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"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth" (Genesis 1:1).

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How Did Methuselah Die?

by John D. Morris*

One of the favorite characters in the Old Testament is Methuselah, who lived 969 years (Genesis 5:27), longer than anyone else recorded. His father was Enoch, of whom it is said he "walked with God" (5:24) but who was taken to heaven without dying at 365 years. Methuselah's son Lamech died a few years before the Flood at 777 years (5:31) after bearing Noah.

When Methuselah was born, his godly father must have prophetically known of coming things for his son's name means "when he dies, judgment," and interestingly enough, Methuselah died in the same year God judged the sinful world with the great Flood of Noah's day.

There are many details of the Flood account about which we can only speculate, but perhaps Noah was given up to 120 years of warning that the Flood was coming (6:3), and we are told he was a "preacher of righteousness" (II Peter 2:5) during the building, yet only "eight souls were saved" (I Peter 3:20). Why didn't he influence more people? His faithful obedience in building a huge boat on dry land must have been both attention-getting and a source of conviction to the surrounding sinful people. We might suspect that Lamech and Methuselah espoused the same testimony, yet only the eight close family members boarded the Ark.

Since Methuselah died the same year of the Flood, some have wondered if he was likewise an unbeliever and perished in the Flood waters. Of his spiritual condition we know little, other than that he was the son of godly Enoch, and his son Lamech prophesied with spiritual insight at the birth of Noah (Genesis 5:29).

Here are a few more hints to ponder. God had promised that "the seed of the woman," Eve (3:15) would one day destroy Satan, and ever since Satan, in his hatred for God and His image in man, had schemed to thwart God's plan (4:7, 6:2). Furthermore, man thought of "only evil continually" (6:5) and "the earth [was] filled with violence through them" (6:13). If left unchecked, there soon would be no survivor of Eve remaining.

Certainly the violence took the lives of many. Animals became violent and bloodthirsty. Wars must have been rampant as man's sinful nature had full sway. Would we not be correct in assuming that the violence was directed toward believers most of all? Perhaps Noah had many more converts over the years, and the only ones left were the eight mentioned.

And this may have been what happened to Methuselah. Perhaps he was the last martyr, and when he was killed, God's patience was over. In order to preserve mankind, and in particular Eve's lineage through whom the Redeemer would one day come, God's justice was finally unleashed.

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Those Amazing G Protein Receptors

by Frank Sherwin, M.A.*

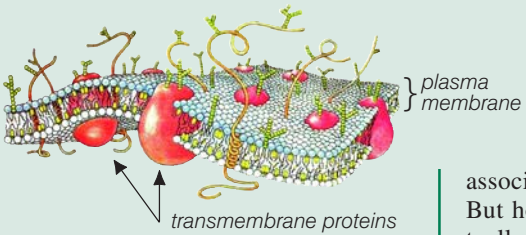

Illustration: Dana Burns/wikipedia.org

Using freeze-fracturing and an electron microscope, researchers can indirectly view the plasma membrane of a human cell. What is revealed are large, globular protein molecules that stud the bilipid membrane (much like the illustration above). These proteins are designed by the Creator to receive chemical information such as hormones. One large group of these cell surface proteins is called the G protein coupled receptors (GPCRs) composed of seven membrane-spanning helices. Receptors are proteins designed to process molecular signals. GPCRs are divided into five major classes and "mediate an extraordinary spectrum of cellular processes."[1] For example, they are involved with the reception of light energy packets called photons resulting in our being able to see (these are the rhodopsin-like receptors, belonging to class A of the GPCR superfamily). Over one percent of the total mammalian genes are represented by GPCRs. Hormones belong to a general group called ligands, molecules that physically bind to receptors on the plasma membrane. The G proteins (composed of three subunits) are intermediaries between these membrane-spanning receptors and effectors (designed to activate cellular processes). The receptor, effector, and G proteins are all directly associated with the plasma membrane. But how the G protein subunits are actually activated after ligands attach to the receptors forming a specific complex is not well understood.

Can Darwinists document the evolution of these amazing molecules? No. According to secular biologists the GPCRs, ligands, and effectors have been around since before the Precambrian about "600 million years ago." In other words, as far as science is concerned, these complex proteins have always been what they are today, in keeping with the creation science model.

Random genetic mistakes, or mutations, supposedly made the GPCRs, and mutations are now responsible for disease conditions involving GPCRs.

> mutations in the genes encoding these receptors have been implicated in numerous diseases.[2]

Once again, Darwinists rely on chance genetic mistakes coupled with natural selection to produce some of the most detailed and complex biological molecules ever discovered. Either they are right or the Apostle Paul is right when he stated that God's creative power is "clearly seen" in the creation (Romans 1:20).

1. Karp, G. 2002. *Cell & Molecular Biology*. John Wiley & Sons, p. 636.
2. Palczewski, K. 2006. G protein-coupled receptor rhodopsin. *Annual Review of Biochemistry.* 75:744. (See also: Madabushi, S., et al. 2004. Evolutionary trace of GPCRs. *Journal of Biol. Chem.* (9):8126–32.)

