

The Second Coming Early Warning System

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One of the most perplexing problems for Biblical chronologists is explaining the calendar data given in Genesis 7-8. The flood began on the 17th day of the 2nd month. The ark rested on the 17th day of the 7th month, five months to the day. Genesis describes this period as 150 days, (Gen. 7:11,24, 8:3-4). Therefore, these five months on Noah's calendar consisted of exactly 30 days each, ($30 \times 5 = 150$). Noah's lunar months (30 days) were about a half day longer than the present lunar months (29.53 days). If you extrapolate Noah's lunar calendar for the full 12 months of the year, it is apparent he knew a 360 day lunar year, ($30 \times 12 = 360$).

Noah's calendar was different from both the present lunar calendar (354.53 days), and present solar calendar (365.24 days). Something occurred about the time of the flood that altered the calendar, making it necessary to add an intercalary month every 2 or 3 years to keep the lunar calendar in sync with the seasons. I have not previously heard an adequate explanation that could account for the apparent separation of the lunar – solar year from the pre-flood calendar. In this paper I will present a hypothesis which I believe answers this question. Please keep in mind that this is only a hypothesis, and is subject to correction if the mathematical data proves it false.

No Solar Year Before the Flood

The earth's tilt on its axis is what gives us the seasons. If the earth's axis was perpendicular to the ecliptic, (0 degree tilt), there would be no seasons at all, and no such thing as a "solar year." The earth's temperature at each latitude would be constant year round. The weather would be extremely mild and non-violent. With no seasons and a very mild, stable climate, crops could be planted and harvested year round. Food storage would be completely unnecessary. Remember, people prior to the flood were vegetarians, (cf. Gen. 1:29-30 & 9:1-4). Around the 30 – 40 degree latitudes, every day would be comfortable, perhaps in the mid 60s to mid 70s year round. Remember, Adam and Eve were naked prior to the fall, with absolutely no provision for warm clothing in winter.

With no inclination of the earth's axis, there would be no such thing as a "solar year" because no seasonal changes would occur to measure it by. The days would not get longer and shorter throughout the year. The sun would not appear to drift in its ark across the sky, but would follow precisely the same path year round.

That the four seasons, with their yearly oscillations of cold and heat, did not exist before the flood is supported by the Genesis data.¹ There is no mention of any of the four seasons, weather, changing climate, or changing temperature until the flood. Immediately after the flood, God introduced the four seasons to Noah, characterizing them by the terms, “cold” and “heat.”

Gen 8:20-22 LXX

20 And Noe built an altar to the Lord, and took of all clean beasts, and of all clean birds, and offered a whole burnt-offering upon the altar.

21 And the Lord God smelled a smell of sweetness, and the Lord God having considered, said, I will not any more curse the earth, because of the works of men, because the imagination of man is intently bent upon evil things from his youth, I will not therefore any more smite all living flesh as I have done.

*22 All the days of the earth, **seed and harvest, cold and heat, summer and spring, shall not cease by day or night.***

The “curse” on the ground in verse 21, and “smiting” the earth, both refer to what God did to the earth on account of the sin of mankind in Noah’s day. Verse 22 makes no sense in this context unless the four seasons described were just being introduced for the first time. Had they been occurring all along, what would be the point of telling Noah that the four seasons would continue perpetually? The only logical reason for making such a statement was to let Noah know that a new situation had arisen, the

