

indicate separate species. The great range of dogs, from Great Danes to Chihuahuas, from wolves to dingoes, are all one species of dog. All horses, from Clydesdales to Shetland ponies, belong to the one species.

We must take care not to credit the evolutionary interpretation of the fossil record and its corresponding dating system with the authority to challenge clear Scripture. God wrote these important words in stone: “for in six days the LORD [Yahweh] made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is” (Ex. 20:11). That is, Yahweh made everything in our universe in six literal days about 6,000 years ago, and this repeated scripture excludes all other interpretations of Genesis 1.

The Fiat-Age theory proposes that God made creative pronouncements over six days, but that these took effect in progressive creations over billions of years. Such a theory is not based on any scripture, and is a concession to atheistic geology. There is no harmony between this theory and the Genesis record of Creation. If we accept the evolutionists’ fabricated geologic column and dating we will also be required to concede that mortal humans lived up to, and for many years before, Adam’s time. This would be a step onto seriously shaky doctrinal ground, contradicting Paul’s teaching that “by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men” (Rom. 5:12).

The truth is that Adam was the first man, and all humans spring from him. His nature was changed at the Fall and he became mortal and prone to sin. The ground rebelled under his cultivation as he rebelled under God’s instruction. Eve’s physiology changed, as did the serpent’s anatomy. Sin altered creation suddenly, dramatically and visibly. Animals that once lived in harmony killed one another, and Cain killed Abel. All these tragedies were the results of Adam’s sin. No wonder “the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together” (8:22). One day soon it will all be fixed.

Brian Hurn
Perth, Australia

I would like to comment on the three “Theories of Creation” at the end of the article, [“Was the creation cursed?”](#). I believe that the earth, sun, moon and stars were in existence before the Almighty began His creative works as recorded in Genesis 1, but consider it important that we accept the account as it stands, namely that Crea-

tion took place in six literal days. I can think of seven reasons for this, as follows:

- 1 Everything in the early chapters of Genesis is literal.
- 2 The only way to understand Moses’ words in Exodus 20:9-11 concerning the sabbath is that he is referring to literal days.
- 3 The sense of the words, “He spake, and it was done”, in Psalm 33:9 conveys the idea of the creative works following immediately upon the command of the Lord God.
- 4 The seventh day must have been literal, otherwise Adam could have been a very old man before the day came to an end, which is absurd.
- 5 The works of creation are interdependent. The trees and plants, which were created on the third day, were dependent on the bees, which were created on the sixth day, to pollinate them. If these days were long periods, then the plants would not have survived without the insects necessary for their continuance.
- 6 If we fail to believe that the Lord God was able to carry out these mighty creative works in six successive and literal days, and instead believe that they occupied long periods, how can we believe in the resurrection to life, which will take place in “the twinkling of an eye” (1 Cor. 15:52)?
- 7 The Bible was written, not for the wise of this world, but for the simple, and a mind uneducated by the wisdom of this world would apprehend that Genesis chapter 1 is speaking of seven literal days.

Carlo Barbaresi
High Wycombe

Israel’s dwelling safely

It seems fairly clear from recent correspondence that reaching any kind of conclusion as to the actual timing of Gog’s invasion (Ezek. 38,39) by looking at the term ‘dwell safely [*betach*]’ (38:8,11) and the use of this Hebrew word *betach* in the Old Testament is not as easy as some would imagine.

Perhaps in focusing so much attention on this point we might be neglecting other important details in these chapters. There are several significant points here, on top of those mentioned by Brother Cave (Jan. 2002, p. 22) and others, that, I would suggest, together form a formidable weight of evidence in favour of the idea that