Communique'

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**December 2022**

Merry Christmas everyone and we hope you are finding a way to remember that **“Jesus is the Reason for the Season”** and keeping His gift of eternal life central to your celebration of Christmas.

We have articles this month detailing archaeological finds from Samaria, Egypt and Mesopotamia giving three examples of ancient creation accounts which mirror in many ways the Genesis account. These give us evidence that the biblical account was their original source and that the Genesis account existed in some form thousands of years before Moses wrote it down around 1400 BC. These accounts along with hundreds of others verify the Bible’s place as the original account of creation. People who insist the Genesis account does not predate other such accounts are “historical deniers!”

We also have an article entitled **“Cancelling Eve”** showing how our current woke society is not only marginalizing women unfairly and illegally, but also without scientific basis to do so.

Our **Genesis Commentary** section this month details the **Birth of Isaac and Hagar and Ishmael being sent away** in **Genesis 21**. As always, we have a full rundown of all creation education opportunities coming up in our area. This includes information about the FEAST Science Workshops which SABBSA is providing for the 19th consecutive year! We pray you find something in these pages to encourage you. We will have a wide range of Christmas gift ideas available at our monthly meeting.

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**Biblical Archaeology: What is The Eridu Genesis?**

****You may not have heard of the Eridu Genesis creation account, but it is another in a long line of evidence pointing to the existence of the Genesis Creation account existing centuries before Moses wrote it down.

**Dating**

The Eridu Genesis myth comes from Old Babylonian empire and has ben dated to 2150 BC. It was written on clay tablets which are quite fragmented. It is often referred to as the Sumerian Flood Myth. This is because it’s recorded in Sumerian cuneiform. However, paleographers would refer to it as Old Babylonian or Akkadian cuneiform script. The cuneiform script was widely used among most cultures in the ancient near east, however, it evolved quite a bit throughout history.

Despite being recorded in the late Old Babylonian period, the story is quite ancient. It has some parallels with the Epic of Gilgamesh, but the Gilgamesh epic tablets are about 500 years later than the Eridu Genesis tablets. Like the Eridu Genesis story, the Epic of Gilgamesh is also much older than the tablets that contain the story. Both have many parallels with the Bible, the oldest creation story of them all.

The tale of Gilgamesh is really about the meaning of life and human mortality which has its stage set by the flood. Gilgamesh is searching for an answer to human immortality, but in the end resigns himself to the fact that all humans are mortal and that we must use our time here wisely. Eridu Genesis on the other hand is an explanation of creation and the order of things. Ziusudra, the main character survives 7 days and nights of flooding (reflective of the 7 days of creation), not 40 as in the biblical account, and he is rewarded at the end with the eternal life and breath of the gods (very reminiscent of the biblical account of humans being originally immortal and gifted with the “breath of life” from God). The story is not as much an epic, like that of Gilgamesh, as it is a theological description of creation. This is why it’s often compared to the biblical Genesis, rather than the Epic of Gilgamesh.

In the Eridu Genesis, mankind is destroyed because of the behavior of human beings which appear to be a bother to the gods who created them reminiscent of the Bible. The original intention was to create humans that could work and toil in place of the gods, but these humans were just annoying them. This is not so different than the explanation of the biblical story as well as the Epic of Gilgamesh; both describing the flood as a result of humanities’ sinfulness.

The main differences between the biblical Genesis and the Eridu Genesis was the purpose of mankind. Anyone reading the biblical Genesis cannot help but to notice the elevation of mankind as a special creation who was meant to be in companionship with the Creator. In the Eridu Genesis, as well as other ancient Near Eastern mythologies, mankind is created specifically to serve the gods or to provide some form of benefit to them.

**Setting of the Myth in Eridu**

Eridu is one of the oldest cities in Mesopotamia. Sumerian culture believed that Eridu was the very first civilization and that it was the location where the gods decided to create mankind. It is not hard to understand why the city was so successful over history, as it lay at the edge of the Persian gulf, surrounded by rivers and tributaries. Eridu was situated between the modern Tigris and Euphrates rivers. No doubt the land was hospitable and plenty. Like the Egyptians, they benefited from yearly river flooding that left the area rich with new soil and deposits for which to plant.

The biblical garden of Eden is said to have also been located between these two great rivers. This is another borrowed fact from the biblical account showing that the biblical account predated the written Bible by many centuries. Of course, the two rivers between which Eridu resided would be the current renamed rivers and not the original Tigris and Euphrates which were wiped out by the worldwide flood.

The Bible in Genesis 2:10-14 says, “A river watering the garden flowed from Eden; from there it was separated into four headwaters. 11 The name of the first is the Pishon; it winds through the entire land of Havilah, where there is gold. 12 (The gold of that land is good; aromatic resin and onyx are also there.)13 The name of the second river is the Gihon; it winds through the entire land of Cush. 14 The name of the third river is the Tigris; it runs along the east side of Ashur. And the fourth river is the Euphrates. (Genesis 2:10-14)

**Other Parallels with the Bible and the Eridu Genesis Creation Myth**

The account includes references to men building places to make offerings to the gods, as did the early men in the Bible. There is an account of rulers before the flood which is very reminiscent of the list of pre-flood rulers in the biblical account.