¹ **Answers in Genesis** claims that Christians should not use the argument that the earth’s axis was not tilted before the flood, <http://www.answersingenesis.org/get-answers/topic/arguments-we-dont-use>. Their stated reason is not scientific, but textual. “*Genesis 1:14 reveals seasons did exist prior to the Flood.*” While AiG’s work in science is first rate, and we highly recommend it, their interpretation of this passage is mistaken. The word “seasons” in Genesis 1:14 is “moedh.” It has nothing to do with the four seasons (winter, spring, fall, and summer). It means “appointed time,” (Gen. 17:21; 18:14; 21:2; Ex. 9:5). In the Torah, it almost always refers to the Jewish feast days that were calculated by the new moon (Ex. 13:10; 23:15; Lev. 23:2,4; 23:37,44; Num. 9:2-3,7,13; 10:10; 15:3; 28:2; 29:39; Deut. 16:6; 31:10). In fact, Psalm 104:19 states plainly that God “*appointed the moon for seasons*” (moedh). The moon has nothing to do with spring, summer, fall, and winter. It has everything to do with the lunar calendar, by which all the feasts were calculated. This Hebrew word is never used in the Torah to refer to any of the four seasons. The point of Genesis 1:14 was that the heavenly bodies were given partly for calculating the feasts of the Lord (seasons), by keeping a lunar calendar. The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia states: “*The sun and moon were appointed “to give light upon the earth” and “for signs,” and “for days and years.” They were also appointed “for seasons” (mo’ adhim), i.e. “appointed assemblies.” These seasons were not primarily such seasons as the progress of the year brings forth in the form of changes of weather or of the condition of vegetation; they were seasons for worship. The word mo’edh occurs some 219 times; in 149 it is translated “congregation,” and in about 50 other instances by “solemn assembly” or some equivalent expression. Thus before ever man was created, God had provided for him times to worship and had appointed two great lights of heaven to serve as signals to call to it.*” The objection of Answers in Genesis to this theory based on the Genesis passage is unfounded.

earth having four seasons varying from cold to hot, making a planting season and harvesting season necessary. Noah should expect this to be permanent, not just a temporary aberration from the flood. Therefore, the only reasonable explanation of this passage from a scientific point of view is that the earth tilted on its axis, from 0 degrees prior to the flood, to its present 23.5 degrees.

An interesting coincidence is found in the dates of the flood given in Genesis. The flood lasted for 12 lunar months plus eleven days. It began on the 17th day of the second month² and ended on the 27th day of the second month the following year.³ Noah had been using a pre-flood calendar of 12 lunar months. If the cause of the flood was the tilting of the earth, which also brought about our present lunar and solar years, this change is precisely defined by the length of the flood. Noah measured out 12 lunar months. But the flood lasted 11 additional days. A lunar year of 12 lunar months is 354 days. A solar year is 365 days. The flood lasted precisely one solar year, but was measured by Noah using his pre-flood calendar of 12 lunar months. Hence, he gives the total as 12 lunar months plus 11 days.

The flood and the confounding of the languages at Babel are both found in ancient, pagan mythologies. That many cultures have such legends is powerful evidence that the flood and other events in the Bible really took place, even though they may have been greatly embellished. Ancient civilizations invented absurd legends of gods and goddesses interacting with the creation in order to explain nature as they observed it. The ancient Greeks had a legend of a previous golden age with no seasons, where crops grew in abundance year round. After a battle among the gods, the four seasons were introduced. In the previous age, men did not grow old. This sounds remarkably similar to the biblical account of the great ages reached by men before the flood.

*“Virgo is the second-largest constellation in the sky, exceeded only by the much fainter Hydra. The Greeks called the constellation Parthenos. She is usually identified as Dike, goddess of justice, who was daughter of Zeus and Themis; ... Dike was supposed to have lived on Earth in the Golden Age of mankind, when Cronus ruled Olympus. It was a time of peace and happiness, **a season of perennial spring when food grew without cultivation** and humans never grew old. Men lived like the gods, not knowing work, sorrow, crime or war. Dike moved among them, dispensing wisdom and justice.*

*“Then, when Zeus overthrew his father Cronus on Olympus, the Silver Age began, inferior to the age that had just passed. In the Silver Age, **Zeus shortened springtime***

² Gen. 7:11

³ Gen. 8:14

*and introduced the yearly cycle of seasons. Humans in this age became quarrelsome and ceased to honour the gods. Dike longed for the idyllic days gone by. She assembled the human race and spoke sternly to them for forsaking the ideals of their ancestors. 'Worse is to come', she warned them. Then she spread her wings and took refuge in the mountains, turning her back on mankind."*⁴

That the seasons began at the time of the flood is further supported by an ancient Jewish tradition contained in the Book of Jubilees, a Jewish apocryphal work written about 200BC. According to this tradition, Noah was the first to inaugurate four new festivals to mark the four seasons.

