



Think & Believe

A Publication of Alpha Omega Institute

March/April 1994; Vol.11 No.2

Genesis and the Resurrection

(by Dave and Mary Jo Nutting)

The resurrection of Jesus has been called the "pivotal point" of history. The whole gospel message revolves around it, and without it, our faith is in vain. However, the resurrection is not an isolated event just floating in space and time. To really understand its wonderful significance, we need to understand the historical context and the events leading up to it.

Many Christians fail to see the connection between Jesus' death and resurrection, and the events described in Genesis. This lack of understanding often leads to confusion about other biblical doctrines and the inability to clearly communicate the message of the gospel to unbelievers.

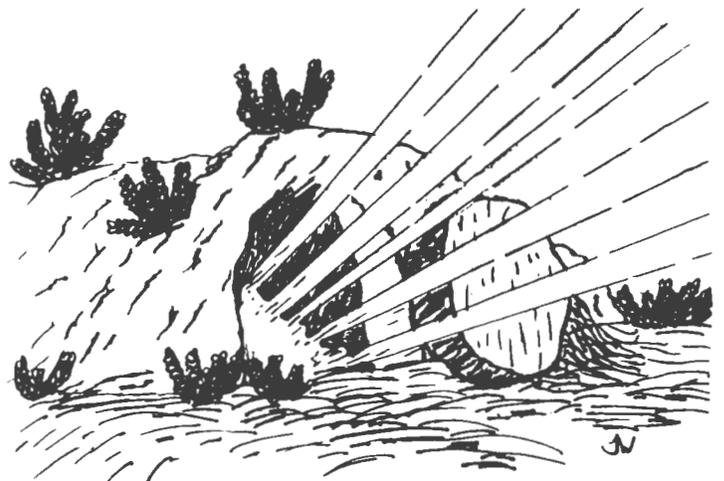
Paul's first letter to the Corinthians makes this "Genesis connection." Evidently, some in the church were saying that there is no resurrection from the dead. Paul reminded them of the centrality of Jesus' resurrection and anchored it in history (Gen. 3) so they would really understand. He wrote:

If Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. ... But now is Christ risen from the dead and become the first-fruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. (I Cor. 15: 17, 20-22)

Paul undergirds his teaching about Jesus' victory over death and the certainty of our own resurrection by reminding his readers of the origin of death; he takes them back to the literal events of Genesis, pointing out that death came into the world because of Adam's sin. (See also Rom. 5:12)

Jesus' death and resurrection in a manner of speaking "undid" what Adam's sin did back in Genesis. **Adam's sin had caused separation from God** -- Jesus' death and resurrection paid the penalty of sin and opened the door to fellowship with God. Adam died, first spiritually, then physically when he sinned. Now we, by faith, may enjoy the fruit of Jesus' life, death and resurrection -- first spiritually (by being delivered from spiritual death -- John 5:24), and later when we are raised from the dead and changed from mortality to immortality. (I Cor. 15:42-58)

Because Jesus, the very Creator of the universe (John 1:3, Col. 1:16), took on human form, became obedient unto death on a cross, and rose from the dead (Phil. 2:5-8), we can have eternal life. "If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." (Rom. 10:9) What a blessed hope we have through our Risen Lord!



Jesus is Risen!
Death is Swallowed up in Victory!

NOTES & QUOTES

■ Catastrophic events often change the face of our earth. The geologic record reveals even greater catastrophes in the past. The following examples are given by Dr. Steven Austin in his book, **Catastrophes in Earth History**, (1984), (Article numbers refer to Austin's book which contains more complete documentation. Available from Alpha Omega Institute; \$15.50 includes shipping. See back for details on new **CatastroRef** database.)

• **Cosmic Catastrophes:** Genesis 7:11 says that at the onset of the Flood, "the windows of heaven were opened." This picturesque phrase likely describes torrential rains or the collapse of the canopy, (See **Think and Believe, Vol. 2 No.1**) but it could possibly refer to bombardment by objects from space, (which may have then contributed to the collapse of the canopy). There is ample evidence of impact in the geologic record and of the possibility of future bombardment.

• Many probable asteroid impact craters are known around the world, including Sudbury in Canada and Vredefort in South Africa, each with a crater diameter of 140 km (over 80 miles!). (Article 37: Grieve and Robinson, 1979)

• It is estimated that the Sudbury crater was produced by an asteroid impact having energy equivalent to 50,000,000 megatons of TNT! (Article 38: Dietz, 1964)

• Based on estimates of asteroids presently in earth-crossing orbits, calculated impact crater size, **assumed** age of the earth, and other factors, there should be **at least 700** impact craters greater than 22 kilometers in diameter found in rocks classified as Cambrian or more recent, yet **only 21** have been discovered. It seems unlikely that the other 680 remain unidentified, buried or eroded away. The authors speculate on some possible explanations, but don't consider that this might be supporting evidence for a much younger age of the earth. (Article 33: Shoemaker, Williams, et. al., 1979) Other researchers believe there were even more asteroids in the past. This would be even more evidence for a young earth. (Article 34: Chapman and Davis, 1975)

• **Volcanoes and Lava Flows:** Other "catastrophic" events which shape the earth are volcanoes. Recent volcanic events help geologists interpret similar and even larger events in the past. All of the following make the eruption of Mount St. Helens look pretty puny!