**Enki’s Advice**

The account details the god’s decision to wipe out man by flood. One god, Eniki, advises to build a boat that a few people and more importantly animals can be saved. They are put on the boat in twos as in the Bible, and the name of their Noah character is “Ziusudra.”

**The Deluge**

As the Eridu account says, *“All the evil winds, all stormy winds gathered into one and with them, then, the flood was sweeping over the cities of the half-bushel baskets for seven days and seven nights. After the flood had swept over the country, after the evil wind had tossed the big boat about on the great waters, the sun came out spreading light over heaven and earth.”* Except for the seven days instead of 40 days of rain and a year of flooding as in the Bible this excerpt can clearly be seen to be derived from the biblical account. It even includes the gods drying the land and Ziusudra (Noah) giving praise and an offering to the gods for their deliverance and the return of the dry land, just as Noah did.

**Ziusudra Rewarded**

Ziusudra was rewarded for following the god’s direction by being made a king and given eternal life via the “breath of life” a term exactly as used in the biblical account.

**Commentary**

Skeptics point to these tablets being dated to 700+ years before Moses wrote the Bible as proof that it was the Bible and not the Eridu which borrowed from one another. However, two details tests suggest that some form of the Genesis account was the source for the Eridu myth. First, the Genesis account is far more widely dispersed and known throughout the world than the Eridu. Second, the Eridu account is far more detailed than the Genesis account which is a linguistic hallmark of a copy. Indeed, the Eridu Genesis account is another of more than 300 creation accounts which point to the existence of the biblical account centuries before the Pentateuch was written and verifying the Bible’s creation account as the original.

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**Discovery of the "Ark Tablet": Decoding the Story of the Flood** Excerpted from www.historyofinformation.com

 The Ark Tablet - Circa 1900 to 1700 BC

Image Source: blog.britishmuseum.org

The "Ark Tablet" owned by Douglas Simmonds.

In 2009 British Museum curator Irving Finkel, an expert on cuneiform inscriptions on clay tablets from ancient Mesopotamia, received for examination and translation what came to be known as the "Ark Tablet" from its owner Douglas Simmonds. This is the only cuneiform tablet with precise instructions as to how to build the Ark described in the early accounts of the flood, best known through later accounts in literature, such as the Epic of Gilgamesh. The Ark Tablet provided instructions for building the Ark in the form of a very large round boat called a coracle.

According to Finkel, the tablet dates from 1900-1700 BC, though the tablet was not dated by the scribe. However, comparatively precise dating can be done from the character and composition of the cuneiform signs and from grammatical forms and usages. The tablet measures 11.5 x 6.0 cm and contains exactly 60 lines of cuneiform script written out ably and without error. In The Ark Before Noah. Decoding the Story of the Flood (2014) Finkel illustrated the tablet and translated its contents on pp. 107-110…

In a British Museum blog announcing his book in January 2014 Finkel summarized his conclusions in this way:

"When the gods decided to wipe out mankind with a flood, the god Enki, who had a sense of humor, leaked the news to a man called Atra-hasis, the ‘Babylonian Noah,’ who was to build the Ark. Atra-hasis’s Ark, however, was round. To my knowledge, no one has ever thought of that possibility. The new tablet also describes the materials and the measurements to build it: quantities of palm-fiber rope, wooden ribs and bathfuls of hot bitumen to waterproof the finished vessel. The result was a traditional coracle, but the largest the world had ever dreamed of, with an area of 3,600 sq. meters (equivalent to two-thirds the area of a football pitch), and six-meter-high walls. The amount of rope prescribed, stretched out in a line, would reach from London to Edinburgh!

"To anyone who has the typical image learnt from children’s toys and book illustrations in mind, a round Ark is bizarre at first, but, on reflection, the idea makes sense. A waterproofed coracle would never sink and being round isn’t a problem – it never had to go anywhere: all it had to do was float and keep the contents safe: a cosmic lifeboat. Palm-and-pitch coracles had been seen on the Euphrates and Tigris rivers since time immemorial: they were still a common sight on Iraq’s great waterways in the 1950s." (Editor’s Note- a coracle’s seaworthiness compared to the biblical Ark as tested by AIG and presented at the Ark Encounter shows this would not be a good alternative. A cork like vessel would be great if there were no turbulence. However, even though it could right itself, the passengers of such a vessel (unless permanently locked into the equivalent of a Six-Flags ride chair) would flay about and soon succumb to multiple fractures/concussions/ etc.)

Finkel describes the clay tablet as 'one of the most important human documents ever discovered'.

