

**SCIENTIFIC  
EVIDENCES  
FOR THE  
INSPIRATION  
OF THE  
BIBLE**

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8/05

# EVIDENCES FOR THE INSPIRATION OF THE BIBLE

## INTRODUCTION

Many people think that there are irreconcilable differences between science and the Bible and that you cannot have confidence in both. Although many scientists do not believe in God, there are also those who are believers in God. In fact, most of the great scientists of the 18th and 19th centuries were believers. After Darwin developed his Theory of Organic Evolution the majority of scientists in the 20<sup>th</sup> century became atheists. They taught that there is no God, that the universe has always existed and that we are all the product of blind chance and that the creation story in the Bible is a myth and couldn't have happened.

However, in the past few years many prominent scientists have been forced to accept the concept of a supreme being because of recent scientific discoveries. The more we learn about the universe the more it agrees with the Bible. The wonderful thing is that there is no proven scientific fact that contradicts the Bible. In fact, the biblical order of creation is the same order in which science says things occurred. These facts were only confirmed in the last two centuries. How could Moses have written this account if it were not for God directing his writing? In this lesson we are going to examine some of the scientific evidence for the existence of God. In so doing we can also prove the inspiration of the Bible.

Many scientists think that evangelical Christians park their brains at the door when they enter a church. If we are going to hope to teach the Bible to people with a science background we must understand where they are coming from and help them fit their scientific knowledge into the framework of the Bible, so long as it does not violate scripture. There have been several times that religious leaders have been in error in their understanding of what the Bible says about the creation. We will examine some of these errors also in this lesson. We too must be careful and not read into the Bible things we have been taught but which may be a misunderstanding of what the Bible really says.

There is such a thing as bad and unproven science so we must be able to ferret these out. Classic evolution is a good example. It has never been proven. It is a theory, which is still taught and believed by many. However, many scientists have shown that it is impossible for evolution to produce the world that we know in the time frame of the current understanding of the age of the earth. Just because some scientist says something doesn't make it true no matter how widely it is believed by the public.

Before we get into the lesson we need to examine some things about the nature of God. We need to take seriously what God says to us about his creation. Consider the following:

1. God is truthful and does not deceive us. Psalm 119:160 - God's word is truth. Heb. 6:18; Titus 1:2 - God cannot lie.
2. The Bible teaches that His attributes, eternal power, and divine nature are clearly seen in his creation. Rom. 1:20 - God's creation reveals these things so that man is "without excuse" when rejecting God.
3. The Bible teaches that the heavens and skies declare and tell us about God. Ps. 19:1-4 - His work is revealed in his creation.

CONCLUSION: Since God is not deceitful and his creation speaks truth to us, we must find ways to reconcile what his creation tells us with his written word. Why would God try to deceive us? It serves no logical purpose, especially when there are logical explanations which do not violate the meaning of the words in the original Hebrew language.

**Therefore, if we find an apparent conflict between what we think the Bible says and science, it may be misunderstanding the science or misunderstanding the Bible. We must check and be sure we are properly understanding what the Bible says.** Keep this thought in mind as we explore the scientific information in this lesson

If you are already a believer, it is hoped that this lesson will help you to have a deeper faith. If you are not a believer, it is hoped that this information will help you to realize that true science and the Bible are not in conflict, as some would have you to believe, and that this will help you to come to a belief in the God of the Bible.

