modern era, so that what he wrote was discounted. However, his story is plausible because there is confirmation elsewhere of the existence of such artificial lights.

In the early fifteenth century a tomb was discovered near Rome that contained an artificial light that was said to have illuminated it; the tomb had existed for about 2,000 years. Pausanias (d. A.D. 180), a Greek geographer, described the existence of an artificial light in the Temple of Minerva in Italy that burned for about one year. And Augustine (d. A.D. 430), the bishop of Hippo in North Africa, wrote that an Egyptian temple to Isis had a lamp that burned without producing any flames. In the modern era it was not until 1802 that Humphry Davy (d. 1829), an English chemist, invented the very first battery-powered light. Then the famous American inventor, Thomas Edison (d. 1931) invented the first electric light bulb in 1879 that was practical and affordable for use in homes and workplaces. Before that, all manmade lights involved fire, such as candles, torches, oil and kerosene lamps.

Written records concerning the life of Jivaka, the sixth and fifth century B.C. famed personal physician of the Buddha (traditional d. 483 B.C.), tell about a “gem” he possessed that lit up a body to reveal physical problems not viewable with the naked eye. Although fantastic to contemplate, if the account is true, and there is no other reason to assume that it is not, then something akin to x-ray technology was known by some in antiquity.

The Temple of Dendera in Egypt, dedicated to the goddess Hathor, was built in the first century B.C. In one of its rooms is a very detailed picture engraved on the wall. Although Egyptologists are mystified by its meaning, some electrical engineers who have studied it suggest that it reminds them of two Crookes tubes, the precursor to the fluoroscope and to the television vacuum tube. But the Crookes tube was not invented until the late nineteenth century. While there is no proof for this theory, it appears to be the best one that fits the specifications of the picture’s details.

Some modern theorists also cite pyramid power as evidence of higher levels of understanding of electromagnetic energy by the ancients. The idea originated when the German-British electrical engineer, Alexander Siemens (d. 1928), visited the Great Pyramid at Giza in the early twentieth century. When he climbed to the pyramid’s top and raised his hands with his fingers outstretched he heard a ringing in his ears. This gave him the idea that something of an electromagnetic nature

was going on there. So he took a newspaper and a wine bottle he had with him and moistened the newspaper with wine and then wrapped it around the empty bottle. He had thus created a simple homemade Leyden jar, which is a device that stores an electric charge. When he then held it high over his head it eventually produced electrical sparks.

Others followed Siemens, most notably a French occultist named Antoine Bovis, who claimed he saw a dead cat in the King's Chamber of the Great Pyramid. Instead of its body decaying, it had mummified even in the humid condition in the chamber. Bovis then built his own small replica of the Great Pyramid at his home and aligned it with the magnetic north like the Great Pyramid is. [It is only 1/720th degree off from the true magnetic north, truly an engineering marvel for so-called "primitive" people.]. He discovered that the carcasses of animals mummified in his pyramid as well. Reading about Bovis' experiments, a Czech engineer named Karl Drbal made his own pyramid and claimed it sharpened dull razor blades. There is almost certainly something electromagnetic in the effect of a pyramid, but repeated experiments by others have debunked the idea that they can sharpen dull razor blades. At this point it remains a mystery that is unresolved.

Evidences of Ancient Flight

Did at least some ancient civilizations possess the ability to manufacture and fly aircraft or perhaps even spacecraft? We noted earlier that the Nazca Lines in Peru could only be seen in their entirety from the air. Although it may not have been some kind of airport [why would an airport have designs of animals all over it?], the fact that it could only be seen fully from the air suggests that someone did see it from that vantage point. This is suggestive but not definitive evidence.

However, numerous ancient legends constitute reasonable evidence to support the hypothesis that civilizations long ago knew the secrets of human flight. The *Sifrala* is an ancient Babylonian document dated to more than 5,000 years old. To fit it into Biblical chronology requires its age to be dated more recently than 2302 B.C., the date of the global Flood. In any case, it is an ancient post-Flood work. This book describes how to make a flying machine called a marvid. Unfortunately, several key lines of the book are missing so that no one can actually use the instructions to build an aircraft. But it speaks about three spheres with a copper coil around the main one. Somehow graphite rods connected or at least touching two spheres in the back made the aircraft move. The book also discusses the elements of stability and wind resistance.

An ancient Babylonian document called the *Halkatha* describes a knowledge of human flying machines. One of its passages reads, "To operate a flying machine is a great privilege. Knowledge of flying is most ancient, a gift of the gods of old for saving lives" (Noorbergen, p. 121).

