

# THE PENTECOST

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*Cover photo: Belcarra Park, northwest of P. Moody, BC*

*Above photo: Belcarra Park*

This month's Pentecost opens with a look at spiritual hunger and enlightenment. In our last issue of The Pentecost we began discussing the age of the earth and its implications on theology and science. Evolutionary scientists believe that the Earth must be very old to allow for a drawn-out evolutionary process. Not everyone agrees with this. This month, October we will continue exploring this topic. Last month, we focussed on dating methods and the geologic time scale. In this issue, we will look at evidence for a young Earth from the Grand Canyon and from population growth. We will also look at time spans for rock formation. God bless you.

**Shawn Stevens**

The Grand Canyon is a great vacation spot of awe and wonder. Let's take a look at it together shall we, below the surface, that is.

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## THIRSTING AS A DEER

*As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God.*

*2 My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God? Psalm 42:1-2  
KJV*

Friend, let us meditate on this scripture for a moment. The Psalmist thirsts for God as a deer would thirst for water on a hot day or after a long mountain climb. Can we relate to this feeling? Have we longed for, or do we long for, a revelation of God with a similar intensity as a deer would long for his daily water? Is God's presence as refreshing to us as a drink of cool water?

The Psalmist must have had enough exposure to God to know that a revelation of God can be as refreshing to the human soul as water is to the human body. He is specific in his words. He thirsts for the living God. The living God is greatly distinguished from the empty religions of this world and all of their traditions and forms. There is a living God Who is larger than our imagination of Him and Who reveals Himself to those who thirst after Him.

Friend, if you are not thirsting for God, it

may be that you have settled for a dead god who hasn't awakened your senses. There is a yearning in the hearts of God's sons and daughters to experience more of Him. Not many would have chosen the wilderness life of missionary David Brainerd, and I am not saying that this is the only environment where God can be found. Finding God is related to your heart, not to your physical location. However, with a heart that was after God, and in the seclusion of eighteenth-century woodland America, Brainerd met with God. On June 15, 1742, he wrote these thirsty words:

*Had the most ardent longings for God that ever I felt in my life. At noon in my secret retirement I could do nothing but tell the Lord, in a sweet calm, that He knew I longed for nothing but Himself, nothing but holiness; that he had given me these desires and He only could give me the thing desired. I never seemed to be so unhinged from myself and to be so wholly devoted to God. My heart was swallowed up in God most of the day.<sup>1</sup>*

Brainerd's faith was not a mechanical performance of duties. His faith was simply

an expression of what was happening inwardly. Inside there was a hunger. Inside there was a thirst. His reaching out to God was as natural as a deer lapping up water from a running brook. He wanted God's grandeur to be revealed to him in a fresh way. Concerning God, Isaac Watts once wrote:

*I'm pleased to meet him in his court,  
And taste his heavenly love,  
But still I think his visits short,  
Or I too soon remove.*

*He shines, and I am all delight,  
He hides, all is pain;  
When will he fix me in his sight,  
And never depart again? 2*

When God comes to us He comes with His truth. What is the result of this? His truth corrects, heals and feeds us when we understand it and yield to its working. We need the Lord's truth to penetrate deeper than our mental understanding, down into our hearts. Then, there is a real knowing of God and His ways. An encounter with God and His truth will leave us with an awareness of our need for revival. We will feel like saying; "Lord, turn our spiritual winter into spring."

Peter had a hunger and a thirst for the Lord Jesus. On one occasion, Jesus performed the humble act of washing the feet of His disciples. He did this out of His love for

them. Peter felt uncomfortable and said to Jesus, "... Thou shalt never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me." (John 13:8KJV). Upon hearing this, Peter said to Him, "... Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head." (verse 9KJV). He knew what he needed. He wanted to have as much a part with Jesus as he possibly could. Let us pray for the same:

*Lord Jesus, wash us. Wash not only our feet but our hands, head and, most importantly, our heart. Awaken our hearts to love and adore You, to bow down before You, and to hunger and to thirst for a greater closeness with You. Forgive us for settling for so many other lesser things, empty things, things which perish. All the while You have been waiting to fill us with Your Spirit. You have more for us than our minds have perceived. Flood our path with light. Make haste to deliver us and revive us. Let us gaze into heaven. Open to our view and to our understanding the things of Your kingdom. Enlarge our souls to receive more from You. May our hearts be larger than our heads. Let us understand with our hearts the things that we read in Your word. May this understanding help us know and serve You in a fuller way.*

*Awaken our hunger and, as You do, all of our ardent longings will be satisfied in You. We want the living God. You have given us this hunger and only You can satisfy it. We want to grow in grace and glow with Your love. We want to know You and even be swallowed up in You. Turn our winter into spring. Though our outer man perishes, let our inner spiritual man be renewed day by day. We are the deer now standing by the water brook.*

*Amen.*

Shawn Stevens

## **MY GOD ACCEPT MY HEART**

My God accept my heart this day  
And make it always Thine.  
That I from Thee no more may stray,  
No more from Thee decline.

