Job 38:12-30

- God’s response to Job
- Orthodox theology: reward/retribution. No concept of grace.
- No Torah.
- Job acted as a priest (as did Noah and Abraham).
- Job’s wealth measured in livestock rather than gold or silver.
- High level of poetry, not exceeded anywhere except in the Psalms.
Uniformitarianism (2 Peter 3:3-9)

Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with their mocking, following after their own lusts, 4 and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation." 5 For when they maintain this, it escapes their notice that by the word of God the heavens existed long ago and the earth was formed out of water and by water, 6 through which the world at that time was destroyed, being flooded with water. 7 But the present heavens and earth by His word are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men. 8 But do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. 9 The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

Uniformitarianism

Update on the Rosetta Mission

"The source of Earth's water has been a long-standing puzzle. About 4.6 billion years ago, the planet was extremely hot and likely harbored little or no water. So where did our planet's vast amount of water come from? The most credible sources are ice-rich comets and asteroids."


Mount St. Helens
Lessons from Mount St. Helens

- Up to 600 feet of sediments were rapidly deposited, virtually identical to those found worldwide in the greater geological record.
- A deep, eroded canyon through those sediments has been dubbed the little Grand Canyon, was carved in one afternoon.
- Fresh rocks called dacites have been dated by radiometric means to be over a million years old, yet are only decades old.
- A thick peat layer is accumulating under a log mat in Spirit Lake and is poised to become a coal deposit if buried by another eruption.
- Floating logs that look like they grew in place have the signature appearance of the Petrified Forest at Yellowstone National Park.

No Such Thing As Prehistory
The Context: A Rapidly Changing World
1. The earth was drying up, revealing the formation of new land masses.
2. Rivers, oceans and lakes were being formed.
3. Earth’s atmosphere was cooling by evaporation, producing rain and snow for the first time.
4. Global weather patterns were changing to a "new normal.”
5. Some species of animals which came out of the ark with Noah were finding it increasingly difficult to survive in the new climate.
6. Dinosaurs and many other plant-eating creatures from the primeval world were starting to become extinct.
7. Lifespans were declining.
8. The human race was repopulating the earth.
9. During this period another patriarch, Job, would live. Job’s theology seems to represent the worldview of general revelation and reward / retribution.

Worldwide Disobedience to God
• In Genesis 9:1, God commanded Noah and his sons to be fruitful, multiply, and fill the earth.
• Settling in Shinar and building a single city and a tower which reached to heaven was not on God’s list.
• These engineered works were orchestrated by Nimrod, great-grandson of Noah, grandson of Ham, son of Cush.
• The third generation from Noah was overt in their disobedience to God’s will.
• Selah, another great grandson of Noah (through Shem), was born 37 years after the Flood.
• These events may have occurred around 2300-2400 BC, based on the chronology (see chart on p. 71).
Repudiation of the Noahic Covenant (Gen 11:3)
A key term in God’s covenant with Noah, his descendants and the animals, was His pledge to never again inundate the earth with water (Gen. 9:11). Yet, Nimrod and his generation employed bitumen, stone and cement in their building projects. These are waterproof materials. As well, the tower was probably considered a place of refuge in the event that another flood occurred. This was clearly done in complete disregard of God’s promise.

Repudiation of the Noahic Command (Gen 11:4)
God’s blessing in Gen 9:1 was accompanied by a command to fill the earth. Yet, Nimrod and his generation were fearful of being “scattered” over the face of all the earth.

Humanism, Manmade Religion (Gen 11:4)
- The tower which “reached to heaven” (Gen. 11:4) was an act of humanism.
- As if naïve human beings could ever build anything that might reach heaven on their own, without God’s supernatural help, they were willing to give it a try.
- Enoch had already been raptured, an indication that Nimrod and his generation would like to join him, not on God’s terms, but theirs.
- The Tower of Babel also exposes the ambition of autonomy, of self-empowerment (“name for ourselves”).

Divine Inspection (Gen 11:5)
- God responds to human disobedience, as He did in the Garden (Gen 3:22).
- God came down to see the city and the tower. Was this an informative act (was this Open Theism), or rather an expression of judgment?

