Communique

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We pray that all of you stayed warm and safe during the recent cold snap which barreled across Texas and the country.

This month's **Communique'** will give us insight into what the James Webb Space Telescope may bring, as well as another example of the brilliance God put into ancient men. Our first article will give a look at the capabilities and secular expectations for the James Webb telescope just launched by NASA. But this article will further give you insights into how this instrument and its data can and will be used from a biblical perspective. We also have an article detailing a find of bioengineered hybrid animals bred by ancient men 4500+ years ago testifying to his brilliance as gifted to him by the Creator.

Our **Genesis Commentary** section this month details Abram saving Lot and initiating the Tithe in **Genesis 14**. As always, we have a full rundown of all creation education opportunities coming up in our area. We at SABBSA will also be presenting the **"Rocks Cry Out"** video series to our friends at FEAST this coming year at their FEAST science workshops.

What you need to know about the James Webb Space Telescope

Understand how a biblical perspective already informs on prospective discoveries

Adapted from an article by Scot Devlin and Mark Harwood with CMI

The launch of the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST or Webb for short) was delayed from its March 30, 2020 target date for launch. It has been a greatly anticipated addition to our scientific fleet of tools to study the universe.

The JWST was conceived in 1996, and originally had a launch date in 2007. But multiple delays and a broadening in project scope led to a budget increase from 0.5 billion to 9.6 billion USD, and a final launch date of 25th December 2021.

Like all large modern telescopes, the JWST hopes to satisfy man's desire for discovering his origins!

NASA and ESA websites read:

“The James Webb Space Telescope will be a giant leap forward in our quest to understand the Universe and our origins” and “JWST’s primary aim is to shed light on our cosmic origins”

We know that the Bible contains an accurate eyewitness testimony of the origins of the universe, and man’s interpretations from telescopic data is just speculation compared with the biblical written record. Are these 10 billion dollars then wasted?

Whilst a biblical worldview would greatly assist scientists in their exploration (the biblical worldview is actually the basis of modern science), the money and time will not be wasted. New discoveries will enable us to better understand and appreciate the universe God has made, helping us fulfil the God-given desire for exploration and insight, as well as assisting us in glorifying God!

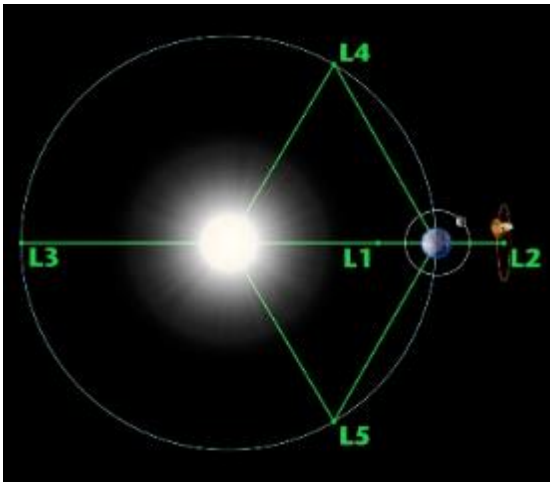
God wrote, “The Heavens declare the Glory of God” (Psalm 19:1).

We also expect the discoveries to be entirely consistent with God’s account of origins found in Genesis.

Reasons for the extensive delays include the many checks Webb has needed to pass prior to launch. Unlike the Hubble space telescope, Webb will not be serviceable. Webb is not designed to be serviced either by humans or robots due to the enormous distance it will be from Earth.

Much of our knowledge of the universe is thanks to the Hubble service mission in 1993. Shortly after the 24 April 1990 launch, the disappointing first images were blamed on a spherical aberration (an imperfection) in Hubble’s primary mirror. Fortunately, Hubble’s low earth orbit of 547 km allowed the space shuttle Endeavour to reach it, and NASA astronauts to make the appropriate modifications to recover its intended performance. This greatly improved Hubble’s images which have been further improved by upgrades and replacements made during 4 subsequent service missions.

Unlike the Hubble telescope, JWST will orbit the sun at a location known as Lagrange Point 2 (it will also orbit Lagrange point 2 itself in a halo orbit5), a gravitationally stable spot in space 1.5 million km from our planet (see figure below).



Location of Webb from Earth and the moon.

Webb’s mission objectives drive the need for Webb to be stationed far from Earth. To see the most distant stars and galaxies, it is necessary for Webb to operate in the infrared part of the electromagnetic spectrum (see fig 4), because more distant objects tend to emit light that has been redshifted, and the infrared wavelengths better penetrate interstellar gas and dust.

