Communique'

President - Scott Lane 599-7240 Vice President – Ed Salzwedel
Secretary – Clarence Johnson Treasurer – Carl Williams, M.D.
[website – [www.sabbsa.org](http://www.sabbsa.org) ] [P.O. Box 34478, San Antonio, TX 78265]

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It has been said as either a curse or a prayer, “May you live in interesting times.” Our current situation with the pandemic certainly qualifies. As we detailed in last month’s **Communique’,** this is a situation not seen in at least four generations and thus we have an “other worldly” feeling about all of this isolation and closing down of society. ”This too shall pass”, but also as our article from last month pointed out it may take a couple of years to get back to normal.

This month’s **Communique’** details the content of a recent NOVA program on PBS about **Mega-Floods** which gave great evidence of worldwide mega-floods and in concert with the biblical accounts of the world being shaped by cataclysmic events. We also have an article giving a summary of the impressive array of **archaeological evidence showing that the Bible is real history**, and not just a collection of myths and fables.

We have another installment of our **Genesis Commentary series on Genesis 4:13-15** which covers God’s judgment of Cain. As always, we have full rundown of all creation education opportunities coming up, but please note that everything except our radio programs are tentatively set due to the uncertainty of our times in “lockdown mode.” Our May SABBSA meeting has been postponed till June.

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**NOVA Mega-floods Program on PBS**

A NOVA program last month on mega-floods across the world (4/20/20) was enlightening both for the evidence for catastrophism they presented and the conclusion they reached from their worldview.

One ancient flood examined was the Lake Missoula flood which is documented to have cut the “Scablands” rock formations in Washington state all the way to the Pacific. Lake Missoula was a huge lake, larger than present day Lake Superior, located in Montana. A “bathtub ring” of rock impressions around a huge portion of Montana outlines how huge this water reservoir was. Conventional geology theorizes that it was created largely by snowmelt after the last ice age. A creationist interpretation would be that it may well have been predominantly remnant waters from the global flood supplemented by ice melt after the ice age.

In either scenario, a glacial dam or thin earthen dam holding back this huge lake to the west gave way and released a enormous flood of water across eastern and central Washington state. The “rock islands”, sheer cliff gorges and a huge dry waterfall reminiscent of Niagara plainly evidence this occurrence of a massive flood on a scale we do not see today. A computer reconstruction of what would have occurred if this ancient Lake Missoula had suddenly been released by a failure of an ice dam definitively shows an exact match to the path of flow and level of erosive cutting into the Scablands we see evidenced today.

Further evidence of this immense flood is found in Pacific sea floor cores off the coast of Washington state revealing tremendous amounts of debris carried by the Lake Missoula flood. There are also layers below that showing more massive flooding which conventional geology dismisses as more ancient mega-flooding, but which the creationist can clearly see as evidence of the “Erodazoic Period” of cataclysmic water runoff from the continent as the global flood subsided.

Conventional geology places this event at about 9000 years ago, so it corresponds to the end of their last theorized ice age. The biblical view would be more along the lines of 4000 years ago.

In Iceland, we find a similar set of sheer cliff gorges like those in the Scablands and Grand Canyon (another site cut by a post worldwide flood remnant lake flood). In this case, the vast glacier covering so much of Iceland has volcanoes underneath it which when they erupt could cause a monumental amount of melting resulting in massive water, mud, and vent flows. This is another example of a catastrophic formation of gigantic geologic gorges on the earth. (Iceland sheer cliff gorge pictures at right)

There is also evidence of the English Channel being cut by a mega-flood. Most people know of and have seen pictures of the beautiful “White Cliffs of Dover”, a sheer chalk cliff face on the English side of the English Channel. What many do not know, there is a corresponding sheer white chalk cliff face on the opposite side of the channel along the French coast. Amazingly, both of these chalk faces show identical corresponding thin “bar code” layers of flint interlaced within the chalk. These interlaced flood layers could easily have been laid down in the worldwide flood event as the massive flood contents varied while everything across the world was scooped up and moved. All of this indicates that the whole area of the English Channel was once one solid massive chalk deposit (a deposit on a scale we do not see today, but which could well have been formed by a worldwide flood event).

White Cliffs of Dover

Conventional geology theorizes that the North Sea during the last ice age soaked the northern land bridge connecting Britain and France. This weakened the chalk by 50%. As the huge ice caps and glaciers melted feeding the North Sea with massive amounts of water, the water level rose to the point that the water spilled over the land bridge, thus escalating the collapse of the land bridge and a mega-flood ensued cutting the English Channel in a catastrophic event.

Echo soundings of the 300-foot-deep gorge at the bottom of the English Channel show amazing similarities to the rock island formations found in the Scablands and Grand Canyon revealing this was cut by a mega-flood event. Conventionally, they envision this all occurring about 16,000 year ago so it meshes with their chronology. Biblically, it is just as plausible this all occurred about 4400 years ago just after the worldwide flood event.

