



**A Useful Little  
GUIDE  
to the Film**

IS  
GENESIS  
HISTORY?

“Nothing in the world makes sense  
except in the light of Genesis.”

— DEL TACKETT

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# THREE THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THE FILM

## **The film is an introduction.**

Our goal is to give you an overview of a broad range of topics alongside specific evidence for Creation and the Flood. It's okay if you don't understand everything the first time you hear it. God created a beautiful world that is very complex; even the greatest scientists understand only a fraction of it. We want you to see that when you study the world in light of Genesis—even in an introductory way—it intersects with the events recorded in the Bible.

## **The film compares two views of history.**

Many people think scientific facts speak for themselves. They do not. Every point of data must be put into an interpretive framework, or paradigm, to give it meaning. Although there are different types of paradigms, the most important are historical: what actually happened in the past? Currently, there are two primary paradigms of history: one defined by natural processes occurring slowly over billions of years, the other defined by recent, direct actions of God as recorded in the Bible. In the film, we call these the 'conventional' and 'Genesis' paradigms. Some Christians have tried to merge these two views into a hybrid view where God used long ages to form the world. To do this, they must de-historicize key events in the Bible using various interpretational methods, then replace those Biblical events with events from the conventional timeline. This seems to be an unnecessary compromise. The history recorded in Genesis is sufficient to explain all that we see in the world around us.

## **The film presents a unified argument.**

The challenge some people have in understanding these topics is seeing how they fit together. Many intelligent people have spent a long time developing the conventional paradigm; it is understandable why so many accept it. We think, however, that when one looks at the evidence as a whole, starting with the text of Genesis, then moving through the rocks, the fossils, the genetic code, the animals, the stars, the artifacts, and the nature of culture, it is much more reasonable to view the events of Genesis as real history.

**To help you see the logic of this argument,** we have provided summaries of each section in the pages that follow.



## SECTION SUMMARIES

*Key Takeaways from each Scientist*

### 1 **Changing Our Perspective**

*Del Tackett, DM · Mount St. Helens*

**Many people look** at the earth and assume uniform processes acted over long ages to form what we see around us. Yet Mount St. Helens reveals how major catastrophes can quickly create geological formations. It also shows how eyewitness accounts are necessary to understand what happened in the past. The book of Genesis lays out a clear history of the earth, although many people do not accept it as an accurate witness. Is it truly history?

*“Did God create the world in a few days or billions of years?”*

—DEL TACKETT



### 2 **What do the Rocks Tell Us?**

*Steven Austin, PhD (Geologist) · Grand Canyon*

**The greatest catastrophe** recorded in the Bible is the Flood. Such an event would have transformed everything on the earth's surface and left an enormous amount of residue. That is what we see when we look at the layers of sedimentary rock that cover the planet. There are huge megasequences that stretch across continents stacked one on top of the other; there are countless marine fossils in those sedimentary rock layers; and there is evidence of major erosion on the earth from the advance and retreat of the flood waters. These evidences, and many more, point to a major catastrophe in the earth's past just as the Bible records.

*“It's not a little water and a lot of time. It's a lot of water and a little time.”*

—STEVE AUSTIN

# A Question of Paradigms

Paul Nelson, PhD (Philosopher of Science) · Computer History Museum

**There are two paradigms,** or interpretive frameworks, used to interpret the world around us: the conventional paradigm and the Genesis paradigm. Each has a different view of how long the earth has been here, including the origin of rocks, animals, and stars. Each sees the same data, but interprets it according to different historical assumptions. The Genesis paradigm interprets everything in light of the timeline and events recorded in the first chapters of Genesis; the conventional paradigm interprets everything according to the timeline and events constructed over the past 200 years as a replacement for that Biblical history. The conflict is ultimately between these two competing histories of the world.

*“We have a witness to those events, and that witness is telling us this is what happened, and we have to take that into consideration when we evaluate the data.”*

—PAUL NELSON

# What Does the Text Say?

Steven Boyd, PhD (Hebraist) · Hebrew Union College/Jewish Institute of Religion

**What is the history of the world** according to Genesis? The author of Genesis presents his material in such a way he is clearly talking about real events. The word ‘day’ in Genesis 1 refers to six normal days; the creation of Adam and Eve refers to the creation of real people; the Fall was a real event; and the Flood was a global deluge. These events are situated within genealogies which form the structure of Genesis and affirm its historicity. Luke uses the same genealogies to measure the passage of time from Jesus Christ back to the creation of Adam; they show us our faith is founded on real historical people.