… Webb’s instruments will work primarily in the infrared range of the electromagnetic spectrum, with some capability in the visible range (the red and up to the yellow part of the visible spectrum). The instruments on Hubble can observe a small portion of the infrared spectrum from 0.8 to 2.5 micrometers, but its primary capabilities are in the ultra-violet and visible parts of the spectrum from 0.1 to 0.8 micrometers.

The problem is, even very low temperature objects give off infrared radiation, so any satellite we put into orbit around the earth will receive infrared radiation, not only from the earth but also from the moon. Hence the need for Webb to be so far away from the earth.

Even 1.5 million km away would not be sufficient for Webb's sensitive instruments to operate without a heat shield. The required temperature is no more than -225^{o}C! Hence the need for Webb's sophisticated sun shield, seen from the hot side in fig 5 (below). This sunshield will protect the scientific instruments from the heat of the sun, moon and earth.

Fig 5: The two sides of the Webb telescope (left). The 'hot' side of JWST with the sunshield protecting the main optics from sunlight (right).

Webb's scientific objectives are vast. Webb's senior project scientist John Mather, said:

"Webb will have an ambitious science agenda stretching from studying small worlds in our solar system to surveying the outer reaches of the universe. "We're going to look at everything there is in the universe that we can see."

NASA have split the scientific objectives into four categories:

1. Early Universe, 2Galaxies Over Time, 3. Star Lifecycle and 4. Other Worlds

We will explore the questions scientists are hoping Webb will answer, under these categories, giving a biblical perspective on each question:

1. Early Universe:

NASA says, "Webb will be a powerful time machine with infrared vision that will peer back over 13.5 billion years to see the first stars and galaxies forming out of the darkness of the early universe."

We are told that Webb will see stars and galaxies as they appeared 13.5 billion years ago, which is what is meant by "early". Note that this is a claim based on belief in the big bang model. What Webb will actually observe will be light from galaxies and stars that are very far away. How long that light takes to get to the JWST is another question. In fact, even the assumed vast distances to the very far away galaxies are model and parameter dependent. What can be said without any layers of interpretation is that Webb is expected to observe objects with redshifts up to Z=1510 with 100 times the sensitivity of the Hubble telescope. The most distant galaxy the Hubble telescope has seen is, GN-Z1111 at Z=11.09.

Why are the furthest away stars and galaxies of interest?

Cosmologists are hoping that Webb will find Population III galaxies which would consist of stars that are made up of ONLY Hydrogen and Helium (and trace amounts of lithium) and NO heavier elements. These are the hypothetical first-generation stars in the big bang model, and therefore should be the most distant stars.

So far only Population II and Population I stars have been directly observed. Even distant quasar spectra reveal heavier elements (i.e. the gas surrounding quasars contain elements heavier than Hydrogen and Helium), and yet the big bang theory relies on the existence of these theorized Population III stars:

It is proposed that reionization was triggered by these Population III stars, and they were the source of the heavier elements. Therefore, according to the Big Bang model, no Population III stars; no carbon, no oxygen, no silicon, no earth, no me and no you!

Redshift

Redshift describes the phenomena of spectral signatures from stars and galaxies being shifted to longer and therefore redder wavelengths. The redshift parameter Z is used to describe the change in wavelength.

All stars and galaxies sufficiently far away from Earth show redshift, and their respective redshifts increase with their distance from Earth (Hubble's law). Therefore, redshift, Z, is used as a proxy for distance from the earth.

Supermassive black hole formation?

Population III stars are also of interest to those investigating the formation of Supermassive Black Holes (SMBH). Whilst standard stellar mass black holes fit within known physics (we have good observational evidence for these forming from neutron stars), Supermassive Black Holes are too big to have formed naturally within the big bang time frame.

The problem of the existence of SMBHs was made worse in December 2017 when the most distant SMBH was found at Z =7.54. This redshift converts to just 690 million years in big bang age, 5 % of the big bang's claimed 13.8-billion-year-old universe. The problem for naturalistic history, is how did a black hole 800 million times more massive than the sun accrete in such a short time!

Even though the putative Population III stars are said to have been 500 times the mass of the sun (bigger than any star we have ever observed), their resultant black holes (100 to 200 solar masses) are still too small to be the progenitor of a SMBH.

