

matter in 1966, it produced no solution. The author confesses his belief that, in fact, only a very few of those at the symposium really understood what the symposium was all about.

Some numerical estimates are interesting. It is concluded that, on the basis of some reasonable assumptions and if everything went by chance, that, in four billion years on 10^{20} planets, the chance would be only one in 10^{415} that a DNA molecule would be produced. And even if one should appear, it would not be "plain sailing" from then on; the same kind of problem would appear at the next stage.

Calculation by another writer is quoted, in which it is estimated that the chance of life appearing "by accident," under certain assumed conditions, is about one in 10^{255} . This still amounts to saying: "No chance at all!"

Special creation, or "directed evolution" would, it is admitted, solve the problem; but these concepts are dismissed as "of little scientific value, in the sense of suggesting experiments." (I had always thought that the aim of science was to get at the truth, by experiments if necessary.)

The question is raised whether there might be "some inherent interaction between atoms and molecules which might raise the percentage of useful mutations . . . Could there be a feedback mechanism. . .?" It begins to seem that the only alternative to special creation is the "life force" in some form or other, which is really a choice of pantheism instead of monotheism.

It is interesting to notice a remark about the "struggle for molecular existence," during discussion of the hypothetical early stages. Surely this is nothing more than a metaphor.

A footnote mentions a paper which, while apparently highly technical, seems to have a bearing on the question, and, if anything, to make the difficulties discussed in the paper even greater.²²

References

- ¹*Nature*, 222:117 (12 April, 1969).
- ²*Quarterly Journal of the Royal Astronomical Society*, 10 (No. 1):46 (March, 1969).
- ³Malin, S. R. E. March, 1969. *Planetary and Space Science*, 17 (No. 3):487.
- ⁴*Christianity Today*, 12 September 1969, p. 48.
- ⁵Luke 17:26.
- ⁶Luke 16:31.
- ⁷*New Scientist*, 17 April 1969, p. 113.
- ⁸*Planetary and Space Science*, 17 (No. 3):295 (March, 1969).
- ⁹Isaac Pitman and Sons, Ltd., London, 1957.
- ¹⁰Tabailloux, M. February, 1969. *Prophetic Witness*, 5 (No. 2):22. (Published by the Bible and Advent Testimony Movement, 1 Parsonage Road, Eastbourne, Sussex, England.)
- ¹¹Cann, F. J. April, 1969. *Prophetic Witness*, 5 (No. 4):77.
- ¹²Hoyle, F. March, 1969. *Quarterly Journal of the Royal Astronomical Society*, 10 (No. 1):10.
- ¹³*New Scientist*, 27:447 (27 November 1969).
- ¹⁴*Icarus*, 11:129 (1969).
- ¹⁵*The Kingston Whig-Standard*, 3 December 1969, p. 7.
- ¹⁶*New Scientist*, 27:449 (7 November 1969).
- ¹⁷Molchanov, A. M. 1969. The reality of resonances in the solar system, *Icarus*, 11:104.
- ¹⁸Kurth, R. 1959. Introduction to the mechanics of the solar system. Pergamon Press, New York, pp. 12 and 13. (The law is called the Titus-Bode law in this book.)
- ¹⁹Marcus, A. H. 1969. Speculations on mass loss by meteoroid impact and formation of the planets, *Icarus*, 11:76.
- ²⁰McCrea, Witt. 1969. Densities of the terrestrial planets, *Nature*, 224:28.
- ²¹Salisbury, F. B. 1969. Natural selection and the complexity of the gene, *Nature*, 324:342.
- ²²Chipman, D. M. and N. Sharon. 1969. *Science*, 165:454.

THE MYSTERY OF BURIED REDWOOD

V. L. WESTBERG*

This paper is a report of evidence concerning redwood trees that are deeply buried in California strata. Such trees present a problem to uniformitarian geologists, but they fit clearly with explanations presented in terms of the Noachian flood.

A Napa, California well driller, Harold McLean, told me personally that he had drilled into a large redwood tree buried under 80 feet of sand and clay. Location of this tree in low rolling hills near sea level provided no clue to its mysterious burial. Since discovery of that redwood tree, I have collected many accounts of similar finds in Sonoma County including a sample of wood (Figure 1) and the driller's log on the particular find.

*Mr. V. L. Westberg is president of the Westberg Manufacturing Company, Sonoma, California 95476. He holds the B.S.E.E. degree.

Specific Documentation

In further correspondence with various well drillers and drilling firms, it became clear to me that there are numerous instances in which redwood logs are found deep in sand and clay. Some trees are found directly below huge thousand year old stumps in good condition as these trees are rot resistant. Some of these letters are included here as substantiative evidence.

To: Mr. V. L. Westberg

Date: 7-18-67

I have drilled into redwood trees several times—Sebastopol area from 20' to 85' Cotati

80' to 100'. The redwood trees were found in clay deposits.

Signed,
Frank King,
Tri-K-Drilling Co.

* * * * *

To: Mr. V. L. Westberg

Date: 7-12-67

We drilled through a redwood log 4 ft. thick, 40 ft. below the surface along Austin creek near the town of Cazadero. Besides the drill was a redwood stump 7 ft. across that was cut in 1922. This tree had grown to that size after the one we drilled was covered up making the buried log pretty old. We obtained samples of the buried tree and the wood was in perfect condition. This was about 10 years ago and I don't know what happened to the samples.

