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### An Adamic Dispensation

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Source: *The Truth, The Way, The Life: An Elementary Treatise on Theology (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition)*

Editor(s): John W. Welch

Published: Provo, UT: BYU Studies, 1996

Page(s): 297–322

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## An Adamic Dispensation

*Further localization of revelation.* We have already seen that the revelations of God given through Moses pertain to our earth and the heavens with which it is connected, and have noted the effect of that localization of revelations to our earth and its heavens. Now it is proposed to consider a still further localization of our revelations to an Adamic Dispensation in the world's history. We begin then with Adam, and the procession of events from his time; which, with reference to the whole period of the earth's existence, may be set down as comparatively recent, and even very recent times, within historic time in fact, if we accept the Bible account of the commencement of things *as historic*. This would admit of a very long period of time beyond the advent of Adam, to the absolute beginning of the physical existences of the earth, during which time pre-Adamite races, less developed than he, may have existed.<sup>†</sup> They may have lived and died through various long ages through

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For this chapter, the recommended readings include “the standard works on anthropology.”

<sup>†</sup>On this chapter, the committee of the Quorum of the Twelve wrote as follows: “This entire chapter deals with the question of ‘pre-Adamites.’ This doctrine is not taught by the Church; it is not sustained in the scriptures. It can only be treated as an hypothesis, and the result will be uncertain, confusing, for after all is said it is speculation leading to endless controversy. We are aware that one of the brethren (Orson Hyde) in an early day advocated this teaching, however we feel that the brethren of the general authorities cannot be too careful, and should not present as doctrine that which is not sustained in the standards of the Church. It appears to us that all which has been revealed is contrary to this teaching, especially that given in the Temple.” Roberts handwrote the following response: **? Not so presented. Was approved also by Pres. Young. R wh[ich] see m[anu]s[cript].** Reporting to President Clawson on October 10, 1929, George Albert Smith stated: “This entire chapter is out of harmony with the teachings of the authorities of the Church. The doctrine of pre-Adamites has never been accepted by the Church and is viewed by the brethren as being in conflict with the revelations of the Lord. This is so with the Temple ceremonies. References in other chapters to these two thoughts—the place of man in creation and pre-Adamites, should be eliminated.”

which the earth passed, of which we have no information supplied by revelation concerning them; but who have provided all the fossil and other evidences of man's existence in the earth discovered by the researches of science, and which so disturb the Bible account of things when an attempt is made to stretch the Bible account to cover all the **possible human life** events that have happened in all periods of time since the physical or temporal existence of the earth began.

*The antiquity of man in the earth. ~~The science view.~~* Let us briefly consider some of the evidences ~~Science gives~~ of man's greater antiquity in the earth than the Bible account warrants. Of course we shall not be able to go deeply into the subject, and can only present the conclusions at which scientific investigators have arrived.

(a) *The **once** "orthodox Christian" view of creation.* In the first place, let us present the once orthodox conception of the date of creation as fixed by an interpretation of the Mosaic account of creation. The most definite statement on this head, and one that is very frequently referred to in controversial writings on the subject, is the interpretation of the Mosaic account by Dr. John Lightfoot, said to be a profound biblical scholar. He was vice chancellor of Cambridge University in 1654. As a result of careful searching of scripture, Dr. Lightfoot was led to declare that "heaven and earth, center and circumference, were made in the same instant of time, and clouds full of water and man was created by the Trinity on the 26th of October, 4004 B.C., at 9 o'clock in the morning."

Of course, this represents the definiteness of extreme methods of interpretation followed by Bible students of Dr. Lightfoot's days. It is now recognized that even the accepted dates of creation and other Bible events by the chronologers, Ussher, Hales, and the Jewish reckoning, are to be regarded approximately only. Since the computations made by those chronologers, the researches of Oriental scholars are bringing forth other evidence bearing upon the subject. While these researches are confirming the historical character of Abraham, and other Hebrew patriarchs as quite definite, in their extensive excavations on the sites of ancient cities, they are tracing back a more remote period for the history of Near Eastern peoples. The Babylonian tablets discovered in these researches give the world a message out of the past which antedates that of Christ up to about 5,500 to 6,000 years instead of 4,004;<sup>a</sup> adding more than a thousand years to the Bible

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<sup>a</sup>The Babylonian tablets to which Roberts refers are probably the earliest Sumerian inscriptions, now dated at about 2500 B.C. Using archaeological, stratigraphic, and carbon-14 dating, archaeologists now think that this civilization began about 4500 B.C.

account of creation, as interpreted by Dr. Lightfoot and others of the orthodox school.<sup>1</sup>

*Origin of the earth as viewed by science.*<sup>b</sup> In contrast to this (supposed) Bible view of creation, I place in contrast the scientific view. This begins with part of the generally accepted nebulae hypothesis; that is that our solar system, to extend the brief statement no further, was brought into existence by some great sun, many millions of year ago, passing so near to our sun that it whipped from the gravitational grip of the sun large masses of the sun's substances and set them whirling separately into space.<sup>2</sup>

In time these whirling, fiery masses took their respective places in orbits around the sun according to the minor planets of our system.