## **INSPIRATION OF THE BIBLE**

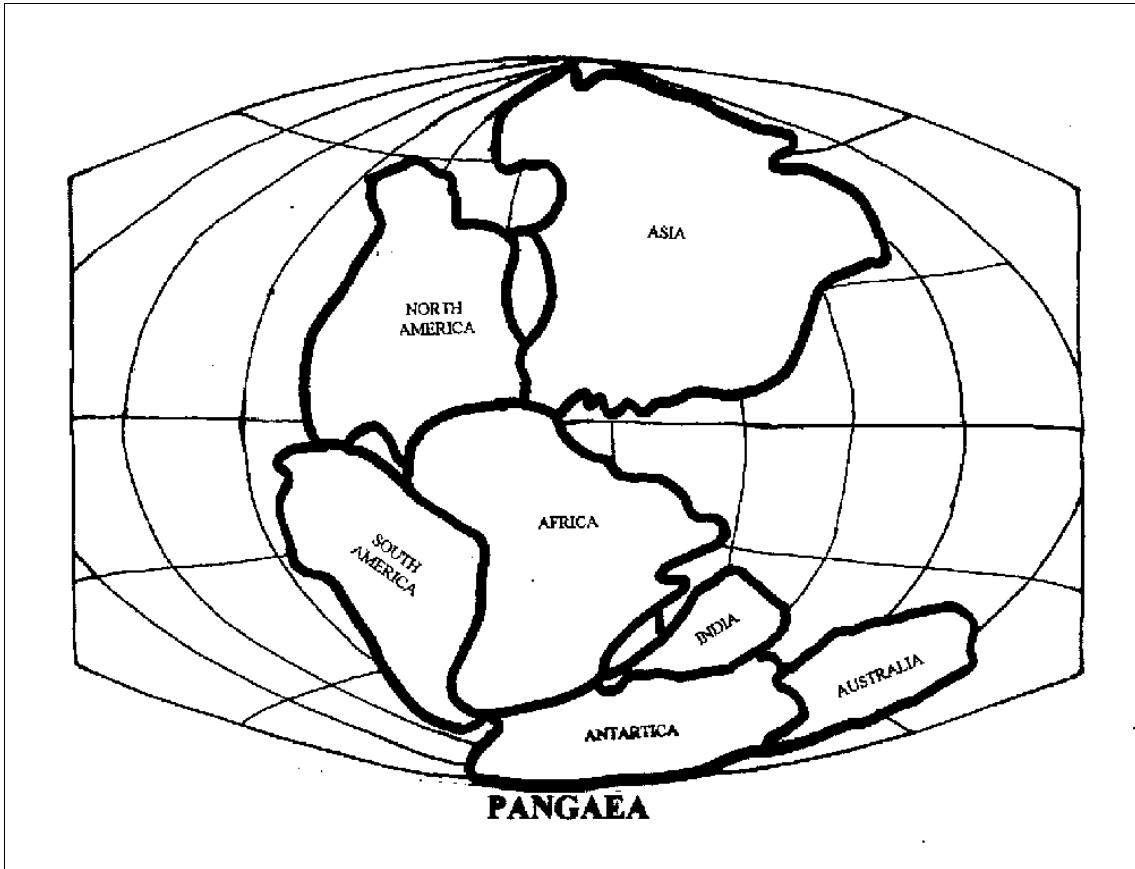
To prove inspiration we must show that the Bible contains information which was not available to those whose wrote the Bible. It must also contain information which is verifiable.

### **A. Pangaea**

The Bible says, in Genesis 1:9, that God said "let all the water be gathered to one place". The corollary to this is that all land will be in one place (one land mass).

Geologists are now in pretty much agreement that at one time the present continents were one large land mass. Over many many years, according to the theory of plate tectonics, the current continents have slowly drifted apart. Geologists have confirmed by measurements from satellites that the Americas are moving away from Europe and Africa at the rate of a few inches a year. The geologists have named that large single continent

"Pangaea". It is interesting to note that the geological characteristics of the abutting regions match, e.g., when rich aluminum ores were found in eastern Brazil, geologists theorized that similar ores should be located on the western area of Africa. Exploration revealed this to be true. An observation of the shape of eastern South America and western Africa reveals that they could be fitted together like pieces of a gigantic jigsaw puzzle. See the sketch of what geologists think Pangaea looked like.



## B. THE END OF THE EARTH

In 2 Peter 3:10,11 the Bible describes the end of the earth. It says that the earth will be burned up.