"The clay tablet is going on display at the British Museum, loaned by Simmons, beside a tablet from the museum's collection with the earliest map of the world, as seen from ancient Babylon. The flood tablet helped explain details of the map, which shows islands beyond the river marking the edge of the known world, with the text on the back explaining that on one are the remains of the ark.

Finkel said “the map shows the ark in the direction of, but far beyond the mountain range later known as Ararat."

**Editor’s Note - This “Ark tablet” is just one of 270 Flood Accounts we have from cultures all over the world. It is clear from the inclusion of the god Enki that this myth was fed by the Sumerian creation account from some 200+ years earlier described in the preceding Eridu Genesis article. The details are very skewed from the Eridu account and even more so from the original biblical account source. It gives us a clear example of how skewed and changed an account can become in just a few hundred years of retelling. But, despite these differences, this is another evidence from almost 3000 years ago that a massive worldwide flood changed the world forever.**

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**Finding Adam—in Ancient Egypt** by Gavin Cox at CMI

I had the privilege of living and working in Egypt, exploring for oil and gas (1999–2000; 2006–2007). While living in Cairo, I became enamored with Egyptian history. I visited the Great Pyramid (outside and in) on a dozen occasions, as well as other historical sites. Their scale and grandeur were awe-inspiring. What intrigued me most was to discover if Egyptian history had any connections to the earliest chapters of Genesis. For instance, did the Ancient Egyptians know about Adam and Eve, or Noah and the Flood?

After over a decade of research, including two master’s degrees (Biblical Studies 2014, Egyptology 2015) I concluded, yes, the Egyptians knew, albeit in distorted, paganized ways.

**Biblical history is real history**

Many ancient cultures possess accounts that have parallels to the events and persons of Genesis 1–11. Although these accounts are corrupted and often confused, aspects of biblical truth can still be recognized. This is not surprising, since all such cultures have arisen from the family in the Ark, only some 4,500 years ago. They were eyewitnesses to the Flood, and with Noah being a “herald of righteousness” (2 Peter 2:5), they would have also known of Adam, Eve, and their Fall.

**What’s in a Name? Adam and Atum**

In the Hebrew Bible it is possible to discern what names mean by connections to similar-sounding words in the text. Scholars have long noticed Adam sounds like the Hebrew for ‘red’, ‘earth/clay’, ‘man/mankind’, and ‘blood.’ The so-called ‘phonetic root’ of Adam ‘dm’ occurs in these Hebrew words, connecting these concepts theologically with Adam. This is called paronomasia, meaning ‘word-play’, or ‘puns’.

A similar case can be made for Atum. Here, phonetic roots for Atum (tm/dm) connect to Egyptian words for: ‘red’, ‘everyone/ humankind’, ‘blood-clot’, ‘red-ochre’. Furthermore, the female version of Atum’s name (tm.t) means ‘ancestress mother’ which is like the meaning of Eve’s name: “mother of all living” (Genesis 3:20).

Following the Flood, the multiplying human population remained together for at most some two to three centuries until the dispersion at Babel. This included the Ark’s passengers, who, since they lived for several centuries after the Flood, may even have been regularly consulted as revered ‘ancestor sages’.

Also, the structure of Genesis suggests that a written version of the history was available, likely preserved through the line of Shem until later compilation by Moses. This would have helped sustain the ‘memory’ of that early Genesis history.

Then (in Peleg’s days, 1 Chronicles 1:19) God dispersed the people from Babel, spreading the key features of Genesis 1–11 all over the world. Thus, for example, the hundreds of widespread stories of a global Flood, often strikingly similar to Genesis. Following the dispersal, some groups relatively close to Babel—e.g., in Mesopotamia and Egypt—were able to re-establish their level of civilization quite quickly.

**The Ham–Egypt connection**

Noah’s son Ham had four sons. The names of three of them, Mizraim, Phut, and Cush (Genesis 10:6), have biblical and/or extrabiblical associations with Egypt and/or its neighboring nations. In particular, Mizraim (Mitsrayim מִצְרַיִם) is the Hebrew name for Egypt throughout the Old Testament. The classical Arabic name for Egypt is Misr, used by modern Egyptians themselves. It’s highly likely that Ham and Mizraim were major figures in early Egypt, one or both being instrumental in its founding

In the Psalms, Egypt is called the “land of Ham” (Ps 105:23, 27; 106:22) and “tents of Ham” (Ps 78:51). The biblical evidence leaves little doubt ‘Ham and sons’ settled in that region. It’s highly likely that Ham and Mizraim were major figures in early Egypt, one or both being instrumental in its founding. Any non-Hamitic groups or individuals who happened to be a part of Egypt’s founding population could of course transmit information about early history. But the prominent presence of the Flood-witness Ham, raised by Noah, greatly enhances the chance of finding ‘Genesis links’ in the few early Egyptian records remaining.

