

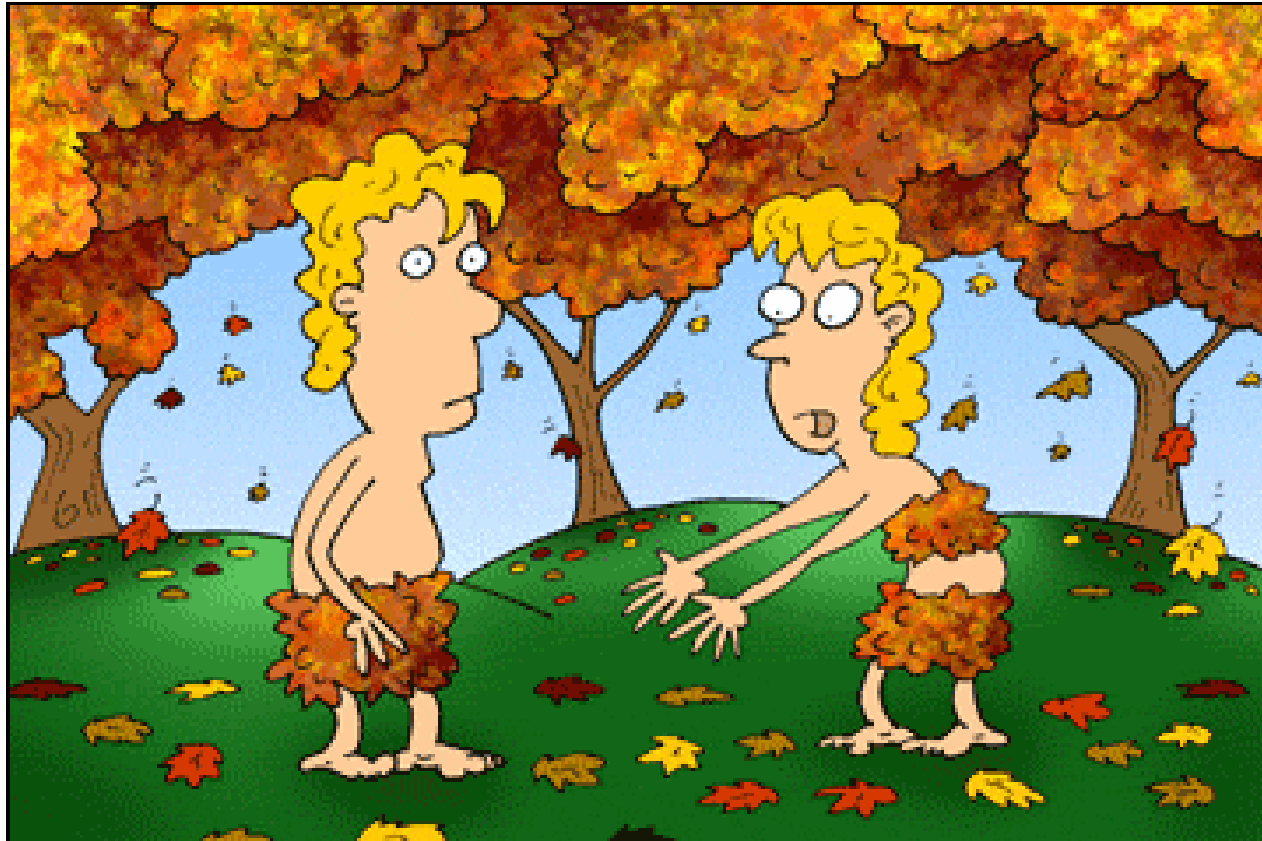


THE  
**COLLEGE**  
AT SOUTHWESTERN

CLASSICAL EDUCATION. **BIBLICAL FOUNDATION.**

# Class #3 - Prehistory

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WILL YOU PLEASE PICK UP ALL YOUR  
CLOTHES?

# Pre-History

What was God doing before he  
created the heavens and the earth?

~Augustine

# Prehistory

- If “History” is a “record of past events, people, and places”, what is Prehistory?

When does Susan Wise Bauer say  
that writing (record keeping)  
developed?



**Invention of Writing –  
approximately 3000 BC**

How do we know what happened prior  
to record keeping/writing?

- ❖ Written records
  - Previous histories
  - King lists
- ❖ Archaeological materials
- ❖ Oral histories
- ❖ Geography
- ❖ Climate



- What is used to fill in the gaps in source material?
- What happens when you are reconstructing something but some of the pieces have been lost?

