



P. 1 Liberty in the Balance
 “Rowe v. Wade 30 years later”
 P.1, 3,5 God’s Existence pt.1.



P.1 JUST RELEASED
 MOVIE, VIDEO AND DVD.
 P.1, 4 Noah/Gilgamesh Flood
 P.7 Josh Heupel Today



P.2 LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
 P.6 UPCOMING CAMPUS EVENTS
 P.8 Crossword Puzzle/ Cartoon

BeaconOU

THE NOAH AND GILGAMESH FLOOD

By Frank Lorey, M. A.*
 Reprinted by the BeaconOU
Background: The Epic of Gilgamesh has been of interest to Christians ever since its discovery in the mid-nineteenth century in the ruins of the great library at Nineveh, with its account of a universal flood with significant parallels to the Flood of Noah’s day.^{1,2} The rest of the Epic, which dates back to possibly third millennium B.C., contains little of value for Christians, since it concerns typical polytheistic myths associated with the pagan peoples of the time. However, some Christians have studied the ideas of creation and the afterlife presented in the Epic. Even secular scholars have recognized the parallels between the Babylonian, Phoenician, and Hebrew accounts, although not all are willing to label the connections as anything more than shared mythology.³

There have been numerous flood stories identified from ancient sources scattered around the world.⁴ The stories that were discovered on cuneiform tablets, which

■ Please see...Noah and Gilgamesh on p4

“Liberty in the Balance: Reflections on the 30th Anniversary of ROE v. WADE”

Lecture open to the public at 7 pm on Wed., Jan. 22 in the Conoco Auditorium, LL2 in Bizzell Library. Prof. Michael Scaperlanda will look back at the years proceeding Roe, the Roe opinion, which one pro-choice law professor described at the time as so bad that it wasn’t even constitutional law, and He will look at what Roe and its progeny suggest for the future of liberty in America.



40,000,000 abortions within the last 30 years.



Jan 2003 issue 4



Matthew 5:14 “You are the light of the world, a city on a hill cannot be hidden.

God’s Existence pt.1

The cosmological argument is an argument for the existence of God, but it is likely what lies behind most people’s thinking when they are asked why they believe God exists. When one looks at the world that surrounds them they don’t have any fancy way of explaining how it all got there. They simply know that this world’s existence is something that came from God. This is actually a form of what philosophers and theologians call the *cosmological argument*.

There are several ways of arguing for *the existence of God* such as the moral and ontological arguments; however the cosmological argument is simply arguing for God as *the cause of the universe*. There are actually two major types of this argument. One is the *Thomist* cosmological argument which argues that God is the first cause of all things. (Geisler, *Christian Apologetics*, pg. 237-258) This argument is not speaking of God as merely chronologically the first cause of all the universe, but speaks of “first cause” in terms of being a primary source of each and every effect in the universe. (Craig, *Reasonable Faith*, pg. 81) The other argument is the *Kalam* cosmological argument. This is

the argument that we will be discussing in this paper.

The word *Kalam* refers to a medieval Arabic philosophy, but the *Kalam* cosmological argument is how that philosophy argued for the existence of God. This has been revised over the years, but refers to arguing for God as specifically *causing the beginning* of the universe as opposed to God being the first cause of all effects of the universe’s existence as well. The *Kalam* argument can be expressed simply in the following manner:

- 1) Whatever begins to exist has a cause.
 - 2) The universe began to exist.
 - 3) Therefore, the universe has a cause. (Craig, pg. 92)
- Each of these statements carries with it a dilemma that one must proceed through in order to follow the argument.

Lets look at the first dilemma that we face in statement 1: *Whatever begins to exist has a cause*. We have to ask ourselves, “Is there anything that *begins to exist* that does not have a cause?” Let’s say one affirms that there are things that begin to exist, yet they do not

■ Please see...God’s existence on p3

EVEN



ODD

The letters to the Editor is my favorite section of every newspaper that I read. We love to hear from our readers. Remember, all letters to the Editor may be reprinted in a latter editon of the Beacon unless specific request is made by the sender not to publish their letter. E-mail us at beaconou@ou.edu. www.ou.edu/beaconou. Let your opinion be heard. Rick Thomas, Editor

To the Editor,

I am writing in response to the October issue of BeaconOU, in particular the article on evolution. I find it strange that you feel the need to attack the idea that evolution is law in some peoples' minds. Your argument is only valid with uneducated people who have actually had little to no scientific education in regards to evolution. Evolution is, like Ms. Creswick wrote, a theory. A theory nonetheless with merit being that one of the main details of it, namely natural selection, has been more or less proven after years of careful research (look at AIDS research for instance). The people who believe that evolution is Law are not that different than the people who believe that creation is Law: uneducated. Perhaps it would be a better idea for your writers to examine the evidence, or rather the complete lack thereof (aside from scripture and myth, which are not evidence within themselves), for the theory of creation to provide for a more diverse paper. Actually, I would very much like to see you try since it would be a break from the usual Mormon bashing. Thanks, Cameron Westphal, History Senior

Editor Response:

Thank you for your letter, Cameron. I am glad that you also realize several important aspects about evolution, but I would also like



to add some comments to yours. A creationist does believe that evolution occurs in the sense of micro-evolution. Micro-evolution includes all of the famous studies that most readers are familiar with: the peppered moths, finches, and fruit fly examples, and to my reasoning this seems more a law than a theory. While micro-evolution (natural selection) is true, it is often used as the proof of evolution, but there is no proof of evolution in natural selection. Evolution itself generally means the theory of macro-evolution (species A to species B). Macro-evolution has never been demonstrated in our labs with fruit flies, has proven fruitless to provide overwhelming evidence in the fossil record, and cannot explain problems like Irreducible Complexity and Helium in the Atmosphere...

