

The Problems With Humanly Acquired Knowledge

The dictionary definition of knowledge is,

*“the state or fact of knowing; often as opposed to intuition, belief, etc.”*¹

Notice that the definition is more general than what the stereotypical “scientist” does. That is why the word can be added to social and computer to get “social science” and “computer science.” When your **conscience** bothers you it's because you **know** something. In the New Testament, the word translated as “knowledge” is “gnosis” (Strong's 1108) which means science. At the first or second meeting of a new semester I ask all my students “do we know all there is to know about geology (or astronomy if it is an astronomy class)? They invariably answer “no, of course not.” Then I ask them to defend their answer. Usually their defense will include something like “if we knew all there was to know we would be able to predict earthquakes,” or “weather forecasts would always be accurate” or “the explosion of a star wouldn't surprise us.” Their reply is correct, and I then add that journals such as *Science, Nature, Scientific American*, etc., wouldn't be in business if we knew everything since they are in the business of reporting about new discoveries. Then I ask this question: “If the total amount of all there is to know about geology (or astronomy) is represented by the distance between my two hands (say three feet or about one meter), how much of this distance - all there is to know - do we now know at the present time?” Now here is where it gets interesting because the response of the class is usually quite varied. The optimists space their hands one or two feet (30 or 60 centimeters) apart while the pessimists use their fingers spaced an inch (two to three centimeters) or less in answer to this question. But after a while someone usually replies with something like **“we don't know how much we do know because we don't know how much we don't know.”** **Wow, reward that person for thinking critically!**

Physical, chemical and biological scientists collect knowledge about nature for the purpose of making conclusions. Think of a conclusion as the output humans produce after thinking about the input (knowledge). Notice that the human brain is the one doing the concluding. Let's use a simple example to discover three problems with this process. My students identify the names of minerals by first observing the physical properties of the minerals. Physical properties they examine include color, luster (does it reflect light like metal does, or like glass does), hardness (how easily it scratches), cleavage (how it breaks naturally along weak atomic bonds), and several others. Then, using the results of these observations and the mineral identification tables in their textbook they eventually get the mineral's name. If it has a metallic luster, it will be on a different page than those having a glassy luster. And those with a metallic luster and a brassy color are in a separate list from those with a metallic luster and a gray color. And minerals with a metallic luster and brassy color that are harder than glass are separated from those minerals with the same luster and color but will not scratch glass. Do you see that the list of possible mineral names becomes smaller and smaller with each piece of knowledge collected? By using this organized method, students can determine the name of a mineral (conclusion) from collecting knowledge (observations). Do students **always** get the right mineral name? The answer is “no” for several good reasons.

¹ New Twentieth Century Dictionary, 1983

Human Limitation #1: knowledge may be incorrect leading to incorrect conclusions. The general statement “garbage in equals garbage out” simply describes this possibility. In our example, a student may judge a mineral’s luster incorrectly, or not push hard enough on the piece of glass to determine the actual hardness of the mineral.

Human Limitation #2: since knowledge is incomplete, conclusions made from incomplete knowledge can be wrong. In our example, what if I give them a mineral that is not listed in their textbook? After all, there are thousands of minerals out there. If they come up with a name, it will always be wrong because they don’t have all the thousands of possible choices in their textbook. Here, I am reminded of a story about a man who sees another man at night under a streetlight down on his hands and knees obviously looking for something on the ground. The first man asks the second “what are you looking for?” and the second man replies “The jeweler down the street repaired my wife’s ring so I picked it up earlier but when I got home, it wasn’t in the bag. I must have dropped it on the way home – will you help me look for it?” After both men look for some time without success, the first asks the second, “why are we only looking in this area – you could have lost it anywhere between the jewel’s shop and home?” The second man replies “we are looking here because it is the only place with light to see by.” One of my favorite quotes comes from Mark Twain:

“There is something fascinating about science. One gets such wholesale returns of conjectures out of such a trifling investment of facts”²

Without complete knowledge it is possible that several conclusions can be made from the evidence collected. Which one is the true one?

Human Limitation #3: conclusions can be influenced by biases of the people involved. In our example, there are usually a few students who mistakenly conclude that the unknown mineral is pyrite (commonly known as “fool’s gold”). When I see their incorrect answer, I ask them about the hardness test they were supposed to have done. The mineral in question does not scratch glass but pyrite does scratch glass – what hardness did they get? After questioning them, it turns out that they either didn’t do the hardness test or did the test quickly, without much thought, or didn’t believe the results of that test because they “already knew it was pyrite.” The mineral is chalcopyrite which resembles pyrite but will not scratch glass. They jumped to a false conclusion because they had a bias in favor of pyrite.



Is it possible for an unbelieving geologist, astronomer or biologist to conclude that God as described in Genesis created the universe and all it contains? Does he have a bias that will keep him from coming to this conclusion? Do you recall what the Bible says about how an unbeliever regards spiritual matters? (see footnote 6 if you cannot decide).