In short, we would expect to find extrabiblical evidence of early Genesis in Ancient Egypt. This should be in the earliest inscriptions, closest to the time of arrival of the Babel migrants. And indeed, we find such evidence in the early (Old Kingdom) pyramids. As time progressed, the accounts became increasingly corrupted. (Ancient Egyptians were very pagan, adding around two thousand gods and goddesses over time.)

**Egyptian creation beliefs**

(Fig. 1) The god Khnum fashions man from clay (on a potter’s wheel). (Wikipedia)

Ancient Egypt had three main beliefs about creation, which arose in three separate places, each with its own temple. These became known by their Greek names: Heliopolis, Memphis, and Hermopolis. Each location shared fundamental ideas including a ‘primordial ocean’ (Nu/Nun—see ‘Memories of Noah’), out of which the first created land arose—reminiscent of Day 3 of Creation Week when “dry land appear[ed]” (Genesis 1:9). It also brings to mind the end of the Flood, when “the tops of the mountains were seen” (Genesis 8:5).

A fourth temple theology, at Elephantine, Aswan (870 km south of Cairo), involved a god called Khnum creating humanity from clay, using a potter’s wheel (Fig. 1). This is reminiscent of Genesis 2:7 where “God formed the man of dust from the ground.”

**Heliopolis, Atum, and the Bible**

Heliopolis (Greek for ‘city of the sun’) was from its beginning a regional center of worship for a god called (Re)-Atum. Its only remnant evidence is the Al-Masalla Obelisk. This stands in a Cairo suburb, Ain Shams, built on top of the site of Heliopolis. Ain Shams is the Arabic name (‘eye of the sun’) for the ancient city. Senusret I (died 1926 BC) of the Twelfth Dynasty erected the obelisk. It is made of red granite, some 21 m (70 ft) high, and weighs 120 tons.

Heliopolis and the worship of Atum both feature in Scripture. Heliopolis, with its pillars/obelisks, is judged for its idolatry in Jeremiah 43:13 and Isaiah 19:18.9 The Egyptian name of Heliopolis is ‘Iunu’ meaning ‘pillar’ (or obelisk). In Coptic it is ‘On’, which is judged in Ezekiel 30:17. Joseph’s wife is the daughter of Potiphera (whose name means ‘the one whom Ra has given’ and is a “priest of On” (Genesis 41:45, 50; 46:20). So Potiphera likely worshipped Re-Atum. Also, Israelite slaves built grain-stores for Pharaoh at ‘Pithom’ (Exodus 1:11) which in Egyptian means ‘Great House of Atum’ (pr-jtm.w). Atum’s name appears in Egypt’s oldest texts, inscribed on walls and corridors of burial chambers inside 5th Dynasty pyramids. He is described as the first creator god, who emerged from ‘primordial flood waters’, ascended the ‘primordial mound’ (the first land) and initiated his work of creation.

Atum creates two children by ‘sneezing’ or ‘spitting out’ a son, Shu (representing air), and a daughter, Tēfnut (moisture). From Atum, other gods were believed to have descended by natural procreation. Thus, the Egyptians thought in terms of nine (sometimes ten) gods, jointly called the Great Ennead.

The 19th Dynasty Turin Canon (or Turin King List) papyrus (Fig. 2 below) lists rulers of Egypt and their reign-lengths. Though highly damaged, it features names from the Great Ennead amongst various mythical early rulers, each of which reined for hundreds of years. This suggests a corrupted memory of the long-lived generations listed in Genesis 5. Prominent ancestors becoming ‘deified’ well after their deaths is a known phenomenon.

**Atum derived from the memory of Adam?**

akhenatenator/wikimediaturin-canon-papyrus Fig. 2. The Turin Canon papyrus, with its list of rulers reigning for hundreds of years.

Such deification may have happened in the case of Adam. Atum sounds like Adam, and may be even more similar than at first glance. Firstly, vowels were seldom marked in hieroglyphic inscriptions. What was typically inscribed were consonants, so modern Egyptologists infer what words sounded like. By agreed convention, vowels are supplied so that words can be pronounced. So Atum could have been pronounced ‘Atam’. Furthermore, the consonant ‘t’ was known to swap with ‘d’ in Egyptian—an established fact amongst linguists. In other words, the original name of Adam we have in Genesis could have readily come to be pronounced ‘Atam/Atum’ in Egyptian, through well-understood changes in letter sounds.

**Atum battles the serpent beneath the tree of knowledge**

Fig. 3. Atum battles with the serpent Apophis in front of the Ished tree. (Wikipedia)

Egyptian beliefs about Atum provide more clues of his connection to early Genesis. Images of Atum appear in 20th Dynasty tombs (c. 1189–1077 BC) showing him battling with a serpent called Apophis in front of a tree (Fig. 3) called the Ished tree. Atum is depicted as a cat—considered the natural enemy of snakes. Such images appear c. 1280 BC in papyri collections of religious spells, called the ‘Book of the Dead’, which were buried with the deceased. Atum is shown with one paw crushing the head of Apophis, while the other paw takes a knife to decapitate it. Egyptian priests connected with this belief made models of Apophis which were trampled, stabbed, and burned, in order to vanquish the snake’s evil. As part of His pronouncement of the Curse when Adam and Eve sinned, God said that the serpent’s head would be bruised by the coming Seed (Genesis 3:15), whom Paul calls the ‘last Adam’ (1 Corinthians 15:45). However, the Egyptian version has Atum already victorious over the serpent—crushing its head.

