

DESIGN SCIENCE ASSOCIATION

newsletter

—Suggested donation of \$5 per year, covers cost of postage & photocopying—

—Morning meeting—
9AM on the
third Saturday,
September 15, 2001

“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.” Ecclesiastes 3:11

Israel: The Watch-Maker’s Watch

AT THE SEPTEMBER DSA MEETING, historian David Corson will speak on an historical period somewhat closer to our day than the Creation or the Flood. He will display evidences for the date of the Exodus and for the chronology of Israel’s history from the days before Moses until King David. These dates have been subjected to much scoffing and scrambling by many secular academics, but the Bible gives clear time measures that allow us to precisely date this history. Once these times are known and documented, the Bible’s consistency is shown to be unparalleled. The fit of Biblical records with archaeological evidences is compelling.

After this DSA presentation, even the attentive child will be equipped to address the confusions of the sceptical scholars. The space devoted in Scripture to Israel’s history makes it an essential area of knowledge. Chronology is the most measurable, hard-science aspect



of such study. Corson plans to provide much more than a time-line, or a demonstrated fit with fixed history. As further evidence of Divine design in Scripture’s record and Israel’s history, he will show how the times of Israel are precisely measured off. They fulfill time prophecies, with jaw-drop-

ping precision. Distinct periods of Israel’s history are also laid out in equal repeated periods, and in intricate measured patterns. These things show design quite beyond the capability of time-bound man. The accurate record of the Bible, and the amazing, complex features of the chronology of Israel, speak of the same Creator who appointed the sun and moon for signs and seasons and days and years, and who judges and redeems.

David Corson is an historian and chronologist who has invested greatly of his personal time for more than twenty years in this subject. He has produced a book, articles, and numerous illustrated charts, detailing these issues. He holds a BA in history from UCLA, and currently works as an academic tutor, providing true teaching, and genuine education, based on a God-centered reality.

This month’s DSA meeting will be held on Saturday September 15, 2001, from 9 to 11:30AM. **Be sure to join us for this intriguing meeting!**



An Association for Good Science

Meets monthly at Gateway Baptist Church, 13300 NE San Rafael St., Portland

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Notes and Views from Summer Field Trip to the Channeled Scablands



Photos © 2001 Rick Thompson

Panoramic view of Dry Falls and Lower Grand Coulee. Dry Falls is 350 feet high and 15 miles wide (five times the width of Niagara Falls.) At the time of the Bretz Flood it had 200 feet of water flowing over it forming huge plunge pools as it receded toward the northeast. It was this dry waterfall and other evidences of massive flooding which finally convinced the geological community that great catastrophes have dominated the geological history of the Northwest. It is now recognized that the Bretz Flood was only one of many cataclysms which have shaped the earth.

The June two-day field trip to the Channeled Scablands of Central Washington was well attended and educational to participants. Thanks to Rick Thompson for the following report, observations and spectacular photography...

Bretz Flood Facts:

The Bretz Flood was originally called the Spokane or Missoula Flood. The first name was for the city where the flood waters seemed to enter Washington state before flowing across the Columbia Plateau. The second name was for the source of the water: a giant ice age lake 2,000 feet deep and covering 3,000 square miles of the Rocky Mountain Valleys in Idaho and Montana. The high water lines are still visible above the city of Missoula, Montana.

Re-named the "Bretz Flood", for J. Harlen Bretz (1883-1981), the geologist who first recognized and brought attention to the catastrophic nature of this massive flood that washed more than 50 cubic miles of soil and rock off the Columbia Plateau, depositing it as far away as Eugene, Oregon and carrying much of it out to sea.

It is called "flood" by those like Michael Oard who think there was essentially one event and "floods" by those who think there were as few as two or as many as 140 flood events.

"Fossil Lake Missoula" was formed when

a lobe of the Cordilleran Ice Sheet advanced down the Purcell trench in British Columbia, forming a 2,500 feet high dam across the Clark Fork River, backing up the water for some 200 miles. It contained about one and a half times the volume of Lake Michigan. When the ice dam broke, it released roughly 500 cubic miles of water which traveled at speeds of up

to 60 miles per hour for two days. A wall of water over 1,000 feet high stripped off 150 feet of soil, rock and vegetation from eastern Washington, forming a series of braided channels now referred to as coulees and scabland channels. These are all dry, except for places where the flood left standing water, which are now called "Kolk" lakes. Most of these lakes are



Looking across Blue Lake, one of the "plunge pools" left below Dry Falls, toward the Rhinoceros cave (too far away to be seen in photo). A group of about 20 people on the DSA Scablands Tour hiked around the lake, up the talus slope and into the cave.