² Life on the Mississippi, p.156

Some Scientific Mistakes

Astronomers believe that stars ‘live’ for billions of years — much longer than many human lifetimes. We therefore have not seen a single star change through its entire “life” to witness this belief. A good analogy is to imagine that we are insects that live for only a few weeks who are trying to piece together the life history of the trees we see all around us. We observe that trees come in a wide variety of sizes and from this evidence we reason that if we could observe a single tree live through its entire lifetime, it would start small, grow taller, and finally die falling on its side. In a similar way, astronomers have deduced the stages in the “lives” of stars from the evidence they have observed. In general, stars don’t change much. But once in a while we can observe an exploding star - a supernova - which is supposed to be one of the late stages in a star’s “life.” Up until we observed the last two supernovas (1987 and 1993) we thought we knew what kind of star the progenitor should be - the kind of star that should supernova. Notice what Astronomy Magazine says about these two progenitor stars:

*“Astronomers found that like the 1987 supernova, the supernova in M81 [observed in 1993] **contradicted their ideas about which massive stars will explode as supernovae.**”*³

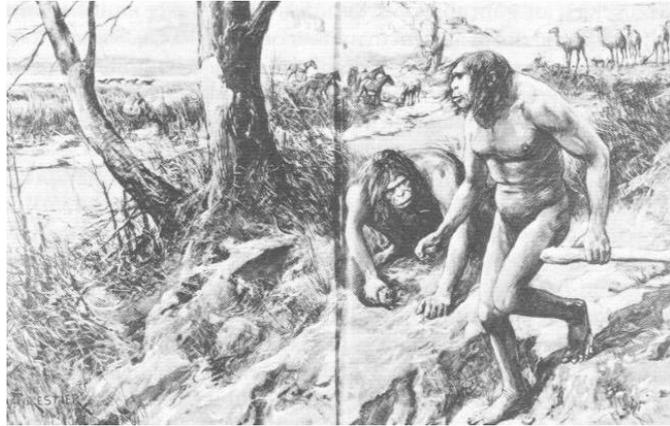
Ordering information does not automatically guarantee that the order is correct. If we knew all there is to know about stars, observations would never contradict our understanding.

Just about everyone has heard of Brontosaurus but relatively few know that Brontosaurus, as such, never existed. When O. Marsh discovered the first body skeleton, it lacked a skull. Marsh found a dinosaur skull three miles away from the skeleton and assumed that it belonged to that body. Later, more complete skeletons were discovered with the head attached and now we know that Marsh put the head of an Apatosaurus on the body of a Diplodocus. Consider this: if you were a fly on his pack and witnessed the initial discovery of Brontosaurus, wouldn’t you have every right to question the assumption that the head and body once belonged to the same creature? If more complete skeletons had not been discovered, Brontosaurus would still be accepted as a real dinosaur.

Nebraska man (*Hesperopithecus harold cooki*), discovered in 1922, was hailed as the first ape-man discovered in North America. What was the evidence? – a single molar tooth! This double page sketch in the *Illustrated London News*⁴ shows the conjecture that was inspired by this tooth.

³ Feb., 1994, p. 41, emphasis mine

⁴ June 24, 1922



Mark Twain how right you are! Notice the optimism in the following excerpts from the original article that appeared in *Science*⁵:

*“It is hard to believe that a single small water-worn tooth, 10.5 mm. by 11 mm. in crown diameter, can signalize the arrival of the anthropoid Primates in North America in Pliocene time. **We have been eagerly anticipating some discovery of this kind, but were not prepared for such convincing evidence...**It looks one hundred per cent. anthropoid... We may cool down to-morrow, but it looks to me as if the first anthropoid ape of America had been found by **the one man entitled to find it, namely Harold J. Cook...it resembles the human type more closely than it does any known anthropoid ape...**”*

For six years Nebraska man rested comfortably on its branch of man’s evolutionary tree until more teeth were discovered in 1928 but these were attached to a skull - the skull of a pig! The pig, or peccary, was thought to be extinct for the last 15,000 years. But to add insult to injury, the “extinct” peccary was found in 1975, living in herds in Paraguay!⁶ If the 1928 discovery had not been made, Nebraska man would still be our ancestor. Recall how science works – conclusions drawn from a discovery are accepted on the faith that future discoveries won’t contradict those conclusions. By the way, before the second discovery, Nebraska man was used as evidence in support of man’s evolution in the famous 1925 Scope’s Trial.

Unlike Nebraska Man, Piltdown Man was actually a hoax. In 1912 an ape-like mandible (jaw) and human-like skull fragments were found in a gravel pit near Piltdown, England, by Charles Dawson (a medical doctor and amateur paleontologist) who brought them to the attention of Arthur Woodward, then Director of the Natural History Museum of London.