In reference to our own planet, to again limit our consideration to that which more nearly concerns our inquiry, in time—and how long is unknown<sup>3</sup>—the fiery mass that was finally to constitute our earth began condensing until the mass was covered over by a thin rocky

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<sup>1</sup>Lull, "Antiquity of Man," 1-2.

<sup>b</sup>Roberts added this section to the final typescript by inserting four typed pages, numbered 3/2-3/5.

<sup>2</sup>New planets are very rare. They come into being as the result of the close approach of two stars, and stars are so sparsely scattered in space that it is an inconceivably rare event for one to pass near to a neighbour, yet exact mathematical analysis shews that planets cannot be born except when two stars pass within about three diameters of one another. As we know how the stars are scattered in space, we can estimate fairly closely how often two stars will approach within this distance of one another. The calculation shews that even after a star lived its life of millions of millions of years, the chance is still about a hundred thousand to one against its being a sun surrounded by planets. (Jeans, *The Universe Around Us*, 320-21). [Roberts's description of the Nebulae Hypothesis is somewhat different from the traditional theory proposed by Pierre Simon de Laplace, which did not require a collision or close passing of stars, but rather a condensing of the sun's atmosphere into rings that eventually coalesced into planets. Neither Roberts's nor Laplace's version of the Nebular Hypothesis enjoys wide acceptance today.]

<sup>3</sup>The lapses of time of recent geological estimates concerning the age of the earth and life upon it is stated by Sir James Jeans in his recent work (1929) *The Universe Around Us*, 13, is given in tabulated form as follows:

Age of the earth.....	About 2,000,000,000 of years
Age of life on the earth .....	300,000,000 of years
Age of man on the earth .....	300,000 of years

More recent estimates of these ages are as follows:

Age of the earth.....	4,700,000,000
Age of life on the earth .....	2,000,000,000 (advent of blue green algae)
Age of man on the earth .....	200,000 ( <i>Homo sapiens neanderthalensis</i> )

coating: this thickened sufficiently to confine the heat beneath the encrustation, while the hydrogen and oxygen united to form vapors about it. These became condensed and, descending on all sides of the earth, completely enveloped it with water, something as a universal ocean would do. Also in time an atmosphere gathered about it.

Ages upon ages passed, and the Laurentian, the Cambrian, and the Silurian rocks were gradually formed under the water. Then, intermittently, came great upheavals of the earth's crust, the foldings of it into mountain chains, carrying with them even to the summits of mountains remains of marine animal life which had lived at the bottom of seas.<sup>4</sup> Then land upheavals rising above the water divided them and formed separate oceans and seas; meantime gradual subsidences of some parts of the earth's crust and the elevation of other parts gave form to the land areas, to continents and islands. Low forms of plant life appeared—mosses, ferns, grasses, flowering plants, shrubbery and trees began to appear. The dense vapors which had shrouded the earth

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The age of man on earth varies depending on how one defines man. Modern science places the advent of modern man, *Homo sapiens*, about 34,000 years ago.

As an indication of the great age of the earth's crust, the following note from J. W. Draper's *Conflict Between Religion and Science*, gives substantial, and irresistible evidence of its immense age:

The coal-bearing strata in Wales, by their gradual submergence, have attained a thickness of 12,000 feet; in Nova Scotia of 14,570 feet. So slow and so steady was this submergence, that erect trees stand one above another on successive levels; seventeen such repetitions may be counted in a thickness of 4,515 ft. The age of the trees is proved by their size, some being 4 ft. in diameter. Round them, as they gradually went down with the subsiding soil, calamites grew, at one level after another. In the Sydney coal-field fifty-nine fossil forests occur in superposition. (Draper, *Conflict Between Religion and Science*, 190-1). [Draft 3 reads "calamities" for "calamites."]

<sup>4</sup>"Marine shells, found on mountain-tops far in the interior of continents, were regarded by theological writers as an indisputable illustration of the Deluge [in the days of Noah]," says Draper.

But when, as geological studies became more exact, it was proved that in the crust of the earth vast fresh-water formations are repeatedly interrelated with vast marine ones, like the leaves of a book, it became evident that no single cataclysm was sufficient to account for such results; that the same region, through gradual variations of its level and changes in its topographical surroundings, had sometimes been dry land, sometimes covered with fresh and sometimes with sea water. It became evident also that, for the completion of these changes, tens of thousands of years were required. (Draper, *Conflict between Religion and Science*, 191)

in these ages began to disappear, and the sun shone on the earth's surface to quicken and enlarge life in sea, earth, and air; these thrived in all their varied forms, and ultimately man came and began his wonderful career.