Watching this NOVA documentary on mega-floods, what continually amazed me is just how well this data all fit into a biblical post worldwide flood worldview and the type of mega-flood events we would expect as remnant waters were pent up after the global flood. But, this view was never alluded to in the entire hour of this documentary. Conventional geology is wowed and astounded by all of this evidence of mega-flooding due to their worldview’s expectation that all of the earth was formed via slow uniformitarian processes. When it hits them in the face that the world instead has largely been formed and shaped not by slow processes, but by huge catastrophic events, they labor to fit this evidence into their uniformitarian worldview. It would be so much easier to see how all of this fits very well into and supports the biblical worldview of the world being shaped by “big events!” But, conventional geology is bent on not letting the Creator have even a “foot in the door” and thus they miss the logical conclusion for the clear evidence before them due to their materialistic bias.

**Pillars of Creation?**



Shown above is the iconic photo of the “Pillars of Creation” in the “Eagle Nebula” which secular astronomers interpret as a stellar nursery with new stars forming. This is inferred in spite of the fact that we have never observed a star coming to life in this nebula or anywhere else in the heavens. Ken Ham in his blog recently commented on this.

According to God’s Word, stars didn’t form slowly and gradually from “protostars” in nurseries. They were formed at God’s command when “he made the stars also” (Genesis 1:16). So what do we make of this claim that we can see “baby stars” in the Pillars of Creation? AiG astronomer Dr. Danny Faulkner, says this-

When the Pillars of Creation photo was released 25 years ago, it dazzled the world. The photograph still is considered one of the most beautiful photos taken by the Hubble Space Telescope (HST). Its release was accompanied by explanation of how this photograph revealed much about the process of star formation.

Two decades later, an improved camera on the HST was used to obtain an even better visible light photo. That was followed up by an infrared (IR) image, but in the IR the beautiful features of the Pillars of Creation are muted as compared to the earlier visible images. An astronomer commented that we really ought to call this the “Pillars of Destruction,” because the processes of star formation eventually will disrupt the surrounding gas that produced the beautiful image.

But what have these photographs really revealed? Far less than claimed. These photos are static. That is, they don’t show any change over time. Rather, the images have been interpreted in terms of the current model about how stars form from gas clouds. That model has changed much over the past half century, and I’m sure it will continue to change. There are many examples of how astronomers in the past interpreted images in terms of what they believed at the time. Many of those interpretations are laughable today. Will the interpretation of these photos be any different?

To check out the full Ken Ham blog go to <https://answersingenesis.org/astronomy/newborn-stars-form-in-the-pillars-of-creation/>

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**40th Anniversary of the Cataclysmic eruption of Mt. St. Helens**

**57 Deaths - 1 Billion dollars in damage - 230 sq. miles of forest flattened**

This month marks the **40th anniversary** of the infamous volcanic eruption of Mount St. Helens. In remembrance of that frightful event, I invite you to take a short virtual journey with David Rives to beautiful Washington State and explore the region of Mount St. Helens. You will learn the shocking evidence of Noah's flood at Mount St. Helens (compliments David Rives Ministries).

Watch > [Evidence of Noah's Flood at Mount St. Helens](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001Dpcicnv9i4QORdVRwgzQFoYmD7c9VBqgCVCouVoLRUEm-l4K9BqbUv8ZObyieY8xVeUHucuClrByAeST4XhxMeV1eSvelmWWU61xezDbLneNzFc3ezPj88SBIt03lEeHN6qEjtZFt4CD54-ed-LONfBd-baDRSLIvuAUueKE8t3LyMQaDQ_ToFbyRE5YOOGl&c=LaVmIwrz0RGetpB3Z6RwdFRDFKOR3Mh1XSdYThU3o0WHmIPnoUakvg==&ch=hOj1UQmO2Z4VJYxHQkn0N_Bmz6HWRr8aVDfpMD-L_cqQHhb5OTKaOA==)

We will have **Paul Taylor**, director of the Mt. St. Helens Creation Center as a guest on our radio program **“Believing the Bible”** in July.

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**Archaeology and the Bible**

Skepticsclaim the Bible is not supported by some archaeological discoveries and current ideas about the past. What is the truth about what has been discovered to be scientifically and archaeologically supporting the Bible? In answer to that, we will give you a concise accounting of what has been found to be scientifically and archaeologically supportable in the Bible.

In Genesis 1:1 the Bible claims that God created time, all matter and energy in the universe, and space itself. These statements are the only religious artifact from all world religions which 100% corresponds to what we have scientifically observed of the universe.

“Y-chromosome” data shows that all human males originated from a single human male which the Bible calls Adam. Mitochondrial DNA shows that all humans came from a single human female a few thousand years ago just as the Bible states. That same mitochondrial DNA passed on from the mother to her off spring shows three classes of mitochondrial DNA which gives us an indication that all humans today came from three women who restarted the human race several thousand years ago just as the Bible says the three wives of Noah’s sons were the progenitors of all humans today.

There are about 200 other places in the Bible showing a knowledge of science thousands of years ahead of man’s discoveries such as in-depth knowledge of the water cycle, the first and second laws of thermodynamics, the law of biogenesis and many, many, more.