*“The actual remains were locked away for safe keeping, but plaster casts were circulated to the major museums. The now familiar plaster reconstruction in brown and white took a prominent place in the British Museum of Natural History, while **for the next forty-one years it sat in its vitrine sanctuary with***

⁵ May 5, 1922, p. 463-464, emphasis mine

⁶ *Science*, August 1, 1975, p. 379-381.

toothy grins literally hundreds of thousands of visitors filed past paying homage to their alleged ancestor. Needless to say, objections to man's ape ancestry made in the pulpit were effectively silenced. A whole generation grew up with Piltdown Man in their textbooks and home encyclopedias; who in their right mind would question the veracity of the Encyclopedia Britannica?"⁷

In the forty-one years of Piltdown Man's credibility it is estimated 500 articles were written about him.⁸ The hoax was finally exposed in 1953 when the original bones were tested for the amount of fluoride absorbed by the bones from the soil. The jawbone was judged to be no older than about the year it was discovered; the skull fragments had enough fluoride to be a few thousand years old, but not the publicized age of 500,000 years. Further tests discovered that the bones had been treated with iron salts to make them look old and scratch marks were detected on the teeth indicating that they had been filed. Furthermore, way back in 1916 a dental anatomist who examined the original jawbone noticed that the teeth were worn down far more than their apparent youthfulness would allow. He reported this at the time⁹ but this bit of investigation was ignored.

Some have made this argument: science is self-correcting in that the truth will eventually be discovered, so there is no problem. But the problem is all the incorrect conjecture until the truth comes to light – this could take a generation or more of time, as Piltdown man took. And how do we finally decide that the truth has been found? It would be easier if conclusions came with gongs or buzzes, like the answers on game shows, to testify to their accuracy.

I am of the opinion that everyone has bias that can affect most if not all that they do. Where would you “file” a story about the discovery of a living dinosaur? In the culture I live in, filing it in the “hard to believe drawer” of the mind would be common among Americans because our system of public education teaches as fact that dinosaurs became extinct about 60 million years ago. So, since we have been “conditioned” about the age of dinosaurs, what will we think about any conclusions that do not agree with our current mindset? As we will see later, fossils have been discovered alive that “should have been extinct” millions of years ago! They are called “living fossils” (sounds oxymoronic, doesn't it?) and their discovery shakes the very foundation of dating any rock by the fossils it contains.



If the “fossil” is still alive, then it certainly cannot be extinct and is useless for dating rocks. How many other living fossils have yet to be discovered? How would you go about proving that a fossil organism is extinct at the present time? How would you go about proving that a fossil organism became extinct at some time in the past?

Taylor, Ian, 1987, *In The Minds Of Men*, TFE Publishing, p.228, emphasis mine. This is an excellent resource.

⁸ Miller, R., 1972, *The Piltdown Men*, p.10

⁹ *The Significance Of The Radiographs Of The Piltdown Teeth*: Proceedings of the Royal Society Of Medicine, London 9, Odontological section, 1916, p. 33.

Isn't it interesting that we make conclusions based upon the lack of evidence that they are still alive rather than proof of their demise? How could someone prove that dinosaurs became extinct 60 million years ago? Can any one prove that dinosaurs are alive somewhere on the earth today?

There is a place in Yellowstone National Park called Specimen Ridge where there are twelve layers of petrified trees, one above the other. In each layer the trees are vertical in the growing position. The original explanation is that each layer represents a forest that grew there in the past and was subsequently buried and petrified. Then, after Mt. St. Helens erupted divers went into Spirit Lake and noticed that when the floating trees became waterlogged, each tree sank to the bottom of the lake **root end down** in the growth position and became buried that way.¹⁰ So, thanks to Mt. St. Helens, we have an explanation for Specimen Ridge that explains why the trees there have few limbs and short roots – they were blown off a mountainside in the past and accumulated in a lake over a relatively short, not long, period of time. Notice that the new one thanks to a new discovery has replaced the old explanation.

I really enjoy reading about science and spend much of my time doing so. But how the discoveries are presented as well as the conclusions reached by the author of the article are very much affected by the author's biases. So, in addition to reading *Science*, *Nature*, *Scientific American*, etc., I also read *Creation ex nihilo*,¹¹ *Technical Journal*,¹² and *Creation Research Society Quarterly*¹³ which have a bias in favor of a biblical conclusion. I believe the safest way to reach your own conclusions is to first separate the discovery from the author's conclusions. This is not always easy, particularly when reading textbooks, because authors are very good at making conclusions look like discoveries.