Cameron, as a history major you must understand the reasonableness of some Creationists to use historical documents to understand the world of science. Do you really believe that it is a horrible thing to try and line up science and history? Searching documents like the Koran, the Bible, and other written documents of the time for similar patterns like flood stories, the name "Noah", and the creation event is not an evil deed. It is trying to make sense of the world. Because of this I believe that creationism is as an honorable science as evolutionism.

Hopefully we will examine Evolution and Creation more in these pages. By the way, there is a campus student group that is the Creation Science Society. To contact them, email: creationscience@ou.edu.

Thanks, James

To the Editor,

Even though I was not saved at the time, I really enjoyed reading the original Beacon a few years

ago. (Thus, proving that unbelievers do read this paper 😊) I think it's great that you are printing a Christian paper for the OU campus.

Oh, and one more thing...

😊 Your last issue, which dealt primarily with Mormonism, was very insightful. I particularly liked (I believe it was) Rose Creswick's article about contradictions between Mormonism and Christianity. However, I would have liked to hear more about *why* she became a believer and *why* she believes that Mormon teaching is sent from hell. I guess I would have liked to hear more of her personal testimony. The article was interesting in that it proved that Mormonism and Christianity are not the same, but it didn't really seem to have a point other than that. I don't think that particular article would do much to persuade anyone, Mormon or Atheist, that Christianity is true... only that it is different from Mormonism. Perhaps Rose can write more in a later issue about *why* she is now a believer. She left it really vague in the last issue. God is doing a great thing through your paper. I just pray that it will reach a few people's hearts on campus.

😊 Kathy Young; A & S senior

Editor response:

Thank you for your letter, Kathy. It is really awesome to see how God has brought people together in order for this paper to be a success. Please, continue in your prayers for us and in your fellowship with other believers. I look forward to another article from Rose. She has just returned from a missions trip and I am sure that she will want to go into more detail about her personal testimony.

God Bless, Rick Thomas

TO: Jesus, Son of Joseph
Woodcrafters Carpenter Shop
Nazareth, 35922

FROM: Jordan Management Consultants
Jerusalem, 26544

RE: Staff Team Evaluation:

Thank you for submitting the resumes of the twelve men you have picked for management positions in your new organization. All of them have now taken our battery of tests; and we have not only run the results through our computer, but also arranged personal interviews for each of them with our psychologist and vocational aptitude consultant. It is the staff opinion that most of your nominees are lacking in background, education, and vocational aptitude for the type of enterprise you are undertaking. They do not have the team concept. We would recommend that you continue your search for persons of experience in managerial ability and proven capacity.

Specifically, Simon Peter is emotionally unstable and given to fits of temper. Andrew has no qualities of leadership. The two brothers, James and John, sons of Zebedee, place personal interests above company loyalty. Thomas demonstrates a questioning attitude that would tend to undermine morale. We feel it our duty to tell you that Matthew has been blacklisted by the Greater Jerusalem Better Business Bureau. James, the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus definitely have radical leanings, and they both registered a high score on the manic-depressive scale.

One of the candidates, however, shows great potential. He is a man of ability and resourcefulness, meets people well, has a keen business mind and has contacts in high places. He is highly motivated, ambitious and responsible. We recommend Judas Iscariot as your controller and right-hand man. All of the other profiles are self-explanatory. We wish you every success in your new venture.

God chooses the foolish and the weak to shame the wise and powerful,

and that is good news! It means that perhaps you and I can qualify for discipleship after all, if we learn to live from the heart of God. No one is good. No one has kept the Ten Commandments. We have denied God in our words, in our silence, and in our actions. Yet, the Creator of the Universe-(one verse), continues to pursue a relationship with His creation through Jesus Christ. Without Jesus we would never be able to enter into the presence of a Holy God. The Bible says that our righteousness is like filthy rags. It is through the sacrifice of Jesus in our place, that we can be good/ righteous by having His righteousness. The invitation is given to peoples of all nations. That includes you. If you would like to know more about a relationship with Christ Jesus, send us an e-mail at beaconou@ou.edu Romans Chapter 10, verse 9 says, "That if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

Romans Chapter 3, verse 21 "But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. 22 This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus."

1 Corinthians Chapter 1, verse 27 "But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. 28 He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, 29 so that no one may boast before Him. 30 It is because of Him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness, and redemption. 31 Therefore, as it is written: 'Let him who boasts boast in the Lord.'"



EVEN



ODD



■ God's Existence cont. from p.1

have a cause. How would one go about proving such a statement? Upon thought, it seems absurd to even begin to argue that there is no cause to anything's beginning. It appears we can affirm the truthfulness of statement number one. So we have now dealt with the dilemma we face in statement number one.