*"And on the new moon of the first month, and on the new moon of the fourth month, and on the new moon of the seventh month, and on the new moon of the tenth month are the days of remembrance, and the days of the seasons in the four divisions of the year. These are written and ordained as a testimony for ever. And Noah ordained them for himself as feasts for the generations for ever, so that they have become thereby a memorial unto him."*⁵

The apocryphal Book of Enoch, written about the time of the Babylonian captivity, also repeats a Jewish tradition about the earth tilting at the time of the flood.

*"In those days Noah saw that the earth became inclined, and that destruction approached."*⁶

The most ancient calendar, that of the Sumerians (the civilization that built the tower of Babel), used a 360 day calendar with 12 months of 30 days.⁷ However, the calendar was corrected to the solar year by adding 5 extra days at the end of each year. The use of this calendar can easily be explained if Noah and his sons only knew of a 360 day year prior to the flood, using a purely lunar calendar. However, it is difficult to explain otherwise, since it does not agree with either the lunar or solar year we observe today.

It is apparent, from this brief survey of extra-biblical historical sources, that the same ancient peoples who testified to Noah's flood also testified that the earth tilted at the time of the flood, and that the four seasons began at that time. There is as much reason

⁴ Ridpath, Ian, Star Tales; chapter 3; Virgo. <http://www.ianridpath.com/startales/virgo.htm>. Notice also the similarity to Revelation 12, the woman clothed with the sun, and moon under her feet, who is given two great wings and flies into the wilderness.

⁵ Book of Jubilees, VI, 23-24

⁶ Book of Enoch, LXIV, 1

⁷ Calendars through the Ages, <http://www.webexhibits.org/calendars/calendar-ancient.html>

for creationists to accept this extra-biblical testimony as there is reason to accept any similar traditions about a universal flood.

The Shortened Lunar Year

As was pointed out previously, the pre-flood lunar month was 30 days, and the lunar year was 360 days. This is established by the text. The tilting of the earth on its axis explains how the seasons began, and consequently made it necessary to keep a 365.24 day solar calendar for the agricultural cycle.

If this theory is correct, we would expect the tilting of the earth on its axis to also explain the shortening of the lunar month from 30 days to 29.5 days, (making the lunar year 354.37 days instead of 360 days). If the same physical change (tilting the earth's axis) also shortens the lunar year, this explanation becomes highly probable.

What would it take to shorten the number of days in a lunar month that involves a physical change to the earth only? The only possibility is to slow the earth's rotation. Since the moon's revolutions are relatively constant, a slowing of the earth's rotation would make each day slightly longer. There would be slightly fewer days in a single lunar cycle. Therefore, for this theory to work, the effect of tilting the earth's axis must also slow its rotation.

If God disrupted the earth's tilt by applying an outside force, two important phenomena would occur. First, the shift of the earth's axis would generate tremendous turbulence and internal friction within the earth's liquid iron outer core as the inner solid iron core struggled to reorient to the new angle of inclination. The net effect of this internal friction would be a significant braking of the earth's speed of rotation until the molten core realigned itself to the new axis. The energy of the core's momentum would be converted to heat.

The second effect from tilting the earth's axis concerns the earth's crust. We know from Genesis that the earth originally had only one super continent, and one super ocean.

*"Then God said, "Let the waters below the heavens be **gathered into one place**, and let the dry land appear"; and it was so."⁸*

Tilting the spinning earth would create an enormous gyroscopic torque effect on the earth's crust, tearing this super continent apart. John Baumgardner, PhD., of Los Alamos National Laboratory, has done pioneering work with computer models

⁸ Gen 1:9 NASB

demonstrating how catastrophic plate tectonics accounts for the present state of the earth, and Noah's flood.⁹ Yet, his theory lacks a specific trigger for the thermal runaway necessary to begin the subduction process.¹⁰ The gyroscopic torque effect on the earth's crust, and enormous heat generated by the shifting core, could easily provide such a trigger. A chain reaction of rapid continental shifting would result. The law of conservation of energy, (first law of thermodynamics), requires that the enormous heat energy in Baumgardner's model must have been converted from kinetic energy. The kinetic energy of the earth's rotation being converted to heat therefore provides a significant braking effect on the earth's rotation.