This cave was formed when basalt flowed over the carcass of a dead rhinoceros. The lava cooled, leaving an exact cast of the rhino, showing even the wrinkles in the skin. The flood of water flowing over Dry Falls washed away the lava in Lower Grand Coulee, exposing a small entrance into the Rhino cave. Rock hunters entered the cave and determined it to be the cast of a long deceased animal.

now brackish because they have no outlet. The only other known scablands similar to those in eastern Washington are to be found on Mars.

Water poured across eastern Washington with the volume of ten times the combined flow of all the rivers of the world, until it backed up behind Wallula Gap, the eastern entrance to the Columbia River Gorge. Once it freed itself from that confinement, it ripped through the Gorge, cutting high cliffs and leaving the many beautiful waterfalls we now enjoy. The water spread out when it reached the Willamette Valley and formed a lake 400 feet deep in the Portland area that stretched from Kalama, Washington on the north to Eugene, Oregon on the south. "Glacial erratics" (boulders frozen in icebergs floating on the flood waters) were left as far west as Yamhill County and as far south as Eugene. These are recognized because they are composed of rock not from this area but instead from Canada and Montana. Close to the source these "erratics" are as large as 20 feet in diameter and weigh up to 20 tons (40,000 pounds).

The 50 mile long Grand Coulee is the largest of the flood channels and occupies 250 square miles. It is separated into Upper Grand Coulee and Lower Grand Coulee by Dry Falls. Upper Grand Coulee is between 800 and 900 feet deep, and up to six miles wide. After the building of Grand Coulee Dam, smaller dams were put at each end of the upper coulee and filled with water for irrigation.

Lower Grand Coulee formed at a downwarp in the Columbia Plateau basalt, which left 800 foot high walls on the west side and much shorter walls on the east side. As the Dry Falls waterfall receded, it left eight plunge pool lakes. This chain of lakes drains south, one into the other, final-



John Hergenrather, at the stone gazebo overlooking Dry Falls, shares with tour members how understanding the scientific evidence for Creation has helped him in his Christian Faith.

ly into Soap Lake where the only "outlet" is evaporation. It is named Soap Lake because of the soapy feel to the alkaline water and the foam which forms on its shores due to the mineral salts in the water.

Information gathered in part from *Cataclysms on the Columbia* by John Eliot Allen and Marjorie Burns and *the Columbia River, an Historical Travel Guide* by JoAnn Roe.

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This model at the Dry Falls Visitor Center shows how the rhino was buried in lava.



Slab of polished petrified Ginkgo wood found at the Ginkgo Petrified Forest in central Washington. The Ginkgo tree was believed to be extinct for millions of years, until it was found living in central China in the mid 1900s. It is now referred to as a "living fossil", leaving evolutionists with the conundrum of how a tree could be alive for all that time, without leaving a single trace in the fossil record.



Scratch marks on top of this lava flow east of Grand Coulee provide evidence of a glacier that moved across this area during the ice age.

Note: the current issue of the Institute for Creation Research's Acts & Facts features an update from Dr. Russell Humphreys regarding his book (reviewed below) that was published seven years ago this month.

Soon after the book was published, a small group of opponents of the traditional historical view of Genesis, led by Hugh Ross, whose organization markets a theology heavily based on big bang thinking, declared "holy war" on the book.

Humphreys has repeatedly answered critics (archived on the Internet) over the years, and it is interesting to note that he says "the debate apparently ended last year after I emphasized that the Rossites had refused to comment on several key concepts and quotes from the secular astrophysics literature which support my cosmology. Their silence betrays the weakness of their arguments."*

Thanks to DSA friend Roy Burkett for the following review of this "lightning rod" book!

Book Review

Starlight and Time

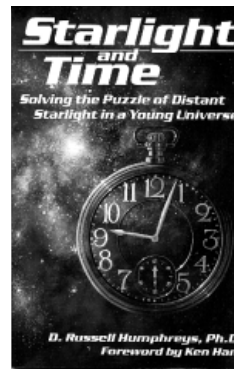
Dr. D. Russell Humphreys

For years I've held the view that our earth is about 6000 years old and that all of the empirical evidence can be understood within that framework. But there was one class of evidence that I could not account for: the distance to the stars. Many stars and galaxies are millions of light-years away, and it takes millions of years for light to travel millions of light-years. I considered several hypotheses advanced to account for this apparent discrepancy. None of them quite satisfied me, until I read this intriguing book.

Humphreys, a nuclear physicist at Sandia National Laboratories, quite frankly admits that his work is preliminary and not conclusive. He exhorts other theoretical physicists to take up the project and work out more of the details and proofs. Still, he presents a new perspective that is faithful to the Scriptures and builds on accepted science. He provides the framework of a solution that I have found very satisfying.

At the core of his theory is, first, the observation that the universe is expanding, a nearly universally accepted fact, based on the red-shift of light from the stars. Second, he accepts Einstein's mathematics of General Relativity as being reasonably accurate (which again is a generally accepted position). The third key element of his theory is that he does not accept one particular widely held assumption, but rather posits another reasonable assumption. On the basis of these three items, it seems the problem may solve itself.