- ❖ Logic/reason
- ❖ Hypotheses
- ❖ Imagination

# Let's discuss your reading...

- Required Reading:
  - Preface of *History of the Ancient World*
  - Chapter 2 of Chesterton's *The Everlasting Man*
  - Genesis 1-11

# Reading Discussion

- BC/AD vs. BCE/CE (Bauer, page xxvii)
- Did prehistoric man wear clothes?

Why does Chesterton say that “science is weak about these prehistoric things in a way that has hardly been noticed”?

- Can a scientist experiment on the “past”?
- Can a scientist duplicate her findings about past experiences?

# The Prehistoric Skeptic

- What does the world think of you if you question “scientific findings”?
- To question a scientific “conclusion” is not the same thing as questioning the “evidence”.
- Where does the evidence really lead?

# Separate the Evidence from the Narrative.

- Example: A scrap of scull vs. a narrative of what life was like 100,000 years ago.



# Temples, Tombs & Hieroglyphs

- Barbara Mertz tells the battles fought by Egyptologists over their narratives.
- The missing body.

# Other Points

- What objective status does the “missing link” hold?

# Quotes

- “They talk of searching for the habits and habitat of the Missing Link; as if one were to talk of being on friendly terms with the gap in a narrative or the hole in an argument, of taking a walk with a non-sequitur or dining with an undistributed middle.”

# Quotes

- “Strictly speaking of course we know nothing about prehistoric man, for the simple reason that he was prehistoric. The history of prehistoric man is a very obvious contradiction in terms. It is the sort of unreason in which only rationalists are allowed to indulge.”

# “...the undatable past.” (page 18)

- Civilization started about 13,000 years ago?
- A Biblical timeline
- Genesis 1-11
- Genesis 5
  
- New American Commentary - Kenneth Matthews

# Bishop James Ussher

- Dated creation to nightfall the evening before October 23, 4004 B.C.
- Is that really what the Bible says?

# Interpreting Scripture

- Who was the author?
- Who was he writing to?
- What did he say?
- What kind of literary style is this?
  - Proverbs
  - Psalms
  - History
  - Prophecy
  - Etc.

# Interpreting Scripture

- Open (selective) vs. Closed Genealogies
- Open Genealogy
  - Not intended as precise “chronology”
  - Uses “representative” names
  - Idiomatically like “Mahalaleel begat the line which culminated in Jared”



# Things to Consider

- “Father” and “son of” used by ancient Near Eastern peoples to mean “ancestor” and “descendent”
- The Sumerian King List (ca. 2000 B.C.) is similar and lists the names of ruling dynasties and the cumulative years of duration.
- The Bible has open genealogy elsewhere
- Ezra 7 has six fewer names than 1 Chron. 6

# More things to consider

- Ruth 4:18-22
  - David's genealogy contains 10 names like we find here.
  - Too short to adequately cover the time from the patriarchal to the monarchical period.
  - It's 10 name arrangement places Boaz as the 7<sup>th</sup> member, highlighting his role, and is similar to Genesis 5's elevation of Enoch

# Theories of Inspiration

- Intuition Theory – high degree of insight
- Illumination Theory – Holy Spirit influences writers with heightening of normal powers
- Dynamic Theory – Combination of divine and human elements. Holy Spirit directs writer to thoughts or concepts.
- Verbal Theory – Holy Spirit influences the selection of words. Each word is exact word God wants.
- Dictation theory – Dictated.

# Conceptions of Inerrancy

- Absolute Inerrancy – Bible has detailed treatment of matters both scientific and historical.
- Full Inerrancy – Bible does not primarily aim to give scientific and historical data, but such assertions it does make are fully true.
- Limited Inerrancy – Infallible in its salvific doctrinal references.

# (cont) Inerrancy

- Inerrancy of Purpose – Purpose of Bible is to bring people into personal fellowship with Christ, not to communicate truths.
- Accommodated Revelation – The Bible came through human channels, and thus participates in human shortcomings.

# Harmonization

- Abstract Approach – (B.B. Warfield) no need to alleviate the difficulties.
- Harmonistic Approach – All the difficulties can be resolved.
- Moderate Harmonization – Problems are taken seriously and an effort made to solve them as far as is reasonably possible with data currently available.

# (cont) Harmonization

- (Edward Carnell) Inspiration guarantees only an accurate reproducing of the sources which the writer employed
- The Bible errs

# Benediction

The LORD bless you and keep you;  
the LORD make his face to shine  
upon you and be gracious to you;  
the LORD lift up his countenance  
upon you and give you peace.