

## That We Might Know

“Assemble yourselves and come; draw near together, ye that are escaped of the nations: they have no knowledge that carry the wood of their graven image, and pray unto a god that cannot save. Declare ye, and bring it forth; yea, let them take counsel together: who hath showed this from ancient time? who hath declared it of old? have not I, Jehovah? and there is no God else besides me, a just God and a Saviour; there is none besides me. Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is none else. By myself have I sworn, the word is gone forth from my mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, that unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear. Only in Jehovah, it is said of me, is righteousness and strength; even to him shall men come; and all they that were incensed against him shall be put to shame. In Jehovah shall all the seed of Israel be justified, and shall glory” (Isaiah 45:20-25).

As the focus of our inquiry is to relate man’s relationship with his Creator, there is no writing more thorough, comprehensive, or accurate than that of the ancient writings of the Jews. We will therefore, in following this path, be able to see that what “every department of science the theories of yesterday” have discovered, that “empirical” knowledge had already been revealed by Jehovah, and therein answers the questions of life: “Where did we come from, and why are we here?”

Our consideration will follow a path that takes man from his Generation, i.e., beginnings, Genesis 1 and 2, through the Degeneration, i.e., Fall, Genesis 3:11, to Jehovah’s eternal purpose of Regeneration, Genesis 12-Revelation.

Dealing with approximate ages, the Bible narrative begins at approximately 4100-4000 B.C.E., and to these dates agree the archeological time period projected for the appearance of historical civilizations.

Genesis, chapters one and two relate man’s beginning as being the product of creation: “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” (Genesis 1:1). As a part of the creation “God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the heavens, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth” (Genesis 1:26). This beginning, not being based on empirical knowledge, as there were no eye witnesses to substantiate the event, our understanding of the beginning is based upon faith: “By faith we understand that the worlds have been framed by the word of God, so that what is seen hath not been made out of things which appear” (Hebrews 11:3). However, it is not a faith that lacks evidence: “For the invisible things of him since the creation of the world are clearly seen, being perceived through the things that are made, even his everlasting power and divinity” (Romans 1:20).

There are those who scoff at the Biblical account of creation: I am not one of them. I, as many, have considered man's alternative explanations. However, when you take the time to consider the alternatives, you will find that man's explanation requires a greater faith than that of a Creator. In addition, consider some of the more simpler things of life: The Stonehenge, believed to have been built in 3000-2000 B.C.E. is, after 5000 years, still an enigma: "Archaeological evidence found by the Stonehenge Riverside Project in 2008 indicates that Stonehenge could have been a burial ground from its earliest beginnings" (Wikipedia). Note the term "could have been." The Great Pyramids, believed to have been built 4500 years ago, are thus described: "The question of who labored to build them, and why, has long been part of their fascination. Rooted firmly in the popular imagination is the idea that the pyramids were built by slaves serving a merciless Pharaoh...But graffiti from inside the Giza monuments themselves have long suggested something very different" (Harvard Magazine). The point is, man cannot figure out the origin and purpose of physical structures, but still dares to question the Creator of the universe?

Remember the words of Jeremiah to Judah, saying, "Thus saith Jehovah, Stand ye in the ways and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way; and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls: but they said, We will not walk therein" (Jeremiah 6:16)." ret