There are a number of alternate theories on how SMBHs could form so far away from Earth. A currently popular theory postulates that very large gas clouds directly collapse into a 1000–10,000 solar mass black hole (this is the progenitor mass needed for accretion and merges to grow the black hole into a SMBH within the big bang's history). However, a special set of circumstances in the top-down theory (see 'galaxy formation' below) is needed to allow this to happen. It is hoped that observations from the JWST will help clarify which theory, if any, is correct.

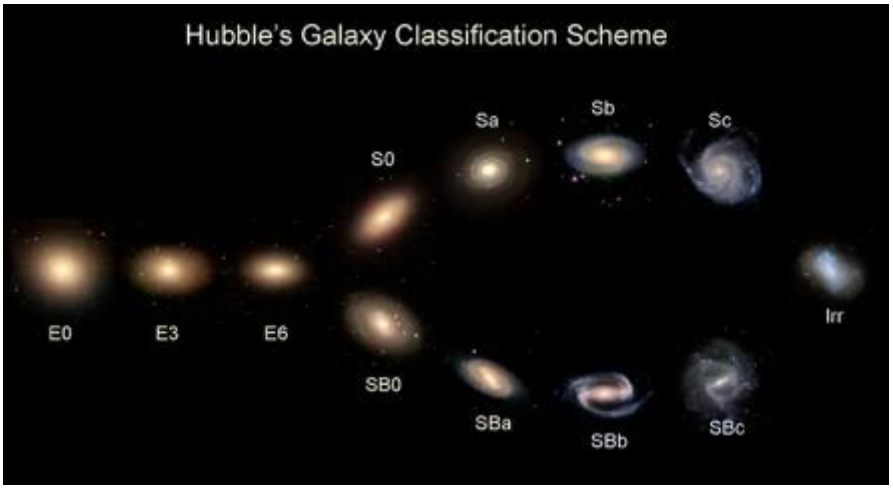
2. Galaxies Over Time

"Webb's unprecedented infrared sensitivity will help astronomers to compare the faintest, earliest galaxies to today's grand spirals and ellipticals, helping us to understand how galaxies assemble over billions of years."

Again, note the assumption that the faintest, furthest away galaxies are the earliest. While distance might be a proxy for a relative time scale, the big bang timescale is dependent upon its assumptions. Galaxy evolution has long been a problem for the big bang.

The astronomer, Edwin Hubble, was the first to classify galaxies based on their morphology, and he came up with the following categories: Ellipticals (E); Lenticular (SO); Spirals (S); Barred Spirals (SB); and Irregulars (Irr).

Although Hubble didn't necessarily intend to suggest that galaxies evolve from simple to complex (from 1 to 4), it was thought that galaxies start off looking like ellipticals and then mature on towards spirals.



University of Iowa Department for Physics and Astronomy

Fig 6: For ellipticals, the number 0–9 indicates the eccentricity (E0 is spherical, E9 has high eccentricity). For spiral and barred spirals, the letter 'a' indicates a bar, tightly wound arms, and a large central bulge while 'c' has no bar, very loosely wound, and a small central bulge. The letter 'b' is in between: a less prominent bar than 'a', medium central bulge, and arms wound less than 'a', but more than 'c'.

Now it is thought that if galaxies do evolve, they evolve from right to left (in fig 6) rather than left to right, because: The spiral galaxies to the right are bluer and therefore supposedly younger (blue stars burn brighter and therefore burn through their fuel quicker).

Images of what look like merging galaxies suggest that ellipticals evolved through the merging of disk galaxies. However, there are an increasing number of strange looking galaxies that astronomers are struggling to fit into the evolutionary theory, for example ring galaxies.

Mature looking galaxies at large distances

The big bang model does not allow for galaxies to look 'mature' (i.e. galaxies with high metallicity and well-formed structure, e.g. Disks/Spirals) at large distances (i.e. supposedly soon after the big bang), yet we are starting to find some, for example the Wolfe disk, a galaxy at Z=4.26. Theoreticians are racing to explain galaxies such as these as it is suspected that they are more common than previously thought. And because the JWST will observe some of the furthest away galaxies, we can expect more discoveries like the Wolfe disk.

Galaxy formation

The two opposite competing theories of galaxy formation currently are the bottom-up theory and the top-down theory. Top-down theory postulates that the largest structures in the universe formed first and then divided into clusters, groups, and galaxies. Bottom-up theories speculate that the primordial fluctuations first formed protogalaxies, which by gravitational attraction grew into galaxies, groups, clusters etc.

