A New Look at Genesis, Chapters 6-11: A Coherent Model of Natural and Biblical History

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Recommended Citation
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A NEW LOOK AT GENESIS, CHAPTERS 6-11:
A COHERENT MODEL OF NATURAL AND BIBLICAL HISTORY

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KEYWORDS

Flood/Ice Epoch, Supernatural change of the Nations & Language, Pangea, Peleg, Days the Earth was divided, Biogeographical distribution.

ABSTRACT

Dealing with heretofore unresolved questions regarding the Genesis record and the creation model as an attempt to provide a current and coherent model of natural and biblical history, I have titled this monograph "A New Look at Genesis". The stress will be on the normative hermeneutic [65] with some special insights into Scriptural exegesis with scientific, i.e. natural history, coherency.

A Flood/Ice Epoch is described that will provide a plausible answer to the many questions regarding the so called Ice Age. The scenario is consistent with the latest creationist thinking on the stratification of the sedimentary layers, the fossil record, the carboniferous layers, and the catastrophic formation of the Grand Canyon.

The latest work in the fields of genetics and linguistics are seen to verify the event at Babel as described in Scripture. This verification will challenge our current thinking on the development of the ethnic differences in today's world.

A new look at the days of Peleg reveals some amazing information regarding the events following the Flood and will solve many questions regarding continental shift, mountain building and biographic distribution after the flood.

In this unique study of modern science and biblical exegesis it is hoped that a coherent picture of natural history and the Genesis record will be brought forth that will spur both the creation scientist and the secular scientist to progress toward a better understanding of The Truth and the natural history of the world.

INTRODUCTION

It was said at the 1994 International Conference on Creationism that the most fundamental need within the scientific community of believers is the proper development of a "coherent model" of natural and biblical history. A coherent model approach was initially attempted with the publishing of The Genesis Flood, a book by Doctor's Henry Morris and John Whitcomb written in 1961. This book represented the first systematic presentation of the creation model of origins, especially from a geological framework. Since that time, a large amount of new scientific information has become available in the fields of not only geology but archaeology, astronomy, biology, genetics, linguistics, and physics, which together with the great advances in computer technology now afford us the ability to assimilate, correlate, and analyze these data to the end that much better models can be constructed regarding the natural history of this world. It is the goal of this study to draw together these data around a new look at the biblical framework of history to see where they do or do not fit. With coherency comes the need to be somewhat comprehensive, and hence I have tried to address most of the major scenarios of Genesis 1-11.
As in all good science not all that is presented can be said to be absolute, but in most scenarios it should be seen as certainly plausible. Dealing with many heretofore unresolved questions regarding the Genesis record, we have presented scenarios that are coherent and in some cases new, hence the title, "A New Look at Genesis". This monograph is an attempt, within a normative hermeneutic, to provoke both thinking and new research within the creationist community.

THE FLOOD/ICE EPOCH

Biblical Record

Genesis chapter seven describes the worldwide Flood. The 40 day period of rain, and the biblical statement of Genesis 7:11&12 speaks of a controlled deluge that needs more study to come up with a coherent scenario of rain, snow, ice and volcanic action. Currently there is a large variance between the views of Brown [6], Oard [36], Patten [38], Vail [46], and others. The principal effort of this section will be to deal with the ice epoch. The gathering of the animals and their distribution after the event will be discussed in the section on the days of Peleg. The configuration of the earth at the time of the deluge will be discussed both here and in other sections as it is important to the coherent model.

In Gen. 8:22 God defines the new earth system in His promise to Noah. No long period of an ice age is possible since God declares a regular annual cycle of winter and summer as long as the earth remains. Therefore, this statement prohibits Michael Oard's post-Flood ice age which extends up to 500 years after the Flood [36]. There is no mention of ice in the Scripture prior to the flood. The book of Job, circa 2000 BC, contains the first mention of ice and frost [Job 37:10; 38:22-30]. Furthermore, there is not any secular historical record of a long term "Ice Age".

Scientific Evidence

The evidence for an "Ice Age" lies primarily in the geological record. There are no historical records, either biblical or secular, to indicate that man knew much about the great ice epoch. Conversely, there is a flood epoch in almost every culture.

The evidence for an Ice "Epoch" is unquestioned. The existence of continental glaciation in Greenland and Antarctica, where it is estimated that 91% of the world's glacial ice is locked up in the Antarctic ice sheet [27], the ice caves found in igneous rock formations [38], mountain glaciers, plus the geological evidences of past glaciation in the tills, moraines, striated bedrock, drumlins, outwash deposits, and U-shaped valleys are said to testify to a major ice event in the past. It is this evidence that we want to examine to determine the true nature of the ice epoch.

First of all, as diligently researched by Walt Brown [6,p.107-136], there are millions of Mammoths and other animals "quick frozen" in many northern regions. These animals were living in a climate comparable to the Caribbean prior to their demise as attested to by the flora found in their mouths and stomachs, as well as the fruit and palm trees imbedded in the frozen tundra. They were also buried by massive sediments of muck and ice to the point that they are still being dug up in this present era. The Siberian Mammoth required two tons of food per week and thirty gallons of water per day, and they had no sebacious oil glands in their hide which would be a prerequisite to cold weather adaptation. All of this argues for a sudden ice and cold incursion which was not a product of long term cooling. That this was coincidental with the Genesis Flood fits in with the rapid burial in the sediments and the sheer number of animals found in this condition would argue against a post-ark population.