The slower rotation would make for slightly longer days and nights. The moon's cycles and phases would not change. But longer days mean slightly fewer days would elapse during a single lunar cycle. Consequently, the lunar month went from 30 days to 29.5 days. The lunar year went from 360 days (12 lunar months) to 354.37 days per lunar year. This is the direct result of a decreased rotation speed of the earth.

Once the seasons began after the flood, it quickly became necessary to correct the lunar calendar every 2 or 3 years by adding an intercalary month to synchronize it with the new seasons for agricultural purposes.

The Future Result of the Shift in the Earth's Axis

Isaiah indicates that the earth's axis will once again be greatly disturbed just prior to Jesus' return. There is currently a slight wobble in the earth's rotation. However, this wobble will apparently become much faster and much greater in magnitude (like an out of balance tire on your car), creating havoc. Below is the LXX rendering of Isaiah 24:18-20, with my literal translation following.

Isaiah 24:18b-20 LXX

18b οτι θυριδες εκ του ουρανου ηνεωχθησαν και σεισθησεται τα θεμελια της γης

19 ταραχη ταραχθησεται η γη και απορια απορηθησεται η γη

⁹ Baumgardner, John, PhD, **CATASTROPHIC PLATE TECTONICS: THE PHYSICS BEHIND THE GENESIS FLOOD:** <http://www.globalflood.org/papers/2003ICCcpt.html>

¹⁰ In the same article, Baumgardner explains the lack of a specific trigger as follows: "What about the triggering mechanism for the runaway of the mantle's boundary layers? In my opinion the simplest possibility is that the initial state from which the runaway emerged was built into the Earth as God originally formed it. In fact, I believe this almost certainly had to have been the case. It is also plausible that the Earth's mantle had been grinding inexorably toward catastrophe during all the 1650 or so years from when Adam disobeyed until "all the fountains of the great deep were broken up," such that no separate trigger immediately prior to the Flood event itself was even necessary. For lack of any more specific information about how the cataclysm was triggered, I personally prefer this simple hypothesis."

20 εκλινεν και σεισθησεται ως οπωροφυλακιον η γη ως ο μεθυων και κραιπαλων και πεσειται και ου μη δυνηται αναστηναι κατισχυσεν γαρ επ αυτης η ανομια

Isaiah 24:18-20 my literal Translation

18... For *windows from heaven were opened, and the foundations of the earth shall be shaken.*

19 By disturbance the earth shall be disturbed, and by perplexity the earth shall be perplexed.

20 It has tilted, and the earth shall wobble like a storehouse, like one intoxicated and dizzy, and it shall fall and not be able to rise up. For lawlessness shall grow strong upon it.

Note the changes in verb tense. The clause, “*windows from heaven were opened*” in verse 18 clearly refers to Noah’s flood. The ultimate consequence will be the future shaking of the foundations of the earth.

There is a clear parallel structure to these verses. Verses 18-19 are parallel to verse 20. In both, the past event of the flood is mentioned first: “*windows of heaven were opened*” & “[*the earth*] *has tilted*.” The future result follows in both: “*the foundations of the earth shall be shaken*” & “*the earth shall wobble ...like one intoxicated and dizzy*.”

Now, let’s consider another critical prophecy, this time from Psalm 102:25-26. This passage was quoted in Hebrews 1:10-12 verbatim from the LXX. Below is the LXX rendering followed by my literal translation.