• Krakatoa is one of the best known eruptions in historic times. It erupted in 1883, producing a sound

heard 4800 kilometers away, and generated a giant tsunami ("tidal wave") which killed 36,000 people in Java and Sumatra. An estimated 18-21 cubic kilometers of material was deposited. (Article 58: Symons, 1888)

• The giant eruption of Tambora in Indonesia in 1815 produced an estimated 30-150 cubic kilometers of ash and blocks. It killed 10,000 by eruption and another 80,000 by starvation from the resulting crop loss (Article 56: Decker and Decker, 1981) and released an energy equivalent to 2000 megatons TNT, or 840 of the largest hydrogen bombs. (Article 61: Yokoyama, 1957)

• The Laki lava flow in Iceland (1783) is considered to be largest historic lava flow. It produced over 12 cubic kilometers of lava which filled two river valleys and covered more than 500 square kilometers. (Article 56: Decker and Decker, 1981)

• In parts of Japan, New Zealand, Central America, western United States, and other places, there are ancient lava flows covering thousands of square kilometers, tens to hundreds of meters thick. (Article 56: Decker and Decker, 1981)

• **Water Catastrophes:** Many catastrophes involve water: floods, tsunamis, hurricanes, etc. These events can cause tremendous damage in very short time. Consider the devastating effects of the following events:

• In 1963, 240 million cubic meters of rock and soil slid into the reservoir at Vaiont, Italy, generating a wave which ran 850 feet above the reservoir on the opposite side. Another wave 328 feet high swept over the dam and within 7 minutes wreaked complete destruction downstream and left 2000 dead. (Article 141: Kiersch, 1964)

• The explosion of Santorini in about 1500 B.C. caused an enormous tsunami. As far away as Israel (1000 km away), it had a run-up height of 40-50 meters. (Article 145: Yokoyama, 1978)

■ And on and on it goes. Austin's book contains dozens of accounts documenting the geologic effects of such catastrophes. By comparing the effects of recorded events with evidence from the rock record, models of earth history can be arrived at. Evidence does not support the idea of millions of years of slow, gradual deposition, but it does fit well with the Biblical account of the Flood and other events described in the Bible.

SPOTLIGHT ON SCIENCE

Catastrophes in Earth History

Until the 1800's, the Biblical account of earth history was widely accepted. Though there were some geologists who believed in long ages, most interpreted the geologic record in terms of a young earth. Many recognized the impact of the great Flood, though some taught a "static" earth concept which allowed for only very minor changes since creation.

This began to change radically after Charles Lyell published his **Principles of Geology** in the early 1830's. Lyell argued that present processes, operating at essentially the same rates and intensities as today for long periods of time, were sufficient to explain the formations found in the geologic record. Charles Darwin was strongly influenced by Lyell's work in formulating his ideas of gradualistic evolution. As Darwin's theory of evolution gained favor, the Bible was increasingly ridiculed and uniformitarianism became the dominant idea in geology.

In recent years, catastrophism has been making a come-back, though. Creationist geologists have re-evaluated the "accepted" interpretations of geologic features and found them to be consistent with the Flood and other catastrophic events. Even many secular geologists now agree that there is much evidence of catastrophe, though they usually reject the idea of a world-wide Flood and opt for the idea of numerous local events.

Of course, there are other types of catastrophes involved in shaping the features of our earth besides the Flood and related subsequent events. Some of these include: earthquakes, landslides, volcanoes, tsunamis, glaciation, meteoritic impact, storms, etc. (See **Notes and Quotes** for some specific examples.) The devastation left by recent phenomena gives clues of much more intensive catastrophic events in the past.

The book of Revelation prophesies even more violent events in the future. Great hailstones, thunder, lightning, thick darkness, violent earthquakes, famine, war, and pestilence were all seen by John in his vision.

The catastrophes of present times have been relatively small compared to the past and future, yet even these can strike fear in the human heart. Praise God, He is a solid Rock. "Though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof," we need not fear, because "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." (Ps. 46) Jesus stilled the wind and the sea in Biblical times. He is still in control today!

When the Earth Quakes

Jesus predicted that in the "end times" there would be earthquakes in "diverse" places. (Matt. 24:7) Recent quakes in Los Angeles, Japan, Papua New Guinea, India, and Guam underscore the truth of His words. Hardly a day goes by without a report of an earthquake somewhere in the world. This isn't surprising, as scientists estimate that there are thousands of minute quakes every year. In fact, according to geologist, Dr. Steve Austin, an earthquake will be felt somewhere in the world every 10 minutes. We truly live on a "restless" planet.

Scientists believe earthquakes are caused by movement in the earth. Postulated causes include "plates" in the earth's crust grinding against each other, stressed rocks rupturing with a sudden release of energy, and rocks slumping or hot magma flowing into underground cavities. Location, amount and intensity of movement determine the impact on the surface.