This was recently given scientific credibility in a feature article in **TIME** magazine (June 25, 2001). In that issue they described the earth as being burned up by our sun as it goes through its dying throes by exploding as a super nova causing it to expand and engulf the earth (Frederic Golden, Page 55)

### **C. ROUNDNESS OF THE EARTH**

The roundness of the earth was mentioned or alluded to in several Bible passages centuries before the scientific world accepted the fact that the earth is round.

Isaiah 40:22 – “He (God) sits enthroned above the circle of the earth”

Luke 17:30-36.- Christ’s discussion of his second coming includes both a daytime scene and a night scene. This could only be true if the earth were a sphere.

### **D. THE ORDER OF CREATION**

Although there may be considerable disagreement between some Christians and the current scientific geological time table, the order in which the universe was formed and the order in which plants and animals appear in scientific evidence is exactly the order that the Bible presents. See the below list of these items compiled by the astronomer Dr. Hugh Ross in *The Fingerprint of God*, Second Edition, 1991, p168.

#### The Order of Genesis 1 Creation events

1. Creation of the physical universe (space, time, matter, energy, galaxies, stars, planets, etc.).
2. Transformation of the earth's atmosphere from opaque to translucent.
3. Formation of a stable water cycle.
4. Establishment of continent(s) and ocean(s).
5. Production of plants on the continent(s)
6. Transformation of the atmosphere from translucent to transparent (sun, moon, and stars became visible for the first time)
7. Production of small sea animals.
8. Creation of sea mammals.
9. Creation of birds.
10. Creation of land mammals (wild mammals, mammals that can be domesticated, and rodents)
11. Creation of mankind

## E. RELIGIOUS SCIENTIFIC ERROR

There have been times in the past that religion has been in conflict with science when science was right as noted below:

1. Augustine (fourth century): Objected to roundness of the earth. He used Ps. 104:2 which speaks of the heavens as a curtain (Latin Vulgate) as his proof. He viewed this to be like a flat sheet stretched above the earth. The Hebrew text describes a tent like curtain which would surround the earth. His thinking influenced the Roman Catholic Church theology for centuries.
2. Some felt that mention of the four corners of the earth in Rev. 7:1; 20:8, Ez. 7:2 meant that the earth was flat and square. This would require that the sun and stars circle the earth. This is verified (in their opinion) by the scriptures which state that the sun rises (Ps. 50:1).

Copernicus (1473-1543) developed a model for our solar system based on planets revolving around the sun. His work was not published until the year he died. Galileo (1564-1642) and his friend Kepler (1571-1630) confirmed his work with observations using the newly developed telescope. The writings of Galileo were condemned as heresy by the Roman Catholic Church in 1616. Bishops refused to look into his telescope, afraid of what they might see. He was finally pardoned in 1984 by Pope John Paul.

3. The use of the word “firmament” in Gen. 1:7 in older translations is the result of the translators of the Septuagint (Greek Version of the Old Testament, translated about 277 BC) who mistranslated the Hebrew word for “expanse” as firmament, meaning something firm (like a canopy) over the earth which would hold up the sun and stars. They did this because their understanding was that the earth was flat and that the sun passed over the earth on a “firm” track of some sort. The Greek Septuagint version was the basis of most earlier Old Testament translations and was the one used by the New Testament writers who wrote in Greek. Jerome used it as the basis for the translation of the Latin Vulgate which influenced all translations until modern times.

**We must be on guard and not fall into the same trap as these men just because we have been taught something all our lives.**

## F. THE AGE OF THE EARTH

One of the major conflicts for many is the age of the earth. Some feel that it is only a few thousand years old. Although scientific evidence indicates a much older age for the universe, there is no denying that God is powerful enough to have created the universe just a few seconds ago or a few years or a few thousand years ago with the appearance of being much older. If a person wants to believe this, that is alright. It could have happened that way. Knowing the method and timing of creation is not essential to our salvation.