Psalm 102:25-26 LXX (Hebrews 1:10-12)

25 κατ αρχας συ κυριε την γην εθεμελιωσας και εργα των χειρων σου εισιν οι ουρανοι

26 αυτοι απολουνται συ δε διαμενεις και παντες ως ιματιον παλαιωθησονται και ωσει περιβολαιον ελιξεις αυτους και αλλαγησονται

Psalm 102:25-26 (Hebrews 1:10-12) Literal Translation

25 *At the beginning, You, Lord, laid the foundation of the land, and the heavens are the works of Your hands.*

26 *They shall self-destruct, yet You remain. And all, like a garment, shall become aged. And as a thrown around garment You shall whirl them, and they shall be altered.*

The verb rendered “self-destruct” is in the middle voice, meaning the destruction is performed by the created bodies upon themselves. However, the verb rendered, “become aged” is in the passive voice. This indicates that the created bodies are passive

in their aging and obvious decay. Finally, note the curious language of verse 26. Two different words for “garment” are used. When speaking of growing old, the normal word for garment is used. However, when God alters the heavenly bodies, the word used for “garment” refers to a cloak that is thrown around the body. The word literally means, “something thrown around,” like a cape or cloak that one spins to one side while its momentum brings it around the back to the other side. This strongly implies an accelerated spinning of the object. Additionally, the clause, “*You shall whirl them,*” clearly has this idea in view.

From this passage we see that the bodies of our solar system will deteriorate and wind down. At some point things will become unstable and the system will begin to self-destruct. The stable motions will become chaotic. This is a perfect description of the violent “wobble” of the earth on its axis found in Isaiah 24. Finally, when God steps in at the second coming of Jesus, He will correct the chaos, and spin the created bodies, altering (and correcting) their motion. This is, of course, what is meant by “the new heavens and new earth” mentioned by Isaiah (65-66) and Peter (2 Peter 3), which will occur at the second coming of Jesus.

This predicted violent wobble in the earth’s axis explains all of Jesus’ predictions of world-wide catastrophes immediately prior to His second coming. Consider the following amazing prophecy of Jesus, all of which would result from the violent wobble of the earth on its axis prophesied by Isaiah.

Luke 21:11-12, 25-33 NKJV

11 And there will be great earthquakes in various places, and famines and pestilences; and there will be fearful sights and great signs from heaven. ...

25 And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; 26 men’s hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. 27 Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. 28 Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near.”

29 Then He spoke to them a parable: “Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. 30 When they are already budding, you see and know for yourselves that summer is now near. 31 So you also, when you see these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near. 32 Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all things take place. 33 Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

The observable phenomenon in the heavens will be that the sun, moon, planets, and stars will no longer follow their prescribed paths across the sky. The earthquakes and

seas roaring will result from the erratic stresses on the earth from the wobble of its axis. Famines and pestilence will be the result of the regular seasons becoming chaotic. Yet, God's people have no cause for alarm. He has promised to restore all things for the sake of Jesus' elect, (Isaiah 65-66, Acts 3:19-21, Rom. 8:18-25). While the world is in panic, we will rejoice, because these are the signals that our redemption, and the Kingdom of Christ, is drawing near. Everything will be restored.

A Second Coming Early Warning System

There is one thing very clear from the passages we have discussed above. The earth's future chaotic wobble, that will create all of the observable signs mentioned by Jesus, is the result of something that occurred a very long time ago, back in the days of Noah.

Jesus intended to give His faithful followers an early warning system in Luke 21. He said to "look up," not when all the events are taking place, but when they "begin to take place." That is, at the first sign. We are not to "look up" to see His coming, because that will not be until after all the signs have taken place. Rather, we are to observe the heavens, and the apparent movement of the heavenly bodies, all of which are related to the earth's axial tilt. Things will begin slowly, with a slight shifting of the earth's inclination. Then, the effects will begin to accelerate, until all of the things Jesus mentioned will occur, and people will be in a panic.

It is no coincidence that Jesus' used the parable of the changing of the seasons to illustrate His point, since this is a direct result of the earth's inclination. But, the changing of seasons is very gradual at first, and hardly noticeable. His parable indicates that we should look for the very first telltale signs that the "season" of His coming is approaching. And that sign will be a slight change in the earth's tilt. Notice also that Jesus gave us the length of time in which all of these things will occur, one generation. That is, the generation that sees the beginning of these things will see the completion of them as well.