Signed,

Yours truly, Bob Cowart

* * * * *

State of California—Transportation Agency
Department of Public Works
DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS
District I. P. O. Box 3700 Eureka, Calif. 95501
Date: September 22, 1967

To: Westberg Mfg. Co.

3400 Westach Way

Sonoma, California 95476

Gentlemen:

Regarding your inquiry of September 14, 1967, a buried redwood tree was encountered in excavation about 30 feet below a large (7') redwood stump during construction of the freeway on the hillside above Scotia, California, in 1952, according to verbal reports from people who worked on the project.

The Pacific Lumber Company of Scotia, California, took this sound log and cut it up into small specimens on which they imprinted the history of the long-buried redwood log.

The only specimen in this office belonged to an employee who is now retired and the specimen is no longer here.

However, the log was a sizeable one, we are told, and perhaps The Pacific Lumber Company may have some specimens still available. Also, they can provide all the information you desire as to specific location, depth, age, etc.

Very truly yours,

Sam Helwer

District Engineer

by W. Z. Hegy

Assistant District Engineer

In addition to these letters, I have on file a water well driller's report from the Weeks Drilling and Pump Company, Sebastopol, California, dated 2/10/64, which indicates the site at



Figure 1. Sample of darkened redwood found 21 feet below soil surface, Sebastopol, California by Weeks-Howe Drilling Co. This wood is not petrified but lightweight with dark color. Size: 5" x 6".

which a black redwood tree was hit at a level of 21 feet in a drilling operation. A photograph of a portion of this buried redwood tree is shown in Figure 1. Although this particular sample was discovered at a depth of only 21 feet, it is an example of the finds located as deep as 100 feet in the above reports.

Interpretive Framework Offered

I have published a small tract¹ concerning these redwood finds and their interpretation in the light of Bible history. Until I read a fascinating booklet (*The Marvel of Earth's Canopies* by Theodore Schwarze²), I saw no adequate explanation for these buried trees. The author's treatment in this booklet of related events in the first nine chapters of Genesis leave little doubt in my mind that such trees were buried in the cataclysmic flood of Noah's time.

Professor Schwarze's book related how a huge canopy of ice crystals covered the earth hundreds of miles above it. This kept the entire earth in a tropical climate that existed until the time of Noah. This moderate pre-flood climate accounts for location of extensive coal fields at the poles, and bodies of mastodons found frozen in these areas. Genesis 1:7 fits with this canopy view as it mentions, "The waters under the firmament."

When the Lord willed to remove sinful men from the earth, evidently He melted this thick canopy, causing it to condense and descend, producing rain for 40 days and 40 nights upon the earth. Noah, his family, and pairs of animals were saved from this great flood in the Ark which the Lord had him build for this express purpose when he was 500 years old.

As the heat of earth was quickly lost by radiation, this canopy evidently came down swiftly at the poles as ice and snow which trapped large mastodons even in a standing position at times. Professor Schwarze points out that the canopy view discredits not only the evolution theory but also the theory of the prolonged "ice age" and "Carboniferous age" for coal formation.

An interesting ecological change is seen regarding these buried trees. Some are buried in areas of the Sacramento and San Jauquin Valleys where redwoods do not grow now. This would fit with a supposed major climatic change associated with the flood.

And redwoods described in this paper were buried in deposits that appear to be Mesozoic with materials of Tertiary and Pleistocene also present. One could not say with absolute scientific certainty that these trees were buried in the flood event because Pleistocene strata may in some cases represent post-flood action. But,

whether they were buried at the onset of the flood or as a result of its dynamic aftermath, these trees are undeniable evidence for great catastrophe in earth history.

Conclusions

Genesis 7:24 indicates, ". . . the waters prevailed upon the earth 150 days." I propose that avalanches in the flood tore giant trees down and, in Napa, California, covered them with 80 feet or more of sediment—a condition which is not easily explained any other way.

More work is needed on the extent of such buried tree remains. Further evidence of this nature will be helpful in understanding the dynamics of water action during the global flood

References

- ¹Westberg, V. L. 1963. Mystery of the buried redwood. A tract available from V. L. Westberg, 3400 Westch Way, Sonoma, California 95476.
²Schwarze, Theodore. 1957. The marvel of earth's canopies. Good News Publishers, Westchester, Illinois.

IMPORTANT REFERENCE

Guide to Fossil Man (A handbook of Human Palaeontology). Michael Day. Cleveland and New York: Meridian Books (M 253), The World Publishing Company, 1965. (\$4.95)

A basic reference work that provides comprehensive information in three parts. Detailed treatment of each location of fossil hominids includes: names given to the remains, geology, associated fauna and artifacts, dating, morphology, and principal dimensions of the hominid remains. These facts are followed by sections on affinities with other hominid remains, institutions where the originals may be seen, and availability of plaster casts. In addition to textual coverage of the great finds throughout the world, exhaustive tables, maps, diagrams, photographs

(of actual remains without any "reconstructions"), a glossary, a comprehensive index, and complete bibliographies are provided. This book makes excellent supplementary reading to the article, "Fossil Man: Ancestor or Descendant of Adam?" by R. Daniel Shaw in the *Creation Research Society Quarterly* of March, 1970 (Volume 6, No. 4, pp. 172-181).

Michael Day is Senior Lecturer in Anatomy at the Middlesex Hospital Medical School of the University of London and has been engaged for years in research and teaching in the field of paleontology. Professor J. S. Weiner, Past President of the Royal Anthropological Institute, wrote a high commendation of this reference book in his Foreword.