Secondly, the nature of the present ice and glaciation argues for an incursion from the skies at the start of the Noachin deluge. There are many ice caves still frozen between igneous rock layers. Our conclusion is that the ice came suddenly into the region. The ice in the northern and southern latitudes is near the magnetic [not the axial] poles. This ice, which Patten describes as conical in shape, is centered at the magnetic poles with a radial pattern. We conclude that the magnetic field may have had some influence on the ice incursion and that the incursion was from
space. The ice is said to have come in at such rates that the depth at the North Pole exceeded 15,000 feet deep and at the south pole it is still over 10,000 feet deep with 5,000 feet of it below sea level resting on terra firma [38, p.111, & 20, p.68]. This fact, plus the drowned valleys and various glacier traces found below the current sea level would lead us to conclude that the ice came in before the sea rose to its current level, i.e. at the start of the flood. This study has been sustained over the years and today Patten still refers to "A glacial ice dump over the two magnetic poles" [39, p.117].

Howarth in his masterful three volume work titled Ice or Water [21] argued that much of what was attributed to moving glaciers could only be properly blamed on massive flood run off.

Sediments, covering millions of fossils and millions of frozen animals and flora argues for a one time event: A Flood/Ice Epoch; and we are still in the aftermath of that event. It is possible that the post flood cooling of the oceans as they receded eventually set off the continental shifts of Peleg's days and maybe Dr. Baumgardner can integrate that into his subduction causality.

Coherent Model

The collapse of an circulating ice canopy, as presented in the New Look at Genesis 1-5 presentation in this conference, can be seen to solve the heating problems associated with a vapor canopy, and with a controlled descent of forty days of rain in the temperate zones and ice in the polar zones. It is possible that much of the post flood cooling and heating questions can be resolved by the separation of the continents in the days of Peleg.

A coherent model must address the absence of any period in the historical record that indicates long-term cooling, and also must match the paleontological evidence for a rapid incursion of ice which invades the areas of the north and south which were populated by millions of animals. Furthermore, we need to rethink the immediate post flood era as one of a still existent pangea with some elevation changes to accomodate the biblical description of flood water run off, with the regions still identifiable to the animals which are returning to their preflood homes prior to the continents breaking up in the days of Peleg.

BABEL - THE CREATION OF NATIONS

Biblical Record

With the survival of only eight souls from the great cataclysm called the "Genesis Flood" [Gen. 8], we enter into a time era prior to Babel where, apart from redactive histories and cultural mythologies written after Babel, there are no secular records other than the Hebrew Scriptures. This should be of no surprise since it has been stated that at the time of Babel all the earth was of one language [Gen. 11:1].

It seems evident that this language was the same one that Adam was given, i.e. when the Creator God spoke to Adam it was in the Hebrew/Semitic phoneme as the names given in Genesis 1-5 are today preserved in the Hebrew. Rolleston in a landmark investigation was able to trace the Hebrew names of the stars and constellations back through the earliest astronomical and secular records [12,p.26], and the Scriptures says it was God who created and named the stars [Gen. 1:14; Ps. 147:4]. When the Creator God spoke to Adam it was in the Hebrew/Semitic phoneme, and when God writes He uses the same phoneme [Dt. 9:10; 10:1-4; Dan. 5:25]. The history of the Semetic phoneme can be traced from: the name of God [Yahweh or Jehovah] given to Seth [Gen. 4:26], through the book of Adam [Gen. 5:1], through the writings of Noah's family from Shem to Abram [Gen. 5 - 24] all the way down to the writings given to Moses. It was no unknown God that called Abraham, nee Abram, out of Mesopotamia [Gen. 24:7] nor was it some strange hieroglyph that Moses saw at Sinai, rather it was the familiar Hebrew phoneme that spelled out the ten commandments. It was held by the ancient Hebrew scribes that Hebrew was the original language
Furthermore, the leading archaeologists of the Mesopotamian region, which has been called "The Cradle of Civilization", all agree that the Semitic phoneme predates the Sumerian language in use at UR of the Chaldees circa 2150 BC [24, p.121; & 28, p.56; 16]. It could also be said that the prophecy given in Zephania 3:9 indicates that in the last days the nation of Israel will return to the original "pure" language that they may all call upon the name of Yaweh. Further evidence for the Hebrew phoneme being the language that God gave to man is presented in references 11 & 12.

It is stated in the biblical record that the descendants of Noah were all living together in the land of Shinar [Gen. 11:2], and that they were building a city and a tower [Gen. 11:4,5]. The Scripture states they were all speaking one language, and it is believed they were all of one race [Gen. 11:1,6]. In the statement in Gen. 11:6 regarding them as one people the use of the Hebrew word echad clearly has the implication of one kind, or the same kind, i.e. one race.