Isn't it obvious that a rock with a dinosaur bone in it is dinosaur age? No it is not! The discovery is the bone but its age is a conclusion. And, if you have been brainwashed into thinking that all dinosaur bones must be older than 60 million years, then you accept the "age" as having the same weight as the discovery itself! This is very sad. Who would dare argue with a college professor, a textbook, a museum display or National Geographic? If you think the earth is about 6,000 years because your parents or pastor told you so, or the Bible says so, or the Institute For Creation Research has proven so, then you have also been brainwashed! God gave us a brain to be used for more than storage and retrieval. A computer can store and retrieve better than your brain can. Notice that God encourages thinking!

"But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is

¹⁰ Austin, S., *Mount St. Helens: Explosive Evidence for Catastrophe!*, video available from Answers in Genesis

¹¹ this is the less technical journal published by the Creation Science Foundation Ltd. For more information go to www.AnswersinGenesis.org. It is written to a popular audience of all ages and academic backgrounds.

¹² this is the more technical journal, also published by the Creation Science Foundation Ltd. For more information go to www.AnswersinGenesis.org.

¹³ published by Creation Research Society. For more information go to www.creationresearch.org.

good; abstain from every form of evil.”¹⁴

First we are to carefully examine and then decide if what has been examined is good or evil, followed by embracing it if it is good or abstaining from it if it is evil. This involves thinking, not just accepting! How much of what you “hold fast to” have you actually thought about?

What Does God Think About Man’s Knowledge?

God condemns any knowledge that is contrary to His knowledge. Consider the following verse:

*“We are **destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ,**”¹⁵*

The English word “**speculations**” is translated from the Greek word “logismos” (Strongs 3053) which means “computation, reasoning, imagination or thought.” It is from another Greek word “logizomai” (Strongs 3049) which means “to conclude, esteem, reason, reckon, suppose, think on.” The English word “**captive**” is translated from the Greek word “aichmalotizo” (Strongs 163) which means to **lead away captive** like a prisoner of war. In this study we will identify the “enemy thoughts” and lead them away from our thinking so that understanding of the past is consistent with God’s thoughts about the past. The English word “**obedience**” is translated from the Greek word “hupakoe” (Strongs 5218) which means “attentive hearkening” (hearken, also spelled harken, means to hear, to pay attention to and to heed).



How can you recognize the “speculations” and “lofty things”, those “enemy thoughts”, that have been “raised up against the knowledge of God” unless you first know the “knowledge of God!” That is why we will be using verses from the Bible whenever possible. In Part 2 we will be finding out what God says about Creation, the Flood and the age of the earth so that we can destroy human speculation that is contrary to God’s word. Are you hearkening attentively?

Since most people, including myself, have been brainwashed to believe that the enemy’s thoughts are true, it will not be easy to take them captive. We have used them to defend our worldly view of earth history for all of our lives. Do you recall how I had such a difficult time giving up what I learned at UCLA? I lived with those thoughts and taught them to thousands of people before taking them captive. Here are some other verses condemning human knowledge.

*“For it is written, **“I WILL DESTROY THE WISDOM OF THE WISE, AND THE CLEVERNESS OF THE CLEVER I WILL SET ASIDE.”**”¹⁶*

“For the wisdom of this world is foolishness before God. For it

¹⁴ 1Thess. 5:21-22, NAS⁹⁵, emphasis mine

¹⁵ 2 Cor. 10:5, NAS⁹⁵, emphasis mine

¹⁶ 1 Cor. 1:19, NAS⁹⁵, emphasis mine

is written, "He is **THE ONE WHO CATCHES THE WISE IN THEIR CRAFTINESS**" ¹⁷

"Therefore behold, I will once again deal marvelously with this people, wondrously marvelous; And the wisdom of their wise men will perish, And the discernment of their discerning men will be concealed." ¹⁸

"The wise men are put to shame, They are dismayed and caught; Behold, they have rejected the word of the LORD, And what kind of wisdom do they have?" ¹⁹

The Advantages Of Acquiring God's Knowledge

Reasoning from the Bible makes good sense because instead of relying on the words of men who weren't there and don't know everything, it relies on the words of God who was there and knows everything. God claims to have been there when the earth was created and even before:

"Before the mountains were born Or You gave birth to the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God." ²⁰

"The eternal God is a dwelling place, And underneath are the everlasting arms; And He drove out the enemy from before you, And said, 'Destroy!'" ²¹

"And when the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, to Him who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders will fall down before Him who sits on the throne, and will worship Him who lives forever and ever, and will cast their crowns before the throne, saying" ²²

"From everlasting I was established, From the beginning, from the earliest times of the earth. "When there were no depths I was brought forth, When there were no springs abounding with water. "Before the mountains were settled, Before the hills I was brought forth;" ²³

Notice the various statements describing the eternity of God listed in Table 1.