**Memories of Noah**

nu-holds-sun - Nu, standing in the waters of chaos, holds up the barque of the sun containing seven other deities. (Wikipedia) (Fig. 4)

Scripture teaches that Noah, his sons and wives—eight altogether—boarded the Ark, to escape the Global Flood judgment. Did the Ancient Egyptians have knowledge of this, too?

Egyptologists know of a group of eight gods called the Ogdoad (Greek for ‘eight’). Four males and their wives, connected to the Egyptian Flood, or primeval ocean (Nun/Nu). Their names occur in the Pyramid Texts, Egypt’s oldest inscriptions. The chief god is Nu, sounds like Noah; his wife is Nu.t.

These eight were worshipped at Khemenu (Greek ‘Hermopolis’), mentioned in the Pyramid Texts. Khemenu survived into modern-day El Ashmunein (‘Eight City’ in Coptic), 322 km (200 miles) south of Cairo. A temple once stood there, dedicated to their worship.

The Egyptians believed the ‘Eight’ eventually died, and were buried. A small 18th Dynasty temple at Medinet Habu, 663 km south of Cairo, marks their tomb. Inscriptions feature their names, and describe both their burial as mummies and the Great Flood.

**The trees of Eden**

Fig. 5. Inscription at Thebes; the gods Atum (left) and Thoth write the enthroned king’s reign length on the leaves of the Ished tree.

Genesis 2:9 names two trees in Eden; the Tree of Life and the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. The Ished tree is clearly connected with both knowledge and length of life in Egyptian inscriptions. For instance, a wall inscription on the Pharaoh Ramesses II temple at Thebes (c. 1300 BC) depicts Atum and a god called Thoth, writing on the leaves of the Ished tree the reign length assigned to the enthroned king (Fig. 5).

Interestingly, the name Ished (originally pronounced ‘ish-d-et’ in the Pyramid Texts) sounds like Hebrew ‘tree of knowledge’—pronounced ets-ha-da-at. (Hebrew ‘tree’ = ets, ‘the knowledge of’ = ha-da-at). Therefore, the sound and meaning of a part of this Edenic tree’s name was likely incorporated into Egyptian religion.

**Conclusion**

As expected, ‘echoes of Eden and Genesis’ are indeed present in the records of early Egypt, in more than one form. Starting with the Bible as God’s revealed truth about history equips us to make genuine discoveries.

References and notes - For more details see:

*Cox, G., The search for Adam, Eve and creation in ancient Egypt, J. Creation 35(1):61–69, 2021.*

*Cox, G., The search for Noah and the Flood in ancient Egypt—part 1, part 2, J. Creation 33(3):94–108, 2019.*

*Conolly R., and Grigg, R., Flood! Creation 23(1):26–30, 2000; creation.com/many-flood-legends*.

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**Cancelling Eve: What is a woman?** by Andrew Sibley CMI

**Introduction**

There are … legitimate fears that women are being cancelled; and not just among some conservative Christians, but feminists as well.

Until quite recently, an article on this subject would have been deemed unnecessary at best, perhaps even a little absurd. Not anymore. In our increasingly post-Christian culture, confusion abounds, so much so that the Oxford English Dictionary recently altered dozens of definitions after a gender diversity review, among them ‘woman’ and ‘man’. So, how are we to define what a woman is? A simple question you may think, but for some it now causes a lot of problems. Some religious and political leaders are caught in the transgender controversy, between tradition on the one hand, and modern sensibilities that desire to accommodate various ideological pressure groups.

In terms of religious confusion, the Rt Rev Robert Innes, the Anglican Bishop in Europe, was reported to have said, “There is no official definition [of a woman], which reflects the fact that until fairly recently definitions of this kind were thought to be self-evident, as reflected in the marriage liturgy.” Innes commented further that the church “has begun to explore the complexities associated with gender identity.” Politicians have also struggled; for example, the UK’s Labor leader Keir Starmer, addressing his party’s annual conference, said that it was wrong to claim that only a woman can have a cervix. Along with this comes pressure to use preferred pronouns for transgender people so as not to cause offence.

There are also legitimate fears that women are being cancelled; and not just among some conservative Christians, but feminists as well. In some instances, women or their interests are under threat as language itself is being changed; for example, in some UK governmental health trusts, the term ‘breast-feeding’ is now being dismissed in favor of ‘chest-feeding’. The made-up word ‘womxn’ has also been used by some activists instead of woman. In sport, a few genetic males have been allowed to compete in women’s events, and as you might expect, often win the prize. While this clearly places women at a disadvantage, more seriously it can become dangerous when it involves contact sports. A strong case can be made that it is a form of misogyny.