The assumption Humphreys challenges is that the universe has no edge. The prevailing view among scientists is that the universe is unbounded, having no edge and no center. This assumption implies that wherever in space one might travel, there are always roughly as many stars and galaxies in any one direction as in any other direction. While it is true that we observe an equal distribution of galaxies in all directions, as we look into the night sky from earth, there are two possible explanations for this: either



we are at (or near) the center of the universe, or the universe has no center. Wishing to avoid the error of Ptolemy and the idea that we are somehow in a special place in the cosmos, most astronomers and cosmologists assume that the universe has no center nor edge. Some call it the Copernican Principle. I call it a radically relativistic assumption. Humphreys calls it an arbitrary assumption. The point is to recognize that it is an assumption.

However, if the universe has an edge and a center, and if the universe is now expanding, then in the past the edge was closer to the center than its present distance. Humphreys suggests that at the time of creation, all of the matter of the universe existed as a huge ball of water (Gen. 1:2,6-8; II Peter 3:5). This would have the effect of creating an event horizon far above the surface of the water. On the Second Day, God separated waters above from the waters below, stretching out the firmament. Such motion of matter away from the center of the universe could be described as a white hole. (Like black holes, white holes were predicted by Einstein's General Theory of Relativity.) As matter is expelled from a white hole, the event horizon shrinks and eventually completely collapses.

Discussing the effects of gravity on time (predicted by Einstein's equations and demonstrated by several empirical tests) and the peculiar effects of event horizons, Humphreys shows that it is possible that the stars could be millions of years old (when measured by their own clocks) and the earth could be only thousands of years old (measured by our clocks), because of the collapse of the event horizon as God stretched out the heavens. In a cosmos characterized by Einstein's relativity theories, clocks don't all tell the same time. So when speaking of the age of the stars, do we use our clocks or theirs?

The first portion of the book contains two chapters giving a fairly simple explanation of the effects of gravity on time, the generally accepted Big-Bang Cosmology, the proposed White-Hole Cosmology, and the pivotal difference made by assumptions regarding the boundedness of the universe. This is followed by three appendices. First is a small appendix considering previous creationist theories regarding starlight and time. The second and third appendices are reprints of technical papers delivered at the Third International Conference on Creationism (July 1994, Pittsburgh). Appendix B explores the Biblical basis for a White-Hole Cosmology. The last appendix presents more of the mathematics and technical details.

Reviewed by Roy Burkett, pastor and electrical engineer.
Starlight and Time is available at the DSA Booktable.

*http://www.trueorigin.org/ca_rh_03.htm.

Design Science Association floats Grand Canyon



***The Grand Canyon is
an awesome spectacle
of the Lord's creation,
a classic example of
The Flood unequaled
anywhere on earth.***

Experience the Grand Canyon the way it
was meant to be experienced:

***From a Christian perspective!
From the bottom!
From a raft!***

Design Science Association and
Canyon Ministries will launch on August
18, 2002 for a 7-day trip, floating 187
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canyons and waterfalls and camp under
the stars along the river bank at night.

Experience North America's biggest
whitewater on this Christ-centered motor-
ized rafting trip through a canyon with
walls over a mile high. This once-in-a-life-

time experience will explore one of His grandest creations while spending time daily in
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with fellow believers.

At the end of your trip you will be whisked to the canyon rim by helicopter, then
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***Arizona River Runners, an authorized concessioner for
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(See next page for more info)



35 foot motorized raft. Safe and comfortable.

Throughout the trip, the creationist's model of the earth's origin, interpretation of the Canyon's formation and its geology, human history and ecology will be presented by Dr. Keith Swenson, President of DSA, and Tom Vail. Tom has been a Grand Canyon guide since 1980 and, along with his wife, Paula, serve through Canyon Ministries. They will be your hosts and guides on this

“adventure of a lifetime”!

The cost is \$1,739.00 per person round trip from Marble Canyon, Arizona. You may optionally start your trip with a scenic flight from Las Vegas the morning of the trip. The cost of the flight is an additional \$180.00.

A \$300 deposit per person is required to reserve your seat. Only 27 seats available, so hurry! The deposit is refundable, less \$50, if your seat is filled.

Accommodations before and after the trip are not included. Minors, 8 to 18, must be accompanied by an adult.

Register by calling Canyon Ministries at
(602) 254-5798

–OR– Mail deposit to:
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1808 West Verde Lane
Phoenix, AZ 85015



You will launch from Lees Ferry and fly out to the Bar Ten Ranch for your return flight.

Have Questions?

View Canyon Ministries' web site at
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- OR– Call Canyon Ministries at (602) 254-5798
- OR– Call Dr. Keith Swenson at (503) 665-9563

Grand Canyon Trip August 18, 2002

Please fill out the following and include with your deposit (Please print):

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