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The Big Thaw

by William A. Hoesch, M.S.*

Ask anybody who has experienced spring "break-up" along the banks of an Alaskan river, and you will quickly learn that large amounts of ice seldom melt placidly. Consider an ice cap several thousand feet thick that once occupied much of the northern part of our continent. What was it like when this ice melted? The role of flooding in the post-Flood world is one of the most understated areas of geological catastrophism. Obviously, the earth has not behaved itself in a uniformitarian way. Consider a few examples.

Impounded behind a lobe of the Cordilleran Ice Sheet at the close of the Ice Age, Glacial Lake Missoula in Montana was perched at 4,200 feet above sea level. Only Washington state stood between it and the Pacific Ocean. When this ice dam failed, waters of hundreds of meters depth swept across an area twice the size of New Jersey at freeway speeds. It scoured the basaltic bedrock carving giant channels that are now dry (called coulees), deposited gravel/boulder bars of over 100 meters high, and left dried waterfalls that dwarf Niagara Falls.

The Altai Flood of Asia's central region is now recognized as a major landform-producing event and it too occurred during the close of the Ice Age. Ice dams that constrained two interconnected lakes on the Chuya River failed, releasing a Lake Missoula scale flood that generated giant current ripples, coulee-like channels, and whole fields of angular blocks (to 20 meters in their long axis). Discharges on the order of one million cubic meters per second flowed southwestward, overtaking the Aral, Caspian, and Black Sea basins before entering the Mediterranean. Much of Ice Age geology is being rewritten in catastrophist terms.

Along the south margin of the melting Laurentide Ice Sheet in North America were lakes with a volume of up to seven times that of the present Great Lakes. They initially drained southward in a series of catastrophic outburst floods that formed drumlins, certain moraines, and other erosional marks, that were once thought to have been generated directly by ice. Two-meter-diameter boulders in Ontario's Bruce Peninsula were transported in some of these floods. The last and largest flood drained northward into the Labrador Sea (North Atlantic), perhaps with profound effects on global climate and ocean chemistry.

How quaint that "the father of modern geology," Charles Lyell, visited Niagara Falls in 1841. He observed that the Falls occupy the head of a seven-mile-long gorge (occupied by the Niagara River) and reasoned that it formed since the close of the Ice Age. With careful inquiry he found that the best estimates for the then-current rate of back-wear were around three feet per year. The rate didn't suit his purposes however, and so he published that the rate was one foot per year, and claimed an age for the gorge of 35,000 years. In practice, Lyell rejected his own uniformitarianism. Today's geologists have gone back to the three-feet per year uniformitarian estimate and settled on a 12,000 year age for the gorge. However, this figure is far too large for it assumes constant discharge for the Niagara River at a time we know the earth was experiencing extraordinary flooding. The Big Thaw must be taken seriously in the Niagara Falls area, and elsewhere. Biblical chronology, including a post-Flood Ice Age, fits the facts.

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There's Only One Universe

by David F. Coppedge*

Recently a new word has appeared in cosmological literature: *multiverse*. You won't find it in the dictionary, because it contains a contradiction in terms: multiple universes. By definition, the universe is supposed to include everything. One cannot have multiple everythings. The story of how this new word came about reveals the desperation of atheists trying to escape overwhelming evidence for design.

Naturalists want to explain the universe as a necessary outcome of laws and initial conditions, instead of a "roll of the dice." The Big Bang theory, inflation, and the search for structure in the cosmic background radiation are all part of this tradition. Everyone knows the universe *looks* designed. The design argument took on renewed urgency in the 1930s when quantum physicists realized that certain constants, like the force of gravity and the charge on the electron, could have taken arbitrary values—yet most values would never produce a universe with atoms, stars, planets, or observers. The universe appears finely tuned for our existence. To naturalists, this looks disturbingly unnatural.

One early escape from the design inference was the so-called Anthropic Principle. In its weakest form, it dismissed design by saying that if the laws and constants weren't what they are, we wouldn't be here to worry about the question. Stronger forms have asserted that our existence determines the laws of physics, or even that we create the universe by existing to observe it. Needless to say, most naturalists have dismissed such speculations as metaphysical fluff. The Anthropic Principle became a spent fad by the 1990s.

Something was discovered in 1996 that brought cosmologists kicking and screaming back to the Anthropic Principle: the universe is not only expanding, it's accelerating. The acceleration parameter, or cosmological constant, appears so finely tuned (nearly zero, but slightly positive) that almost any larger value would prohibit the formation of stars and galaxies. Theoretical predictions are off by 120 orders of magnitude.

Some hoped that superstring theory would come to the rescue, but its champions found that their equations permit 10^{500} different sets of initial conditions—most of them life-prohibiting. The only way our universe could be explained, therefore, was either by a Designer who chose the right values or by luck among untold numbers of alternate universes with random values.

Sadly, this is the escape hatch many have chosen. With his 2005 book *Cosmic Landscape: String Theory and the Illusion of Intelligent Design*, Leonard Susskind launched a passionate schism among cosmologists. Growing numbers are caving in to his multiverse concept with its anthropic overtones, while others, with no explanation for the fine-tuning of the universe, cling to their faith in naturalism. They argue that multiverse theory relies on alternate realities that are unobservable even in principle.

Occam's Razor would surely prefer a single Designer to uncountable universes. These are good days for churches to preach out of Isaiah 45, with its winning scientific cosmology: "[He] formed it to be inhabited."

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