Divine Blessing in the form of Judgment (Gen 11:6-9)
- God determines “what they began to do” ... to pollute (chalal חָלַל) [Hiphil infinitive means to pollute or defile, desecrate, profane] what they do. (cf. Gen 3:22-23).
- Therefore, God confused their speech, scattering them upon the surface of the earth, to enforce obedience to the command in Gen 9:1.
The Babylonian Empire was perhaps the earliest empire in all antiquity. It sprang up in Mesopotamia soon after the Flood, which dates to somewhere around 2,517 B.C. Its entire history as seen through its cultural and literary legacy (Code of Hammurabi, Enuma Elish, Epic of Gilgamesh, etc.), possessed a non-theistic and distinctively pagan world view. The character of Babylon seems to be reflected in the life of its founder, Nimrod, who Genesis 10:9 called a mighty hunter “before the Lord.” The preposition “before” can also be translated, “against” or “opposite to.” Evidently, Nimrod founded a second empire, the Assyrian (Gen 10:11).

References: See notes, p. 67

Babylon is mentioned 294 times in the Bible, from OT times to NT times. A future Babylon is mentioned 6 times in Revelation 14, 16, 17, 18. First mention of Babylon occurs in Genesis 10:10, naming Nimrod as its founder. Babylon existed as a city-state in antiquity. Sometimes the City of Babylon is a metonymy for the city-state. At times the City of Babylon fell under the jurisdiction of world empires. In ancient times it was associated with Chaldea, later with Assyria. In 606 BC with the fall of Nineveh, Babylon became the capital of the Babylonian Empire.

Soon thereafter, Babylon fell to the Persian Empire until the Greeks conquest, then the Roman Empire. With the fall of the Roman Empire, Babylon was briefly part of the Persian Empire until the Arab conquest. Following the defeat of the Ottoman Empire in 1918, Babylon was assigned to the territory of modern-day Iraq. The ruins of this once-great city have been identified by archaeologists on the west bank of the Euphrates, about 50 miles south of Baghdad. Once called “the beauty of kingdoms” (Isa 13:19), today it lies in ruin.
Babylonian Empire (p. 66-67)

- Babylon is quite prominent in future biblical prophecy.
- Two entire chapters in the Book of Revelation are devoted to Babylon.
- Revelation 17 and 18 describe it as a place of incredible wealth and international trade. But these chapters also describe the final and complete destruction of Babylon (Rev 14:18; 18:21).
- In the overall narrative, the future destruction of Babylon will take place near the end of the seven-year long Great Tribulation.
- Since the rapture of the church will have taken place prior to the start of the Great Tribulation, it seems that there must be a future rebuilt Babylon.

Babylonian Empire (p. 66-67)

Future Babylon will be so wealthy that a period of international mourning will follow on the heels of its destruction (Rev 18:9-20). Those who mourn will include all economic and political strata, from top political leaders and bankers right on down to those involved in retail and shipping.

Iraq is currently in the throes of political and social turmoil. But somehow, some way, at some future time, the nations of the world may begin to cooperate in the reconstruction of Babylon. If the Babylon of Revelation is to be taken literally, it will become an international hub for world trade and finance, ultimately surpassing all other exchanges, including the New York Stock Exchange.

Empires of the OT (p. 67)

- Babylonian
- Assyrian
- Persian
- Egyptian
- Israeli
- Greek
- Roman
Lifespans Before and After the Flood

Average = 912 (Adam to Noah)
Average = 336 (Shem to Abram)

During the Flood (Ps 104:6-9)

6 You covered it [the earth] with the deep as with a garment; The waters were standing above the mountains. 7 At Your rebuke they fled, At the sound of Your thunder they hurried away. 8 The mountains rose; the valleys sank down To the place which You established for them. 9 You set a boundary that they may not pass over, So that they will not return to cover the earth.

Global Climate Change (p. 72-74)

- The Bible describes the pre-Flood world as a relatively warm environment with no rain or storms (Gen 2:5-6).
- If this is true, it seems plausible that no ice sheets (glaciers) existed prior to the Flood. Even if they had existed, they would have been destroyed by the Flood.
- The average global ocean temperature today is about 3.5 degrees C.
- Analyzing the distribution of oxygen isotopes found in ice cores throughout the Arctic Circle, atmospheric models have been used to calculate a mean sea-surface temperature of 24 degrees C at the end of the Flood.

Global Climate Change (p. 72-74)

- Warm temperatures caused the earth to experience a global cooling process with high rates of evaporation.
- This in turn prompted upper atmosphere cooling with heavy rates of condensation, creating post-Flood precipitation in the form of rain, snow, and ice.
- By this process, the earth was able to cool rapidly while layers of ice were deposited at the North and South Poles. During this period of rapid cooling, global climates were changing quickly, and some areas which are deserts today would have been well watered at the time.
- The earth was exponentially approaching a new norm.