Just exactly what the tower was for is open to much interpretation. The record states that they were building "a tower whose top is in the heavens" [Gen. 11:4]. Genesis 1:14 declares that it is the stars which are "in the heavens", and that they were for "signs and seasons". It has long been believed by astrologers that the stars which signify the seasons on earth somehow therefore control these events. It is within the realm of thinking in those days that a tower of sufficient height might put man up there among the stars. The tower may have been an astronomical observatory or its purpose may have been a central rallying point (Keil and Delitzsch suggest that "the real motive was the desire for renown, and the object was to establish a noted central point which might serve to maintain their unity" [23, p.173]). Whatever the tower's purpose was, it is clear from both secular and biblical history that such a tower existed [23, p.176]. Ancient historians Herodotus and Eusebius wrote that the remains of such a tower existed in Babylon in their day, and many archaeologists today confirm that the tower ruins they have found in Babylon are from the time era circa 2200 BC [37, pp.356-357]. Having brought up the subject of time, the following discussion should shed some new light on this subject.

A careful study of the events following the Flood, as recorded in Genesis 9-11, actually gives an earlier time for Babel than many Bible scholars hold. First of all, the Bible clearly declares that it was Nimrod who was the leader at Babel [Gen.10:10], and after the dispersion [they were all at Babel prior to the dispersion] Nimrod went on to be King in Erech, Accad, Calneh, Nineveh, Rehobeth, Calah, and Resen [Gen. 10:11-12]. Confirmation of this record is found in the excavations at Nimrud which is said to be built on the ancient ruins of Calah, a town built by Nimrod [29].
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>BIRTH</th>
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<tr>
<td>NIMROD</td>
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NIMROD'S KINGDOMS:

BABEL  2276BC
ERECH  2270BC
ACCAD  2210BC
CALNEH 2150BC
NINEVEH 2090BC
REHOBETH 2030BC
CALAH  1970BC
RESEN  1910BC

Table 3 shows Noah's family giving their birth and death dates according to Scripture. The absolute value is based on the creationist's generally accepted date for end of the flood as being 2350 BC [23, p.285]. The biblical dates are all then calculated based on the Hebrew text with Shem's family being exact [Gen. 11:10-16], and Ham and Japheth's descendants related by generation. Nimrod, who is Cush's son [Gen.10:8], is Noah's great grandson born in 2306 BC, and precedes Peleg by two generations, i.e. Peleg is Noah's great, great, great grandson born in 2249 BC. If Nimrod is King in Babylon at age 30, not young for a ruler in those days, then we set the judgment at Babel in 2276 BC and Nimrod's Kingdoms that followed are worked out in the table.
This brings up some very interesting observations as can be seen in Figure 1. This figure presents just a few of the significant life spans important to the hypothesis of this study. Note, first of all, that Noah and all of his family lived through the Babel experience, and Noah himself was still alive in Abram's life time.

Regarding the creation of new languages, it is estimated that at the time of the judgment at Babel in the 74th year after the flood Noah’s family had increased to approximately 180 mature adults or 450 souls, counting the children. This number is to be seen as consistent with Dr. Henry Morris’s estimate of 1,120 mature adults at the time of Peleg who is two generations after Nimrod [33, p.283]. Since it has been shown that the Hebrew/Semitic phoneme lived through the Babel experience intact, it must have done so in the Noah-Shem-Arphachshad-Shelah-Eber line which is estimated to had contained 32 souls at the time of Babel. Dividing 32 into 450 gives a round number of 14 which will be seen in the linguistic section of this study to approximate the number of basic and fundamentally separate original language groups. Note that Eber, from whose name we get the term Hebrew, is born just prior to the time of Babel, and outlived Abraham, nee Abram. Also note that for some reason all those born after Babel have shorter life spans. We ask, could
this indicate a genetic change at Babel? This thought brings us to a second observation regarding the judgment at Babel.

It is observed that all the children and grand children of Ham were born prior to Babel and were, as previously stated, of one race. But after Babel they became definitive of several widely divergent races. Ham's son Cush, (whose name is translated in the English Bible variously as Ethiopian, or black, and sometimes simply transliterated as Cush), is clearly different than the Semitic race. Ancient historians Josephus, Ancreon, Epiphanius, and Eusebius all state that Cush is the father of the Ethiopians [19, p.48]. It is clear that from the time of Babel to this day the Cushite/Ethiopian has been definitive of the black race.

Presumably Cush and his children born after Babel were all black. But what about Nimrod, Cush's son who was born before Babel? Nimrod, as the Scripture records, was the King of the Iraqis [Erech], Accadians [Accad], and the Assyrians [Nineveh et al.]. Nowhere in the ancient records can it be seen that Nimrod or his descendants were black. In extensive finds of figures, bas-reliefs, etc. in the area of Nineveh the descendants of Nimrod are never pictured as black [37, pp. 2147-2152].

Likewise Cush's brothers, who lived through Babel, became the definitive heads of widely varying races. Mizraim was the father of the Egyptians, Caanan was the father of the Caananites, and Put was the father of the people of Libya [37, pp. 1323-1324]. Furthermore, Japtheth, whose name means fair [37, p.1568], was brother to Shem and Ham, yet he and his children are descriptive of yet different races and languages.