All of this leads to confusion over the question of identity, especially when set against definitions that have been held for millennia. While some male activists wish to be identified as women, at the same time there is the claim that the concept of woman cannot be properly defined. One may ask, how can a person identify with something that cannot be defined? This confusion stems from the lack of coherence in liberalism when taken to extremes.

**Defining a woman**

So how are Christian believers, who take the Bible literally, to define what a woman is? One definition of a woman is ‘adult human female’, but this then requires that we have a definition of female. The creation account in Genesis tells us:

“Then God said, ‘Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. … So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them” (Genesis 1:26–28).

“But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said, “This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman [Hebrew ishshah אִשָּׁה], because she was taken out of Man [ish אִישׁ]” (Genesis 2:20-23).

“The man called his wife’s name Eve [Chavvah חַוָּה], because she was the mother of all living” (Genesis 3:20).

The Hebrew text identifies the woman as ishshah because she was taken out of ish (the man). She was called by the proper name Eve (or Chavvah), the mother of all the living. The separateness, but with complementarity, is clear in this binary structure to human society.

Similar differences arise in the English language, although there is disagreement over how the word woman derived from the Old English. The favored idea is that the Anglo-Saxon noun was “wíf-mann”, meaning a female person, later mutating into wumman and woman (the wíf part later also gave rise to the English word wife). The word mann was applied to an adult human person, and the male term was “wer-mann”. On the other hand, the feminist Elizabeth Stanton suggested the word woman derives from womb-man, where the Old English word for womb was wamb, meaning belly or uterus. Whether or not we can resolve the dispute over the origin of the word here, the possession of a womb, and other reproductive organs, may be a useful term in reality to help resolve the question of how to define a woman. We can think of a woman as a ‘wombed man.’

**Genetics**

wikipedia.org photo - The SRY protein (= Sex determining Region Y).

With the discovery of the genetic code, it has been found that men generally have XY chromosomes, while women have XX chromosomes. The Y chromosome generally confers maleness, while the X chromosome leads to female anatomical features. And yet, further genetic research has complicated the picture. It is now known that the SRY gene, which normally is located on the Y chromosome, plays a major role in determining the sex of an individual (although on its own it is insufficient). Those with the rare Swyer syndrome have a Y chromosome but, due to a mutation on the SRY gene, develop as females. Normally, such people do not go through puberty, being infertile. Should they be identified as male because they have a Y chromosome, or as female because they lack a functioning SRY gene? Before knowledge of genetics arose, such people would have been identified as women, albeit infertile. Don Batten points out that important functionality of the Y chromosome that confer maleness is missing on the Y chromosome of those with Swyer syndrome.

The reverse occurs with the De La Chapelle syndrome. In the majority of these cases the individual has XX chromosomes, but the SRY gene has been transposed from the Y chromosome of the father to an X chromosome during reproduction. Such people develop male characteristics, despite possessing the XX chromosomes, although again do not experience puberty.

… overwhelmingly, there is an obvious biological and genetic distinction between men and women, which makes definitions clear. In Scripture it is clearly taught that God has created mankind male and female (Genesis1:27).

We recognize that in rare instances the demarcation between men and women is blurred because of the Fall. It is known for instance that, rarely, a few people are born as hermaphrodites, or as eunuchs (Matthew 19:12), which means that there is an inability to consummate marriage. Such people need to be treated with dignity and respect.

**Summary**

Despite these very rare cases, overwhelmingly, there is an obvious biological and genetic distinction between men and women, which makes definitions clear. In Scripture it is clearly taught that God has created mankind male and female (Genesis 1:27)—Adam and Eve. This is for companionship, but also in large part for the purpose of procreation. In the first instance a woman has been designed, with various biological organs for bearing and nurturing children (e.g., fallopian tubes and a uterus), while the man not only lacks the latter, but has different sexual organs. The man and the woman complement one another in this regard when the two ‘become one flesh’ (Genesis 2:24).

There is simply no justification for ‘cancelling Eve’, whether biblically or scientifically—from genetics, anatomy, or physiology. Ironically, in a society that claims to prize equality, moves in this direction are arguably a form of misogyny.

References and notes

See Coleman, L., Oxford English Dictionary changes definition of ‘woman’ after complaints that it was ‘sexist’, independent.co.uk, 7 Nov 2020. Return to text.

For the definition of ‘woman’ in an older edition of OED (1989) see: oed.com/oed2/00286737. Return to text.

**Costa Rica Creation Tour**

To anyone who might be interested in joining AOI’s 2023 Costa Rica Creation Tour, March 5 – 14. For full information and a day-by-day list of activities and hotels go to: <https://www.discovercreation.org/camps-tours/costa-rica-creation-adventure/>

This is a small and personal tour so pray it will fill with just the right mix of participants. Some may want to stay longer to join our university, schools, and church creation outreach afterwards.