We now proceed to statement number 2:

The universe began to exist. What is the dilemma we face here? We are now asking ourselves, "Does statement number 1 have anything to do with the universe?" If not we can stop right here. We have to discuss the evidence for the universe having a beginning by dealing with a number of issues before we can move forward.

"*Are past events infinite?*" is another way of asking if the universe began to exist. For if the universe never had a beginning then naturally it has always been here and there was never a time when it did not exist. This physical universe has physical changes or events occurring all the time. Therefore, the past events would have to be infinite if the universe has always existed.

The Kalam argument puts forth these next statements in support of pasted events *not* beginning infinite:

a) An actually infinite number of things cannot exist.

b) A beginningless series of events in time entails an actually infinite number of things.

c) Therefore, a beginningless series of events in time cannot exist.

Before we look at these statements in support of past events not being infinite some terms need to be explained. The term *infinite* means not finite or not limited. There are two terms used to speak of an infinite. The first is called a *potential infinite*. A *potential infinite* is a collection that is increasing toward infinity *as a limit*, but never attains completion. An example of a potential infinite is counting beans. When you count beans your counting towards infinity, yet you will never reach an actually infinite number of beans even if your supply of beans to count from keeps being refreshed. Progress towards infinity is not actually defined as a proper infinite. An *actual infinite* series is a presently complete infinite collection that is not growing.

Now that we understand these two concepts of infinity, let's take a look at what mathematics can

tell us about the possibility of an infinite number of pasted events. Roughly speaking, *Set theory* is a part of mathematics that deals with how math and the real world interact. For example, there are helpful tools in math that are merely conceptual, yet have no real physical counter parts such as "negative 3." If we are speaking of crayons being or not being in a crayon box, there is no such thing as negative three crayons existing in a crayon box.

In Set Theory, a set refers to a collection of objects called the members or elements in the set. From looking at this theory we can see how absurdities occur if we try to implement an actual infinite into the real world, therefore getting mathematical evidence that there cannot be an infinite number of past events, since events are things. A set can potentially be made up of anything such as cars, bolts, or events. Here is an example of a set using cities:

Set A={Los Angeles, Oklahoma City, Paris}.

Here is a set using numbers instead of the names of cities:

Set B={3,5,7,9}

Now we have an example of what is called a subset:

Set C={1,2,3,4,5}

Subset D={2,3,5}(This is a subset of Set C)

Set D is a subset of set C *if and only if* there is no member of D that is not a member of C, but there is at least one member of C that is not a member of D. (Moreland, *Scaling the Secular City*, pg. 19-22) Using the rules of set theory lets plug in an infinite set. If we have an infinite set that is $A=\{1,2,3,4,5,\dots\}$, (it does not have to be numbers it could be anything candy bars or grains of sand), we find that if we want to we can make a subset out of this infinite set ($A=\{1,2,3,4,5,\dots\}$) that can be but put into one-to-one correspondence with the original set and have the exact same amount of members as A does. This fact creates all kinds of absurdities that are mathematically impossible in the real world. For example, I have an infinite number of candy bars and I give you every third candy bar that I have. Mathematically, I should have twice as many candy bars as you; yet, you are very happy because you have just as many as myself.

There are many examples that we could develop from set theory, but we will look at just one more. (Craig, pg. 95) My track coach's grandmother is calmly walking around the same track I am on. I am young and have the need for speed. I am running. In fact, I am running three times faster than our

youthfully challenged slowpoke. Now lets plug infinity into our example. The two of us have been doing this from infinity. After all this time, I have surely accumulated many more laps than she has. Coach then hollers to me, "Speed it up, son! My grandmother can do as many laps as you can." The sad thing is coach is not joking. His grandmother has actually done just as many laps as I have. The sadder thing is that no matter how much faster I try to run she will always have just as many laps as I do, even if I drove her '76 Pacer around the track. But surely this cannot be. I finally decide to just give it up and go snap green beans to a juicy episode of Mattlock.

Set theory is just one of the arguments against past events being infinite. Another argument is that it is impossible to form an actually infinite collection of things by adding one member after another. In other words, you cannot add to infinity. This argument is a little different from the previous one; because it does not attempt to deny that an actually infinite number of things can exist, but holds that such an actually infinite collection cannot be formed by consecutively

■See..God's Existence p.5

EVEN



ODD



Beacon OU is an official student organization on the campus of OU. Our main purpose is to share the genuine love of God to the campus while providing news from a Christian perspective. Our personal relationship with Jesus compels us to share this treasure and the Truth with the world. Our source of funding is God. His Holy Spirit moves on people's hearts to give financially to support printing. If you would like to sponsor an issue of the BeaconOU or part of an issue, send an e-mail to beaconou@ou.edu with your intentions. If you have an upcoming event that you think we might be interested in, send us some details. If you have any questions, suggestions, letters to the editor, or opinions about any of the articles, you can contact us at beaconou@ou.edu or rick777ok@ou.edu. We will soon have a web-site up and running at www.ou.edu/beaconou. Praise God. We have the right to print or not to print any

article submitted . President: Rick Thomas. Vice- President:Darci Montgomery. Secretary: Asia Smith. Treasurer: Ketiesha Brown.