*“The first thing is that it’s an accurate historical account.”*

—STEVEN BOYD



## 5 How Do You Measure Time?

*Andrew Snelling, PhD (Geologist) · SP Crater & Sedona, Arizona*

**If the Bible presents** a concise timeline of history, where does the idea of millions of years come from? Geologists like Charles Lyell wanted to replace the history recorded in Genesis with a naturalistic history of their own construction. They started with the idea of long ages, then interpreted the rocks in light of their new paradigm. Today, geologists rely on measuring radioisotope decay and interpret its results in terms of the conventional paradigm. Yet anomalies in these dating methods question these conclusions. Instead, one can look at geological formations to see evidence of a young earth transformed by a global catastrophe: the flat and enormous extent of sedimentary layers; a lack of deep and widespread erosion between most layers; and evidence that sediment was rapidly deposited by huge amounts of water.

*“The Bible would say that the past is the key to the present.”*

—ANDREW SNELLING

# A Brief History of the World

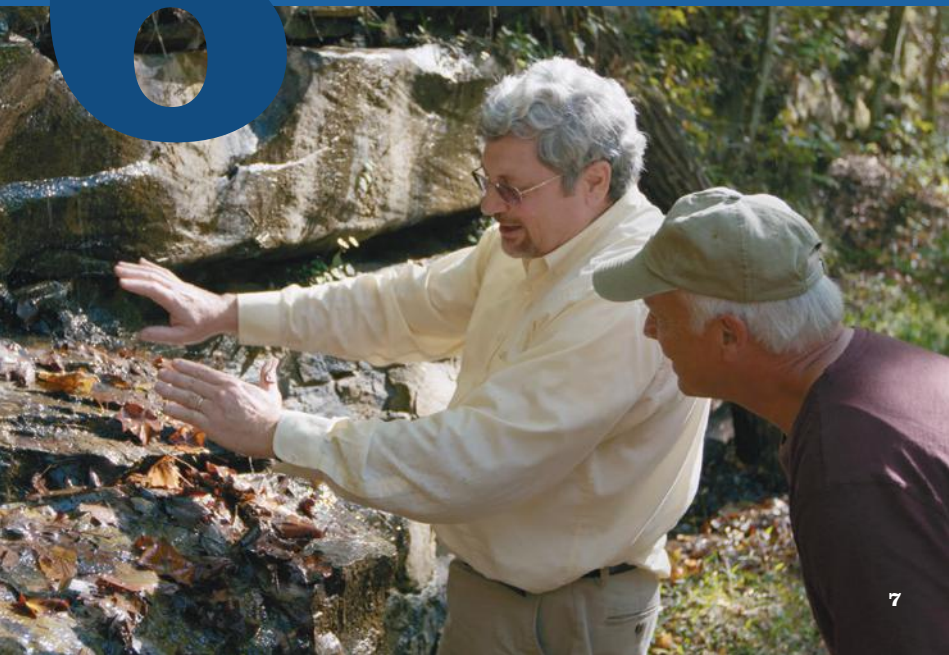
*Kurt Wise, PhD (Paleontologist) · Pocket Wilderness, Dayton, TN*

**The Creation of the universe** in six normal days was the first epoch. During that period, God rapidly created everything in a miraculous, unrepeatable fashion. The Edenian epoch followed with Adam and Eve living in the garden of Eden. It is impossible to understand the setup of the laws of the universe since death had not entered the world. With the Fall, God cursed the creation and changed those universal laws. The children of Adam lived in the Ante-Diluvian epoch, a world with a very different arrangement and variety of organisms compared to our world today. The Flood destroyed everything. The Post-Flood epoch was therefore marked by a series of unique environments as the earth settled down from the global catastrophe. Before and during the Ice Age, the world recovered to the Modern epoch. We can now only look into the Bible and the rocks to see evidence of those prior worlds.

*“The Bible lays out what I would call epochs of earth history.”*

—KURT WISE

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# The Origin of Fossils

Marcus Ross, PhD (Paleontologist) · Discovery Park of America

**There are billions of fossils** in the earth. Most are from animals that lived in the Ante-Diluvian epoch before the Flood, but some are from the Post-Flood epoch when the world was recovering from the global catastrophe. During the Flood, as huge tidal waves pulsed back and forth over the existing continents, different types of sediment and ecosystems were picked up, carried, then deposited in massive layers on top of each other. The presence of marine fossils on the continents, the sudden appearance of complex fossils in the lowest Cambrian layers, the widespread extent of fossilization, and the pattern of trackways (footprints) below body fossils, all point to the record in Genesis where God said He was going to wipe out a violent earth with a global flood.

*“Man and all of the animals over which we ruled were judged at the time of the Flood.”*

—MARCUS ROSS





# When Dinosaurs Walked the Earth

*Arthur Chadwick, PhD (Taphonomist) · Hanson Ranch, Wyoming*

**An examination of an actual ‘bone bed’** reveals unique aspects that could only occur during a massive flood. A layer of mudstone 3 to 4 feet thick is spread over a 100-acre area and contains the remains of 5,000 to 10,000 large dinosaurs. Millions of bones are disarticulated (separated) and display a unique sorting process: they are in a graded bed with larger, heavier bones at the bottom and smaller, lighter bones at the top. This could only occur through a major, waterborne catastrophe. Evidence for these kinds of burials is seen throughout the fossil record, with animals suddenly appearing fully-formed, then disappearing from higher layers.