Before the cross of Him who died,  
Behold, I prostrate fall.  
Let every sin be crucified  
And Christ be all in all.

Anoint me with Thy heavenly grace  
And seal me for thy own  
That I may see Thy glorious face  
And worship near Thy throne.

Let every thought and work and word  
To Thee be ever given.  
Then life shall be Thy service Lord  
And death the gate of heaven.

-Matthew Bridges

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Bibles used: King James Version

## BEING ENLIGHTENED BY GOD

The Bible records that, on one occasion, Jesus Christ took his disciples Peter, James and John up a mountain, and that there He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun and His clothing became as white as the light. Moses and Elijah appeared and talked with Him. There was a cloud overshadowing them and out of the cloud came a voice saying; "...This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him." (Matthew 17:5). This is enlightenment, hearing Jesus. Natural hearing and spiritual hearing are two different things. Natural hearing is done with our ears. Spiritual hearing is something that we do with our hearts. In one epistle, the Apostle Paul says: "But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him." (1 Corinthians 2:9). Let's read this scripture again. In it is mentioned our first human faculty, sight, followed by our second human faculty, hearing. This is followed by the phrase entered into the heart of man. This entering into the heart of man is spiritual hearing. It is when the heart understands something spiritual. It is enlightenment.

The following verses read:

*For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ. (1 Corinthians 2:11-16).*

Here, we are told several things. God reveals things through His Spirit, and His Spirit knows the deep things of God. To know the things that God freely gives, we must receive His Spirit. Natural men and women do not receive the things of God's Spirit because

these things are spiritually discerned. They even seem like foolishness to him or her. However, the spiritual man or spiritual woman is ready to judge all of these things.

Why does the natural man not receive the spiritual things of God's kingdom? Scripture discusses spiritual things. Because of the limitations of human reason, the natural man simply can't grasp spirituality. He must be transformed into a spiritual man first, before he will understand anything of any spiritual depth beyond salvation. He must be enlightened even unto salvation and God is faithful to bring this enlightenment to the sincere seeker.

Even the spiritual man and spiritual woman slips back into unspiritual patterns of thought. Even he or she still needs to request enlightenment and further leading from the Lord. Every person, whether Christian or not, needs God to supply him or her with enlightenment.

Not only do we need God's supply of enlightenment, we also need to read God's Word with an application to ourselves. The purpose of studying the Scriptures is so that we would come to know God, grow spiritually from digesting them, and that we would share their truth with others. There must be an ongoing intention to practice

what we learn.

Spiritual food is digested in the heart, not the head. People, and perhaps you, dear reader, may have a head-knowledge of Jesus without a revelation of Him in your inward being. We must have a heart-entering revelation of Jesus Christ. There is a narrow door into God's kingdom. We are not inside this kingdom unless we pass through that door. The way to salvation was opened freely through Christ's sacrifice on Calvary. There is no other way to salvation and God's kingdom than through Jesus Christ. We are enlightened to our sin and God's grace, and then enter that door by faith.

It is Jesus who enlightens us and reveals God, His Father, to us. He said:

*All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him. Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. (Matthew 11:27-30).*

Why is Jesus central to enlightenment?  
Because He is the sole mediator between  
God and man. You don't need to be a  
linguist, a historian or a theologian to  
understand the Bible, but you do need to  
have Jesus, as your mediator, enlightening  
you to its truth.

Friend, it is spiritual knowledge and spiritual  
help which will bring our lives on track and  
move us upward to God. Everything that we  
need to know is supplied by Jesus. Let's  
humble ourselves before Him now, and pray:

*Lord Jesus, I want to hear You. I want  
for Your spiritual truth to enter into  
my heart this day. I don't want to be a  
natural man. I want to be a spiritual  
man. Give to me a heart-entering  
revelation of Yourself and an ongoing  
spiritual life of revelation from You. I  
surrender my life to You, to follow  
You. You will forever be my one  
mediator. Reveal to me the Father  
and let me wear your yoke. Thank  
you. Amen.*

Shawn Stevens

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## **CREATION, EVOLUTION AND THE AGE OF THE EARTH**

### **PART 2: THE GRAND CANYON**

There is probably not another geological site so spectacular as the *Grand Canyon*. It comprises an area of a quarter million square miles. What does the Grand Canyon tell us about the age of the Earth? The traditional theory behind the formation of this canyon is that the Colorado River gradually eroded it over a period of 70 million years. Before the construction of the Glen Canyon Dam, the *sediment load* <sup>1</sup> of the Colorado River was carefully measured over a 25-year period. It was discovered that the Colorado River's sediment load averaged 168 million tons per year. This worked out to 500,000 tons of sediment per day. Seventy million years is a long period of time for any river to be eroding this much sediment. One hundred and sixty-eight million tons per year multiplied by 70 million years is 11.8 million billion tons of sediment that was allegedly eroded from the canyon. Although the Grand Canyon is extremely large, 11.8 million billion tons of sediment would fill an area 1,500 times that of the Grand Canyon. This much sediment could spread over 1.3 million cubic miles. Such a deposit of sediment should be very easy to find. However,

studies of the Colorado River delta have not revealed nearly this much sediment.<sup>2</sup> This would suggest a much younger age for the Grand Canyon.