THE NOAH & GILGAMESH FLOOD

■ Cont...from p.1

compromise some of the earliest surviving writing, have obvious similarities. Cuneiform writing was invented by the Sumerians and carried on by the Akkadians. Babylonian and Assyrian are two dialects of the Akkadian, and both contain a flood account. While there are differences between the original Sumerian and later Babylonian and Assyrian flood accounts, many of the similarities are strikingly close to the Genesis flood account.⁵ The Babylonian account is the most intact, with only seven of 205 lines missing.⁶ It was also the first discovered, making it the most studied of the early flood accounts.

The Epic of Gilgamesh is contained on twelve large tablets, and since the original discovery, it has been found on others, as well as having been translated into other early languages.⁷ The actual tablets date back to around 650 B.C. and are obviously not originals since fragments of the flood story have been found on tablets dated around 2,000 B.C.⁸ Linguistic experts believe that the story was composed well before 2,000 B.C. compiled from material that was much older than that date.⁹ The Sumerian cuneiform writing has been estimated to go as far back as 3,300 B.C.¹⁰

The Story: The Epic was composed in the form of a poem. The main figure is Gilgamesh, who actually may have been an historical person. The Sumerian King List shows Gilgamesh in the first dynasty of Uruk reigning for 126 years.¹¹ This length of time is not a problem when compared with the age of the pre-flood patriarchs of the Bible. Indeed, after Gilgamesh, the kings lived a normal life span as compared with today.¹² The King List is also of interest as it mentions the flood specifically—"the deluge overthrew the land."¹³

The story starts by introducing the deeds of the hero Gilgamesh. He was one who had great knowledge and wisdom, and preserved information of the days before the flood. Gilgamesh wrote on tablets of stone all that he had done, including building the city walls of Uruk and its temple for Eanna. He was an oppressive ruler, however, which caused his subjects to cry out to the "gods" to create a nemesis to cause Gilgamesh strife.¹⁴

After one fight, this nemesis—Enkidu—became best friends with Gilgamesh. The two set off to win fame by going on many dangerous adventures in which Enkidu is eventually killed. Gilgamesh then determines to find immortality since he now fears death. It is upon this search that he meets Utnapishtim, the character most like the Biblical Noah.¹⁵ In brief, Utnapishtim had become immortal after building a ship to weather the Great Deluge that destroyed mankind. He brought all of his relatives and all species of creatures aboard the vessel. Utnapishtim released birds to find land, and the ship landed upon a mountain after the flood. The story then ends with tales of Enkidu's visit to the

underworld.¹⁶ Even though many similarities exist between the two accounts, there still are serious differences.

The table on the next page presents a comparison of the main aspects of the two accounts of the flood as presented in the Book of Genesis and in the Epic of Gilgamesh. Some comments need to be made about the comparisons in the table. Some of the similarities are very striking, while others are very general. The command for Utnapishtim to build the boat is remarkable: "O man of Shuruppak, son of Ubar-Tutu, tear down thy house, build a ship; abandon wealth, seek after life; scorn possessions, save thy life. Bring up the seed of all kinds of living things into the ship which thou shalt build. Let its dimensions be well measured."¹⁷ The cause of the flood as sent in judgment on man's sins is striking also. The eleventh tablet, line 180 reads, "Lay upon the sinner his sin; lay upon the transgressor his transgression."¹⁸ A study of these parallels to Genesis 6-9, as well as the many others, demonstrate the non-coincidental nature of these similarities.

The meanings of the names of the heroes, however, have absolutely no common root or connection. Noah means "rest," while Utnapishtim means "finder of life."¹⁹ Neither was perfect, but both were considered righteous and relatively faultless compared to those around them.

Utnapishtim also took a pilot for the boat, and some craftsmen, not just his family in the ark. It is also interesting that both accounts trace the landing spot to the same general region of the Middle East; however, Mt. Ararat and Mt. Nisir are about 300 miles apart. The blessing that each hero received after the flood was also quite different. Utnapishtim was granted eternal life while Noah was to multiply and fill the earth and have dominion over the animals.

Conclusions: From the early days of the comparative study of these two flood accounts, it has been generally agreed that there is an obvious relationship. The widespread nature of flood traditions throughout the entire human race is excellent evidence for the existence of a great flood from a legal/historical point of view.²⁰ Dating of the oldest fragments of the Gilgamesh account originally indicated that it was older than the assumed dating of Genesis.²¹ However, the probability exists that the Biblical account had been preserved either as an oral tradition, or in written form handed down from Noah, through the patriarchs and eventually to Moses, thereby making it actually older than the Sumerian accounts which were restatements (with alterations) to the original.