While astronomers are expecting Webb and other new observations to help develop these theories, the one answer that is rarely considered is that God made them that way!

3. Star Lifecycle

"Webb will be able to see right through and into massive clouds of dust that are opaque to visible-light observatories like Hubble, where stars and planetary systems are being born." Spectroscopy can be used to calculate the precise amounts of elements within stars. By using particle and quantum physics theories, well

tested here on Earth, we can calculate how long a star will burn which fuel for, and how that star will change over time.

While these theories are well established, the currently accepted theory for star formation (Jeans collapse of molecular clouds) has a number of unproven assumptions.

From NASA's JWST website we see listed two of the open questions the JWST is to answer:

How do clouds of gas and dust collapse down to the dense cores that form stars?

What is the early evolution of protostars?

Another JWST website page says: "Researchers still do not know the details of how clouds of gas and dust collapse to form stars, or why most stars form in groups, or exactly how planetary systems form."

A standard university astrophysics textbook states:

"One area where the picture is far from complete is in the earliest stage of evolution, the formation of pre-nuclear-burning objects known as protostars from interstellar molecular clouds."

One of the problems is that the processes involved cannot be repeated in a laboratory. Another being that no one has ever observed a star forming. And of course, it is impossible to observe events that are said to occur on a timescale of millions of years.

What we do have is a collection of images of gas clouds with different densities and temperatures. We are told that they are images of gas clouds in the stellar formation process, but they could simply be a variety of created cosmic objects.

While biblical history tells us it is not necessary for stars to form naturalistically, the big bang timeline demands it. 13.8 billion years is beyond the lifetime of most stars. Therefore, to uphold the big bang paradigm, many of the stars we see today must have been created within this timeline, not just near the beginning. In fact, to have the 10^{22} stars existing today, they must be created on a daily basis over the alleged 13.8 billion years.

Because we are told that stars form in giant molecular clouds, it is of interest to astronomers to use infrared telescopes, as infrared more easily penetrates dust and gas. JWST's significant infrared capabilities and large mirror will enable it to obtain superior pictures beyond the dust and gas clouds. (See fig 8).

NASAPillars-of-Creation

Fig 8 : The Pillars of Creation in the Eagle Nebula captured in visible light by Hubble (left). The Pillars of Creation in the Eagle Nebula captured in infrared light by Hubble (right).

Note that Hubble's infrared images visibly penetrate gas and dust clouds, yet its infrared capability is limited when compared to the JWST .

Nucleosynthesis

Prominent atheist, Carl Sagan famously said, 'we're made of star stuff.' He was referring to the theory that most of the atomic nuclei in our bodies were forged by the nuclear furnaces and explosive deaths of stars in the ancient universe. The Nucleosynthesis theory (the secular story for how all the elements came about), is said to explain the production and origin of all the elements in the universe. Big bang nucleosynthesis is the part of the story presented, not only as the explanation of the abundance of the light elements (hydrogen, deuterium, and helium), but as evidence of the big bang. We have critiqued that claim here.

The abundance of the heavier elements (heavier than iron) is much more contested in the evolutionary community, as the naturalistic production of some elements has not yet been observed, let alone the ability of that natural process to produce the abundances of the different elements found in the universe.

Up until the first neutron star merger (GW170817) in 2017, it was thought that some of the heaviest elements were produced in Supernovae. But when GW170817 gave light decay curves consistent with the production of heavy radioactive elements the heavy element nucleosynthesis theory swapped the dominant progenitor from Supernovae to Neutron star mergers. However, the only (heavy) elemental spectral signature found was that of strontium. Part of the problem is that heavy elements have spectral signatures in the infrared part of the spectrum. With the James Webb space telescope viewing the near and mid-infrared spectrum unimpeded by the earth's atmosphere it is well placed to see such spectral features. If LIGO or VIRGO or any other yet-to-be-built gravitational wave interferometer detects a neutron star merger, then Web will almost certainly be repositioned to observe the merger in the hope of identifying the spectral signatures of the heavier elements.

Planet formation

JWST's infrared capability and position above the earth's atmosphere make it a unique tool for looking at rotating circumstellar disks of dense gas and dust surrounding stars, and it is within these that we are told planets form. They hence have the name, protoplanetary disks.