If the division of languages accompanied the variation in racial features, you would expect that there would be a tie between the basic language groups and the races. This is precisely what the latest genetic/linguistic studies are showing as will be described in the following sections. The Semites spoke a semitic language, the Cushites spoke Ethiopic, and Mizraim was definitive of the Egyptian hieroglyph. What better way for God to identify and disperse the nations than to not only change their language [which will be shown to be a genetic or at least a physiological change in the following section] but to change their external color and facial characteristics. There would be no question as to who belonged to which nation, and there would be no attempt to meld back together any time soon since the division was so great and even frightening.

Scientific Evidence

It will be left for the discussion on linguistics to show the tie between the major races and the basic language phyla that recent genetic and linguistic studies have shown. This section will deal primarily with the genetic argument for an instantaneous change from one race to a diverse group of basic phyla, i.e. races, such as we see today. It is admittedly beyond the scope of this monograph to develop or analyze population genetics to the point that the Babel scenario would be absolutely proven, but from the facts presented it is conceivable that a strong case can be made in this discipline for the instantaneous creation of the races at a point in time not too far distant.

With the great discovery in this generation of the DNA molecule [the molecule with which the "book of genes" is written] man has started to learn some very significant facts about our kind. One of these facts we have learned is that we all share a common link in our mitochondrial DNA [mtDNA]. It was discovered that mtDNA is cloned in the fertilized egg directly from the mothers mtDNA, and the pattern passed on is an exact replica of the previous generation with only slight variations caused by mutation. Geneticists analyzing mtDNA from 147 women representing five geographic regions around the world came to the conclusion that we are all descended from one mother [44]. It should be noted that the recent criticism of this so-called Eve hypothesis is all involved with the "Out-of Africa" model and has nothing to do with the fundamental fact that the nature of mitochondrial DNA proves one common female ancestor. As one commentator writes, "Indeed, no one argues with the idea that all modern humans inherited their mitochondrial DNA from one common female ancestor [18]". The creationist, of course, knew this all along.
The interesting information for the instantaneous creation of races at Babel hypothesis coming from the geneticists who worked on this report was their statement that within the accepted rates of population genetics variation used as a genetic clock it would require “200,000 years” to achieve the racial variations found in today’s population [49, p. 1506]. This scientific estimate of the time required to recombine genes to create a distinct race is the problem with the old argument that groups in isolation would quickly produce all the pure races.

In the process of studying race and population genetics in the past century, there has been developed some well accepted laws regarding how genes are combined to form genotypes. The determination of genotypes present in progeny lends itself to study because random combinations or mating even within a small isolated group can be predicted, i.e. the genotype frequencies can be used to estimate the rates of occurrence that will yield a particular offspring. Researchers Castle, Hardy, and Weinberg independently found that if random mating occurs an equilibrium will be established for the proportion of genotypes present in a population. This research produced the equation \( pXp^2 + 2pq + q^2 = 1 \), which is called the Hardy-Weinberg Equilibrium Equation which forms the mathematical basis for population genetics. This equation which describes the frequencies, \( p \) & \( q \) of a group of genes [called an allele] that specify a specific trait would defy any change in the population genotype where no change on the allel frequency occurs. Hence starting with one race of one family the population continues to be the same generation after generation. This brings us to the next step which is to take a group where all the genes might be present for the various races but have not yet been isolated so that all genes that transmit phenotypic characteristics ascribed to a subspecies, e.g. the Ethiopian, are transmitted in a cluster. This is where the researchers Vigilant, Stoneking, et al. came up with 200,000 years to achieve today’s population genotypes from the initial mother. This is also where many creationist are with their isolation approach to the creation of the races after the judgment at Babel divided the people [34, p.422].

Current genetic statements with regard to race include at least six genetic variables. These are phenotypic criteria which define: skin color, hair form, teeth, shape of the head, shape of the skeleton, shape of the face [10]. Since not all genes transmit all phenotypic criteria ascribed to a subspecies in a cluster, even members of a particular race will not have all of the criteria for that race. It is concluded by Hunt and most other geneticists studying the subject of gene flow, i.e. the natural product of mating of those not already of the same pure race, that there are “never any pure races developed in any genetic sense” [22].

What do we conclude then from genetics regarding race? First, that we are all descended from one mother. Secondly, that the genetic studies of population genetics deny any short period modification of the genotype such as would be necessary to produce pure race groups as the Scripture declares were in place right after Babel. The hard science of mathematical probability denies any probability that the races would have time to evolve within the biblical time scale of less than 2000 years from the creation to Babel, and certainly not in the less than 100 years from the Noahic flood until the appearance of well developed racial distinctions. Therefore, it is seen that the current state of the art of the science of genetics denies that pure races could evolve within the biblical time frame, and since the Scripture declares the races in places in the first generation after Babel, we conclude that the races were created instantaneously at the judgement at Babel.

It has been concluded from a survey of this past one hundred years of archaeological discovery, from the work of such leaders in their field as Wooley, Hall, and Kramer, et al., that written languages, and distinctive race/cultures show up as completely fixed and well developed in the earliest records of civilization [7, p. iv].