On the archaeological side, Dr. Robert D. Wilson (1856-1930) made a detailed analysis of the Old Testament showing the bulk of it to be archaeologically supportable. His work featured a close inspection of the book of Daniel in which he found archaeological support for most of it as real history, as he did with most of the rest of the Old Testament. One other specific investigation of Dr. Wilson’s was the archaeological support for twenty-nine Kings of Israel, Egypt, Moab, Damascus, Tyre, Babylon, Syria and Persia as found in Bible. It is verified that these 29 references in the Bible are accurate and relate real history.

Sir William Ramsay spent 25 years of his life researching the New Testament “Book of Acts” as a skeptic in Asia Minor (Turkey among other countries) trying to disprove Luke’s careful documentation. He investigated over one hundred of the historical facts cited in the Book of Acts. Every reference from the Bible which could be verified via archaeological evidence was found, to his astonishment, to be 100% correct. [[1]](#footnote-1)

When Ramsay turned his attention to Paul's letters, most of which the critics dismissed as forgeries, he concluded that all thirteen New Testament letters that claimed to have been written by Paul were authentic.

Archaeology has shown that not only was Quirinius (mentioned in the Bible as the Governor of Syria in the time Christ was born) was a real person who was governor of Syria, but probably was governor of Syria for two different terms, one of which was at the time of Christ’s birth. This was one of the many points of the New Testament verified in Sir William Ramsey’s investigations.

The Ebla is a collection of 1800 complete tablets, and 4700 fragments, of Babylonian / Syrian writings which talks about **Sodom and Gomorrah**, and life in the biblical land of **Ur**. The Ebla talks of Cities which at the time of tablet’s discovery were otherwise unknown in archaeology and skeptics had said that they did not exist except in the error prone Bible. These finds confirmed the existence of these ancient cities mentioned in the Bible. They further talk about **Abraham** and other biblical characters dating to a time between 2500 and 2250 BC.[[2]](#footnote-2) Further confirmation of the Abraham accounts were found when Abraham’s home and the city of Ur were excavated by Sir Leonard Woolley in the 1920’s and 1930’s.

Slings and stones as mentioned in the Bible have been confirmed as major weapons in ancient history.

Numerous contextual clues given in the biblical text indicate the account of “Joseph in Egypt” shows knowledge of cultural and contemporary Egyptian culture which a later editor could not have known. Further, the naming of a canal in Egypt as the “Waterway of Joseph” and the discovery of a Semite high official’s home in Goshen with 12 pillars and tombs for the 12 brothers and the high official being a Semite with a “robe of many colors” give solid proof of Joseph being a real historical figure with many of the biblical accounts verified in his position. [[3]](#footnote-3)

The **Hammurabi Black Stele** contains nearly 4,000 lines of text containing around 282 laws, a historical prologue, and a literary and religious epilogue. Hammurabi was the king of Babylon around 2000 BC and a **contemporary of Abraham**, the first Hebrew. Hammurabi is identified by scholars as the "Amraphel" of the Bible (Genesis 14) who was one of the kings who captured Abraham's nephew Lot. The discovery of the Hammurabi Stele was one of the most important discoveries in Biblical Archaeology. It is an original document from the time of Abraham, bearing testimony of a highly advanced system of law and a remarkably advanced time period. This shows again how man is degenerating over time as biblical accounts would attest to, not getting more organized as secular evolutionary archaeology supposes.[[4]](#footnote-4)

The discovery of **The Black Obelisk of Shalmaneser III** brought a new authenticity and historicity to some of the accounts in the Bible, including Jonah and Nineveh."[[5]](#footnote-5)

Archaeology has artifacts verifying that the biblical characters of Pontius Pilate, Caiaphus, King Jeroboam, Adrammelech, Isaiah, Balaam, Daniel, Shaddrack, Meshach, Abednego, Nebuchadnezzar, King Sargon, King David, King Solomon, the Queen of Sheba, Christ, King Jehoiachin, Pharaoh Shishak, Cyrus the Great, Erastus, King Herod, the twelve disciples of Christ, the Apostle Paul, “John the Baptist” and 110 more.[[6]](#footnote-6) It also should be noted that Jesus Christ is the most verified figure in human history and not just a biblical character.

Hezekiah and his campaign against idol worship, and the details of the siege of Jerusalem and battles with Senacherib have been verified in archaeology in great detail.

The Bible in Jeremiah 39:8, and 52:13, 2 Kings 25:9, and 2 Chronicles 36:18-19 records that the Babylonians invaded Judah and burned the palace as well as all of the houses. Archaeologists excavating the “City of David” section in Jerusalem have discovered evidence that these passages of the Bible are historically accurate.

Researchers at the site in the “Jerusalem Walls National Park” have found many burnt artifacts dating from 2,600 years ago (the exact time of the biblical references), confirming these references in the Bible that describes the burning of Jerusalem by the Babylonians. Jerusalem is thought to have fallen around 587 BC.