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**TRACED**

Dr. Nathaniel Jeanson with Answers in Genesis, the author of the book Replacing Darwin: The New Origin of Species has now compiled years of genetic research into his new book **Traced: Human DNA’s Big Surprise**. In this book, Dr. Jeanson lays out a number of scientifically verifiable genetic findings which support the biblical accounts and a Young Earth. Included in his findings are data showing -

-Y-chromosome data predictive of groups movements and origins in all areas of the world (verified with Africa data)

-Data reflective of a Y-chromosome mutation rate of 1 to 3 mutations per generation which gives a date for the first man in this lineage at less than 10,000 years

-A family tree of the world with clear evidence of the lineages described in Genesis 10

- An amazing 94% correlation with world population growth data

- Shows population movements and historical events with population effects over all of history

-This follows his and others analysis from 2009 and 2013 showing mtDNA that we all came from one woman sometime in the last 6000 to 10,000 years

This book is somewhat technical in its presentation, but it provides explosive genetic evidence for the validity of the Genesis and biblical accounts.

**Genesis Commentary**

**The Birth of Isaac**

**21**Now the Lord was gracious to Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did for Sarah what he had promised. **2**Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the very time God had promised him. **3**Abraham gave the name Isaac[ to the son Sarah bore him. **4**When his son Isaac was eight days old, Abraham circumcised him, as God commanded him. **5**Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him.

Isaac means “he laughs” which is what Abraham had done when God originally told him that he and Sarah would bear a son in their old age. Isaac’s birth is not only the fulfilment of God’s prophecy and promise to Abraham and Sarah, but he is the progenitor of the entire Hebrew race.

As we have pointed out in previous articles, the circumcision of Isaac by Abraham on the 8th day is clear evidence of the Creator’s foreknowledge of the inner workings of the baby’s immune and blood clotting systems which God designed. Production of vitamin K in the baby’s system becomes maximized on the 7th day after their birth. Vitamin K is used by the body to produce “prothrombin” a vital chemical component in the twelve-step process of blood clotting. It is no accident that God told men to circumcise on the 8th day after birth as this ritual not only signifies a commitment to God, but our loving Creator saw to it that it is done only when the baby is prepared physically to handle it. This knowledge of prothrombin production will not be discovered for more than 3000 years after this directive was put into Genesis.

**6**Sarah said, “God has brought me laughter, and everyone who hears about this will laugh with me.” **7**And she added, “Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age.”

**Hagar and Ishmael Sent Away**

**8**The child grew and was weaned, and on the day Isaac was weaned Abraham held a great feast. **9**But Sarah saw that the son whom Hagar the Egyptian had borne to Abraham was mocking, **10**and she said to Abraham, “Get rid of that slave woman and her son, for that woman’s son will never share in the inheritance with my son Isaac.”

**11**The matter distressed Abraham greatly because it concerned his son. **12**But God said to him, “Do not be so distressed about the boy and your slave woman. Listen to whatever Sarah tells you, because it is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned. **13**I will make the son of the slave into a nation also, because he is your offspring.”

**14**Early the next morning Abraham took some food and a skin of water and gave them to Hagar. He set them on her shoulders and then sent her off with the boy. She went on her way and wandered in the Desert of Beersheba.

**15**When the water in the skin was gone, she put the boy under one of the bushes. **16**Then she went off and sat down about a bowshot away, for she thought, “I cannot watch the boy die.” And as she sat there, she (Septuagint says it was the boy who began crying) began to sob.

**17**God heard the boy crying, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, “What is the matter, Hagar? Do not be afraid; God has heard the boy crying as he lies there. **18**Lift the boy up and take him by the hand, for I will make him into a great nation.”

**19**Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. So she went and filled the skin with water and gave the boy a drink.

**20**God was with the boy as he grew up. He lived in the desert and became an archer. **21**While he was living in the Desert of Paran, his mother got a wife for him from Egypt.

This son of Hagar, Ishmael as we described months ago in these pages will be the progenitor of most of the groups of Arabic peoples which today and throughout history have been a menace and pestilence to Israel. This is the product of God’s prophecy about Ishmael and a warning of how things go wrong in this life when we do not wait on God, but take things into our own hands and understanding.

