



## “BLESSED ARE THEY THAT HAVE NOT SEEN....”

Jim Stauffer

Jesus offers the following when He is finally acknowledged as the resurrected Lord by Thomas. **John 20:29** *Jesus saith unto him, Because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.* This is a recognition that those of us today will have to believe based on evidence and not by touching His hands and side.

This is just as true in the topic of evolution vs. creation that will be discussed in the article on pages 2 and 3 by Kyle Pope.

Now if we are to truly “walk by faith and not by sight” we shall consider all the evidence available in light of what the Bible says and make our decision accordingly.

I realize many have reservations concerning the six days of creation spoken of in Genesis 1. As is the case with all Scripture, one must first determine what has been spoken as revealed by the Holy Spirit. Once we determine what has been said, we must then view it in light of all factual information available. There is a certain analytical process in this matter just like in others.

The difficulty presented in understanding matters of great emotional consternation is separating ourselves from said emotion and remaining rational in our discussion.

Any time we have a preconceived idea of what is the truth on a given subject, it becomes more difficult to be objective. This is clearly the case in this discussion.

A major mistake in any discussion where the Bible is involved is for us to begin with a position based on the knowledge of man. Do we really believe God is omniscient? If so, then we begin with the idea that God’s word will prevail over man’s in our thinking.

Now let us look at what God has said on the subject of creation. Bear in mind, this will not be an extensive argument but rather an effort to

establish some basis for our study in the future by setting forth first and foremost what God says.

“*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*” From this point forward, God specifies the actions of six specific days. The things created on those days is specific. The parameters of what represented a day are specific. “*And there was evening and there was morning, one day.*” **Gen. 1:5.** This statement is consistent from day one through day six. Then it is recorded that God “*rested on the seventh day from all His work which he had made.*” **Gen. 2:2.** Then God chose to bless the seventh day. **Gen. 2:3** *And God blessed the seventh day, and hallowed it; because that in it he rested from all his work which God had created and made.*

While there is nothing in this Genesis account to describe these days as 24 hour days, what is there to indicate it is anything other? Our understanding of a day is 24 hours, that is an evening and a morning. The understanding of a day by those who lived during Old Testament and New Testament times was the same. God even makes reference to that understanding when He gives the Law to Moses. Notice the language when he speaks of the Law of the Sabbath. **Ex. 20:8** *Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. 9 Six days shalt thou labor, and do all thy work; 10 but the seventh day is a sabbath unto Jehovah thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy man-servant, nor thy maid-servant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: 11 for in six days Jehovah made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore Jehovah blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.*

God’s people recognized the Sabbath based on their recognition of the creation. Should we not recognize the creation in the same way?

# What I Wish I Could Have Heard in the Nye-Ham Debate

Kyle Pope

On February 4, 2014 a debate was held in Petersburg, Kentucky between scientist and entertainer Bill Nye (often known as “the Science Guy”) and Ken Ham, creationist and founder of the Creation Museum, where the discussion was held. The topic was: “Is creation a viable model of origins in today’s modern scientific era?” The debate was sparked by claims Nye made in 2012 that teaching creationism damages America’s competitiveness when it comes to scientific and technological advancement. Much of the debate addressed this issue rather than the question under consideration. The debate was viewed live by millions of people across the world and watched online in the days after the debate by millions more. On the whole, the debate was informative and well-presented. Both men maintained cordiality and a respectful tone with each other in spite of their serious disagreements over their topic. While I enjoyed watching this historic event, I found myself throughout the experience wishing that both men had dealt with some issues that neither chose to address. I am not a scientist, but from the little I have studied on this subject I offer a few points I wish I could have heard discussed in this important debate.

**Good Science.** Much of the debate was more about whether a “good scientist” can be a creationist or not. Mr. Ham repeatedly noted accomplished scientists in the fields of medicine and space technology who accept creationist models for the age of the universe and human origins. Mr. Nye contends that for America to stay competitive schools must reject creationist models. This is an interesting assertion. “The Scientific Method” demands the acceptance of only principles that are observable and repeatable. If evolutionary theories that claim life came from the chance accident of matter becoming life are indeed “scientific” then we must be able to observe and repeat these events in the laboratory. This has not happened! By definition, therefore, it is clear that such assumptions are matters of faith not science.

**How Can Chance “Design” Something?** As Mr. Nye attempted to explain his concept of evolutionary mechanisms which he believes account for the present complexity of life, he made a common blunder that evolutionists are often unable to avoid. Mr. Nye could not even describe his concept of evolution without using language that reflects a Creator. He spoke of evolution rejecting “bad designs.” A “design” infers a designer. I wish Mr. Ham would have pointed this out to him.