The Koran contains references to more than fifty people and events also mentioned in the Bible. The Koran talks of Christ and of many Old Testament figures, adding to the long list of historical writings verifying their existence. Among that list, are the writings of Josephus and other famous Jewish writers who give vivid details to most Old Testament figures and historical accounts.[[7]](#footnote-7)

The Bible tells of the Israelites being attacked by the Moabites in 2 Kings 3:4–8. Well, guess what was dug up in 1868? If you’re an archaeologist, you may have guessed it was what is called the **Moabite Stone** (also called the “Mesha Stele”) which records of the Moabites attacking Israel and it is accredited to King Mesha of Moab. The stone, dated to about 840 BC, tells of the Moabites being under Hebrew rule of many years, until they revolted, attacked Israel and regained their lands corroborating the biblical account.[[8]](#footnote-8)

The Moabite Stone, whose story parallels, with some differences, an episode in the Bible's Books of Kings, provides invaluable information on the Moabite language and the political relationship between Moab and Israel at one moment in the 9th century BC. It is the most extensive inscription ever recovered that refers to the kingdom of Israel (the "House of Omri" ); it bears the earliest verifiable and certain extra-biblical reference to the Israelite God (Yahweh), and the earliest mention of the "House of David" (i.e., the kingdom of Judah).[[9]](#footnote-9)

The **Five Cities of the Plain** as described in Genesis 14:8 have been excavated (including Sodom and Gomorrah) along the Dead Sea Rift, a major tectonic plate boundary. At God’s command the rift ruptured, spewing great quantities of liquid and gaseous hydrocarbons high into the atmosphere. These ignited, setting the whole region ablaze and covering it with “fire and brimstone.” Abraham saw the firestorm from Mamre, about 20 miles away. The fiery mixture almost certainly didn’t come from a point source, such as a volcano, but destroyed the whole area along the linear fault. The cities were crushed and burned, just as the Bible describes. The city of Sodom actually straddled a fault, causing half of it to fall about 100 meters into the fault crevasse. No one survived. Today, numerous bodies remain trapped in the rubble. [[10]](#footnote-10)

The ancient local records of India, Russia, the Urals and Baltic states, Greece, Ethiopia, Egypt, Armenia, Wales, France, Spain, Georgia, Iberia, Persia, Syria, Iran, Turkey, and China all show secular records which verify the spread of the grandsons of Noah at the time of the biblical dispersion just after the Babel confusion.

Sumerian writings have shown a list kings, also mentioned in the Bible, who supposedly lived thousands of years ago prior to the worldwide flood. When correcting their base systems of calendars it was later realized that the Sumerian records totaled to within 200 years of the biblical record showing an impressive amount of agreement with the Hebrew Scriptures. Furthermore, both the biblical and Sumerian lists talk of the same personages and number of kings (It should be noted that the Sumerian accounts were corrected for by other documentation, not the Bible). This shows extra-biblical substantiation for these biblical accounts and their veracity.[[11]](#footnote-11)

In 1906, archaeologist Hugo Winkler found 10,000 of the Hittites clay tablets in a huge library at Boğazkale, Turkey, written in a hitherto unknown Hittite language. These 10,000 tablets tell of Hittite culture and history and attest to their existence. These finds give evidence that this culture and people group existed just as the Bible said they did, and verifies the forty biblical references about the Hittites.[[12]](#footnote-12)

Archaeologists have unearthed the gate and fortified wall of Gath, an ancient Philistine city in Israel. The Bible says this was the home of Goliath (I Samuel 17:24). Later, in I Samuel 21:12-13 the Bible tells us that David fled to Gath to escape King Saul. There he faked madness and made marks on the gates of the city.

Other recent discoveries at the site include the earliest decipherable Philistine inscriptions, containing two names similar to the original form of the name “Goliath.” There is also geological evidence of an earthquake at this site. An earthquake event at this site is mentioned in the Bible in Amos 1:1.[[13]](#footnote-13) Thus, these finds lend credence to several biblical passages about the Philistines as relating true history.

The Bible amazingly says there was a day when the sun actually moved backward in the sky recorded in the Bible (2 Kings 20:8-11) and the day that the sun stayed up magically while the Israelites did battle (found in Joshua chapter 10). These read like myths, but, the Bible is not the only ancient record of extended days. Many cultures (including the Chinese and Egyptians) have records and writings about extended days (The Chinese record says it happened in their “year of the world 2554” which coincides with the biblical time of the long day occurrence). Similarly, and of great note, is the fact that six Indians groups from both North and South America and South Sea Islanders have records of a long night, (other side of the world)[[14]](#footnote-14) which would have occurred if God had intervened in nature and physics and performed these miracles.