Having shown that the amount of sediment at the mouth of the Grand Canyon mismatches the 70-million-year theory, let's consider how deep a canyon the Colorado River would carve over the same period of time. We said earlier that 168 million tons of sediment load was transported each year. This mass of gravel, sand, silt and clay is equivalent to 0.015 cubic miles per year. The amount, 0.015 cubic miles, multiplied by 70 million years, equals 1 million cubic miles. The drainage basin of the Colorado River below the Grand Canyon is 137,800 square miles. The depth of the canyon should therefore be calculated as 1 million cubic miles divided by 137,800 square miles, equalling 7.3 miles. Although the Grand Canyon has depths of 1 mile, at no point is it 7 miles. If the Grand Canyon is 70 million years old, then we have a significant mismatch of data.<sup>3</sup> This again would suggest a younger age for the Grand Canyon.

### **PETROLEUM**

What does petroleum tell us about the age of the Earth? Petroleum and natural gas are contained beneath the surface of the Earth at

high pressures in reservoirs sealed by relatively impermeable cap rock. Studies have been done to measure the impermeability of cap rock. It has been calculated that, in many cases, gas pressures could not be maintained for much more than 10 thousand years. It is not realistic, then, that these pressures could be maintained for millions, or even billions, of years. <sup>4</sup>

### **RAPIDLY-FORMING ROCK**

It is commonly believed, and taught, that sedimentary rock forms over many thousands, or even millions, of years. Do we have examples of rapidly-forming sedimentary rock? Rocks that contain fossils are probably the best examples of rapidly-forming rock. When an organism dies, it decomposes quickly. How, then, do we explain perfectly preserved fossils embedded in rock where even minute, soft, body parts have not suffered decomposition? A logical explanation would be that fossilization happens quickly. One geologist, describing a fossil fish from the Santana Formation in north-east Brazil, commented on this rock saying that lithification happened right away and that it may have been the reason for the fish having died. <sup>8</sup>

As well as fossils testifying to rapid rock formation, rock from the bottom of the ocean

presents similar evidence. Some metal bells, encased in rock, were discovered off the coast of Victoria, Australia. It was determined that the bells came from a wooden sailing ship, named Isabella Watson, which sank in 1852. The rock that encases the bells did not take thousands of years to form. The rock is little more than 150 years old. <sup>9</sup>

Not only did the Isabella Bell rock form rapidly, but drip-stone rocks provide a third example of rapidly-forming rock.

Stalagmites are drip-stone rocks that are formed in caves by mineral-rich water dripping from the ceiling of the caves, depositing minerals which eventually form pointed rocks.<sup>10</sup> This is commonly believed to take many thousands, even hundreds of thousands, of years. <sup>11</sup> However, a large stalagmite was found in an abandoned gold mine tunnel in New South Wales, Australia. This gold mine dates back no earlier than 1851, evidencing the rapid formation of stalagmite rock.<sup>12</sup> Fossil rock, the Isabella Bell rock, and stalagmites all testify to much shorter time requirements for the formation of rock.

### **POPULATION**

Evolutionists believe that mankind has been alive on Earth for at least a million years.

Dr. Henry Morris has done studies on population growth and has concluded that even with a dramatically conservative population increase of a half percent a year, spread over a million years, the Earth's population would exceed 10 to the 2100th power. That's a 10 with 2100 zeros behind it! There is not enough room in the universe, let alone on our planet, to contain this number of people. Keep in mind that this only accounts for the population of one species, human beings. All other animals would be multiplying throughout this time as well, many of them pre-dating human beings. Interestingly enough, according to these same calculations, our present population would be reached in a mere 4,000 years.<sup>13</sup>

## CONCLUSION

So, we have seen geological formations that were previously thought to have taken long periods of time to form, forming rapidly. Rock encasing the bells of Isabella Watson, along with stalagmites, has formed rapidly. While these geological formations don't require long periods of time, other geological formations do not *allow* for long periods of time. The Colorado River has not deposited 11.8 million billion tons of sediment, nor has it dug 7 miles into the Earth. Many petroleum sites would have bled off all of

their pressure if they were more than 10 thousand years old. Lastly, the human population of our planet would exceed 10 to the 2100th power if mankind was a million years old.

Shawn Stevens

## ENDNOTES :

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