We are told that planet formation is a simple extension of star formation:

"According to our current knowledge, planets are formed around a new star by condensing in a disc of molecular gas and dust, embedded within a larger molecular cloud. Condensation increases until they become giant planets, which are heated, then cleanse their orbits in the disc and possibly bend it. Remaining gas in the disc finally disappears, leaving planets, a disc of dust and debris."

But there are a number of problems with planet formation theory, most notable the 'meter sized barrier.' Computer simulations show that by random accretions in space matter cannot form much more than "dust-bunnies" before the collisions of mater themselves disperse them.

While naturalistic planet formation has always been a problem, further difficulties have arisen in the last 20 years, since the discovery of now over 4,000 known exoplanets: Before the discovery of the first exoplanet, Pegasi b in 1995, the only known planets on which to base a planet formation theory on were the planets in our solar system.

The discovery of exoplanetary systems inconsistent with long-held planetary formation theories caused the invention of many modifications and even completely new theories. The JWST website admits:

"The continual discovery of new and unusual planetary systems has made scientists re-think their ideas and theories about how planets are formed."

One of the simplest suggested fixes is to leave the old formation theory intact (and thereby the underlying nebular hypothesis also intact), but have the planets migrate to their present positions over time. Hence, one of the key questions for JWST to answer as outlined by NASA is:

“Do planets in a planetary system form in place, or travel inwards after forming in the outer reaches of the system?”

4. Other Worlds

”Webb will tell us more about the atmospheres of extrasolar planets, and perhaps even find the building blocks of life elsewhere in the universe. In addition to other planetary systems, Webb will also study objects within our own Solar System.”

We have previously commented on Webb’s ability to detect exoplanet atmospheres. As well as delivering information about planetary atmospheres through investigating their chemical composition, Webb will also capture direct images of exoplanets, with the use of its onboard coronagraph. As of December 2021, only about 0.2% of all reported exoplanets have been directly imaged.

It is easy to see that many of the questions to be answered under the category ‘other worlds’ are directly related to the public’s increased interest in extra-terrestrial life. They include for example:

Can we find planets orbiting in the habitable zones of stars where it is possible for water, or perhaps life, to exist?

How did life develop on Earth?

Was there ever life on Mars?

From our own solar system to distant star systems—what can we understand about planet formation, evolution, and the suitability of planets as habitats?

What are the sources of water and organics for planets in habitable zones?

What is the origin of water and organic materials in a planetary system?

We can confidently predict that the JWST observations will further contradict and complicate evolutionary theories on the origin of the universe, the origin of stars, the origin of planets, the origin of water on Earth, and the origin of life. With regards to the latter, we expect JWST will further dismiss the possibility of life on Mars or any exoplanet.

Notice that the origin of water is still a major problem for evolutionists! And once the water has arrived on Earth or an exoplanet in the habitable zone, there is then the problem that water poses to the origin of life.

Conclusion

With our knowledge of the Bible and understanding that God created the universe (Hebrews 11:3), we can confidently predict that the JWST observations will further contradict and complicate evolutionary theories on the origin of the universe, the origin of stars, the origin of planets, the origin of water on Earth, and the origin of life. With regards to the latter, we expect JWST will dismiss the possibility of life on Mars or any exoplanet.

We hope and pray that this telescope will open many eyes to the Glory of God and the amazing and unique habitability of the earth:

For this is what the LORD says— he who created the heavens, he is God; he who fashioned and made the earth, he founded it; he did not create it to be empty but formed it to be inhabited—he says: “I am the LORD, and there is no other.—Isaiah 45:18

Maybe humanity’s next eye in the sky, the JWST, will cause many to recognize truth that Jesus Christ is Creator and Lord and there is no other!

To read the entire article this came from go to [The James Webb Space Telescope - creation.com]

1st bioengineered hybrid animals discovered — in ancient Mesopotamia

Skeletons of "kungas" discovered in a princely burial.

The animal bones at Umm el-Marra were thought to be from kungas because their teeth had marks from bit harnesses and wear patterns that showed they had been fed, rather than left to graze. (Image credit: Glenn Schwartz/Johns Hopkins University)

Mesopotamians were using hybrids of domesticated donkeys and wild asses to pull their war wagons 4,500 years ago — at least 500 years before horses were bred for the purpose, a new study reveals.

The analysis of ancient DNA from animal bones unearthed in northern Syria resolves a long-standing question of just what type of animals were the "kungas" described in ancient sources as pulling “war wagons.”