There are also ancient Chinese documents that speak of manmade aircraft. For example, one of them speaks of the Chinese Emperor Cheng Tang, the first ruler of the Shang dynasty, possessing

an aircraft in 1766 B.C. [Note: More recently the beginning of the Shang dynasty was revised from 1776 B.C. to either 1600 B.C. or to 1556 B.C.] But before he died he destroyed the machine in order to prevent anyone else from acquiring the knowledge of building flying machines.

An even more fascinating account of manmade aircraft is found in the collection of Hindu scriptures called the *Samaranga Sutradhara*, written in the eleventh century. This epic poem contains 230 stanzas that speak about human flying craft. It describes aircraft called Viminas operated by some kind of mercury engine in which “controlled fire from the iron containers” of mercury powered the aircraft with the noise of “the roar of a lion” (Noorbergen, p. 130). The International Academy of Sanskrit Research made a systematic study of the references to flight in this book and published the results in a book entitled *Aeronautics, a Manuscript From the Prehistoric Past* in 1973. It revealed that the Viminas reflected an excellent knowledge of aeronautics suggesting they were some type of jet aircraft. Numerous other ancient Hindu texts speak of air travel by humans as well.

Finally, there is the Babylonian *Epic of Etana*, discovered in fragmentary form written in cuneiform, the ancient written script of Mesopotamian civilizations. It is believed to have been composed from between 3000 and 2400 B.C. Given Biblical chronology, it must be dated earlier than 2302 B.C., the date of the global Flood. The story concerns Etana, who is said to have been given a ride by an eagle in return for Etana’s nursing the eagle back to health. As Etana flies higher and higher, there are periodic descriptions of the earth below. Those descriptions of the earth at the different heights made little or no sense until the 1950s and 1960s, when high-altitude jets and then space travel proved the uncanny accuracy of the descriptions.

Critics of these legends dismiss them as mere examples of ancient science fiction. However, the Epic of Etana in particular is very difficult to dismiss so easily, for one has to assume that its accuracy is purely coincidental. That is a difficult “pill” to swallow. But that is what one must assume when you believe in the evolutionary view of history. Although there are obvious legendary (fictional) elements in some of these accounts, remember that historians generally believe there is a core truth to most legends.

Additional evidence that these ancient legends of air travel are probably real accounts of actual human flight are a number of ooparts that reflect sophisticated knowledge of aeronautics. For example, the Cairo Museum of Antiquities (in Egypt) possessed a small wooden “bird” that had been discovered in 1898 in a tomb near Saqqara, an ancient burial ground about 20 miles from Cairo. In 1969 an Egyptian medical doctor and archaeologist named Kalil Messiha examined the “bird” and proclaimed his belief that it represented a model airplane rather than a bird. Of course, Egyptologists discount this idea, citing that no actual ancient airplane has been discovered. However, a panel of aeronautical experts confirmed Dr. Messiha’s claim by declaring that the artifact showed a significant knowledge of aviation by whomever made the object.

Ooparts indicating knowledge of air travel have also been discovered in the Western Hemisphere. One that stands out is the discovery of a gold artifact (among several gold artifacts) found among pre-Incan ruins in Colombia and dated to between A.D. 500 and 800. In 1954 a collection of these gold artifacts were loaned to some American museums. A jeweler named Emanuel Staubs was commissioned to make reproductions of the artifacts. In the late 1960s a Scottish-American biologist named Ivan Sanderson obtained one of the reproductions of a bird-like object and thought it looked more like a model airplane. An expert from the Aeronautical Institute of New York agreed with Sanderson that it did not represent any known bird or any other winged creature and that it looked more mechanical than biological. Other aeronautical experts confirmed these observations, including test pilot Jack Ullrich, who concluded that the design of the object appeared to be a model of a supersonic jet aircraft. Other similar model airplanes have been discovered in Colombia, Peru, Venezuela, and Costa Rica. All such artifacts have been dated to be considerably older than 1,000 years.

Critics cite the fact that archeology has never produced an ancient aircraft. But metal objects older than 3,000 years would likely have rusted into oblivion before now. And those aircraft that existed before the Flood would have been buried so deep as to completely obliterate them. Therefore, we should not expect to find any remnants of ancient aircraft.