Table 1: Verses On The Eternity Of God (NAS'95)			
Everlasting God	Ge 21:33	I am the first, I am also the last	Isa 48:12

¹⁷ 1 Cor. 3:19, NAS'95, emphasis mine

¹⁸ Isaiah 29:14, NAS'95, emphasis mine

¹⁹ Jer. 8:9, NAS'95, emphasis mine

²⁰ Psalm 90:2, NAS'95, emphasis mine

²¹ Deut. 33:27, NAS'95, emphasis mine

²² Rev. 4:9-10, NAS'95, emphasis mine

²³ Pr 8:23-25, NAS, emphasis mine

as I live forever	De 32:40	One Who lives forever	Isa 57:15
eternal God	De 33:27	everlasting King	Jer 10:10
everlasting arms	De 33:27	from the beginning	Jer 17:12
From everlasting even to everlasting	1Ch 16:36	rule forever	La 5:19
The number of His years is unsearchable	Job 36:26	everlasting kingdom	Da 4:3
abides forever	Ps 9:7	...Him who lives forever... ...everlasting dominion...	Da 4:34
From everlasting to everlasting	Ps 41:13	From the days of eternity	Mic 5:2
are on high forever	Ps 92:8	Are You not from everlasting	Hab 1:12
You are from everlasting	Ps 93:2	His ways are everlasting	Hab 3:6
abide forever	Ps 102:12	His eternal power	Ro 1:20
Your years will not come to an end	Ps 102:27	eternal God	Ro 16:26
endures forever	Ps 111:3	the King eternal	1Ti 1:17
everlasting kingdom	Ps 145:13	who alone posses immortality	1Ti 6:16
will reign forever	Ps 146:10	YOUR THRONE, O GOD, IS FOREVER AND EVER	Heb 1:8
everlasting Rock	Isa 26:4	eternal Spirit	Heb 9:14
Everlasting God	Isa 40:28	who has been from the beginning	1Jo 2:13
from the beginning	Isa 41:4	dominion forever and ever	Re 1:6
from eternity I am He	Isa 43:13	Him who lives forever and ever	Re 4:9,10 and 10:6 and 15:7
I am the first and I am the last	Isa 44:6		



Is there any doubt in your mind that God is not limited by time? He existed when all events of the past occurred and He will be present when all events of the future will occur. He didn't miss anything because of not being there at the same time as the event.

Here is a verse that can be correctly interpreted in light of this truth about God:

“For a thousand years in Your sight Are like yesterday when it passes by, Or as a watch in the night.”²⁴

“But do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day.”²⁵

God sees time like we see the newspaper. Just as we can view one page of the newspaper in its entirety, God sees all of time at once. **These verses do not redefine a day as a thousand years!** Notice the word “like” in both verses.

But even though He has been around for all time, how do we know that He was present at the right place to observe something take place? Consider the following verses:

“And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.”²⁶

“The LORD looks from heaven; He sees all the sons of men; From His dwelling place He looks out On all the inhabitants of the earth. He who fashions the hearts of them all, He who understands all their works.”²⁷

“You have placed our iniquities before You, Our secret sins in the light of Your presence.”²⁸

“Naked is Sheol before Him, And Abaddon has no covering.”²⁹

“For He looks to the ends of the earth And sees everything under the heavens.”³⁰

“For His eyes are upon the ways of a man, And He sees all his steps. There is no darkness or deep shadow Where the workers of iniquity may hide themselves.”³¹

“Sheol and Abaddon lie open before the LORD, How much more the hearts of men!”³²

“But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain You, how much

²⁴ Psalms 90:4, NAS⁹⁵, emphasis mine

²⁵ 2 Peter 3:8, NAS⁹⁵, emphasis mine

²⁶ Heb. 4:13, NAS⁹⁵, emphasis mine

²⁷ Psalm 33:13-15, NAS⁹⁵, emphasis mine

²⁸ Psalm 90:8, NAS⁹⁵, emphasis mine

²⁹ Job 26:6, NAS⁹⁵, emphasis mine

³⁰ Job 28:24, NAS⁹⁵, emphasis mine

³¹ Job 34:21, NAS⁹⁵, emphasis mine

³² Prov. 15:11, NAS⁹⁵, emphasis mine

less this house which I have built” ³³

“But who is able to build a house for Him, for **the heavens and the highest heavens cannot contain Him?** So who am I, that I should build a house for Him, except to burn incense before Him?” ³⁴

“For the eyes of the LORD move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His. You have acted foolishly in this. Indeed, from now on you will surely have wars.” ³⁵

“O LORD, You have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; You understand my thought from afar. You scrutinize my path and my lying down, And are intimately acquainted with all my ways. Even before there is a word on my tongue, Behold, O LORD, You know it all. You have enclosed me behind and before, And laid Your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is too high, I cannot attain to it. Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend to heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there. If I take the wings of the dawn, If I dwell in the remotest part of the sea, Even there Your hand will lead me, And Your right hand will lay hold of me. If I say, “Surely the darkness will overwhelm me, And the light around me will be night,” Even the darkness is not dark to You, And the night is as bright as the day. Darkness and light are alike to You.” ³⁶