Most scientists today write off these accounts from around the world as mythical since they do not fit within their worldview of only naturalistic answers being scientific. However, the number, similarity and coordination of these accounts show amazing evidence that a supernatural or radically unnatural event took place![[15]](#footnote-15)

This new Egyptian timeline constructed by David Rohl shows the occupation of Goshen by Israelites to the Middle Kingdom of Egypt. There is evidence here of the same brick construction described in the Bible, as it is shown all through Egyptian history. Also, the Avaris site shows a period of prosperity and growth of the Semitic population, followed by a lack of prosperity which corresponds to the Israelites first being welcomed and prospering in Goshen under Joseph, and then being enslaved later as the Bible says occurred. There is also archaeological evidence at the end of this period of huge amounts of baby deaths and further burial remains which show a generation later of only 40% males and 60% females survived that generation indicating that the 50% baby mortality rate recorded in remains at this time were primarily directed at the males, just as the Biblical story was told of how Moses ended up in the river to be found and adopted by the Egyptian Queen to escape Pharaoh’s male slave baby execution order. Furthermore, the names of Hebrews have been found recorded in the Egyptian Middle Kingdom writings and many of these same names are in the Bible, verifying that this all occurred earlier than Egyptologists have agreed that it did.[[16]](#footnote-16)

There is an Egyptian papyrus (“Admonitions of an Egyptian Sage” also called the “Ipuwer Papyrus”) which in detail tells of the plagues coming upon Egypt during the earlier Middle Kingdom. It also says that **the gold and treasure of Egypt was given over to the slaves and they left**, just as the Bible says. According to the Bible, not only did this wealth go with the Israelites, but the Egyptian army was destroyed.[[17]](#footnote-17) Thus losing its wealth, their agriculture, their first-born sons, its army and its slaves, Egypt would have been impoverished and vulnerable to attack and this is what is indicated at the end of the Egyptian Middle Kingdom as a period called the dark era when Egypt fell into a period of weakness and impoverishment. This is exactly what would have occurred if the Exodus had happened at this time!

Furthermore, the Avaris site shows a tremendous amount of mass graves (due to slavery and plagues) and then abandonment (the Exodus) of this site in Goshen just as we should find if the biblical account were true.

The archaeology of the Land of Canaan of the Middle Bronze Age shows a conquering and destruction of the city fortresses of Jericho, Hazor, Hebron, Arad and more, all during the time of Jericho’s destruction and thus in complete concert with the biblical account. The cuneiform tablets at Hazor describes King Jabin and that is exactly who the Bible says Joshua killed at Hazor. The demise of Jericho was dated far before the Late Bronze Age, which is one reason why so many scholars doubt the Exodus account of the Bible, however the dating of the destruction of Jericho does fit with the Early Bronze Age and all of the other evidence we have for the Exodus. In fact there is a burn layer in Jericho and fallen walls corresponding to the biblical account. Also of interest are full jars of grain in Jericho showing a short siege before its destruction (one week as the Bible describes) and one wall piece with domiciles in it left standing exactly as the biblical account states (Rahab’s domicile was not destroyed, but the rest was). [[18]](#footnote-18)

**Tablet “Sanai 375a”** is written with letters formed using Egyptian Hieroglyphics and is Hebrew writing according to one archaeologist’s interpretation of the writing on this tablet. Dr. Douglas Petrovich of Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, Canada determined that the letters comprise what is probably the original Hebrew alphabet. He has published his findings in his book, “The World’s Oldest Alphabet,” using the highly respected Carta Publishing House in Jerusalem.

One of the references on this tablet is reported to be about Ahisamach mentioned in Exodus. Exodus 31:6 says, "And I have personally appointed Oholiab son of **Ahisamach**, of the tribe of Dan, to be his assistant….”. The inscriptions date from the time period the Hebrews were to have been in Egypt, between 1882 and 1446 BC.

More interestingly, Petrovich was able to translate sixteen inscriptions. Those inscriptions included details about the Hebrews in Egypt, including details about Moses and Asenath (Joseph’s wife according to Genesis 41:45). These details not only give even more evidence for Hebrews in Egypt during the time the Bible claims, but also gives details making it clear this is more than just any Semitic language, but very likely early Hebrew.

What is really disturbing to other linguists is that Petrovich’s work seems to support that not only were the Hebrews in Egypt as the Bible says, but that Hebrew was the first alphabet of humans.[[19]](#footnote-19) This is a controversial idea in contemporary archaeology, but is perfectly in line with the Bible. And it is what we would expect to find if the biblical account is the first origin account of this world.

There are many extra-biblical sources which verify the contents of the Bible. One of these external sources is the 1st century Roman historian Flavius Josephus (AD 37/38–97). In his writings, he mentions more than a dozen individuals talked about in the Bible, including: Herod the Great, Herod Antipas, Caiaphas, Pontius Pilate, John the Baptist, Jesus called the Christ, James “the brother of Jesus, called Christ,” Felix, and Festus.[[20]](#footnote-20)

Other historical sources outside of the Bible corroborate details surrounding:

• The campaign into Israel by Pharaoh Shishak (1 Kings 14:25–26), as recorded on the walls of the Temple of Amun in Thebes, Egypt

• Fall of Samaria (2 Kings 17:3–6, 24, 18:9–11) to Sargon II, king of Assyria, as recorded on his palace walls