"From the skeletons, we knew they were equids [horse-like animals], but they did not fit the measurements of donkeys and they did not fit the measurements of Syrian wild asses," said study co-author Eva-Maria Geigl, a genomicist at the Institut Jacques Monod in Paris. "So they were somehow different, but it was not clear what the difference was."

The new study shows, however, that kungas were strong, fast and yet sterile hybrids of a female domestic donkey and a male Syrian wild ass, or hemione — an equid species native to the region.

Ancient records mentioned kungas as highly prized and very expensive beasts, which could be explained by the rather difficult process of breeding them, Geigl said. Because each kunga was sterile, like many hybrid animals such as mules, they had to be produced by mating a female domesticated donkey with a male wild ass, which had to be captured, she said. That was an especially difficult task because wild asses could run faster than donkeys and even kungas, and were impossible to tame, she said.

"They really **bio-engineered** these hybrids," Geigl told Live Science. "There were the earliest hybrids ever, as far as we know, and they had to do that each time for each kunga that was produced — so this explains why they were so valuable."

War donkeys

Kungas are mentioned in several ancient texts in cuneiform on clay tablets from Mesopotamia, and they are portrayed drawing four-wheeled war wagons on the famous "Standard of Ur," a Sumerian mosaic from about 4,500 years ago that's now on display at the British Museum in London. Archaeologists had suspected that they were some sort of hybrid donkey, but they didn't know the equid it was hybridized with, Geigl said.

Some experts thought Syrian wild asses were much too small (smaller than donkeys) to be bred to produce kungas, she said. The species is now extinct, and the last Syrian wild ass — not much more than a meter (3 feet) tall — died in 1927 at the world's oldest zoo, the Tiergarten Schönbrunn in Vienna in Austria; its remains are now preserved in that city's natural history museum.

In the new study, the researchers compared the genome from the bones of the last Syrian wild ass from Vienna with the genome from the 11,000-year-old bones of a wild ass unearthed at the archaeological site of Göbekli Tepe, in what is now southeastern Turkey.

That comparison showed both animals were the same species, but the ancient wild ass was much larger, Geigl said. That suggested that the Syrian wild ass species had become much smaller in recent times than it had been in antiquity, probably due to environmental pressures such as hunting, she said.

Ancient Mesopotamia

Historians think that the Sumerians were the first to breed kungas before 2500 B.C., at least 500 years before the first domesticated horses were introduced from the steppe north of the Caucasus Mountains, according to a 2020 study in the journal Science Advances by many of the same researchers.

Ancient records show the successor states of the Sumerians, such as the Assyrians, continued to breed and sell kungas for centuries — and a carved stone panel from the Assyrian capital Nineveh, now in the British Museum, shows two men leading a wild ass they had captured (possibly for breeding).

The kunga bones for the latest study … have been dated to around the early Bronze Age between 3000 B.C. and 2000 B.C.; the site is thought to be the ruins of the ancient city of Tuba mentioned in Egyptian inscriptions…

Kungas could run faster than horses, and so the practice of using them to pull war wagons probably continued after the introduction of domesticated horses into Mesopotamia, she said. But eventually the last kungas died and no more were bred from donkeys and wild asses, probably because domesticated horses were easier to breed, Geigl said.

The new study was published January 14 in the journal Science Advances. This article was excerpted and adapted from an article at wordpress.com. To read the entire article go to https://thomasmetcalfe.wordpress.com/2022/01/14/1st-bioengineered-hybrid-animals-discovered-in-ancient-mesopotamia-live-science%ef%bf%bc/

Editor's Note: Hybridization, bioengineering and interbreeding of rare species for special purposes and to enhance needed characteristics 4500 years ago is evidence of early man not being the unintelligent brutes crawling out of the caves, but the brilliant creations of God as described in the Bible!

Genesis Commentary

Abram Rescues Lot

Chapter 14 At the time when Amraphel was king of Shinar,[a] Arioch king of Ellasar,
Kedorlaomer king of Elam and Tidal king of Goyim, **2** these kings went to war against Bera
king of Sodom, Birsha king of Gomorrah, Shinab king of Admah, Shemeber king of
Zeboyim, and the king of Bela (that is, Zoar). **3** All these latter kings joined forces in the Valley
of Siddim (that is, the Dead Sea Valley). **4** For twelve years they had been subject to
Kedorlaomer, but in the thirteenth year they rebelled.