A popular theory, proposed by liberal "scholars," said that the Hebrews "borrowed" from the Babylonians, but no conclusive proof has ever been offered.²² The differences, including religious, ethical, and sheer quantity of details, make it unlikely that the

Biblical account was dependent on any extant source from the Sumerian traditions. This still does not stop these liberal and secular scholars from advocating such a theory. The most accepted theory among evangelicals is that both have one common source, predating all the Sumerian forms.²³ The divine inspiration of the Bible would demand that the Genesis account is the correct version. Indeed the Hebrews were known for handing down their records and tradition.²⁴ The Book of Genesis is viewed for the most part as an historical work, even by many liberal scholars, while the Epic of Gilgamesh is viewed as mythological. The One-source Theory must, therefore, lead back to the historical event of the Flood and Noah's Ark.²⁵ To those who believe in the inspiration and infallibility of the Bible, it should not be a surprise that God would preserve the true account of the Flood in the traditions of His people. The Genesis account was kept pure and accurate throughout the centuries by the providence of God until it was finally compiled, edited, and written down by Moses.²⁶ The Epic of Gilgamesh, then, contains the corrupted account as preserved and embellished by peoples who did not follow the God of the Hebrews.

REFERENCES: [1] Keller, Werner, *The Bible as History*, (New York: William Morrow and Company, 1956), p. 32. [2] Sanders, N.K., *The Epic of Gilgamesh*, (an English translation with introduction) (London: Penguin Books, 1964), p. 9. [3] Graves, Robert, *The Creek Myths, Volume I*, (London: Penguin Books, 1960), pp. 138-143. [4] Rehwinkel, Alfred M., *The Flood in the Light of the Bible, Geology, and Archaeology*, (St. Louis: Concordia Publishing, 1951), p. 129. [5] O'Brien, J. Randall, "Flood Stories of the Ancient Near East", *Biblical Illustrator*, (Fall 1986, volume 13, number 1), p. 61. [6] Barton, George A., *Archaeology and the Bible*, (Philadelphia: American Sunday School Union, 1916), pp. 273-277 [7] Keller, *The Bible as History*, p. 33. [8] Whitcomb, John C. and Morris, Henry M., *The Genesis Flood*, (Phillipsburg: Presbyterian and Reformed, 1961), p. 38. [9] Heidel, Alexander, *The Gilgamesh Epic and Old Testament Parallels*, (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1949), p. 13. [10] O'Brien, "Flood Stories of the Ancient Near East", p. 61. [11] Heidel, *The Gilgamesh Epic and Old Testament Parallels*, p. 13. [12] Sanders, *The Epic of Gilgamesh*, p. 21. [13] Vos, Howard F., *Genesis and Archaeology*, (Chicago: Moody Press, 1963), p. 35. [14] Sanders, *The Epic of Gilgamesh*, pp. 20-23. [15] *Ibid.*, pp. 30-39. [16] *Ibid.*, pp. 39-42. [17] Keller, *The Bible as History*, p. 33. [18] Sanders, *The Epic of Gilgamesh*, p. 109. [19] O'Brien, "Flood Stories of the Ancient Near East", pp. 62, 63. [20] Morris, Henry M., *Science and the Bible*, (Chicago: Moody Press, 1986), p. 85. [21] O'Brien, "Flood Stories of the Ancient Near East", p. 64. [22] *Ibid.* [23] *Ibid.* [24] Morris, *Science and the Bible*, p. 92. [25] *Ibid.*, p. 85. [26] Whitcomb, John C., *The Early Earth* (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1986), p. 134; Whitcomb and Morris, *The Genesis Flood*, p. 488. * Mr. Lorey is a Registered Historical Archaeologist. **Reprinted by the Beacon.** © Copyright 2002 **Institute for Creation Research.** All Rights Reserved **IMPACT No. 285 March 1997**

EVEN



ODD



THE GENESIS & GILGAMESH FLOOD

	Genesis	Gilgamesh
Extent of flood	Global	Global
Cause	Man's wickedness	Man's sins
Intended for whom?	All mankind	One city & all mankind
Sender	Yahweh	Assembly of "gods"
Name of hero	Noah	Utnapishtim
Hero's character	Righteous	Righteous
Means of announcement	Direct from God	In a dream
Ordered to build boat?	Yes	Yes
Did hero complain?	Yes	Yes
Height of boat	Several stories (3)	Several stories (6)
Compartments inside?	Many	Many
Doors	One	One
Windows	At least one	At least one
Outside coating	Pitch	Pitch
Shape of boat	Rectangular	Square
Human passengers	Family members only	Family & few others
Other passengers	All species of animals	All species of animals
Means of flood	Ground water & heavy rain	Heavy rain
Duration of flood	Long (40 days & nights plus)	Short (6 days & nights)
Test to find land	Release of birds	Release of birds
Types of birds	Raven & three doves	Dove, swallow, raven
Ark landing spot	Mountain—Mt. Ararat?	Mountain—Mt. Nisir
Sacrificed after flood?	Yes, by Noah	Yes, by Utnapishtim
Blessed after flood?	Yes	Yes

Are We Defective Evangelists?

Our churches and college ministries have taught many of us how to present the bridge diagram. This drawing shows man's separation from God and the role Christ plays in salvation in which His death bridges the gulf between God and Man. Although this is a way to present the gospel, the bridge is not the gospel itself, and consequently we must use the illustration with discretion when we present the gospel.

I would not send a missionary without linguistic training to a country that does not speak English and expect him to share the gospel effectively. That is absurd because a missionary must speak the language of the culture in which he works. A person cannot become a Christian if he does not know what Christianity is, and unless the missionary speaks the native's language that person cannot know the Christian message.