*“We don’t ever see changes from this form into this form in the rocks themselves.”*

—ART CHADWICK

## Soft Tissue in Dinosaur Bones

*Kevin Anderson, PhD (Microbiologist) · Van Andel Creation Research Center*

**In 2005, soft tissue** was discovered inside the femur of a dinosaur bone. More discoveries followed by other scientists. In 2012, Kevin Anderson and Mark Armitage dug out a large section of a triceratops brow horn in Montana. Although the normal process of finding soft tissue is through decalcification of the bone, when Mark opened up the horn, he discovered uncalcified soft tissue that was stretchy and pliable. Although surprising to everyone, the presence of these intact organic materials is better explained by the bones being only thousands rather than tens of millions of years old. These discoveries can be seen as a method of dating, but they challenge the concept of ‘deep time,’ a critical component of evolution.

*“Clearly this is in violation of the dating process.*

*It challenges the entire dating process.”*

—KEVIN ANDERSON



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## The Genius of Design

Robert Carter, PhD (Marine Biologist) · Coral World, St. Thomas, USVI

**Although evolutionary theory** says all creatures descended from a common ancestor, when one looks at animals today (or in the fossil record), they appear to be unique creations with the ability to change to fit their environments. That ability to live and change is programmed in at the deepest levels of the genome in ways we do not fully understand. What we do see is that the human genome works as a four-dimensional ‘computer’: our three billion letter sequence of DNA is able to turn sections of itself on and off; it is coiled into 3D fractal spheres where sections folded near each other combine to create new levels of information; and it changes shape over time to expose different areas of DNA needed to create tens of thousands of different proteins. This level of complexity is not just limited to the genome, but can be seen in the interdependent relationships between living creatures throughout every ecosystem in the world. Such highly-engineered structures and relationships can only exist if they are created simultaneously in a short space of time — which is exactly how Genesis says God created everything.

*“Life is so complex that small changes can’t explain it.”*

—ROBERT CARTER

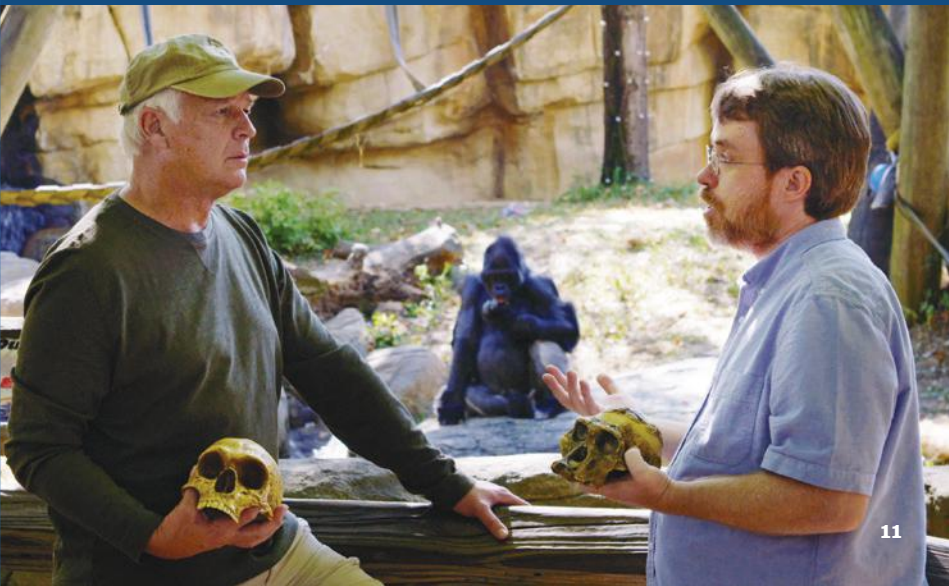
# The Potential of Created Kinds

Todd Wood, PhD (Biologist) · Memphis Zoo

**One of the conclusions** of evolutionary theory is that natural selection working over millions of years formed all the diversity of life we see in the world. Genesis, however, says God created animals fully-formed “according to their kinds.” When one studies the similarities and differences of animals, a better explanation is that each created kind possesses enormous potential for genetic change. These changes within kinds have often been pointed to as arguments for evolution, but changes between kinds have not been observed. Instead of a single tree of life growing from a common ancestor, each created kind has its own unique tree forming an orchard of life. Humans are part of their own kind and include relatives like Neanderthals, but not extinct primates like *Australopithecus*. God made Adam and Eve in His image, and gave them the unique role of stewarding His creation.