James Mellaart, an expert on neolithic archaeology of the Near East, in reviewing the discoveries of this past century, states that each of the city-state finds “do not support the idea that cities developed out of overgrown villages; the reverse seems far more logical. Indeed, archaeology has shown cities came into being as early as towns and villages” [30, p. 279]. This would indicate to the biblical scholar that as people were separated into distinct groups, and due to fear and distinctions such as language and race, they first built walled cities, and then developed their cultivation of plants and herding of animals. Mellaart, in fact, comes to this very conclusion as he
states that the cultivation of plants and herding of animals does not "emanate from villages, but from the important primary sites, cities such as Jericho, Mureybet, Catal Huyuk, Alikosh, Tepe Guran, Tell es-Sawwan, Eridu, Hacilar, Siyalk, and Byblos" [30].

Even the evolutionists as surveyed in Wilbur Garrett's feature article in the October 1988 issue of National Geographic titled, "Where Did We Come From?" attested to the fact that much of the archaeological record shows well developed, "talented and sophisticated culture" showing up suddenly around the world.

It is believed that indeed the archaeological data show not only evidence in the Near East but across the world that Babel was a true historical event. The historian Herodotus, who traveled to Babylon in 449BC [26, p.84], wrote that the remains of the "Tower of Babel" stood 300 feet tall with "the uppermost story clad in blue-glazed tiles" [26, p.98].

It has been stated that "no linguist today seriously advocates the evolution of language from some pre-historic development period" [14, p. 44]. Furthermore, it has been concluded from many studies that "either human languages have always existed with essentially the potential they exhibit now, or they once exhibited greater potential for precise communication than they do now" [14, p.44]. While these statements might be debated on some levels by various linguists there is significant evidence that the basic language groups all show up at once, distinct and well developed, and that there is not one bit of research showing that language evolved from some lower state or from subspecies [3, pp.7-9].

With these scholarly observations it can begin to be seen that a scenario for language that is both scientific and historically sound is found in the Genesis record. Pedersen in his work titled, The Discovery of Language, concludes from his studies that we have "no prospect of proving or even beginning to prove that all languages of the earth are related" [40, p.339]. Bloomfield, while alluding to the ancient tradition of Hebrew being the language from which all others have sprung, states unequivocally that there is no connection between many of the diverse tongues of the world [5, p.9]. Do not these statements fit perfectly a scenario where God gave Adam one language which we have suggested was Hebrew/Semitic, and all the earth was one language until the time of Babel [Gen. 11:1], and then God supernaturally gave new languages to each of the major family groups at the tower of Babel so that all of the basic languages show up as well developed and unrelated at their inception?

But the scientific data goes well beyond these statements to verify the biblical scenario. Merritt Ruhlen, in his recent tome A Guide to the World's Languages, has traced all of the world's languages back to 17 basic families or phyla [42, p.290]. Greenberg in an earlier work likewise classifies the world's languages as having their roots in 15 basic phyla [42, p.260]. These basic families are not related to each other and did not develop from any prior language. Ruhlen states that there is a "total lack of consensus on almost every question related to the origin of language" [42, p.262]. The fact that this is true is emphasized in a most recent work by Johanna Nichols in which she examines global distribution of linguistic features not in order to identify universals but rather to focus on the differences among human languages and what these differences might indicate about the prehistory of human language. Nichol's investigation is not based on the assumption that some are more primitive than others, but rather assumes that some features remain relatively stable in a given geographical area, and within a single language family since the earliest record of that particular language [35]. As can be seen this hypothesis agrees with a biblical scenario.

Derek Bickerton, in his ground breaking research on "Creole" languages funded by a National Science Foundation grant, shows that all creoles exhibit an identity far beyond the scope of chance constituting strong evidence that some genetic program common to all members of the species was decisively shaping the result [2, p.42]. In his musings on his research, Bickerton, an avowed evolutionist, observes that some of his account "resembles, in some respect the biblical account of language" [2, p.289]. In his conclusions he states that "any further linguistic theory will have to be able to claim biological reality" [2, p.294], and he refers to his theory as a "bioprogram" theory [2, p.297]. It should be noted here that creole languages are unique languages of isolated people, such as the Hawaiians. Bickerton showed in his study that all creole languages point
clearly toward the hypothesis of a genetic bioprogram for human language. This in itself ought to deny any tie of man to ape or any other genotype. Bickerton's most recent work titled Language and Species, backs up this thought with the statement that "all research efforts to produce a continuity line of development from animal communication to human language have failed" [3, p.9]. Another interesting observation that he makes is that evolution requires that language has an ancestry of some sort but there "is no plausible ancestry for language in any other communication system" [3, p.21]. From this point Bickerton comes up with the novel idea that representation systems spawned language and language spawned the next step in the evolution from apes to man, stating that cells that respond to the environment become distinct from cells that control motor action and thus begin to function as processors of information all of these maturing and increasing the autonomy of the creature in steps. What Bickerton has tried to show is a new theory of evolution in the face of the hard fact that language did not evolve. If this is the case, why do not all the intermediate forms exist today since all the representative opportunities are still active? Knowing ,I think, that he is in deep water with this theory, he states that "either language as we know it sprang full blown into the world ... or it emerged originally in a much more primitive form" [3, p.109]. Denying the biblical truth that language sprang into the world full blown, yet knowing there was no tie from any subspecies to the human in the area of language, he had to come up with his representation theory. He advocates "a change in neural organization that caused pre-man to slot meaningful symbols into formal structures resulting in an adaption of type never seen before, i.e. a new species man" [3, p.256]. It is truly amazing what some imaginative minds have come up with over the years to deny the evidence before them that the biblical record is the most plausible explanation of the scientific data.