Ancient Nuclear War

Astonishing as it sounds, ancient legends preserved in the literature of India and Tibet provide evidence of at least two nuclear wars in antiquity. One of them is found in the *Mahabharata*, an epic poem of approximately 200,000 lines, the oldest of which is dated to around 400 B.C. by most scholars. The *Mahabharata* is part of the many Hindu sacred scriptures. It is believed from its contextual descriptions that it describes events dating back to as early as 1500 or 1400 B.C. or perhaps even earlier.

The *Mahabharata* describes the Vimanas, the flying machines that were later written about in the eleventh-century A.D. *Samaranga Sutradhara* (that we wrote about in the previous section). But in one section the Mahabharata speaks about a war lasting only 18 days between the Pandavas and the Kauravas in the mountainous region of the Ganges River in what is now northwest India and Bangladesh. Shortly after this war another war broke out against the Andhakas and the Vrishnis in the same area. In the first war a named military officer piloting his Vimana launched what we would have to call a weapon of mass destruction today. Apparently, this weapon came in the form of a missile and wrecked such havoc on the earth that both people and animals died for miles around. Its devastation is described as seeming to shake the very sky and included fierce winds and darkness for a time.

In the second battle a single Vimina is said to have launched his superweapon and destroyed three cities. Its explosion resulted in a column of smoke and fire rising in the sky. People and animals were burned beyond recognition, hair fell out, and people and food supplies were contaminated.

The Tibetan *Book of Dzyan* is an ancient and undated book that also describes a different war in which the same weapon of mass destruction in the *Mahabharata* account is said to have annihilated an entire civilization, although some escaped to the mountains. This was said to have been a war between the Yellow-faced and the Dark-faced peoples in which the former apparently annihilated the latter. In this Tibetan war once again Viminias were used to fire these missile-like superweapons. In the *Mahabharata* these weapons are called Agneya, and in the *Book of Dzyan* they are called Agneyastra—almost certainly the same type of weapon.

Once again the critics, confident that no such advanced civilizations could possibly have existed in antiquity, dismiss these stories as mere myths and examples of ancient science fiction. But again the descriptions of the weapon itself and the specifics of the resulting aftermath resemble too much nuclear explosions and its effects to be the mere coincidence of an ancient science fiction writer. Furthermore, just because these legends are part of religious texts does not invalidate them as descriptive of actual history. Finally, the accounts of these wars do not possess the major characteristics of mythology as we described earlier in this paper. Rather, they read as straightforward historical accounts. If one does not prescribe to the evolutionary theory of history, there is no great difficulty in accepting them as historical accounts (after getting over the shock of learning that ancient civilizations possessed great technology).

Not only do ancient documents seem to speak about nuclear wars, but certain ruins of ancient sites scattered over the globe appear to support this thesis. Erich von Fange (d. 2015), an American educator, explored the ruins of a ziggurat near Babylon and noticed that it had been destroyed by such a hot fire so as to vitrify many of its clay bricks. Vitrification, the process by which a substance is converted to glass, requires temperatures of about 2000 degrees Fahrenheit. Volcanic lava can sometimes reach that temperature as can various gas torches. Even some wood can burn close to that temperature. However, there are no volcanoes in that region, and trees are also sparse.

Several large patches of fused glass have been found in different parts of the earth, particularly in some desert areas. Some of these exist in southern Iraq, Israel, the Sahara Desert in North Africa, the Gobi Desert in Mongolia, and the Mohave Desert in the United States. There are few if any volcanoes in these areas and relatively little wood. Moreover, some scientists have acknowledged that these fused glasses appear just like those found near atomic testing sites. The heat in nuclear explosions would certainly be sufficient to fuse glass. Given the accounts of what appear to be nuclear wars in antiquity, this is actually a reasonable hypothesis.

In other parts of the world, not only clay bricks but granite rocks have been found to have melted and vitrified. Examples of this phenomena include northern Norway, Scotland, Ireland, Brazil, Peru, as well as a huge rock among the ancient ruins of a town in Death Valley in California. Some granite fortresses in Scotland reveal melting up to a depth of one foot. Experiments have demonstrated that burning wood placed up against rock structures will melt part of it after a lengthy burning time. That has been sufficient to convince conventional scholars that this was the cause for the observed phenomena. But other tests have been inconclusive, and nothing has really duplicated the actual *extent* of the condition of the granite structures. No naturally-produced fire can account for such melting and vitrification. And since most of these areas are not near volcanoes, there must have been some manmade fire of a superheated nature to have caused such widespread vitrification. The only reasonable explanation, no matter how astounding that sounds, is that of nuclear explosions. When all of the possible explanations have been eliminated, the alleged "impossible" explanation must be true.