The reason why I bring this up is very simple: the same English word can have several different meanings and it is therefore quite possible the person with whom we speak does not even understand

such fundamental ideas as truth, sin, and even God. When we present the bridge, it is nonsense to these people. If "God" is merely an empty word, which creates some sort of mystical experience, then even a statement as simple as "God loves you" is literally meaningless. If we do not work off the same page concerning truth, sin, God's existence, and related topics, we cannot even present the gospel. We are speaking another language.

This may make it sound very hard to present the gospel, but that is not true. Difficulty in communication is something we face every day. It does mean we will have to use our minds when we present the gospel, but this should not surprise us for we are commanded not only to love our God with all of our heart and soul, but also with our mind. Christianity is not an excuse for intellectual laziness, but it is the very integration point for all knowledge. Unless we present true Christianity, which is based on the God who exists, then no matter how loudly we confess, we are not evangelists. We present a poor, hollow shell of a 'gospel', which is not a gospel at all.

EVEN



ODD

■ Cont. God's Existence from p.3

adding to a collection. The argument formulated can be as follows:

1) The series of events in time is a collection formed by adding one member after another.

2) A collection formed by adding one member after another cannot be actually infinite.

3) Therefore, the series of events in time cannot be actually infinite.

This idea is simpler than the set theory argument. It is merely stating that infinity, by definition, cannot have one added to it,

since infinity is complete. It does not make sense to say infinity just got bigger, for how in the world would you propose to get more infinity? This is like the character Buzz Lightyear in the movie *Toy Story* jumping into action by proclaiming, "To infinity and beyond!" If we think of time in terms of infinity, the present moment would never arrive.

For example, Buzz Lightyear is merrily walking upon the top of an infinitely high building when, without warning, he slips on a banana peel which sends him over the edge. Buzz will be glad

to learn that even after falling past hundreds of stories he cannot get beyond infinity, but if he could, he would have to change his name to Splat Lightyear. Hopefully, Buzz will remember to fire his booster rockets and fly back to the safety.

The next example given will deal more with time. Suppose we are sitting and waiting in the present moment on our buddy, who is running from the infinite past to catch up with us and enjoy a refreshing bottle of Gatorade. Finally, he shows up and is handed a cool drink. While he is gulping it down, I ask him mischievously, "Why didn't you get here last week? You had all the time in the world to get here." Now imagine that he does not show up, which is what would really happen. You decide to

crack into the Gatorade anyway, and you ask me, "I wonder what's holding him up?" I respond, "Well, it's probably because he's got an infinite distance to travel. In fact, we might as well finish off these Gatorades, because I don't think he is ever going to get here."

After looking at these examples, it is pretty clear that an infinite series of past events or any other things cannot be formed by consecutively adding to a collection. If past events are infinite, we would never arrive at the present moment. In terms of time, the past is formed sequentially by forward growth in time which is why these examples reveal the impossibility of an infinite

series of past events. Regardless of the amount of time taken to add one member after another, a collection will not form an actual infinite. One may ask, "Can never beginning, but ending at the present event form an actually infinite collection of events?" The answer is no. If one cannot count to infinity, then one cannot count down from infinity either. It is merely a reversal of the direction of movement or counting. It is still like Buzz Lightyear, but instead of him slipping off of the building, he has been falling from infinity. Buzz will still never go splat!

"The truth always matches, piece by piece, with other parts of the truth." —
President Woodrow Wilson.
1856-1924

Upcoming Events For Campus Ministries

Chi Alpha

XA is seeking

volunteers for the upcoming **Winter Jam 2003** at the Lloyd Noble Center on Sunday Feb. 2 at 7PM.

Have a great day and we hope to see you **Tuesday, 7:30P.M. @ XAlive above Papa John's.**

Greg & Susan Tiffany OU XA Campus Pastors office - OMU / Conoco Leadership Wing **OU Outreach Center - Rome XII / Stubbeman Village Mall** phone: (405) 325-1377

e-address: OUXA@aol.com
website: www.ou.edu/student/xa
www.romeXII.com

OUChristian Faculty and Staff

holds LUNCH-For Faculty and Staff Discussion topic: "All truth is God's truth." **Every other Tuesday, 12:00 pm**, Alma Wilson Rm., OMU.



"The Gospel according to Moses."

Want to learn how the book of Exodus is a shadow of the Messiah and things to come? From studying the Book of Exodus, you will receive a clearer understanding of the New Testament. Understand the book of Revelations through studying Exodus and Jewish Traditions.

Jacob's Ladder Bible Study meets on Thursday nights at Christ on Campus from 7:30 to 8:30. 824 Elm Ave.

LifeStream Spring

Break mission March 14-22

Those who are already signed up to go need to drop off their \$100 deposit at the church office before leaving town for the Holidays. The trip is filling up FAST...don't jeopardize your place by not turning in your deposit. We will begin meeting as a team after the first of the year to pray, plan, and get to know each other. The total balance for the trip will be **due Sunday January 26th** (\$250).

Charlie Hall — On February

13th LifeStream will be hosting a night of worship with Charlie Hall. **Brad Baker—College Pastor** (Brad@journeyonline.tv) *Journey Church 217-8700*

OUChristian

Faculty and Staff

"**Liberty in the Balance**" lecture open to the public at **7PM on Wed., Jan. 22** in the Conoco Auditorium, LL2 in Bizzell Library. Prof. Michael Scaperlanda will look back at the years proceeding Roe, the Roe opinion, which one pro-choice law professor described at the time as so bad that it wasn't even constitutional law, and He will look at what Roe and its progeny suggest for the future of liberty in America.