5 In the fourteenth year, Kedorlaomer and the kings allied with him went out and defeated the
Rephaites in Ashteroth Karnaim, the Zuzites in Ham, the Emites in Shaveh Kiriathaim **6** and the
Horites in the hill country of Seir, as far as El Paran near the desert. **7** Then they turned back
and went to En Mishpat (that is, Kadesh), and they conquered the whole territory of the
Amalekites, as well as the Amorites who were living in Hazezon Tamar.

8 Then the king of Sodom, the king of Gomorrah, the king of Admah, the king of Zeboyim and
the king of Bela (that is, Zoar) marched out and drew up their battle lines in the Valley of
Siddim **9** against Kedorlaomer king of Elam, Tidal king of Goyim, Amraphel king of Shinar and
Arioch king of Ellasar—four kings against five. **10** Now the Valley of Siddim was full of tar pits,
and when the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah fled, some of the men fell into them and the
rest fled to the hills. **11** The four kings seized all the goods of Sodom and Gomorrah and all
their food; then they went away. **12** They also carried off Abram's nephew Lot and his
possessions, since he was living in Sodom.

13 A man who had escaped came and reported this to Abram the Hebrew. Now Abram was
living near the great trees of Mamre the Amorite, a brother[b] of Eshkol and Aner, all of whom
were allied with Abram. **14** When Abram heard that his relative had been taken captive, he
called out the 318 trained men born in his household and went in pursuit as far as
Dan. **15** During the night Abram divided his men to attack them and he routed them, pursuing
them as far as Hobah, north of Damascus. **16** He recovered all the goods and brought back his
relative Lot and his possessions, together with the women and the other people.

17 After Abram returned from defeating Kedorlaomer and the kings allied with him, the king
of Sodom came out to meet him in the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley).

An interesting story of family fidelity, and a testament to how big and extensive Abram's holdings were to take on a King's army.

The start of the Tithe

18 Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most
High, 19 and he blessed Abram, saying,

"Blessed be Abram by God Most High,
Creator of heaven and earth.
20 And praise be to God Most High,
who delivered your enemies into your hand."

Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything.

This marks the first of many references to the "tithe" in the Bible, a sacred and practical way for man to physically recognize God's possession of everything and help to sponsor God's ministry on earth. It was given to a recognized priest of God's appointment.

21 The king of Sodom said to Abram, "Give me the people and keep the goods for yourself."

22 But Abram said to the king of Sodom, "With raised hand I have sworn an oath to the LORD,
God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth, 23 that I will accept nothing belonging to
you, not even a thread or the strap of a sandal, so that you will never be able to say, 'I made
Abram rich.' 24 I will accept nothing but what my men have eaten and the share that belongs
to the men who went with me—to Aner, Eshkol and Mamre. Let them have their share."

Prayer Needs and Praises!

Relief for the world from COVID-19 and its new variants
Heal our nation from the civil unrest and violence in our cities.
Pray for spiritual healing in our nation.

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

February - **Materialism 101**
March - **"What if God Wrote the Bible?"**
April - **Answers to Life's Most asked Questions**
May - **The De-Faithing of America: How did we get Here?**
June - **Our Nation's Biblical Foundation**

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

Here is our schedule of upcoming program topics-

2/5 **Apostasy in the Seminaries**
2/12 **Creation: Chance or Choice?**
2/19 **SETI**
2/26 **Racism (Stepanek)**
3/5 **Life in Outer Space**
3/12 **Radiometrics, Age of the Earth and the Bible**
3/19 **Dinosaurs and the Bible**
3/26 **Why do we do what we do?**

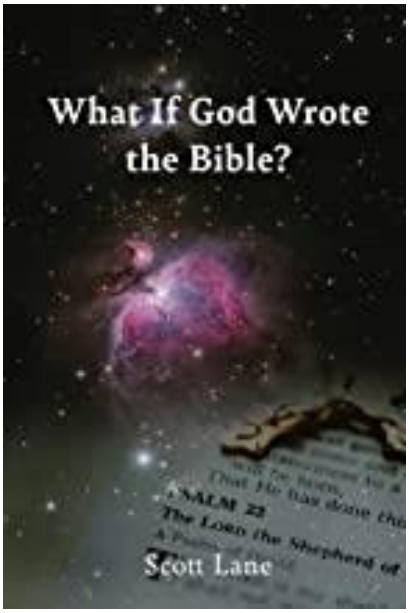
If you cannot tune in on Saturday afternoons or would like to sample our program or hear previous shows, they are available on podcast on the KSLR website (kslr.com). Click on the link below to go to the KSLR podcast page and scroll down till you find "**Believing the Bible**."