But the scientific data goes well beyond these statements to verify a Babel scenario. Merritt Ruhlen and most other linguists agree that "all languages seem to be in the same stage of development" [42, p.267; & 2, p.298; & 14, p.44]. If this doesn't argue for a same time beginning we don't know a better way to state it. Ruhlen concedes "we do not know when language developed, nor do we know how it developed" [42, p.269]. These scientists should try to fit the biblical model to their data and maybe then we would start to get somewhere with the classification of languages into their basic phyla.

The most interesting of the linguistic/genetic studies is one of the latest. In 1988 Merritt Ruhlen and some of the leading geneticists at the University of Stanford, and the University of Parma in Italy studying genetic, archaeological, and linguistic data tied genetic and linguistic histories together to show that races and language evolved together. In papers presented at the National Academy of Science [8], and reported in Scientific American, April 1991, they showed from gene frequencies, DNA marker data, and linguistic phyla studies that there was "considerable parallelism between genetic and linguistic evolution" [8, p.6002].
Figure 2 shows these ties between the genetic and linguistic families. An even more recent study by population geneticist Robert Sokal of the State University of New York at Stony Brook, (who disagrees with Cavalli-Sforza on the theory of the origin of the Indo-European people), further confirms this biblical scenario correlating greater genetic difference between populations showing greater differences between their languages [41, p.1346]. It is interesting to note that Sokal and Cavalli-Sforza are at odds on their theory of origins.

In summary, the scientific data shows that the basic race phyla and the basic language phyla are inexorably linked. These data not only argue for the basic races being tied to the basic languages but tend to put them in the same time frame for appearance. From this thought the evolutionists say they evolved together, but the linguist and the archaeologist have declared that there is not a sign of languages evolving. In addition, as previously referenced, the geneticists have stated that pure races do not evolve unless there is pure isolation of genotypes and the current racial divergence would have 200,000 years to get from the common mother to today.

It is asked, is it any greater a molecular change to reprogram a mans language than it is to modify his genetic code which gives the racial distinctions? Bickerton has gone to great length to show the genetic/linguistic tie. Ruhlen, Cavalli-Sforza et al. have shown that race and language phyla are inexorably tied through three disciplines of science. In the Scriptural record of the fall of man [Gen. 3] the statements regarding the changes from an essentially good creation to a corrupt
system of death, sorrow, thorns, and thistles etc. [Gen. 3:14-19] must necessarily have involved molecular changes. Likewise, regarding the judgement at Babel it is proposed that the data shows that the linguistic/genetic makeup of Noah’s family underwent supernatural physiological changes that altered their race and language. The fact of language, i.e. speech, and genes being tied together is easily demonstrated in our families. My voice sounds like my son's as well as my brother's who were raised in different environments sound almost alike, and my wife and her sister are often indistinguishable in their speech.

Coherent Model

It has been the thesis of this study that the origin of the diverse races and their related basic language groups occurred instantaneously and supernaturally at Babel, approximately 75 years after the Genesis Flood. While others have proposed this scenario, albeit without any scientific evidence [16, p.44], it is only in the last few years that the sciences of genetics, linguistics, and archaeology have progressed to the point that we have been able to link all of the pieces of the puzzle together to present what is believed to be a sufficiently logical and compelling argument for the veracity of the Genesis record. It is hoped that this paper will compel further study in this area which will bear fruit towards a truly biblical and scientifically acceptable answer to the great questions of the origin of races and languages.

Serious consideration should be given to the Babel epic in the classification of languages. Given these evidences that Babel is true, the linguists should look to establish their basic original groups around the families of Noah and then tie the living and historical evidence to these roots. The secular linguists who tie the Egyptian, the Ethiopic, and the Semitic into the same Afro-Asiatic family of languages while totally ignoring the prior Egyptian hieroglyph are not making any more sense than the 16th century theologians who tried to show that Indo-European traced its roots to biblical Hebrew.

Finally, it should be seen that the existence of different races is not a curse on any particular race, but a division God made to get Noah's rebellious family to go out into all the world [Gen. 9:1; 11:1-9]. In today's world the Apostle Paul points out that we are all of the same blood [Acts 17:26], i.e. the same genetic family, and Pentecost and the Gospel breaks down all the barriers to language and family. Jesus said that He would draw all men to Himself [Jn. 12:32], and the Apostle Peter finally realized that God accepts men from every ethnic background [Acts 10:34ff.]. The barriers men saw at Babel are said to be broken down [Gal. 3:28], and the picture in heaven is a family called out of "all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues" [Rev. 7:9].