"**The Psychology of Forgiveness**" lecture open to the public at **7PM on Mon., Feb 10** in the Conoco Auditorium, LL2 in the Bizzell Library. Prof. Ryan Brown will lecture about Contact Prof. Michael Scaperlanda, mscaperlanda@ou.edu or Prof. Ken Stephenson, kstephenson@ou.edu

Help Support a Local Missionary

Help support a local missionary and visit her web-site where she has these items for sale.

<http://www.rosecrewick.com2/info/>

Book Shelf 1 height: 71.5 inches, width: 30 inches, depth: 12 inches, material: wood Price: **\$35** or best offer Retail Value: \$49

Picture Frame 2 Designed for 4x6 inch pictures NEVER BEEN USED! Black frame with silver cross on the right side. A couple scratches. height: 7.5 inches, width: 8.5 inches, material:

wood, Price: **\$8** or best offer Retail Value: \$15

Book Shelf 2 height: 35.5 inches, width: 24 inches, depth: 10 inches, material: wood, Price: **\$20** or best offer Retail Value: \$29

Picture Frame 1 Designed for 4x6 inch pictures NEVER BEEN USED! White frame with red and white lighthouse in lower left-hand corner; the lighthouse is topped with blue. height: 6.5 inches, width: 8.75 inches, material: wood, Price: **\$10** or best offer Retail Value: \$15

Cork Board 3 feet X 2 feet Color: Grayish with black frame Price: **\$10** or best offer Retail Value: >\$20

Living Room Rug 5x8 feet! Cream and Tan; excellent design; wonderful value; Price: **\$30** or best offer Retail Value: \$40

Camera Has ZOOM function! COMES WITH ORIGINAL PACKAGING AND INSTRUCTIONS! Black; Minolta Freedom Sightseer Zoom Works great! Comes w/ battery and roll of film Price: **\$40** or best offer.

Bunk Bed 2 height: about 5 feet length: about 8 feet width: full size mattress plus a few inches material: metal color: red FULL SIZE on bottom & TWIN SIZE on top price does

not include mattresses good condition but a little squeaky Price: **\$90** or best offer Retail Value: >\$240

EVEN



ODD

The Road to Glory

The Goal of Going Beyond Ourselves



An Evening with Josh Heupel on Thursday, January 23, 2003 7:00 p.m.

OKC First Church of the Nazarene

Cost:

\$15 per person (Advance Sales)

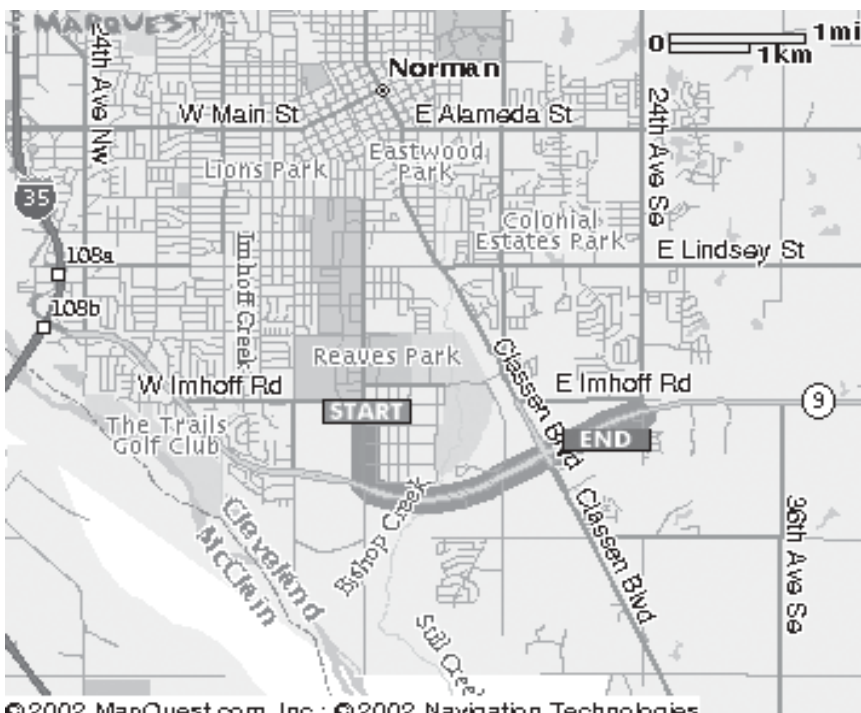
\$20 at the door

Dessert and beverages will be served. Door prizes will include signed footballs

and jerseys by Josh Heupel. This evening is supported by contributors so that all proceeds from this evening will go solely to compassionate ministry projects designated by Iron Men's Ministries at OKC First Church of the Nazarene, 4400 NW Expressway (just east of Meridian). For more information, please contact the church office, 405-843-9588.



You are invited to come worship and fellowship with us. We are presently meeting 3 miles from the Lloyd Noble Center at "The Perfect Swing" Family Fun Center just off of Hwy 9. Romans 10:8 "...that is the word of faith which we preach." Phone: 321-2748.