"Believing the Bible" - SABBSA on KSLR Radio

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.

Adam named his wife Eve meaning, "mother of all living." He later learned the name Eve fit her because she actually was the "opposite of morning" as well.



Scott Lane's new book, **"What if God wrote the Bible?"** will be released on March 2 nationwide. Preorders for the Kindle eBook format are already on sale on Amazon. **A special presentation of this book and book signing event will occur at our March meeting!**

FEAST will also sponsor a special presentation and book signing event for this book's release with a special **FEAST Science Workshop** presentation on **Wednesday March 2 at 10 am at FEAST.**

FEAST Science Workshops 2022 - "The Rocks Cry Out"

The Rocks Cry Out creation curriculum provides the perfect tool for use in churches, fellowship groups, youth groups, and home schools to educate those around you with the credibility of God's Word in every area - including science and history. This material is provided by **Bruce Malone** (a member of Logos Research Associates) and his ministry with **Search for the Truth Ministries.** Bruce is an engaging speaker and his 45-minute teaching videos include a lot of on location live action shots and demonstrations.

We will meet on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 10 am at FEAST during the months of January, February, March, and April 2022. We are happy to again be partnering with FEAST. SABBSA will be giving these presentations for the 18th consecutive year. Each session will include one of the videos listed below, along with a question-and-answer session with one of SABBSA's trained associates.

New for 2022, we will offer a companion young children's program at the same time as the program listed below for ages 6 to 10! Our thanks to Lyndal Rosenthal and family for providing this great service!

February 23, 2022 - **Noah's Flood and Geology** (Overwhelming evidence that our globe has been deluged by a world-covering flood)

March 23, 2022 - **Dragons and Dinosaurs** (Dinosaurs provide some of the strongest evidence for a Biblical worldview)

April 27, 2022 - **The Age of Creation** (Why belief in long ages distorts God's character and why dating methods can be unreliable)

We pray that you will plan to be a part of this dynamic series of teaching sessions melding Science, real history, and God's word!

FEAST's Location: 7735 Mockingbird Lane, San Antonio, TX 78229

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.

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

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** 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/.

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.

Last Month at SABBSA

SABBSA Authors Night

Our first meeting of the year featured two of our board members who have written books. They each presented a synopsis of their books as well as had a book signing opportunity.

Engineer Terry Read is a sponsor and originator of our radio program "Believing the Bible." He talked about his book **"Why Should I Believe? Why Should You Believe?"** This book explains Terry's mental trek going from his church's teaching that the Bible and science were separate belief systems which could not intersect. To a knowledge that the Bible's original texts were inerrant and that the Bible and science are perfectly compatible. This book is available on his website "Why Should You Believe?" and the Walmart website in hardcover, softcover, and e-book.

Dr. Carl Williams has been somewhat prolific in his writing, authoring six books to date including **"The Rock and the Sword"** a Christian fiction novella. He also has authored a series of Christian fiction books called the **"Adventures of John Moses Doe"** available on Amazon in softcover and e-book. This Christian sci-fi series launches the career of a down and out orphan who is mysteriously transformed into a superhuman. Follow along while he begins to uncover who he really is and how being stronger and faster than everyone else on the planet isn't necessarily a gift.

SABBSA Board Members Dr. Carl and Cindy Williams

We also had SABBSA membership renewals and board elections that night, as we do each January. Our full board and previous slate of officers were carried forward into 2022.

Next SABBSA Meeting:
Tuesday, February 8, 2022, at 7 pm

Terry Read

Coming to SABBSA in February

Materialism 101

No, this is not a course on how to become more materialistic. Our culture will teach you that without trying. Nor is it a course on how materialistic our culture is since that is self-evident.

SABBSA board member Terry Read will talk about how the thesis that "all there is, is what we see" has affected the scientific and spiritual communities in our society. He will show how this "materialism is all there is" idea has penetrated our schools, our labs, and our psyches to make us believe there is no God and nothing spiritual beyond what we can touch, see, and hear. Please join us in February as we try and cut through the materialistic assumptions of our society, and get a vision of what is reality.

Please join us in February for creation science and biblical apologetics teaching you will find nowhere else in Bexar County. Our current COVID protocols are masks optional for all individuals who have been vaccinated or have had COVID-19, and all children. 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.