**However, no good purpose is served by God deceiving us and furthermore, the Hebrew text does not demand such an understanding.** As will be seen below, the Hebrew word used for "day" like the English word "day" is abstract, depending on the context for its meaning. If there is a way to understand the original Hebrew language that will fit the scientific data, we should not criticize those who use such an understanding.

1. "yom" - Hebrew: "The Hebrew word "yom" ... is used in biblical Hebrew (as in modern English) to indicate any of four definite time periods: (a) some portion of the daylight (hours), (b) sunrise to sunset, (c) sunset to sunset, or (d) a segment of time without any reference to solar days (from weeks to a year to several years to an age or epoch)." *A Matter of Days*, Hugh Ross , PhD, Navpress, 2004, p 73.

Some specific Bible examples are:

- a. Gen. 1:18 Daylight
- b. Gen. 2:17 Day
- c. Gen. 2:4 Creation Week (all the creation days)
- d. Prov. 25:13 Translated "time" (harvest time)

2. "Evening and morning" ('ereb and boqer – Hebrew): As Dr. Otto J. Helweg (an expert on Semitic languages and Professor, Memphis State University, Memphis, Tennessee) has expressed, this is a nonliteral idiomatic expression (translated evening and morning) which like "yom" can express a long and indefinite time. Also, consider the following comments by Hugh Ross: "In other words "evening" and "morning" refer to the beginning and ending of a day, whatever the definition of "day" applies. For example, "in my grandfather's day" refers to the time surrounding his lifetime. The morning and evening of his lifetime would be my grandfather's youth and old age". *A Matter of Days*, Hugh Ross, PhD. Navpress, 2004, p 74

In Daniel 8:26 “evening and morning” is used to refer to a long period of time, many years covering four kingdoms (although some translations translate it in the plural as “evenings and mornings”, it is singular in the Hebrew just as in the first chapter of Genesis).

**In summary of items 1. and 2. above, the Hebrew text does not demand a 24 hour interpretation.**

3. The uniqueness of the seventh day (God's rest): It is interesting to note that Genesis does not use the phrase “evening and morning” in association with the seventh day. Because the structure of the sentence is different, it suggests that the seventh day is different. In fact when you read Psalm 95:7-11 and Hebrews chapters 3 and 4 you could conclude that the “seventh day” is continuing and will continue into eternity. Note:

- a. Heb. 4:4, A quote from Gen. 2:2. God's rest is established.
- b. Heb. 3:7-11; 4:5, (Ps 95:7-11) Unfaithful Jews will not enter God's rest.
- c. Heb. 4:6, Some will yet enter the rest.
- d. Heb. 4:11, The readers of the Hebrew letter were encouraged to enter that rest.

### **COMMENTS BY EARLY SCHOLARS**

Comments by early scholars indicate that there was never a universal understanding as to what comprised the days of creation. The following comments are taken from chapter 4 of *A Matter of Days*, Hugh Ross, Navpress. 2004:

1. Philo (Jewish scholar) (20 BC-AD 45): God created everything instantaneously and the six days were figurative, a metaphor for order and completeness.
2. Justin Martyr (AD 100-166) and Irenaeus (AD 130-200): Both used Ps. 90:4 and II Peter 3:8 to support their view that the creation days were 1000 years long.
3. Hippolytus (AD 170-236): Took the same position as Irenaeus:
4. Clement of Alexander (AD 150-220): Believed that the creation days were not literal 24 hour days. He felt that they expressed the order and priority of created things, not the time.

5. Origen (AD 185-254): Taught that difficulties existed with some scriptures if we use a literal interpretation and in such cases we should look for a spiritual meaning. He included the six creation days in this.
6. Augustine (AD 354-430): "It is difficult or impossible to explain what they mean. But at least we know that it is different from the ordinary day with which we are familiar."
7. Eusebius (AD 260-340): Recognized that the Hebrew word for day "yom" could refer to a time period longer than 24 hours.
8. Basil (AD 330-379): States that "one day" is used to establish the relationship between time and eternity and further states, concerning the days of creation, that "we are shown not so much limits, end, succession of ages, as distinctions between states and modes of action".
9. Ambrose (AD 340-397): Although he is quoted as supporting 144 hours for the first six days, he acknowledges that "yom" is used for the entire creation week in Gen.2:4. In the next sentence he notes that "yom" can mean an era or epoch.