THE DAYS THE EARTH WAS DIVIDED

Biblical Record

First, with regard to the original form of the earth Genesis 1:9 refers to waters being gathered together in one place and the land appearing and calling it Earth - singular. Then, in the description of the Earth before the flood [Gen. 2:10 - 14] there appears to be two super-continents surrounded by water which would agree with the Gondwanaland/Laurasia hypothesis of duToit's. Today most plate tectonic/continental drift geologist start with this configuration [1, p.42].

Secondly, in the tenth chapter of the book of Genesis we read in verse 25: "And unto Eber were born two sons: the name of one was Peleg: for in his days was the Earth divided; and his brothers name was Joktan". Now we will see that both chronologically and exegetically, that this was a physical separation of the Earth, two generations after Babel and four generations after the Genesis Flood.

Exegetically the word for Earth is the Hebrew eretz which is always associated with the physical land. The word translated, or rather transliterated Peleg means to divide by water, a channel or canal. It is not the Hebrew word parad which is translated divided in verses 5 & 32 of Genesis 10 [re.Harris, Archer, Waltke,Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament]. It should be noted that the writer or writers of the books of Samuel & Chronicles considered this as a dividing of the
physical Earth [I Chr. 1:19] even to the point of describing the violence of the God caused Earth movements of the past [II Sam.22:8]. Psalm 104:7-9 Plainly refers to a major land reformation after the flood.

Chronologically I would like to refer to two charts which would indicate that "the days of Peleg" came many years after the incidents at Babel.

Table 3: Noah's Family - Dates of Babel and Nimrod's kingdoms show that by the time Peleg was born the dispersion from Babel had occurred and the kingdoms of Nimrod were already established in other areas.

Figure 1: Peleg's relation to Nimrod and his age [re. the time it took Noah to build the Ark may reflect the time to gather the animals, hence, the time to disperse afterwards to achieve the biogeographical configuration at the time of Peleg]. Peleg is born 101 years after the flood and lived 239 years. This life span of 239 years puts Peleg's life span just slightly greater than the time which Molen has worked out as the speed required to spread the North American continent 3000 miles in his mountain building/continental shift scenario [31].

Regarding the biblical record, we must ask these questions: If God clearly describes the pre-Flood land configuration in Genesis 2:6-14, and today, as in Moses's day, we know it to be different, would God not have said when it changed? Also, why would Eber have named his son Peleg, if he was born some 40 years after the events at Babel, unless Eber was signifying some other event?

Scientific Evidence

In the previous century only a handful of geologists promoted the notion that the continents had moved in some distant time period. Interestingly, it was a creationist, Antonio Snyder who in 1859 proposed horizontal movement of crustal plates catastrophically during the Genesis Flood epoch. The idea of continental drift, seafloor spreading and plate tectonics has developed sequentially in the past 83 years as Alfred Wegner suggested in 1912 that one supercontinent, called Pangea, had broken up during the early Mesozoic era and that separate continents had then drifted to their present positions. He collated much evidence to support his theory. In particular, he noted the similarity of fossil flora and fauna in different continents and the continuity of geological structures and paleoclimatic belts. It was Alexander L. duToit [1878-1948], who further advanced the lines of geological correlation between South America and Africa, and suggested the existence of two supercontinents - Laurasia in the north and Gondwanaland in the south-separated by the Tethys seaway. Arthur Holmes, in 1929, envisaged subcrustal convection currents were dragging the continents apart with consequent mountain building at the margin of the trench. It was still a concept accepted by a small number of people until 1956 when S.K. Runcorn and his colleagues established the polar-wandering paths of North America and Europe to have diverged progressively. Finally, in the 1960's four main lines of experiments gave rise to the remarkable synthesis that today is called plate tectonics. These lines of investigation are: 1. Mapping of topography of the sea floor using echo depth-sounders; 2. Measuring the magnetic field above the sea-floor using magnetometers [MAD detectors]; 3. Timing the north-south reversals of the earth's magnetic field using the magnetic memory of rocks from the continents and their radiometric ages [a set of data that I believe to be controversial at best and nonsense in general]; 4. Determining very accurately the location of earthquakes using the world-wide network of seismometers originally developed to detect nuclear blasts.

Thus, today Plate Tectonics has been defined as "a new and all-embracing concept that has revolutionized the Earth sciences. It posits that the lithosphere, or outermost shell of the Earth, is divided into a number of rigid plates floating on a viscous underlayer in the mantle. The generation of new crust between diverging plates accounts for the young oceans of the world, and the collision and destruction of converging plates explain the formation of the world's mountain belts" [50]. Let it be said that this scenario is entirely consistent with the biblical record.

With regard to the biogeographical problem of the Flood account it is generally agreed that before the coming of humans, Australia's pouched animals, (i.e. marsupials, such as kangaroos,
wallabies, koalas, wombats, etc.), as well as others peculiar to Australia (such as the egg laying mammals [monotremes]: the platypus and the spiny anteater) were all on the continent.