• Defeat of Ashdod by Sargon II (Isaiah 20:1), as recorded on his palace walls

• Campaign of the Assyrian king Sennacherib against Judah (2 Kings 18:13–16), as recorded on the Taylor Prism in the British Museum

• Siege of Lachish by Sennacherib (2 Kings 18:14, 17), as recorded on the Lachish reliefs

• Assassination of Sennacherib by his own sons (2 Kings 19:37), as recorded in the annals of his son Esarhaddon

• Fall of Nineveh as predicted by the prophets Nahum (1:1–3:19) and Zephaniah (2:13–15), as recorded on the Tablet of Nabopolassar in the British Museum

• Fall of Jerusalem to Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon (2 Kings 24:10–14), as recorded in the Babylonian Chronicle Tablets

• Captivity of Jehoiachin, king of Judah, in Babylon (2 Kings 24:15–16), as recorded on the Babylonian Ration Records

• Fall of Babylon to the Medes and Persians (Daniel 5:30–31), as recorded on the Cyrus Cylinder in the British Museum

• Freeing of captives in Babylon by Cyrus the Great (Ezra 1:1–4; 6:3–4), as recorded on the Cyrus Cylinder

• The revolt against Rome led by “Judas of Galilee" [not Judas Iscariot] the founder of the Zealots (Acts 5:37) as recorded by Josephus.[[21]](#footnote-21)

• The prolonged mid-day darkness on the day Jesus died (Mark 15:33), as recorded by the Roman historian Thallus (c. AD 50), a Greek author named Phlegon, Julius Africanus, and Tertullian.[[22]](#footnote-22)

In conclusion, regarding the Bible’s historicity, it is clear that the Bible is not just a history book, but when it does talk of history, it is always 100% accurate wherever archaeological evidence has been uncovered pertaining to its accounts. The 100% record of the investigations of Dr. Wilson, the finds of Jericho, Nebuchadnezzar, Sargon, Sodom and Gomorrah and many more all bear this out.

Renowned biblical archaeologist, Dr. Joseph P. Free, said “Archaeology has confirmed countless passages which have been rejected by critics as unhistorical or contradictory to known facts…Yet archaeological discoveries have shown that these critical charges …are wrong and that the Bible is trustworthy in the very statements which have been set aside (by critics) as untrustworthy…We do not know of any cases where the Bible has been proven wrong.”[[23]](#footnote-23)

Jeffery Sheler, Religion reporter for U.S. News and World Report, after three decades of reviewing contentions of biblical errors and archaeological reports said, “In extraordinary ways, modern archaeology is affirming the historical core of the Old and New Testaments, supporting key portions of crucial biblical stories.” [[24]](#footnote-24)

Professor Nelson Glueck (world-renowned scholar and archaeologist) stated, “I have excavated for thirty years with a Bible in one hand and a trowel in the other, and in matters of historical perspective I have never found the Bible to be in error… It may be stated categorically that no archaeological discovery has ever controverted a Biblical reference. Scores of archaeological findings have been made which confirm in clear outline or exact detail historical statements in the Bible. And, by the same token, proper evaluation of biblical descriptions have often led to amazing discoveries.”[[25]](#footnote-25)

**Genesis Commentary**

4:13 Cain said to the Lord, “My punishment is too great to bear! **14**Behold, You have driven me this day from the face of the ground; and from Your face I will be hidden, and I will be a vagrant and a wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me.”

God’s justice was tailor made for Cain. Remember it had been his chosen profession to be a farmer and to till the soil and produce a harvest (his offering attested to this). Thus God in cursing him took away the love of his life.

Further, since Cain is now cursed of the ground and from God and everyone will know he is the murderer of his brother, he fears everyone will be out to kill him in vengeance.

15 So the Lord said to him, “Therefore whoever kills Cain, vengeance will be taken on him sevenfold.” And the Lord appointed a sign for Cain, so that no one finding him would slay him.

God answered Cain’s concern that with his sin known, everyone would try to kill him by setting a curse **sevenfold** (7 is a Godly number often used by God in scripture) upon anyone who might kill Cain. To ensure this, Cain was marked by God with a sign upon him. We do not know what the sign was. The following article will explore some ideas about this sign.

**God’s Mark of Protection**

God's mark of protection on Cain was to help provide for his safety. However, it did not prevent Cain from being attacked or murdered. The mark merely warned that anyone who killed Cain would himself suffer a worse death.

**Large Population**

The fact that God had to put a mark on Cain suggests that the population was large enough that Cain needed to be singled out for protection. The text does not tell us what the mark was or that it was passed down to succeeding generations. As to what was the mark of Cain there have been a number of suggestions.

**Not Necessarily On His Person**

Certain Bible commentators have argued that the mark was merely a sign of confirmation that Cain would be protected from others. We are not told what sign God gave him, but whatever it was it calmed his fears for his life.

The phrase “set a mark upon Cain” (King James Version), does not necessarily mean that there was some mark upon his person. The phrase more likely means a sign for him. This could mean that God gave some sign to appear for Cain's reassurance. Thus the idea of mark may mean some type of token or pledge. There are two other instances in the Old Testament where God gave similar signs to confirm His Word (Judges 6:36-40) and Elisha (2 Kings 2:9-12).