There appear to be several interpretations but no sharp disagreements between these early scholars.

### **COMMENTS BY DAVID LIPSCOMB**

1899 - David Lipscomb, well know and respected pioneer preacher and educator in the churches of Christ in America stated "For a great while men understood the first chapter of Genesis said that the world was created in the six days enumerated in this chapter. The truths of geology led to the study of this matter, and -Lo!- the Bible does not say this. It says: 'In the beginning (an indefinite period antedating the six day's work) God created the heaven and the earth'." - David Lipscomb, *Gospel Advocate*, January 5, 1899, page 8.

"I believe life had existed on the earth previous to the six days' work of Genesis 1. The Bible nowhere contradicts this. Man and the higher order of animals and plants did not exist before this. Whether by some disturbance of the earth or by cold or heat, all life, all order had been destroyed, so 'the earth was without form, and void,'\* and a higher order was introduced and a new arrangement of the forces of nature was correlated, we cannot tell. The only point that troubles me is: there exists at this time some lower order of animals that seem to have existed from 'the beginning'. Did some survive the change when the six days' work was

done? Or did God, in the new replenishing of the earth, recreate some of the lower order that had existed before. Could we adopt the idea that the six days were long periods of time, we could reconcile it all ... I studied these questions in my younger days, willing to receive truth on any subject from any source ... My study of these things has caused me to revise my concepts of the teaching of the Bible".- David Lipscomb, *Gospel Advocate*, February 2, 1899, page 72.

\* The phrase "the earth was" can be alternately translated from the Hebrew text as "the earth became" as is footnoted in some translations. Also, the phrase "formless and void" can alternately be translated "a waste and emptiness" as is footnoted in some translations. This would not be a misuse of the Hebrew words.

**CONCLUSION ON THE AGE OF THE EARTH: The Bible does not require an interpretation of a 24 hour day in creation. The following lesson material draws on scientific information to prove the creation and the existence of God.**

## **G. THE BEGINING**

For many years the majority of scientists were atheists and took that position that the universe had always been here. The ideal of a beginning was foreign to their thinking. However, the discovery of the expanding of the universe in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century required a rethinking of their theories.

1. The Big Bang: Because of the many scientific discoveries made in the 20<sup>th</sup> century the scientific world now, in general, accepts the Big Bang Theory, which in essence says that there had to be a beginning. What is the Big Bang?

During the 20<sup>th</sup> century astronomers discovered that the universe is expanding at a rapid rate. By projecting backwards in time it appears that all of space and matter was at one time in a position that it occupied a point with zero dimensions. The distance between any two points was zero, the density of matter was infinite, and the volume of the entire universe was zero. According to this theory, in this infinitely small (zero size) point (called a singularity), suddenly all matter came into existence and started expanding. There was no "before" as there was "zero" space before this moment. All matter came into being at this moment and began expanding at a rapid rate like a big explosion, hence it is called the "Big Bang". At this point time began and the universe came into existence from nothing. For the first second or so all matter in the universe was very dense, hot and unstable. After that second, and during the next 15 minutes nuclear reactions took place to

give us most of the atoms that exist today. The further cooling and expansion of the universe stopped the nuclear reactions until the galaxies formed wherein stars have nuclear reactions but to a much lesser degree than in the beginning. For example our sun is a nuclear furnace. It converts hydrogen atoms into helium atoms in a nuclear fusion process, which produces both heat and light. We are so far away from the sun that what little nuclear radiation that reaches the earth is absorbed by our atmosphere and only the light (both visible and ultraviolet) gets through to provide us with both heat and light.

The Big Bang Theory is very complex but in every case where scientific investigations could be made the theory had proven to be true. We will discuss some of these in the following sections.