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**Prayer Needs and Praises!**

**- Pray for spiritual healing in our nation.**

**- Pray for SABBSA’s Public Seminars**

**- Pray for our Radio Ministry**

**- Pray for our effectiveness of monthly meetings and speakers**

**- Pray for how we can get the gospel out better**

**Coming to SABBSA on the second Tuesday of each month at Faith Lutheran Church in 2022**

December 2022 - **Incredible Creatures that defy Evolution - Part I**

January 2023 – **Incredible Creatures that defy Evolution - Part II**

February – **Incredible Creatures that defy Evolution - Part III**

March – **Biology and Animals that defy Evolution – Scott Lane**

April – **Discovery and Design – Bruce Malone, Search for the Truth Ministries**

May – **Lucy Unveiled - Biology and Missing Links**

June – **Genetics and the Bible**

July – **Dinosaurs and the Bible**

August – **The Discovery of Genesis in Chinese**

September – **Supposed Contradictions in the Bible?**

October – **“The Rocks Cry Out" #7 – “Science is a Tool”**

November – **“The Rocks Cry Out" #8 – “Grand Canyon”**

December – **“The Rocks Cry Out” #9 – “Explosive Evidence for Creation”**

**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 13-million people across the U.S. in thirteen major markets and internationally in 120 countries on WWCR.**

Here is our schedule of upcoming program topics

12/3 **Reptiles and Bird Evolution**
12/10 **5 Rules of Flood Paleontology**
12/17 **Bad Galapagos Assumptions**
12/24 **Star of Bethlehem - Stepanek**
12/31 **Manger of Jesus**

1/7 **Transhumanism**
1/14 **Canceling Eve**
1/21 **Global Warming 1 - Dominion**
1/28 **Global Warming 2 - The Hoax**
2/4 **Stone, Bronze and Iron Ages in the Bible**

2/11 **8 Dumb things an Atheist must Believe**
2/18 **Global Warming 3**
2/25 **Global Warming 4**
3/4 **Day 1 - God Invents Science**
3/11 **Days 2 and 3 of Creation**
3/18 **Creationist Dr. Carl Williams**
3/25 **Creation in the Church, Rev. Jerry Cannup**
4/1 **Life is Not Accidental**

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)

**Cartoon Corner**



Thanks to Answers in Genesis who provides many of 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.

**Great gifts for Christmas!**

As we do each year at our December meeting, we will have on hand a wealth of Christmas gift ideas which can evangelize the unbelievers you know, educate believers in biblical apologetics and provide information to youth and young children that the Bible can be trusted from beginning to end.



**FEAST Science Workshops**

SABBSA will be resuming "**The Rocks Cry Out**" creation curriculum for the 2023 FEAST Science Workshops. Each program is slated to occur the fourth Wednesday of the scheduled months at 10 am at FEAST. We thank the good crowd of parents and children who attended our first two presentation in 2022.

The 2023 schedule is shown below.

January 2023 – **Explosive Evidence for Creation** (Mt. St. Helens provides a model to understand rapid geological change happening during the flood of Noah)

February 2023 – **Science Starts with Creation** (Consensus does not determine truth and not all scientists believe in evolution)

March 2023 – **Brilliant: Made in the Image of God**(Ancient cultures reveal rapid development of intelligence by God, not slow evolution of mankind)

April 2023 – **A Matter of Time** (The vast majority of dating methods reveal a recent creation)

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**Around Texas**

**Houston:**
The **Greater Houston Creation Association** (**GHCA**) normally meet at Houston's First Baptist Church at 7 pm every first Thursday, in Room 143. 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==).

**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/>

**ICR in Dallas:**

Of course, the **ICR Discovery Center for Science and Earth History** is the foremost creation history museum in the Southwest. They are open from 10am to 5 pm Mondays through Saturdays. For more 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. <https://evidences.org/>

**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. <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.

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**Last Month at SABBSA**

**Young Earth Evidence**

This striking multimedia presentation showed that there is far more scientific evidence for a relatively young Earth than for an exceedingly old one. These sets of evidence fit well into the creation theory and coincide with a biblical timescale, but they are devastating to evolution which requires massive amounts of time.

We also showed a wealth of evidence that this world was completely transformed about 5000 years ago by a worldwide flood. It is amazing not only how much evidence there is to verify the biblical timeline, but how all of this is being kept from the public.

If you missed us last month this presentation its available on YouTube at [**1 Nov. 2022 Young Earth Evidence**](https://youtu.be/7vKlgce6CUw) (just click the link here or on our website’s homepage)

**Next SABBSA Meeting:**

**Tuesday, December 13, 2022, at 7 pm**

**Coming to SABBSA in December**

**Incredible Creatures that defy Evolution - Part I**

HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED...

Are there really creatures that produce fire to defend themselves?
How does a giraffe get a drink without causing lethal blood pressure to his brain?
How can geckos walk upside down, even on glass, and not fall?

Creatures and biological systems examined in this program: - Bombardier Beetle - Giraffe - Woodpecker - Australian Incubator Bird - The Chicken Egg - Platypus - Black & Yellow Garden Spider - Gecko & Chuckwalla Lizards - Human Eye & Ear Drum

This film is a perfect way to celebrate God’s infinite gifts in the creation we live in and are a part of. We think its just right for Christmas!

Please join us for creation science and biblical apologetics teaching you will find nowhere else in Bexar County. We meet at **Faith Lutheran Church** just **south of the corner of Jones Maltsberger and Thousand Oaks**. The address is 14819 Jones Maltsberger Rd., San Antonio, Texas 78247.