**Appointed a Sign**

The Revised Version translates the phrase “appointed a sign for Cain.” This indicates that whenever someone approached Cain some sign was given to deter that person from attacking. Though we are not told what this sign was, it protected Cain from those who wished to harm him.

**Physical Sign**

Others have argued that the mark was something physical. This would either be on his person or something that was with him. Possible solutions include: a dog to provide direction for Cain, a physical mark on his forehead, horns, or a brightly colored coat. One of the horrible suggestions that has been made is that Cain was marked with black skin. There is absolutely no basis whatsoever for accepting this terrible interpretation.

**Not Told**

None of these proposed solutions to the mark of Cain can be proven or disproven - we are simply not told what it was.

**Mark on the Forehead**

The prophet Ezekiel was told to put a mark on the foreheads of certain people.

“And the Lord said to him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, a put a mark on the foreheads of men who sigh and cry over all the abominations that are down within it” (Ezekiel 9:4).

Scripture also tells us that in the future, God will mark His people for protection. For example, in the Book of Revelation we have an episode where people have a mark placed upon them. A special group of people, the 144,000, receives a mark from God that guarantees their protection. The Lord commanded:

“Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads” (Revelation 7:3). Those not having the mark of God were not protected from the coming judgments.

**Mark of the Beast**

In the Book of Revelation we also find the mark of the beast. Satan always counterfeits the things of God. As God marked the 144,000 as a special people to be protected, Satan will mark all those who worship him with his name and number on their right hand and forehead. As is true with the mark placed on the 144,000 by God, the mark here speaks of ownership.

And he causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads (Revelation 13:16).

Both of these marks were for the purpose of keeping the people safe who received the mark. Therefore we can conclude that the mark of Cain fits other portions of Scripture where a mark is given as a sign of protection.

**From God to Nod!**

After his judgment, Cain went out from the presence of the Lord and built a city in the land of Nod. The exact location of Nod seems to be unknown to the readers of Genesis. It is described as being east of Eden. This is another geographical reference away from the Garden. As humankind goes further east, they go further from God's presence.

**Successful Materially, Not Spiritually**

Thus this part of humanity, cut off from God's presence, organized and built the first city. From the simple pastoral and agricultural life humankind now created urban society with all its complications. Cain's city developed music and metallurgy. The mention of metal working at that very early period causes a problem because it occurs long before the historical bronze and iron ages. It is possible that the knowledge of metallurgy was wiped out in the Flood of Noah. The techniques discovered and employed in this time were then rediscovered at a later period.

Though this community was successful in material matters, their spiritual life continued to be far away from God's presence.

**Summary**

The mark of Cain was to help keep him from being physically harmed while he was a stranger and a vagabond. It did not guarantee his safety, it only promised a worse fate for those who harmed him. We cannot be certain whether the mark was an actual physical sign or something else. Marking humanity is something we find in the Book of Revelation. God marks his people with a sign on their forehead. The Antichrist also marks his people with a sign on their forehead and right hand. In both instances, the marks indicated ownership and protection.

**Prayer Needs and Praises!**

**Relief for the world from COVID-19**

**Our medical professionals across the world.**

**Coming to SABBSA on the second Tuesday of each month at Faith Lutheran Church**

May 12 – **Meeting cancelled due to Coronavirus**
June 9 - **Replacing Darwin** (Dr. Nathaniel Jeanson)

July - **Quick Answers to Tough Questions** (Bryan Osborn)

August – **The Red Sea Miracle** (Part I)

**FEAST Science Workshops in 2020**

We have postponed our April 20 meeting and rescheduled it for May 18 at 6:30 pm (tentative). We will meet at the new **FEAST Campus** at **7735 Mockingbird Lane, San Antonio, TX 78229**.

If the pandemic allows, SABBSA in partnership with FEAST will provide the last of our FEAST Science Workshops on May 18 entitled

**Underpinnings - Fossils, Physics, Genetics and Babel**

We invite you to attend.

**SABBSA on KSLR**

Please join the **San Antonio Bible Based Science Association** “on the air” each Saturday afternoon with “**Believing the Bible!”** Join us **Saturday afternoons at 1:45 pm on radio station KSLR 630 AM in San Antonio and airing for 9-million people across the U.S. in 10 major markets.**

Here is our schedule of upcoming program topics-

**5/2****Creation Science: A Side Issue or a Key to Evangelism?**

**5/9  Single Cell on Multicellular Organisms**

**5/19  Scholars and Skeptics (William Ramsey)**

**5/23  Caveman Language**

**5/30  Prosecutor for Evolution**

**6/6    Has Language Evolved?**

**6/13  Comb Jellies**

**6/20  Squid Octopus Alien DNA**

**6/27  Am I made Out of Stardust?**

If you cannot tune in on Saturday afternoons, or would like to sample our program or hear previous shows, they are available on podcast on the KSLR website (kslr.com). Click on the link below to go to the KSLR podcast page and scroll down till you find "**Believing the Bible**."