Global Climate Change (p. 72-74)

- The area around Sodom and Gomorrah south of the Dead Sea receives only 2-4 inches of rainfall today, yet according to Gen 13:10, it was "well watered" in 2,075 BC, Abraham’s 90th birthday.
- If Job lived before Abraham, the Land of Uz in which he lived (near Sodom and Gomorrah) would also have been well watered, perhaps even more than during Abraham’s time.
- Job lived during a time of dramatic transition in the global climate.
- Job described a new hydrologic cycle in which, "Water evaporates from the sea, and a river becomes parched and dried up," Job 14:11.
Global Climate Change (p. 72-74)

Ancient water system map on copper, discovered in the Sahara Desert, dating to 2500 BC or earlier.
Libyan Museum 2009

Libya

All Phases
Total Production 6.57 MCMD

Sarir / Sirt Tazerbo/Benghazi System
Hasouna / Jefara System
Al Gardabiya / As sadadah Link
Kufra / Tazerbo System
Ghadames/Zuwarah/ Al Zawia System
Global Climate Change (p. 72-74)

- Job was apparently fascinated with clouds. In Job 26:8 he stated that God, “… wraps up the waters in His clouds and the cloud does not burst under them.” [This doesn’t seem like a noteworthy comment unless it is read in context with a relatively new phenomenon.]
- Job also observed the shadowing effect on the moon by clouds. “He obscures the face of the full moon and spreads his cloud over it” Job 26:9.
- The night sky exposes the universe to full view, “[God] commands the sun not to shine and sets a seal upon the stars,” Job 9:7. Perhaps evidence for the removal of an opaque canopy of moisture, caused by the Flood.
- Job knew the earth was a globe (Job 26:10; cf. Isa 40:22; Prov 8:27).

Global Climate Change (p. 72-74)

- Within two to three hundred years after the Flood, Elihu described a great ice age and made this observation: “From the breath of God, ice is made, and the expanse of the waters is frozen.” Job 37:10.
- “For to the snow He says, ‘Fall on the earth,’ and to the downpour and the rain, ‘Be strong,’ ” Job 37:6.
- The monologue presented by God Himself in chapter 38 has even more to say about the supernatural formation of ice, rain, and the Flood.

Global Climate Change (p. 72-74)

- Secular climatologists do not have a fully-accepted model for the cause of the “Ice Age” or for the process of deglaciation.
- The popular secular theory suggests high oxygen isotope ratios in seafloor sediments (δ¹⁸O) can indicate times of maximum glacial extent.
- Secular climatologists require time scales of at least 100,000 years to explain the so-called “Ice Age.”
Global Climate Change (p. 72-74)

• The best current explanation for the formation of the polar ice caps and glaciers is provided by a literal reading of a young earth and global Flood as described in the Bible.
• Job also describes the world as being explored during Job’s lifetime (28:3).
• Iron, copper, precious metals, gems, and minerals were being mined (Job 28:2, 4, 6).

Global Climate Change (p. 72-74)

• Human beings were engaged in great earthmoving operations (28:9), channelizing rivers and building reservoirs (28:10-11).
• Enterprises such as these probably couldn’t have been undertaken successfully without a body of scientific knowledge and engineering that survived the antediluvian world.
• Through hard work and ingenuity, the 70 nations of Genesis 10 were acclimating to the new global environment, populating the world in obedience to Gen 9:1 and subduing it in obedience to Gen 1:28.

Mapping the Globe

• The earth’s geographical features were accurately mapped from pole to pole during the post-flood period.
• Ancient world maps dating back to the 15th century have been preserved which show the Americas and Antarctica when its coasts and inland areas were free of ice.
• It is clear that instruments of navigation existed to accurately determine longitudes that were far superior to anything that existed in antiquity all the way up to the second half of the 18th century.
• One such map was prepared by the French cartographer Oronteus Finaeus (1494-1555).
We are left with strong evidence that, following the Flood, the world was settled and mapped by a highly industrious and intelligent people.

Civilizations which existed after the Flood had the capacity to travel worldwide, and were thoroughly skilled in astronomy, nautical science, mapmaking, and ship building.

These people may have been more advanced than any culture prior to the 18th century.

The genealogies of Adam and Shem trace the redemptive plan of God through history. In this context, Shem’s genealogy is more significant than those of his brothers.

The notable aspect of Shem’s genealogy is that it begins with Noah and ends with Abraham. It would be through Abraham’s descendants that the Second Person of the Trinity would be born into the world in the form of human flesh.

Matthew 1 picks up the genealogical history where Shem’s genealogy ends -- with Abraham -- and ends with Jesus Christ.
Conclusion (p. 75)

• Abraham, who was perhaps the most pivotal person in the redemptive plan of God in the entire OT, is first introduced to us in Genesis 11:26.
• Thus ends this study of Genesis 1-11. From here on, God’s redemptive plan would come through Abraham and his descendants and end with Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world.