**The Bible is a Book Translated into “American English.”** Throughout the debate Mr. Nye continued

to assert that the Bible cannot be trusted because it is now translated into “American English” (as he put it) “300 centuries” after its composition. This presumes that the Hebrew text somehow claims something different than translations that have been done in “American English.” It also gives the impression that the original wording may have been lost over the centuries. While it is true that we do not possess the original manuscript of the Genesis account written by the hand of Moses, with the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls we now possess manuscripts of the Hebrew text of Genesis that date to as early as 100 BC.<sup>1</sup> The Hebrew text of these manuscripts make the same claims about the creation account rendered in all sound formal equivalence translations done in modern English.

**“Where Is Man on the Chart?”** A powerful moment came at one point in the debate when I believe Mr. Ham missed a great opportunity. Mr. Nye showed a chart displaying numerous skulls from around the world displaying great variability. Some looked more ape-like, while others looked more human. Mr. Nye then asked “where is man on the chart?” Even when Nye pressed him again, Mr. Ham did not address the chart. I wish Mr. Ham had addressed the great uncertainty that exists in classification of fossilized skull remains. A. W. Mehlert, in a study entitled “Homo Erectus ‘to’ Modern Man: Evolution or Human Variability?” makes a compelling case that skeletal remains proposed by evolutionists to represent imagined transitions from ape to man likely represent natural variability that exists within human beings.<sup>2</sup> Even modern observation demonstrates tremendous variability among human populations with respect to the size, formation, and body appearance of individuals who all are still human beings.

**The Age of the Universe.** Mr. Ham showed a chart offering numerous methods of dating the earth. He claimed that 90% of these methods “contradict” the theories that place the age of the universe at billions of years. I wish Mr. Ham would have explained some of these methods. Physicist, Russell Humphreys PhD., in a study he wrote entitled “Evidence for a Young World,” offered 14 such methods.<sup>3</sup> Most compelling among these are:

1. **Galaxies wind themselves up too fast.** Stars within galaxies spin around the galactic center faster the farther they get away from the center. At current rates after only 100 million years any galaxy would form “a featureless disc of stars instead of its present

**Continued on page 3**

continued from page 2

spiral shape.” Evolutionists call this the “winding-up dilemma” and have yet to offer a satisfactory explanation.

**2. The earth’s magnetic field is decaying too fast.**

The energy stored in the earth’s magnetic field is decaying at a measurable rate. If evolutionary claims that the earth is billions of years old are correct the magnetic field should have decayed long ago.

**3. Too much carbon 14 in deep geologic strata.**

Carbon 14 has a half-life of 5,700 years. As such no carbon 14 should exist in geologic strata imagined to be millions of years old. Even so, carbon 14 does exist in strata evolutionist try to date at millions or billions of years old.

**An Expanding Universe and Redshifts.** Mr. Nye offered the current view among evolutionists of an expanding nature of the universe as evidence for his imagined “big bang theory.” This view relies on an interpretation of shifts in the light spectrum of objects farther from earth toward the red portion of the spectrum as an indication that they are moving away from one another. I would like to have heard Mr. Ham cite alternative interpretations of this phenomenon. Astronomer, Halton Arp, PhD., in two books *Quasars, Redshifts and Controversies* (Interstellar Media, Cambridge University Press, 1987) and *Seeing Red: Redshifts, Cosmology and Academic Science* (Apeiron, Montreal, 1999) offered compelling data challenging the “big bang” interpretation of redshifts and proposing alternative explanations of this phenomenon. In a review of Arp’s books, entitled “A Different View of the Universe,” Bill Warraker and Andrew C. McIntosh suggest that “All of Arp’s findings could be accommodated into a 6,000-year framework, with the stars made on the fourth 24-hour day of Creation week.”<sup>4</sup>

**Continental Drift.** Mr. Ham was asked about the rate of continental drift and how this could harmonize with creation models. Mr. Ham acknowledged that he is not an expert on this, but cited creation models of plate tectonics that suggest rapid shifts separating an ancient single continent. I would like to have heard Mr. Ham explain this further. Geologist, Andrew Snelling PhD., in a study entitled “A Catastrophic Breakup: A Scientific Look at Catastrophic Plate Tectonics,” offers one of the more compelling models addressing this.<sup>[5]</sup> Snelling suggests that the current shift and disbursement of continents could have resulted from a dramatic expulsion of underground water sources such as we still find in some underground aquifers. If this happened on a global scale it could have caused a sudden and dramatic sliding apart of the tectonic plates causing the continents to spread out suddenly rather than at a slow and gradual rate. This could be what the biblical account describes in recording at the commencement of the flood, “the fountains of the great deep were broken up” (Gen. 7:11).