 ["Believing the Bible" - SABBSA on KSLR Radio](https://am630theword.com/radioshow/local)

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**Cartoon Corner**

Thanks to **Answers in Genesis** who provides these cartoons each month for our newsletter and our presentations. Please think about donating to them in gratitude for this and all the ministries they give us.

**Around Texas**

**Houston:**
The **Greater Houston Creation Association** (**GHCA**) meets the first Thursday of each month. They meet at Houston's First Baptist Church at 7 pm, in Room 143. After the presentation, there will be refreshments, fellowship and creation science materials for all to enjoy. Their meetings can be streamed live! For more information, go to [www.ghcaonline.com](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=bztaencab&et=1103662222545&s=545&e=001xF-6WOYzM5Yyre44Ea_qUjH5EOT_fFIGjrfpfa5h-rD53IlUVbz3Vc0Dp47_VEwW3iQQ6F1b6K0EtKc_vUxYKpzN_8V2upXFbsOScvUeD92nJdUTjDIFeg==). (Due to COVID-19 this month’s program is online only).

**Glen Rose:**
Dr. Carl Baugh gives a “***Director’s Lecture Series***” on the first Saturday of each month at the Creation Evidence Museum just outside Glen Rose, TX. This museum is also a great and beneficial way to spend any day. Presentations are at 11 am and 2 pm. For more information, go to [www.creationevidence.org](http://www.creationevidence.org)

**Dallas:**

The Museum of Earth History uses the highest quality research replicas of dinosaurs, mammals and authentic historical artifacts to not only lay out for the visitor a clear and easily understood connection between Genesis and Revelation, but will do so in an entertaining and intellectually challenging way. Open M-F 9 to 6. <http://visitcreation.org/item/museum-of-earth-history-dallas-tx/>

Of course, the **ICR Discovery Center for Science and Earth History** open 10 am to 5 pm Monday thru Saturday is the foremost creation history museum in the Southwest. For information on this exceptional facility go to <https://discoverycenter.icr.org/>

**Dallas-Ft Worth:**
The Metroplex Institute of Origin Science (MIOS) meets at the Dr. Pepper Starcenter, 12700 N. Stemmons Fwy, Farmers Branch, TX, usually at 7:30 pm on the first Tuesday of each month. <http://dfw-mios.com/>

**Abilene:**

The Discovery Center is a creation museum/emporium that exists primarily to provide scientific and historic evidence for the truthfulness of God’s word, especially as it relates to the creation/evolution issue. It also features some fascinating “Titanic Disaster” exhibits. <http://evidences.org/index.html>

**Lubbock Area (Crosbyton):**
All year: Consider a visit to the Mt. Blanco Fossil Museum, directed by Joe Taylor. The Museum is worth the visit if you live near or are traveling through the Panhandle near Lubbock. If you call ahead and time permitting, Joe has been known to give personal tours, especially to groups. For more information, visit [http://www.mtblanco.com/](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=bztaencab&et=1103662222545&s=545&e=001xF-6WOYzM5bqqt6T1G_CwJWJosrOSIhLAagtnP0Z504J-gEROEBe22S3gq720x6ofjFVqK-AfJcsjrsuQyRtoepYiAQVVUFC-cF56fLwwBJ0SQ-44KlLmw==).

**Greater San Antonio area:** Listen to **Answers with Ken Ham** online at the address below. (No nearby station for this broadcast). <http://www.answersingenesis.org/media/audio/answers-daily> To hear creation audio programs from the **Institute for Creation Research**, listen online at this address. <http://www.icr.org/radio/>Also, tune in KHCB FM 88.5 (San Marcos) or KKER FM 88.7 (Kerrville) for **Back**

**to Genesis** at 8:57 AM Mon-Fri, then **Science, Scripture and Salvation** at 1:30 AM, 8:00 AM and 4:30 PM on Saturdays.

**May 12 SABBSA meeting has been Postponed till June 9**

We have postponed our monthly SABBSA meeting scheduled for May 12 due to the pandemic closure orders. We will send to all of our members a selection of YouTube videos to enjoy in lieu of this meeting as we did last month.

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**Next SABBSA Meeting:**

**Tuesday, June 9, 2020, at 7 pm**

**Coming to SABBSA in June**

**Replacing Darwin**

Our planned program for April and May was **"Replacing Darwin"**, a concept developed by Dr. Nathaniel Jeanson as a worldview and counter concept to the prevailing "primary axiom" of Darwinian Evolution.

Due to the **Coronavirus Crisis**, we have postponed this presentation once again till June 9. We hope and pray that some sense of normalcy will have returned by that time. If not, we will postpone again and notify you on our website through this newsletter and via eblasts to our membership. We thank all of you for your patience with us and with this trying situation for us all.

Please join us the second Tuesday each month for creation science and biblical apologetics teaching you will find nowhere else in Bexar County. We meet at **Faith Lutheran Church**, 14819 Jones Maltsberger Rd., San Antonio, Texas 78247 at 7pm.

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