Parking Lot: Genealogies

Caution: don’t be overzealous or lose focus

1 Timothy 1:3b-4, “Instruct certain men not to teach strange doctrines, 4nor to pay attention to myths and endless genealogies, which give rise to mere speculation rather than furthering the administration of God which is by faith.”

Titus 3:9, “But shun foolish controversies and genealogies and strife and disputes about the Law; for they are unprofitable and worthless.”

Abraham to David (Mt 1)

1. Abraham
2. Isaac
3. Jacob
4. Judah
5. Perez
6. Hezron
7. Ram
8. Amminadab
9. Nashon
10. Salmon
11. Boaz
12. Obed
13. Jesse
14. David
David to the Exile (Mt 1)

1. Solomon
   - Kings 12:1-14:31
   - 2 Chronicles 10:1-12:16
2. Rehoboam
   - Kings 15:1-12
   - 2 Chronicles 14:1-16:14
3. Abijam (Abijah)
   - Kings 15:13-14
   - 2 Chronicles 14:15-16:16
4. Asa
   - Kings 15:15-22
   - 2 Chronicles 14:17-16:29
5. Jehoshaphat
   - Kings 15:23-24
   - 2 Chronicles 18:1-20:37
6. Joram (Jehoram)
   - Kings 8:25-29
   - 2 Chronicles 22:1-9
7. Ahaziah
   - Kings 21:1-14
   - 2 Chronicles 22:10-23:21
8. Athaliah (queen)
   - Kings 22:1-9
   - 2 Chronicles 22:10-23:21
9. Joash (Jehoash)
   - Kings 24:1-21
   - 2 Chronicles 23:1-24:27
10. Jehoash
    - Kings 23:22-24:27
    - 2 Chronicles 24:28-25:28
11. Amaziah
    - Kings 25:29-26:23
    - 2 Chronicles 25:1-28
12. Uzziah (Azariah)
    - Kings 25:29-27:36
    - 2 Chronicles 26:1-23
13. Jotham
    - Kings 27:37-28:1
    - 2 Chronicles 27:1-9
14. Ahaz
    - Kings 28:2-22
    - 2 Chronicles 28:1-27
15. Hezekiah
    - Kings 28:23-29:31
    - 2 Chronicles 29:1-32:33
16. Manasseh
    - Kings 29:32-33
    - 2 Chronicles 33:1-20
17. Amon
    - Kings 33:24-25
    - 2 Chronicles 33:21-25
18. Josiah
    - Kings 36:1-20
    - 2 Chronicles 34:1-35:27
19. Jehoahaz
    - Kings 36:21-22
    - 2 Chronicles 36:1-4
20. Jehoiakim
    - Kings 36:23-26
    - 2 Chronicles 36:5-8
21. Jeconiah (Jehoiachin)
    - Kings 36:27-28
    - 2 Chronicles 36:9, 10
22. Zedekiah
    - Kings 36:29-30
    - 2 Chronicles 36:11-14

Exile to Messiah (Mt 1)

1. Jechoniah
2. Shealtiel
3. Zerubbabel
4. Abihud
5. Elakim
6. Azor
7. Zadok
8. Achim
9. Eliud
10. Eleazar
11. Matthan
12. Jacob
13. Joseph
14. Jesus

Comparing Matthew and Luke

Luke’s genealogy begins with Adam, Matthew’s begins with Abraham.

From Adam to Abraham
This period covers about 2,000 years. Matthew and Luke and Genesis 5 chronology all agree. Matthew agrees with Genesis 10 chronology. In only the Western Greek Texts does Luke differ from Matthew and Genesis 10 on one point: insertion of the name Cainan between Arphaxad and Selah. Cainan is not mentioned in Genesis 10 or 11 (Lk 3:36; Gen 10:24; 11:12-14).

This period can be divided into two parts:
1. Creation to the Flood, a period of 1656 years, with lifespans averaging 912 years (excluding Enoch who was raptured), and
2. Flood to Abram’s death, a period of 527 years, with lifespans averaging 336 years.
Comparing Matthew and Luke

From Abraham to David
This period covers about 1,000 years. Matthew and Luke agree and concur with the OT. Abraham to David is about 1,000 years in 14 generations (71 years per generation).

From David to Jesus
This period covers about 1,000 years. According to Matthew, these 28 generations occur over about 1,000 years (36 years/generation). Luke’s genealogy contains different people, representing 42 generations (24 years per generation).