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Dear Associates and Friends,

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“[Genesis: Twelve Eyewitness Reports and Genealogies](#)” is this month’s Doctrinal article. It deals with intricate subject matter that may be difficult for some readers. You may need to read the article more than once, open your Bible more than usual, and look up passages in different translations to better follow the arguments. The article was a paper presented at an academic conference. I hope I made the article more understandable than if I reprinted it in its original format.

The information may be new to most of you. The book of Genesis is a literary masterpiece. The purpose of Genesis is to present the true beginnings of God’s creation of mankind. In fact, the creation of all the rest of the universe is almost secondary, because in Genesis all the created physical universe exists for one purpose. God created it all **by** Christ Jesus, **for** Christ Jesus, and **through** Christ Jesus. Therefore, because God created everything **for** Christ, God also created it **for you** because you are “**in Christ.**”<sup>1</sup> This is precisely what the apostle Paul says in Colossians where he tells us who Christ Jesus, the Son of God, truly **is**:

**“Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.”**

• **Colossians 1:15-17**

Christ died and was raised from the dead **for you**, so, as I have written before, you are the object of all creation. Let that sink in.

It all begins in Genesis. It began for Adam, and it begins for **you** there also. To study Genesis carefully means you are studying **your own beginning**. The literary structure of Genesis shows it is a compiled and edited work of literature put together by Moses. He uses sources to tell the beginning of mankind, from Adam, through the Flood, through Babel, through Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, to the 12 sons of Israel, through the story of Joseph whose narrative ends the Book of Genesis. The other four books of the Pentateuch were written by Moses during his lifetime. The sources Moses used were literary, the original authors are identifiable, and they were originally written on clay tablets.

Clay pots hardened in fire turn hard like stone, although they are brittle. Clay writing tablets are similar; they harden under fire. (Clay idols were made that same way.) At the bottom of each writing tablet are words identifying who owns the tablet or the subject of the writing. The same practice of writing in such material was done later during the time of the prophet Isaiah:

**“Now go, [1] write it before them in a table [tablet], and [2] note it in a book [scroll], that it may be for the time to come for ever and ever [for the future and the eon (age)].”**

• **Isaiah 30:8**

<sup>1</sup> Ephesians 1:10–11:

**“That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him: In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being pre-destinated according to the purpose of him who works all things after the counsel of his own will.”**

Ephesians 2:6–7:

**“And has raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.”**

Later the prophet Habakkuk was told to do something similar:

**“And YHWH answered me, and said, [1] ‘Write the vision, and [2] make it plain upon tables [tablets], that he may run that reads it [swiftly read it] ...”**

• **Habakkuk 2:2**

The author of the article is Dr. Thomas Arnold who wrote a book I referenced in the 2017 article, “[The Story of Creation](#)” which is by Dr. Martin. With that and this month’s article it becomes clear that God has provided documentary material, at first oral information before the flood, or written information after the flood to the world. Therefore, God has always provided a witness to His work on behalf of mankind. God has always been available, yet God has revealed Himself to only a tiny number of people throughout history. You are one of those.

Not to worry, however, because all mankind will be saved when He sees fit to do so, according to his own timing. It is God’s stated will for that to happen, and He will fulfill His will (1 Timothy 2:4–6, 4:10, Ephesians 1:11). All was created by God through His Son (Colossians 1:16), just as God made the eons through His son (Hebrews 1:2).

In the last four pages of the article, I republish information about another incident in Genesis, about the confusion of the languages and the dispersion of the nations at Babel in Genesis 11. That information is from a former Commentary “Thoughts About Babel or ... Babel Thoughts,” updated in this month’s article. The story of Babel is also in the Book of Genesis.

By the way, everything in this month’s article fits very well with the recent documentary movie [Patterns of Evidence: The Moses Controversy](#). This movie will be available at libraries soon, and it gives excellent evidence that Moses surely could read and write, and the Old Hebrew alphabet and script existed during the time of Moses. I recommend both *Patterns of Evidence* movies. There are two movies thus far and both deal with Genesis and Exodus.

## ***A Reminder***

If you require a tax receipt for your contributions in 2020, we are pleased to provide them to you. However, we do not send them automatically. You must request them, and we will send them promptly.

## ***Thank You***

Things are beginning to get exciting in the world. In fact, great evil seems poised to make a move to grasp more power. Great evil will be checked and will receive severe judgments from God. The effects of His judgments will remain while the antichrist arises. God will increasingly reveal Himself to humanity through His creation, as science and history will “find” God’s role in human events. A dark age will not occur due to positive actions God will do through the nations and Israel. The world is being prepared for the preaching of the Gospel, as in apostolic time. The message will succeed with great repentance but it will be temporary.

These things must occur during prosperity, but not everything will be wonderful. Wars will be fought; famines, plagues, and disasters will occur. Normal ups and downs of life will continue: birth, poverty, illness, and death remain as God allows evil to prosper during this period of grace. However, clarity will begin to clear the haze surrounding uncertain prophecies. Take time to study this month’s article. It will be worth it.

We are thankful whenever we receive your support and help — on each occasion. Keep praying for us and let us know if you wish us to pray for your various situations. ASK can help you understand your lives and the lives of others around the world as we strive to make clear the Word of God and promote the Gospel of Christ. Thank you also for your continuing prayers, both those we learn about from your telling us, and from God’s blessings that we receive. We wish we could properly express ourselves and thank each of you personally. Your faithfulness sustains and spiritually inspires us. Thank you.

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