One hundred or so years after the flood, to have had Pangea that was earth, divide into continents just as the geologists say happened, perfectly fits the evidence and explains many things previously questioned by both evolutionists and Bible students.

The division of the earth, ie. the continental shift, must have occurred after the Flood or it makes the Flood account questionable. The loading of the ark best fits a Pangea with the animals migrating to the ark during the 120 years it took Noah to build it. The fauna (animals) that survived in the ark all had to have had access to land bridges if they were there when the humans arrived by boat in later years, eg. Australia et al. Therefore, neither could the continents have divided during the Flood since time after the Flood is needed for the animals to return to their native habitats. This fits the Pangea with the time from the end of the Flood matching the time required to build the ark with the time after the Flood to the day's of Peleg. For example, the three toed sloth of South America, and the Kiwi of New Zealand would fit this scenario and none other in a creation model.

In Antarctica most plants and animal fossils are found in the Gondwana System of sedimentary beds. Fossils, including a marsupial, found in 1982 and rock structures permitting a correlation of Antarctica with the continent of Australia believed to have once been united in the ancestral continent of Gondwanaland [4].

Not only does the biogeographical scenario fit the biblical scenario but the problems with continental drift best fit the catastrophic biblical time scale. First of all the rates of drift and the theories of mechanism are in serious question among the experts. Harrison and Yin of the Institute of Geophysics and Planetary physics at UCLA cite 13 theories for orogenesis for the raising of the mountains of Tibet [51], with the most probable being rapid uplift from continental injection. But the rates required for continental injection to cause this process go well beyond any evolutionary scenario of continental drift. Furthermore, the drift data being obtained today does not show that the continents are still shifting as geologist Dr. Snelling has clearly explained stating, that it is not clear that "drift measurements today actually represent a continuing motion or just minor readjustments [45].

Furthermore, Dr. John Baumgardner, who works at the Los Alamos National Laboratory, has demonstrated from supercomputer modeling of the earth's mantle that the only way any form of plate tectonics/continental shift could have occurred is catastrophically [1]. Both Baumgardener and Dr. Steve Austin have proposed that cracking of the ocean floor along thousands of kilometers of pre-flood continental margin caused the denser ocean floors to sink leading to meters per second thermal runaway subduction. Many geologists state these higher than "drift" rates are needed to cause the power required to form mountains [17,51]. Mats Molen, a geologist from Sweden, has suggested rates compatible with these geological studies and the days of Peleg [31, p.357]

With the Flood/ice epoch scenario of this monograph, we may be able to solve the problems with Dr. Baumgardeners hypothesis if the melting ice that came in with the flood does just enough cooling to crack the continental margins at the time of Peleg. The rapidity with which the ice melts, ocean temperatures rise, and continents move will be the subject of future study, but suffice it to say that we now have a scenario that can answer all the objections to Baumgardeners hypothesis [ie. ocean boiling], the timing of the continental shift [ie. at the time of Peleg], and the rates necessary to cause mountain building [orogenesis].

Coherent Model

Molen has stated that "A post-Flood continental drift beginning a hundred or more years after the flood explains recent biogeography more straight forward than dispersal by the assistance of man" [31]. Molen, in citing the three toed sloth problem with other scenarios, also points up the timing of Gen. 10:25 as being the right time. We have seen how the continents dividing in the days of Peleg solves the biogeographical problems raised by both evolutionists and any other
biblical scenario. We have seen that the Hebrew text argues for a separate event from Babel in several ways. The timing of 100+ years after the Flood fits both the biodiversity scenario, the geologic science and the biblical statement. The days of Peleg are seen as an extended period beginning at his birth and possibly through most of his life which would make the movements of the continents more like an ocean cruise than any life threatening rapid movement. The geological evidence fits this biblical record in many ways better than a millions of year continental drift. We rest our case for a literal and historical reading of the Genesis Record in this area.

CONCLUSION

In a unique study of modern scientific evidence and biblical exegesis with a normative hermeneutic it is believed that we have constructed a coherent model of natural and biblical history. In several areas the model could be considered new to the standard creationist model, and no attempt was made to come up with a lot of naturalistic explanations for the scenario especially when God could have and probably did it supernaturally.

A Flood/Ice Epoch was described that affords a plausible answer to many of the questions raised regarding previous models. Both biblically and scientifically sound the problems of aerodynamic and heat in transformation were solved with an ice canopy. More and more geologists are returning to a catastrophic explanation for the Grand Canyon, the fossil record, and the so called carboniferous layers in the earth.

The latest work done in the fields of genetics and linguistics was seen to verify the event at Babel as described in the Scripture. The miraculous work of God at Babel was seen to be primarily genetic as the genes which affect language were tied to the genes that determine the ethnic variations in mankind.

A new look at the days of Peleg dealt with biblical exegesis and scientific evaluations of the events following the Flood and offered some possible solutions regarding the loading and the unloading of the Ark, continental shift, and orogenesis, with a coherent solution to biogeographical distribution.

In a new and uniquely coherent study of modern science and the biblical record it is hoped that the reader will see a coherent picture of natural history and the Genesis record. In addition, these scenarios should serve to spur the creationists on to some new areas of investigation.

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