“Am I a God who is near,” declares the LORD, “And not a God far off? **Can a man hide himself in hiding places So I do not see him?**” declares the LORD. **“Do I not fill the heavens and the earth?”** declares the LORD.” ³⁷

“However, the Most High does not dwell in houses made by human hands; as the prophet says: **‘HEAVEN IS MY THRONE, AND EARTH IS THE FOOTSTOOL OF MY FEET; WHAT KIND OF HOUSE WILL YOU BUILD FOR ME?’** says the Lord, **‘OR WHAT PLACE IS THERE FOR MY REPOSE? **‘WAS IT NOT MY HAND WHICH MADE ALL THESE THINGS?’*”*** ³⁸

“Woe to those who deeply hide their plans from the LORD, And whose deeds are done in a dark place, And they

³³ 1 Kings 8:27, NAS⁹⁵, emphasis mine

³⁴ 2 Chron. 2:6, NAS⁹⁵, emphasis mine

³⁵ 2 Chron. 16:9, NAS⁹⁵, emphasis mine, see also Zec. 4:10

³⁶ Psalm 139:1-12, NAS⁹⁵, emphasis mine

³⁷ Jer. 23:23-24, NAS⁹⁵, emphasis mine

³⁸ Acts 7:48-50, NAS⁹⁵, emphasis mine

say, **"Who sees us?" or "Who knows us?"**³⁹

"It is He who reveals the profound and hidden things; He knows what is in the darkness, And the light dwells with Him."⁴⁰

"so that your giving will be in secret; and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you."⁴¹

But just because He was there in time and place, couldn't He distort or lie about what He observed? Consider these verses:

"God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent; Has He said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?"⁴²

"Also the Glory of Israel will not lie or change His mind; for He is not a man that He should change His mind."⁴³

"For the LORD your God is the God of gods and the Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God who does not show partiality nor take a bribe."⁴⁴

"The Rock! His work is perfect, For all His ways are just; A God of faithfulness and without injustice, Righteous and upright is He."⁴⁵

"Therefore, listen to me, you men of understanding. Far be it from God to do wickedness, And from the Almighty to do wrong."⁴⁶

"Shall one who hates justice rule? And will you condemn the righteous mighty One?"⁴⁷

"Who shows no partiality to princes Nor regards the rich above the poor, For they all are the work of His hands?"⁴⁸

"Behold, God is mighty but does not despise any; He is mighty in strength of understanding."⁴⁹

"The Almighty--we cannot find Him; He is exalted in power And He will not do violence to justice and abundant righteousness. Therefore men fear Him; He does not regard any who are wise of

³⁹ Isa. 29:15, NAS^Ö5, emphasis mine

⁴⁰ Dan. 2:22, NAS^Ö5, emphasis mine

⁴¹ Matt. 6:4, NAS^Ö5, emphasis mine, see also Matt. 6:18

⁴² Num. 23:19, NAS^Ö5, emphasis mine

⁴³ 1 Sam. 15:29, NAS^Ö5, emphasis mine

⁴⁴ Deut. 10:17, NAS^Ö5, emphasis mine

⁴⁵ Deut. 32:4, NAS^Ö5, emphasis mine

⁴⁶ Job 34:10, NAS^Ö5, emphasis mine

⁴⁷ Job 34:17, NAS^Ö5, emphasis mine

⁴⁸ Job 34:19, NAS^Ö5, emphasis mine

⁴⁹ Job 36:5, NAS^Ö5, emphasis mine

*heart.”*⁵⁰

*“For the LORD is righteous, He loves righteousness; The upright will behold His face.”*⁵¹

*“He loves righteousness and justice; The earth is full of the lovingkindness of the LORD.”*⁵²

“My covenant I will not violate, Nor will I alter the utterance of My lips. Once I have sworn by My holiness; I will not lie to David.”⁵³

“To declare that the LORD is upright; He is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in Him.”⁵⁴

*“The LORD is righteous in all His ways And kind in all His deeds.”*⁵⁵

*“I have not spoken in secret, In some dark land; I did not say to the offspring of Jacob, ‘Seek Me in a waste place’; I, the LORD, speak righteousness, Declaring things that are upright.”*⁵⁶

*“Thus says the LORD, ‘What injustice did your fathers find in Me, That they went far from Me And walked after emptiness and became empty?’*⁵⁷

“Opening his mouth, Peter said: “I most certainly understand now that **God is not one to show partiality**, but in every nation the man who fears Him and does what is right is welcome to Him.”⁵⁸

*“For there is no partiality with God.”*⁵⁹

“Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God;” for **God cannot be tempted by evil**, and He Himself does not tempt anyone.”⁶⁰

“If you address as **Father the One who impartially judges** according to each one’s work, conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay on earth;”⁶¹

