

# Reasons to take Genesis as history

## 1. Jesus understood the Old Testament as history

An honest reading of the Bible is to find out what God is saying, not trying to make it say what we find acceptable.

In many places Jesus said, "It is written" to settle an argument, and "have you not read?"

If we cannot trust the Bible in matters of history, how can we trust it in matters of faith?

Luke 16:31 "If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead?"

Jesus to Nicodemus: "I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things?" (John 3:12)

Earthly things...the timeframe of creation and the order of events)

## 2. Jesus regarded Adam, Eve and Noah as historical people

Adam and Eve (Matt 19:3-6; Mark 10:2-9)

Noah and the Flood (Matt 24:37-39); Luke 17:26-27)

Abraham (John 8:56-58)

Sodom and Gomorrah (Matt 10:15; 11:23-24)

Jesus spoke with the full authority of God the Father (John 5:30; 8:28)

## 3. Genesis was written as history

Hebrew scholars concur that Genesis was written as history. Professors of Hebrew or Old Testament at any world-class university believe:

- a) creation took place in a series of six days which were the same as the days of 24 hours we now experience
- b) the figures contained in the Genesis genealogies, when added up, confirm Biblical history
- c) Noah's flood was understood to be world-wide and extinguished all human and animal life except for those on the ark

## 4. The rest of the Old Testament takes Genesis as history

Exodus 20:10-11 summarizes the creation week, (the day of rest and the basis for our 7-day week)

Exodus 20:1 "And God spoke these words..." These are the very words of God Himself and not the ideas of Moses.

1 Chron 1 summarizes the genealogical data from Adam onwards.

### **5. The New Testament takes Genesis 1-11 as history**

Jesus Genealogy (Luke 3) goes back to Adam

Hebrews 11 lists heroes of the faith

2 Peter 3 refers to creation and the Flood

### **6. Genesis history is consistent with God's nature**

Psalm 33:9 "He spoke and it was done; He commanded and it stood fast."

Genesis 1 God said "Let there be..."...And it was so."

When God commands something, it happens.

### **7. Genesis as history explains the origin of death and suffering**

After God had finished creating everything, He pronounced it 'very good'. But it is not very good today. Death and suffering are now prevalent in God's creation.

The Bible clearly teaches that human death came because of the Fall (Rom 5:12-19) and 1 Cor 15:21-22).

If we believe that the earth is millions of years old, we cannot believe in the Fall. According to the fossil record, human life came along millions of years after the first living thing; that is, millions of years of death and suffering. The fossil record supposedly represents 600 million years during which creatures were dying and preserved as fossils. There are fossil bones with cancerous tumours preserved in them; it is a record of suffering and death. And then man appears, effectively standing on a pile of bones kilometers deep. But what did God say? AFTER creating man he said that his creation was 'very good', (Gen1:31). How can millions of years of death and suffering be 'very good'? What is the real explanation of the fossils? They came about as a result of the Great Flood, when animals were buried quickly in the swirling mud.

God's perfect world before the Fall was indeed very good. Genesis 1 indicates that the animals and people were originally vegetarian, meaning that there was no killing, (Gen 1:29-30). We cannot imagine such a world, but it is the same as the new world of the future described in Isaiah 11:6-9 and Isaiah 65:25. The world as we know it will pass away and the original creation will be restored. There will be no pain or death and animals will live in harmony with one another.

We live in a corrupt creation because of man's sin; God did not create it that way. Note that 'progressive creation' scenarios, while denying evolution, still have hundreds of millions of years of suffering and death as part of God's drawn-out process of arriving at today's world.

### **8. The Gospel is based on the historical events of Genesis**

Jesus' death and resurrection are part of real history and connected to the real history of Genesis.

A real man, Jesus, came to earth to undo the work of the first man, Adam, (Romans 5:12-17; 1 Cor. 15:20-22 and 1 Cor. 15:45-49). As one man brought death to all who descended from him, one perfect man brings life to all who accept Him.

The historical Adam was a direct ancestor of Jesus. Adam and Jesus were related by blood. The book of Hebrews explains how Jesus took upon Himself the nature of man to save mankind, (Heb 2:11-18).

### **9. Understanding Genesis as history is a foundation for an understanding of the whole Bible**

The Bible tells us of a future where this universe will come to an end because God will purify it with fire. Then there will be a new heaven and earth, (2 Peter 3:10-13 and Revelation 21:1). If God created the universe basically as we see it today, then why would He want to purify it with fire? It does not make sense.

However it does make sense if Genesis 3 is real history. We see this again in Romans 8.)

When we deny the Great Flood as being an actual historical account we cannot then understand the Bible's reference to future events. Jesus referred to this in Luke 17:26-27. If the account of God's judgment in the Flood is not to be believed, why should we believe the Bible about the judgment to come?"

Belief in evolution cancels out belief in a global flood, because it attributes fossils buried in rock layers to have developed over millions of years rather than the product of one catastrophic event: the Great Flood, when animals were buried quickly in a short space of time.

### **10. Denying the history of Genesis disconnects Christianity from the 'real world'.**

The Bible is a book of history. Do we believe that Jesus actually died and rose again? A Christian would say 'yes' to this aspect of history. Then why not believe Genesis as history?

Is the Bible true or is it a book of made-up stories that teach us about life?

Many people believe that the theory of evolution is 'science'. That is, the belief that the universe made itself when nothing exploded in the big bang and that every form of life made itself by purely natural processes from elements created in the big bang. They believe that God is not involved or necessary. This is taught as 'fact' in most schools.

In a survey, children were asked whom they believed: their Sunday school teacher or their school teacher. Eighty percent chose to believe their school teacher above their Sunday school teacher. Why? They said that the school teacher taught them facts, whereas the Sunday school teacher taught stories. Children think this way because they have been taught the Bible in the wrong way: as a collection of nice stories, and not actually describing things that really happened in space and time.

But the Christian faith is based upon the faithful testimony of those who have seen and heard things that really happened. This includes Creation, the Fall, the Great Flood, Exodus, the virgin birth and the resurrection of Jesus.)

**Reference:**

15 Reasons to take Genesis as history, 2006, Don Batten and Jonathan Sarfati, Australia

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