**The Widespread Existence of Fossils.** Mr. Nye

rejects the biblical account of a worldwide flood, but appeals to fossils as an evidence of his view of evolution. I would like to have heard Mr. Ham challenge Nye to explain why fossils exist to begin with. Mr. Nye cited the catastrophic events that created remarkable fossils of rhinoceros and other creatures in Nebraska, but he seemed to assume that every creature that dies leaves behind a fossil under ordinary circumstances. Josh McDowell and Don Stewart in their powerful book *Reasons Skeptics Should Consider Christianity* (San Bernadino, CA: Here’s Life Publishers, 1981) point out, “there are two agencies which tend to prevent fossilization of any animal—biological scavengers and weather” (196). The very presence of widespread fossilization infers a widespread catastrophic event—the flood of Noah. This is not to say that all fossils came from the flood, but all fossils are the result of some type of catastrophic event.

**The Second Law of Thermodynamics and Evolution.** In a question from a member of the audience Mr. Nye was asked why the second law of thermodynamics does not contradict theories of evolution. This fundamental law of nature demands that order goes to disorder unless energy is applied. Mr. Nye explained this law primarily in terms of its relation to energy and matter, and asserted that the second law of thermodynamics does not offer any contradiction to the modern theory of evolution, because he claimed that the earth is not a closed system because it is constantly receiving energy from the sun. I wish Mr. Ham had pointed out that this ignores the application of this law to the information systems necessary for the development of life. Energy provided by the sun does not provide an ordering mechanism for the information required for the development of life. That required a Creator.

**Two Pivotal Questions.** Two of the most significant moments of the debate came when Mr. Nye was asked two questions from those in the audience: 1) Where did the matter come from for the “big bang”? and 2) Where did consciousness come from? Mr. Nye was highly critical of creationists’ appeal to any point of faith in their explanations of origins, and yet he was perfectly content in saying, “we don’t know” to both questions. I wish Mr. Ham had pressed him on this. A naturalistic explanation of origins with no naturalistic explanation for the origin of matter or the origin of consciousness is a system of faith. The entire evolutionary theory of origins rests the basis of its system upon a faith that matter and consciousness can come about by chance. How is this any more “reasonable” than accepting the existence of a Creator who revealed an account of His own creative activity? Neither can be proven by observation, yet both involve faith.

**Let us put God first as the apostles did in their day.**

**Acts 5:27** *And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest asked them, 28 saying, We strictly charged you not to teach in this name: and behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and intend to bring this man’s blood upon us. 29 But Peter and the apostles answered and said, We must obey God rather than men.*

**Eph. 2:19** So then ye are no more strangers and sojourners, but ye are fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the household of God, 20 being built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the chief corner stone; 21 in whom each several building, fitly framed together, groweth into a holy temple in the Lord;

**1Pet. 2:9** But ye are an elect race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that ye may show forth the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

**Psa. 1:1** Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the wicked, Nor standeth in the way of sinners, Nor sitteth in the seat of scoffers: 2 But his delight is in the law of Jehovah; And on his law doth he meditate day and night. 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the streams of water, That bringeth forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also doth not wither; And whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. 4 The wicked are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. 5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. 6 For Jehovah knoweth the way of the righteous; But the way of the wicked shall perish.

### **HOURS OF WORSHIP**

Sunday A.M. 9:30 Bible Study  
Sunday A.M. 10:20 Assembled Worship  
Sunday P.M. 5:00 Assembled Worship  
Wednesday P.M. 7:00 Bible Study and Worship

**Visitors welcome**

**We conduct in home Bible Studies**

**We offer Correspondence Courses**

**Evangelist and Editor Jim Stauffer**

### **OUR ADDRESS IS:**

7845 Cottonwood Dr.  
Lenexa, Kansas 66216  
913-764-9170

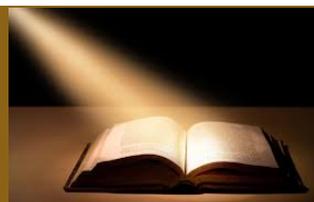
*Check out the following websites*  
[thelenexaedifier.com](http://thelenexaedifier.com)  
[facebook.com/lenexachurchofchrist/](https://facebook.com/lenexachurchofchrist/)  
[lenexachurchofchrist.org](http://lenexachurchofchrist.org)

### **NEWS AND NOTES:**

#### **SICK IN NEED OF PRAYERS:**

JAN PATRICK, MARY CZIRR,  
CANDISS CASON AND ALMA  
BAUMGARTNER. J.R. DANIEL  
CONTINUES HIS RECOVERY AT  
HOME. LILLIE KEECH IS  
SCHEDULED FOR SURGERY  
MONDAY, AT PROVIDENCE  
HOSPITAL.

OUR BIBLE CLASS ON SUNDAY  
AND WEDNESDAY IS IN THE  
BOOK OF HABAKKUK.



### **What Must I Do To Be Saved?**

**Hear** the gospel - Romans 10:17

**Believe** in Jesus Christ - Hebrews 11:6

**Repent** of sins - Acts 17:30

**Confess** Christ as Lord - Romans 10:9,10

**Baptism** for remission of sins - Acts 2:38

**Be Faithful** unto death - Revelation 2:10