*“so that by two unchangeable things in which **it is impossible for God to lie**, we who have taken refuge would have strong*

⁵⁰ Job 37:23-24, NASÖ5, emphasis mine

⁵¹ Psalms 11:7, NASÖ5, emphasis mine

⁵² Psalms 33:5, NASÖ5, emphasis mine

⁵³ Psalms 89:34-35, NASÖ5, emphasis mine

⁵⁴ Psalms 92:15, NASÖ5, emphasis mine

⁵⁵ Psalms 145:17, NASÖ5, emphasis mine

⁵⁶ Isaiah 45:19, NASÖ5, emphasis mine

⁵⁷ Jer. 2:5, NASÖ5, emphasis mine

⁵⁸ Acts 10:34-35, NASÖ5, emphasis mine

⁵⁹ Romans 2:11, NASÖ5, emphasis mine

⁶⁰ James 1:13, NASÖ5, emphasis mine

⁶¹ 1 Pet. 1:17, NASÖ5, emphasis mine

*encouragement to take hold of the hope set before us.”*⁶²

But even though He was there at the right place and at the right time, perhaps He didn't understand what was happening? My two dogs watch me make coffee every morning but do they understand what I am doing? Consider these verses:

*“He counts the number of the stars; He gives names to all of them. Great is our Lord and abundant in strength; **His understanding is infinite.**”*⁶³

*“There is no one holy like the LORD, Indeed, there is no one besides You, Nor is there any rock like our God. “Boast no more so very proudly, Do not let arrogance come out of your mouth; **For the LORD is a God of knowledge, And with Him actions are weighed.**”*⁶⁴

*“But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; **for God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.**”*⁶⁵

*“then hear in heaven Your dwelling place, and forgive and act and render to each according to all his ways, whose heart You know, **for You alone know the hearts of all the sons of men,**”*⁶⁶

*“As for you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father, and serve Him with a whole heart and a willing mind; **for the LORD searches all hearts, and understands every intent of the thoughts.** If you seek Him, He will let you find Him; but if you forsake Him, He will reject you forever.”*⁶⁷

*“For **He knows** false men, And **He sees iniquity without investigating.**”*⁶⁸

*“With Him are wisdom and might; To Him belong counsel and understanding.”*⁶⁹

*“Can anyone teach God knowledge, In that He judges those on high?”*⁷⁰

*“Behold, God is mighty but does not despise any; **He is mighty in strength of understanding.**”*⁷¹

⁶² Heb. 6:18, NAS⁹⁵, emphasis mine

⁶³ Psalms 147:4-5, NAS⁹⁵, emphasis mine

⁶⁴ 1 Sam. 2:2-3, NAS⁹⁵, emphasis mine

⁶⁵ 1 Sam. 16:7, NAS⁹⁵, emphasis mine

⁶⁶ 1 Kings 8:39, NAS⁹⁵, emphasis mine, see also Psalms 94:11 and Acts 1:24

⁶⁷ 1 Chron. 28:9, NAS⁹⁵, emphasis mine, see also 2 Chron. 6:30

⁶⁸ Job 11:11, NAS⁹⁵, emphasis mine

⁶⁹ Job 12:13, NAS⁹⁵, emphasis mine, see also Job 12:16

⁷⁰ Job 21:22, NAS⁹⁵, emphasis mine

⁷¹ Job 36:5, NAS⁹⁵, emphasis mine

“With whom did He consult and who gave Him understanding? And who taught Him in the path of justice and taught Him knowledge And informed Him of the way of understanding?”⁷²

“Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth Does not become weary or tired. His understanding is inscrutable.”⁷³

“It is He who made the earth by His power, Who established the world by His wisdom; And by His understanding He has stretched out the heavens.”⁷⁴

“Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!”⁷⁵

“in whatever our heart condemns us; for God is greater than our heart and knows all things.”⁷⁶

Finally, if God is not limited by time or location or ability to understand what He observes, and always tells the truth, wouldn't He be the **perfect witness** of any event in the past? But maybe the God of the Bible has changed. After all, the verses we have read were written 2,000 or more years ago. That's a long time to be aware of everything! Consider the following verses:

“But He is unique and who can turn Him? And what His soul desires, that He does.”⁷⁷

“The counsel of the LORD stands forever, The plans of His heart from generation to generation.”⁷⁸

“Lamedh. Forever, O LORD, Your word is settled in heaven.”⁷⁹

“I know that everything God does will remain forever; there is nothing to add to it and there is nothing to take from it, for God has so worked that men should fear Him.”⁸⁰

Yet He also is wise and will bring disaster And does not retract His words, But will arise against the house of evildoers And against the help of the workers of iniquity.”⁸¹

“Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Everlasting God, the

⁷² Isa. 40:14, NAS⁹⁵, emphasis mine

⁷³ Isa. 40:28, NAS⁹⁵, emphasis mine

⁷⁴ Jer. 10:12, NAS⁹⁵, emphasis mine, see also Jer. 51:15

⁷⁵ Rom. 11:33, NAS⁹⁵, emphasis mine

⁷⁶ 1 John 3:20, NAS⁹⁵, emphasis mine

⁷⁷ Job 23:13, NAS⁹⁵, emphasis mine

⁷⁸ Psalms 33:11, NAS⁹⁵, emphasis mine

⁷⁹ Psalms 119:89, NAS⁹⁵, emphasis mine

⁸⁰ Ec. 3:14, NAS⁹⁵, emphasis mine

⁸¹ Isaiah 31:2, NAS⁹⁵, emphasis mine

*LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth **Does not become weary or tired.** His understanding is inscrutable.”⁸²*

“For I, the LORD, do not change; therefore you, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed.”⁸³

*“In the same way God, desiring even more to show to the heirs of **the promise the unchangeableness of His purpose,** interposed with an oath,”⁸⁴*

*“Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, **with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.**”⁸⁵*



Would you rather believe the words of God who was there and knows everything or the words of men who were not there and don't know everything? Is the integrity of God's word higher than the integrity of man's word? If the Bible and journal article deal with the same subject (such as the origin of the earth), which one will you choose to believe and why?

As a student I remember taking a class at UCLA taught by Dr. Willard Libby, a 1960 Nobel Prize winner for his invention of carbon fourteen dating, and his wife, who worked on the first nuclear reactor. Even other UCLA professors attended the class to learn as much as possible from these two remarkable people. But as famous as these two people are, they pale in comparison to God. In order to make the point in the box above as clear as possible, let's take a Biblical science test. The test has only about fifty questions, but they are not true false or multiple choice. The professor giving the test is God and the student is Job. The test begins with God speaking to Job.

*“Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind and said, **“Who is this that darkens counsel By words without knowledge?***

“Now gird up your loins like a man, And I will ask you, and you instruct Me!

“Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding,

Who set its measurements? Since you know. Or who stretched the line on it? “On what were its bases sunk? Or who laid its cornerstone,

When the morning stars sang together And all the sons of God shouted for joy?”⁸⁶

About half way through, God gives Job a chance to give some answers. Here is

⁸² Isaiah 40:28, NAS⁹⁵, emphasis mine

⁸³ Mal. 3:6, NAS⁹⁵, emphasis mine

⁸⁴ Heb. 6:17, NAS⁹⁵, emphasis mine

⁸⁵ James 1:17, NAS⁹⁵, emphasis mine

⁸⁶ Job 38:1-7, NAS⁹⁵, emphasis mine

how Job replied:

*Behold, I am insignificant; what can I reply to You? I lay my hand on my mouth.
"Once I have spoken, and I will not answer; Even twice, and I will add nothing more."*⁸⁷

At last the test was over but Job's score was no better and Job's concluding comment was no different.

*"Then Job answered the LORD and said,
"I know that You can do all things, And that no purpose of Yours can be thwarted.
'Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?'
"Therefore I have declared that which I did not understand, Things too wonderful for me, which I did not know."
'Hear, now, and I will speak; I will ask You, and You instruct me.'
"I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear; But now my eye sees You;
Therefore I retract, And I repent in dust and ashes."*⁸⁸



Are you at the place where Job is? Are you willing to ask God for understanding? Are you willing to be instructed by Him? Do you see God as Job sees God? Do you fully believe that God's understanding of the past is infinitely better than your understanding? That His understanding is infinitely better than the sum of all human understanding for all time? If so, then you know how to think about the past.

Summary Of How To Think

As we look at what the Bible says about creation, the Flood and the age of the earth in part 2, we need to keep in mind our rationale for how to think so that we can defend what we take to be true. We can summarize the preceding material into three statements. I have also included a verse relating to each.

- The words of Moses are true because Jesus Christ said so.

*"But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?"*⁸⁹

- The miracles in the Bible are also true and testify to God's total control over creation.

"You are the God who performs miracles; you display

⁸⁷ Job 40:4-5, NAS⁹⁵, emphasis mine

⁸⁸ Job 42:1-6, NAS⁹⁵, emphasis mine

⁸⁹ John 5:45-47, NAS⁹⁵, emphasis mine.

your power among the peoples.”⁹⁰

- God is a reliable witness of all events in every location and through all time. Therefore, we will believe the words of God who was there and knows everything instead of the words of men who were not there and have only limited knowledge and are swayed by bias.

“Behold, I am insignificant; what can I reply to You? I lay my hand on my mouth. Once I have spoken, and I will not answer; Even twice, and I will add nothing more.”⁹¹

⁹⁰ Psalms 77:14, NIV, emphasis mine

⁹¹ Job 40:4-5, NAS⁹⁵, emphasis mine