*“All we see are variations that happen within a created kind.”*

—TODD WOOD



# The Purpose of the Stars

Danny Faulkner, PhD (Astronomer) · Chino Valley, Arizona

**Our sense of the passage of time** is based on our relationship with the sun, moon, and stars. God put these celestial bodies in place on the fourth day of creation as providers of energy, sources of light, and consistent timekeepers. They are also a source of wonder for everyone who studies them, from the unique nature of solar eclipses, to the beauty of galaxies and nebulae, to the sheer immensity of space. The size of the universe and the distances between stars has led the conventional view to interpret the entire universe as very old, but scientists working within the Genesis paradigm have come up with different explanations for the presence of starlight, including rapidly bringing light to the earth on the fourth day. The truth is that no one theory seems to explain everything. Even the current cornerstone of the conventional paradigm, the Big Bang cosmology, has changed greatly during its 60-year history. More recently, it has been publicly rejected by hundreds of physicists and astronomers. The reality is that no scientific theory is able to penetrate exactly how God created the universe during the six days of the Creation epoch.

*“We have some purposes given for the stars...to mark time, to rule over the night, to be for signs and seasons.”*

—DANNY FAULKNER

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## Where was Babel?

*Douglas Petrovich, PhD (Archeologist) · Oriental Institute Museum*

**Ancient architecture reveals** that many cultures were extremely advanced in their tracking of celestial bodies. Near the beginning of the post-Flood epoch, one culture sought to build a high tower but was frustrated by God through the confusion of spoken language. Although there are several Mesopotamian cities called ‘Babel,’ only Eridu shows evidence of an enormous tower that was left unfinished and a mass dispersion of people in all directions — all just before the emergence of the written form of different languages in Southern Mesopotamia.

*“It gives you a feeling of putting your hands around the events that go on in the Biblical text.”*

—DOUG PETROVICH

# 14 Genesis and Our Culture

George Grant, PhD (Pastor) · Bountiful Blessings Farm, Tennessee

**The events recorded in Genesis** continue to have an impact on our world today. At the beginning, God established our daily and weekly cycles of work and rest. He created a real man and woman to be married only to each other, setting the standard for marital and sexual relationships. A real Fall brought death into the world and the need for a real Redeemer. God judged the world with a real global flood but saved Noah and his family. All of the people and events of Genesis were considered history by Jesus, Paul, Peter, and the apostles. In spite of this, there is a movement among theologians and scientists to de-historicize sections of Genesis. This reverses the roles of science and history, and inevitably leads to relativism. After all, science is consistently changing; it can never be an ultimate authority. Historical events, on the other hand, do not change. The role of history is to tell us *what* happened in the past; the role of science is to try to understand *how* those things happened.

*“When you rid the book of Genesis of its historical moorings, you have suddenly decapitated the whole structure of the Bible.”*

—GEORGE GRANT

# 15 A Changed Perspective

Del Tackett, DM · Alpine Loop, Colorado

**Genesis is central** to understanding everything around us. If we try to construct a history based on our own limited experiences, we will misinterpret what has happened in the past and misunderstand our place in the world. Genesis, on the other hand, explains where we came from, who we are, what our problem is, and where we are headed. When looking at everything together, we can be confident that Genesis is history.

# BONUS FEATURES



## Q&A with Del Tackett and Scientists

*Scientists: Robert Carter, PhD · Danny Faulkner, PhD · Andrew Snelling, PhD*

This brief discussion explores what to do after watching the film, the nature of science and authority, the problems with theistic evolution, and the future of creation science.

## The Ice Age & Climate Change

*Larry Vardiman, PhD (Atmospheric Scientist) · Mount Baker, Washington*

Dr. Vardiman looks at how the Flood was the cause of the Ice Age during the Post-Flood epoch, the relationship between current ideas of climate change and the Flood, and the interpretation of ice cores in Greenland and Antarctica.

## Engineering the Universe

*Stuart Burgess, PhD (Mechanical Engineer) · Wheat field & Reelfoot Lake, Tennessee*

Dr. Burgess explains how creation in six normal days is the best way to understand how God engineered the entire universe. From the implementation of physical laws, to the structure of water and light, to the aerodynamics of birds, to the nature of man, Dr. Burgess examines the incredible design present throughout the world.

## Creation and the Church

*Douglas Kelly, PhD (Theologian) · Covenant Presbyterian Church, Tennessee*

Dr. Kelly examines the history of the different views of creation and evolution throughout the history of the Christian Church. Starting with the Church Fathers and going up to the present, he looks at how the teaching of Genesis as real history was challenged by the enlightenment ideas of the 18th-century, but defended in the 20th-century by modern creation scientists.

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**IsGenesisHistory.com**

*“For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made.”*

—ROMANS 1:20