Various types of surface effects are common. Shock waves radiating upward and outward from the point of origin can cause great destruction as they undulate along the surface. Differential uplift, slumping or lateral movement are common. Secondary effects, such as landslides, "new" lakes (formed by damming of streambeds), breached dams, flooding, and tsunamis ("tidal waves") may cause further damage.

A large quake can take an enormous toll in terms of life and property. **World Book Encyclopedia** lists the death tolls from some of history's biggest quakes:

China	1290 AD	100,000
China	1556 AD	830,000
India	1737 AD	300,000
Japan	1923 AD	143,000
China	1976 AD	240,000.

One can only speculate how many millions more have been killed by past quakes. How many will die in the great earthquake described in John's vision in Revelation 16:18,19? "...and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great. And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell."

There is one quake, though, which was different. When Jesus died on the cross, "...the earth did quake, and the rocks rent; and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, and came out of the graves after His resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many." (Matt. 27:51-53) The death which was marked by **this** earthquake resulted in **life** for many!

EVENTS

(Call local contact for time and place.)

- Mar 13: Glenwood Spgs, CO:** Sunrise Four Square.
Contact Bernie Massimer, 303,945-9657.
- Mar 20: Estes Park, CO:** First Baptist.
Contact Mark Tindle, 303-586-9282.
- Mar 21: Golden, CO:** Colorado School of Mines (Tentative).
Contact Jim Covington, 303-273-9690.
- Mar 22-25: Estes Park, CO:** Nat Homeschool Basketball Tourn.
Contact FEAST, 210-692-7214.
- Mar 26: Loveland, CO:** Agape Family Schools Education Fair.
Contact Julie Soricelli, 303-587-5020.
- Apr 4-9: Winter Park, CO:** Snow Mountain Family Adventure.
Contact us, 303-245-5906.
- Apr 10: Kremmling, CO:** Kremmling Community Church.
Contact church office, 303-724-3655.
- Apr 18: Anderson, CA:** First Baptist.
Contact Church Office, 916-365-9188.
- Apr. 20,21: Orland, CA:** Orland Community Church.
Contact Church Office, 916-533-7878.
- Apr 23-May 1: Grand Canyon:** ICR Grand Canyon Adventure.
Contact ICR, 619-448-0900.
- May 1: Sedona/Cottonwood, AZ:** Location TBA.
Contact Tim Hammes, 602-282-7289.
- May 20-21: Jackson, WY:** State Homeschool Conference.
Contact Steve and Cindy Munger, 307-733-2834.
- May 29: Denver, CO:** Bear Valley Christian/"Fifth Sunday".
Contact Church Office, 303-985-1516.
- June 12-17: Montrose, CO:** Montrose Christian Seminar/VBS.
Contact Barbara Keller, 303-249-5432.
- June 15-18: Denver, CO:** CHEC Homeschool Conf/Teen Track.
Contact CHEC office, 303-777-1022.

PLEASE KEEP THIS SCHEDULE AND PRAY FOR US!

1994 Creation Vacations! Register Now!

- April 4-9 Snow Mountain Winter Family Adventure
July 3-8 Twin Peaks Family Science Adventure
August 14-19 Redcloud Family Mountain Adventure I
August 21-26 Redcloud Family Mountain Adventure II
September 2-5 Id-Ra-Ha-Je Labor Day Family Camp

Alpha Omega Institute
P. O. Box 4343
Grand Junction, CO 81502
(303) 245-5906

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

In This Issue:

- Genesis and the Resurrection
- Catastrophes in Earth History
- NEW Database -- CatastroRef

NEW DATABASE

The Institute for Creation Research has just released the **Catastrophe Reference Database (CatastroRef)** for your MS-DOS computer. Edited by Steven A. Austin, Ph.D., the disk contains citations and abstracts from an extraordinary body of geologic literature which counters conventional uniformitarian dogma and lends support to the Flood Model. Available from Alpha Omega Institute for \$21.00 (includes shipping). (System Requirements: MS-DOS w/wo Windows 3.X; 3.5" hi-density disk drive, HD recommended, printer connected to parallel port. Can be used with Mac, Apple II, Amiga, and Atari -- database file will need to be imported into a wordprocessing program for browsing and searching.)

PRAYER AND PRAISE

Praise God the first "long trip" with the Johnson's and their Children's Creation Ministry went well! Lots of kids -- lots of learning -- lots of fun. Pray for guidance in continuing to develop the program and for their support.

Praise God for Donna Henderson who has been helping out with office work and doing newsletter mailings. We appreciate her diligence.

Praise God for the 210 projects displayed in the **Annual Alpha Omega Science Fair** by budding young scientists. Thank you, Coordinator, Ted Seaman, and many other willing volunteers, parents and teachers who helped make it a success.

Praise God especially for Jesus, our Risen Creator, Redeemer and Lord!

Think and Believe is published bi-monthly by Alpha Omega Institute, P.O. Box 4343, Grand Junction, CO 81502. Editors: Dave & Mary Jo Nutting. Single copies are free upon request. Please write for permission to reprint material in this publication. Alpha Omega Institute is a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Your donations are much needed and appreciated.

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Grand Jct., CO
Permit No.393