Finally, there are small wood statues of men, called moaikavakava, found on Easter Island in the eastern Pacific Ocean. They do not appear to be Polynesian in ethnicity. Instead, their hooked noses and squared beards suggest Semitic peoples, which to be found on the other side of the world from Semitic people is interesting in itself. However, what is most revealing is that these wooden statues depict men with grotesque features, including exposed tumors and collapsed vertebrae. Many who have studied these carvings suggest that they represent men who have experienced radiation poisoning.

Conclusion

The weight of all the evidence from Scripture, secular history, archaeology, ancient monuments, and ancient legends is quite convincing that ancient civilizations once possessed advanced scientific knowledge and technologies and then lost them—convincing, that is, as long as one holds to the Biblical worldview.

There are two possibilities for the existence of all this ancient knowledge and technology: (1) aliens from another world gave that knowledge and those technologies to mankind; this is the thesis of Swiss author Erich von Däniken in his 1968 book entitled *Chariots of the Gods?*; or (2) the fact that antediluvians lived so long and undoubtedly used a much higher percentage of their brain power meant that they developed this knowledge and technology, and that some of the knowledge was passed through Noah's ark to the post-Flood world but eventually lost.

We adopt the Biblical view. The alien hypothesis allows for the evolutionary worldview while the Biblical view does not. Moreover, the alien thesis also seems inconsistent with the presence of so much moral and natural evil on earth. Although earlier we established the reason to believe that unfallen worlds of intelligent beings exist, those beings would not likely visit us because sin would

be abhorrent to them. Heaven-based angels do so because they are God's special messengers that do His bidding. But neither the unfallen worlds nor God's angels would have any reason to assist humans by giving them advanced knowledge and technology.

That might leave the evil angels, but again we are at a loss to explain why they would give mankind advanced scientific knowledge and technology because their interest in us is for the purpose of deceiving us into departing or remaining apart from God. In other words, they are interested in our spiritual condition (evil), not in our technological development.

We said earlier that the unexplained UFOs might be evil angels preparing to deceive us. II Thessalonians 2:9 tells us that *the lawless one* (called *the man of lawlessness* in v. 3) will have a *coming...with all power, signs, and lying wonders* to deceive people on earth (vv. 9-10). The Greek word for *coming* is *parousia*, which means *an arrival and consequent presence* of someone. It is used elsewhere in the New Testament particularly in reference to the Second Coming of Jesus (Matthew 24:3, 27, 37; I Corinthians 15:23; I Thessalonians 3:13; 4:15; 5:23; James 5:7-8; II Peter 3:4; I John 2:28), including in the same context of II Thessalonians 2 (vv. 1, 8).

By using the same word in both II Thessalonians 2:1 and 8 to describe Christ's Second Coming tells us that the man of lawlessness will attempt to counterfeit Christ's coming. Thus, his deception, for which he works miracles, must be to persuade people that He is Christ. The fact that there is a historical man of lawlessness (Bible scholars agree this is speaking about the Antichrist) strongly suggests that the supernatural coming of the man of lawlessness is the eschatological or ultimate Antichrist, Satan himself, who will make a spectacular arrival to earth and proclaim that he is Christ to deceive most people and *almost* even the very elect (Matthew 24:24). Most suggest that the fact that the coming of this man of lawlessness is *according to the working of Satan* means that he is not Satan himself. However, when the police say that a criminal works according to a particular M.O. (method of operation), they are talking about the criminal himself and not that he copies someone else. Besides, why would Satan allow one of his evil angels to make the final deception of counterfeiting Christ's Second Coming and not do it himself?

Given that Satan's final deception will be to counterfeit the Second Coming of Christ, it is possible and perhaps probable that the few *unexplained* UFO sightings are the work of Satan and his evil angels preparing the world to look to the sky for a counterfeit "savior" who will save the earth from some catastrophe. Whether that catastrophe is the potential undoing of the planet through global warming, the imminent perceived threat of some asteroid, or the imminent danger of nuclear destruction we can only guess. But it seems logical that Satan would use a looming disaster as the reason for his counterfeit Second Coming and then offer the world a counterfeit spiritual "salvation" as a way to escape it—and the world will then up in a final showdown over worship in what Revelation 13 calls the mark of the beast crisis. Before that crisis is resolved the real Christ will come and rescue His faithful people, those who "keep the commandments of God and

the faith of Jesus” (Revelation 14:12). Pray that you will be one of them. And praise God, for His “redemption draws near” (Luke 21:28)!