



In this diagram, taken from the by an object 30 miles in diameter. the continents today.

March 2002 issue of *Scientific American*, the forty-five small dark triangles represent collisions that have been detected in various parts of the earth from huge rocks from outer space.

These shown only represent rocks large enough to be *three miles in diameter*, leaving remnant craters 15 or more miles across, mostly larger. Thousands of smaller impacts, unrecorded here, have taken place, which are much harder to trace. The Arizona meteor crater is plain to see, however, and it is only a mile wide.

The vertical height of the little triangles represents the size of the craters resulting, indirectly the size of the object from outer space.

The largest one, which eliminated 90% of all life forms, took place 250 million years ago, and is here shown just to the right of center. More recently, the collision extinction of the dinosaurs, only 65 million years ago, hit Mexico's Yucatan peninsula, leaving clear evidences of a crater 110 miles in diameter, estimated to have been caused

What is the meaning of all this? This is the period in which predatory forms of life

first appeared. This is the evidence of the emergence of evil prior to Adam. Was it when Satan fell?

(Incidentally, it would appear that life has again and again been wiped out or nearly wiped out. Is this parallel to the phenomenon of the biblical flood closer to our time?)

Many of the dinosaurs were really atrocious ferocious creatures—God designed? They were done in by the major collision 65 million years ago. Mammals came into their own since then.

Homo Sapiens appeared so late in this picture that the length of the period would be represented at the far right by less than the thickness of a piece of paper (actually 3 ten-thousands of an inch)..

It would appear that at the present time we are in the middle of a 22,000-year “interglacial” period. Also, that the enormous collision in the middle of the past 500 million years, was related to the breakup of the continents and the plate tectonic drift which allowed the location of

At 1.5 ten-thousands of an inch the asteroid that carved out the chaos described in Genesis 1:1 may have hit, providing the opportunity for an “Edenic” sphere in which a new variety of human created “in God’s image” first appeared along with many animals none of which were carnivorous (1:29,30) as was apparently the case before the Cambrian Period.

Ominously, the last-minute appearance and gradual domination of this planet by humans displays an unnerving violence of human against human which is not characteristic of any other form of life. War plus pestilence held down world population for a long time before Christ, and now relatively suddenly poses the opposite problem of *over-population* as both war and disease have been partially conquered.

The Story of Our Planet: Origins, Evil, and Mission, page 30 Chapter 42

13 billion

Age of Universe

Period of Predatory life

250 million

Period of Hominids

drastic idea that no God was then needed to explain life at all.

Then, in the late 1800s the prophet-ess of the Seventh Day Adventists, Ellen White, came up with the “young earth” idea that the entire record of life on earth was created all at once, even if the record looked old. Her view gradually won its way in certain Evangelical circles to the point that now the growing Christian “home school” movement is dominated by this view which is commonly called *creationism* or Creation Science.

However, a new and different major force has also appeared in the form of an “intelligent design” movement, which persuasively suggests that no accidental process could possibly account for the design and ingenuity in life forms (the “irreducible complexity”) especially in the newly discovered microbiological realities. But this movement (promoted by Behe, Johnson, Demski and others), while it accepts an old earth, makes no comment about the peculiar and horrifying violence, suffering and cruelty all through nature, thus leaving us again with Darwin’s problem of a God of love being the perpetrator of all evil in nature.

The difficulty in all this, whether we

4.5 b

.5 b

Origin of Universe 13 Billion BC



Origin of Earth 4.5 Billion BC



Cambrian Period

Dinosaurs



Hu

Origins of Predatory Life .5 Billion (500 Million) BC



1 million

In recent times enormous research energies in many nations have produced an unusual consensus about most of the picture above, to which our school children and college students are now routinely exposed.

Sunday schools generally confine themselves to the events of the Bible, ignoring the spectacular 2,000 years since Bible times and thus the Bible's own remarkable formative influence on all subsequent history. Sunday school materials also take little notice of the increasing evidences for an "old earth," and the vast reaches of time prior to the appearance of human beings on earth.

In the early 1800s the gradual discovery of ancient bones of ancient and violent creatures no longer in existence did not trouble Evangelicals. It was widely assumed that all this took place before Genesis and before the Garden of Eden. The Scofield study Bible incorporated this perspective. Darwin, however, had been profoundly perturbed by the evidences of the pervasive violence in nature and had proposed a (wacky) scheme of unaided, unguided evolution *as a means of protecting a good God from the accusation of creating evil and violence*. Secular thinkers grabbed his idea and went further to suggest the

100 thousand BC

mans 20 thousand BC

speaking of Darwin, the Creationists and their young earth, or the Intelligent Design people, is the curious reluctance of all three to suggest the existence of an evil counterforce that has intelligently set out to corrupt, destroy, and pervert a good creation. Yet this is exactly the Biblical presentation of Satan rebelling against God and taking one-third of the angels with him.

Gordon Kirk's observation that "Satan's greatest achievement has been to cover his tracks" urges us to recognize that we are extensively unaware of diabolic activity in the world.

From the record above it seems impelling that the appearance of predatory forms of life would be a likely time for the fall of Satan and the

ensuing efforts of his cohorts to twist, pervert, and defile creation.

In scripture we see the prominence of the emphasis on the coming of God's Kingdom, and note that "the Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the Devil (1 Jn 3:8)." What if all disease pathogens as well as all violent forms of life are the work of Satan? How would that amplify and refocus our global mission? We will take this question up next.