EVEN

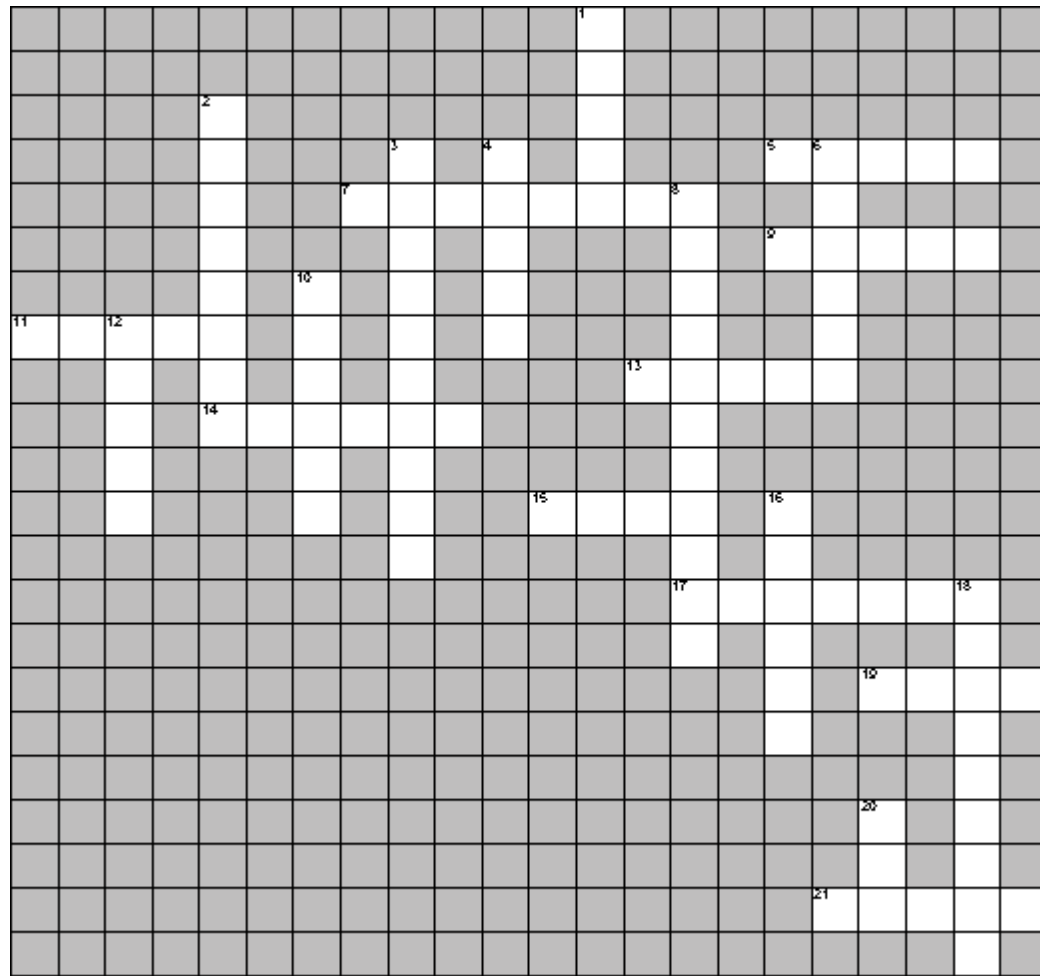


ODD

This is an experimental thing to have a crossword puzzle. I hope that you enjoy it. If you do or don't, let me know. beaconou@ou.edu or rick777ok@ou.edu

Across:

- 5. Pilate asked what this was.
- 7. John the baptist died in this manner.
- 9. book where the prophesy about the place that the Messiah would be born.
- 11. Place where Jesus was born. 13. Lamb of God.
- 14. The age of Jesus when He was baptized.
- 15. _____ the Baptist.
- 17. the first book of the new testament
- 19. Mother of Jesus
- 21. denied Jesus three times.



Created with EclipseCrossword — <http://www.eclipsecrossword.com>

DOWN:

- 1. King in Jerusalem during the birth of Jesus.
- 2. Jesus came to give life and life more _____
- 3. The Jews asked Jesus if He was the Christ during this feast.
- 4. Jesus _____ the sick.
- 6. Jesus _____ the dead.
- 8. First book of the Old Testament that Jesus quoted to overcome the temptation of the devil in the desert.
- 10. God is not willing that any should _____
- 12. the Messiah was to come from this King's lineage.
- 16. Jesus said, if you have seen me then you have seen the _____
- 18. If Jesus was not God, then why did He not rebuke the people when they _____ Him?
- 20. Ten lepers healed, but how many returned to give thanks?

EVEN



ODD



Volunteers needed:

1. Chi Alpha is seeking volunteers for the Winter Jam 2003 coming to Lloyd Noble Feb. 2.
2. Jesus Week 2003 is being planned right now and is needing prayer partners, rick777ok@ou.edu.
3. Beaconou is seeking some help to build the upcoming web-site and sponsors, beaconou@ou.edu.
4. The Word of Faith Christian Center is seeking a piano player contact, John at 321-2748.