2. General Relativity: When Albert Einstein developed his Theory of General Relativity in 1916-17 he did not realize its implications. He did not realize that his equations implied an expanding universe which meant there must be a beginning. When he realized this he added, as he said, an "artificial correction" factor using a "yet to be discovered principle of physics" to prevent the equations from showing an expansion since the thought of a beginning was "repugnant" to him and there was, at that time, no evidence of an expansion. Many experiments have subsequently confirmed his original equations and shown that the universe is expanding as noted below.

CONCLUSION: If Einstein's work is correct there was a beginning.

3. Observational Astronomy: In 1929 the astronomer Hubble developed the "Red Shift" method of measuring the speed of galaxies and after measuring 40 galaxies determined that they were all moving away from each other. In other words the universe was expanding. Einstein grudgingly acknowledged "the necessity for a beginning" and the "presence of a superior reasoning power". Consequently Einstein had to remove the artificial factor he had inserted into his equations. Based on the current rate of expansion the universe's age (as measured with Hubble's "red shift" principle) is estimated to be 10-20 billion years.

CONCLUSION: If everything is expanding outward there must have been a time when it was all together (a beginning).

4. Classical Thermodynamics: Sir Arthur Eddington (the astronomer and mathematician who provided the first concrete proof of Einstein's theories) along with other theoretical scientists have pointed out that the second law of thermodynamics has all along demanded the disintegration of the universe. For the universe as a whole, disorder must continually increase and energy must flow irreversibly from hot to cold. In other words the universe is running down like a gigantic wound up clock. Hugh Ross, *The Fingerprint of God*, Second Edition, 1991 p57.

CONCLUSION: If the universe has always been in existence, it would have run down. Since it is still running it could not have been here always and there must have been a beginning.

5. The fuel for the universe is hydrogen (fusion reactors using hydrogen to produce helium and giving off light and heat as our sun).

Conclusion: If the universe had been here forever the hydrogen would have all burned up by now and the universe would be dark and cold. So there had to be a beginning.

## **H. INTELEAGENT DESIGN: Theological conclusions by scientists**

Since 1985 the evidences for a divinely caused and designed universe have been accumulating dramatically. Consequently, a growing number of astronomers and physicists have been making theological inferences. For example, American astronomer George Greenstein, in *The Symbolic Universe* (1988), concluded:

“As we survey all the evidence, the thought insistently arises that some supernatural agency - or, rather, Agency - must be involved. Is it possible that suddenly, without intending to, we have stumbled upon scientific proof of the existence of a Supreme Being! Was it God who stepped in and so providentially crafted the cosmos for our benefit!”

British physicist Paul Davies in his 1983 book, *God and the New Physics* denied the possibility of God as Creator and promoted an atheistic interpretation of the universe. But, just one year later, his thinking had begun to change. In his 1984 book, *Superforce*, he wrote:

“The laws [of physics] ... seem themselves to be the product of exceedingly ingenious design... The universe must have a purpose.”

In his 1988 book, *The Cosmic Blueprint*, Davies expressed further change:

“[I see] powerful evidence that there is something going on behind it all. The impression of design is overwhelming”

Agnostic Robert Jastrow , in *God and the Astronomers* (New York: W.W. Norton, 1978) page 116, described the path traveled by his fellow astronomers as:

“scaling the mountains of ignorance,... conquering the highest peak,... pulling [themselves] over the final rock ... [to be] greeted by a band of theologians who have been sitting there for centuries.

The astronomer Dr. Hugh Ross summarized the current views by astrophysicists as follows:

"The confidence expressed by non-Christian astrophysicists in God as the explanation for the cosmos shot up dramatically in 1992. On April 24,1992 headlines around the globe announced observations of tiny ripples in the radiation left over from the big bang. George Smoot, project leader for the COBE experiment (Cosmic Background Explorer, the satellite that recorded these observations), declared, '**What we found is evidence for the birth of the universe.**' He added, 'Its like looking at God.' Stephen Hawking exclaimed, ' It is the discovery of the century, if not of all time.' " *Creation and Time*, pp127,129.

The science historian Frederic B. Burnham noted that the community of scientists now considers the idea that God created the universe

"a more respectable hypothesis than at any time in the last hundred years". David Briggs, "Science, Religion, Are Discovering Commonality In Big Bang Theory", *Los Angeles Times*, May 2,1992, ppB6,7.

## I. DNA

The discovery of DNA has provided a significant increase in the knowledge of the complexity of the design of God's creation. DNA has been used to verify the unique origin of mankind as follows:

1. Recent DNA studies of Neanderthal remains affirm that they were sufficiently different from modern humans that they should be considered a separate species with no genetic link. The long term stability of DNA and Y chromosomes has permitted an analysis which rules out the possibility of modern humans being descended from Neanderthals. Hugh Ross, "The Mother of Mankind", *Facts And Faith*, Vol. 2, no.1, 1988 pp1,2. Hugh Ross "Chromosomes Study Stuns Evolutionists", *Facts and Faith*, Vol. 9 no. 3, 1995 p3.
2. Two independent research studies of Y chromosomes among ethnically different men indicate that all descended from one man. One study projects this to be between 51,000 and 411,000 years ago. The second study with a larger data base projects it to be between 37,000 and 49,000 years ago. Michael F. Hammer, "A Recent Common Ancestry For Human Y Chromosomes", *Nature*, 378(1995) pp 376, 378. L. Simon Whitfield, John E. Sulston and Peter N. Goodfellow, "Sequence Variation of the Human Chromosome", *Nature*, 378(1995) pp 379,380.
3. In a similar study in the early 1980's into genetic variations in women, scientists concluded that all women descended from a common ancestor that they chose to call "Eve" some 200,000 years ago. Hugh Ross, "The Mother Of Mankind", *Facts and Faith*, Vol. 2, no.1, 1988 pp1,2. (Note: A more recent study underway in 1998 indicates that this date may be more like 50,000 years which would agree better with the date previously published about men - we must await more information on this)

The difference between the dates for the two studies in items 2 and 3 indicate uncertainty in the dating methods and will undoubtedly be further revised. **The most significant fact is that the data confirms an original pair of humans as the Bible teaches.**

#### 4. **Leading Atheist converted by DNA**

Antony Flew, British philosophy professor (teaching at Oxford, Aberdeen, Keele and Reading universities) who has been a leading

champion of atheism for more than a half century has changed his mind. He now believes in a diety based on scientific evidence. He concluded that a super-intelligence is the only good explanation for the origin of life and the complexity of nature. In particular concerning the investigation of DNA he stated that DNA “has shown, by the almost unbelievable complexity of the arrangements which are needed to produce (life), that intelligence must have been involved”. Flew has recently released a video “Has Science Discovered God”. NEW YORK ,Associated Press (AP) as run in the Murfreesboro, TN, Daily News Journal Friday, Dec. 10, 2004 p.B4

## J. SUMMARY

During the last few decades astronomers have made discoveries that have significant theological significance. Recent developments have enabled astronomers to measure many of the characteristics of the universe and our solar system. In measuring these things they have discovered some of the characteristics of God. These discoveries point to an awesome God. Following are three of the most significant facts upon which almost all astronomers agree (condensed from *Creation and Time*, Hugh Ross, 1994 p126):

1. Fact: The earth has a finite age (16 Billion  $\pm$  years).

Significance: This rules out the classical evolution theories as they require almost an infinite time to produce the results professed by evolutionists.

2. Fact: The universe can be traced back to a single origin of matter, time, and space (a beginning).

Significance: All of this had to be created out of nothing. There had to be a cause (creator) behind this.

3. Fact: There are more than 60 distinct characteristics of our solar system and the universe that require very fine tuning for the universe to function and for life to exist.

Significance: All of this detailed design shows a super-intelligent, super-powerful designer behind it all.