This is not a chapter on geology, even in outline, much less a work on that subject; so that I am not concerned in tracing, even in tabulated form, the several periods and strata of the earth's formation from first to last; I only wish to mention enough of these to make intelligible the scientific conceptions of the antiquity of man in the earth; so I pass by the primary and secondary parts of geological formations in the text books and other words on the subject. But in the Tertiary and Quaternary periods we have the epochs where the emergence of man, or near man, occurs; and therefore these are in the geological period of immense import, and to our own subject. These geological periods include what are called the Eocene and Oligocene times or epochs in which arise the higher mammals of the ancient species; the Miocene and Pliocene times in which man emerges; and finally, preceding recent times, is the Pleistocene epoch, which is identical with the last great Ice Age. These epochs in geological formations correspond with the following periods of time.

The Miocene, within the Tertiary period, to 900,000 years ago;

Pliocene, within the Quaternary period, to 500,000 years ago;

Pleistocene or last great Ice Age in which ancient artcrafts of man with his remains are found and ranging from 400,000 years down to twenty or thirty thousand years ago, which marked the retreat of the great glaciers from the present northern temperate zones. So that within the Tertiary and Quaternary geological periods, within which it is claimed that fossil remains of man and his artcrafts and weapons are found, there is room for a very great antiquity for man, and certainly a pre-Adamite period of human existences.<sup>c</sup>

(b) *The science view on the antiquity of man in the earth.* Meantime science submits its deductions on the subject of the antiquity of man in the earth. These come from a number of sources, among them through the fixing of time by the discovery made through the artcrafts which man has used in various periods of time. For instance, there is the age of iron and steel, our own age, in which man uses these

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<sup>c</sup>Roberts gives no reference for the periods, epochs, dates, and events he cites here. Most of his information is not in harmony with current scientific thought. For example, currently the beginning of the Miocene epoch is placed at 22-26 million years ago, while the beginnings of Pliocene and Pleistocene are placed at 5-7 and 1.8-2.5 million years ago respectively. Man (*Homo sapiens*) is thought to have emerged during the Pleistocene.

materials in manufactures and building. This was preceded by the age of bronze, and that by the stone age. This last named age is divided into three periods: first the Neolithic or “new stone age.” This was preceded by the Paleolithic, or the “older stone age”; and this again by the Eolithic. This third period is supposed to be the very oldest period in which man began the use of anything like implements in his ways of life. There is some doubt if the so-called “stone implements” of this age were “purposeful manufactures” at all. Some hold that such implements as were used were merely nature-shaped stones, as were more convenient than others for various uses; and it was these rude nature-shaped implements that suggested the purposeful manufactures of the Paleolithic or old stone age. The crude implement manufactures of this period merged into the more artistically prepared and the greater variety of implements of the new stone age, or Neolithic period. The antiquity of man in the earth is attested first by the undoubted existence and use of these implements, and the slow development of their form and multiplied uses, coupled with calculations based on the glacial periods that are known to have overwhelmed portions of the earth’s surface and under which drifts these artifacts of early man have been found, **and** to scientists justify the conclusion that man has lived upon the earth very many thousands of years longer than the interpretations given of the Mosaic account of creation by the orthodox chronologers. The conclusion based upon these **even limited** facts carry back the antiquity of man from 25,000 to 30,000 years in his occupancy of the earth, and hence tend to establish the probability of pre-Adamite races [in] the earth.<sup>d</sup>

*The rock record.*<sup>c</sup> How do we know when the various classes of animals and plants were established on the earth **asks the author of the *Outline of Science***. “How do we know the order of their appearance and the succession of their advances?” The answer is: by reading the rock record. In the course of time the crust of the earth has been elevated into continents and depressed into ocean troughs, and the surface of the land has been buckled up into mountain ranges and folded in gentler hills and valleys. The high places of the land have been weathered by air and water in many forms, and the results of the

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<sup>d</sup>The dates Roberts cites here for the occupancy of man on earth are much more recent than those he cited earlier in the text. Whether this is due to a change in his opinion or a difference in how his sources are defining “man” is uncertain.

<sup>c</sup>This paragraph was originally a footnote; Roberts left the instruction: “Printer: make into body of text. Not note.” “The rock record” is a phrase taken from Thomson, *Outline of Science* 1:88.

weathering have been borne away by rivers and seas, to be laid down again elsewhere as deposits which eventually formed sandstones, mudstones, and similar sedimentary rocks. . . . When the sediments were accumulating age after age, it naturally came about that remains of the plants and animals living at the time were buried, and these formed the fossils by the aid of which it is possible to read the story of the past. By careful piecing together of evidence, the geologist is able to determine the order in which the different sedimentary rocks were laid down, and thus to say, for instance, that the Devonian period was the time of the origin of amphibians. In other cases the geologist utilizes the fossils in his attempt to work out the order of the strata when these have been much disarranged. For the simpler fossil forms of any type must be older than those that are more complex. There is no vicious circle here, for the general succession of strata is clear, and it is quite certain that there were fishes before there were amphibians (from amphibia, one of the classes of vertebrates, a marsh frog is of the type); and amphibians before there were reptiles, and reptiles before there were birds and mammals. In certain cases, e.g., of fossil horses and elephants, the actual historical succession has been clearly worked out.<sup>5</sup>

Running parallel with this line of evidence and confirming it is the evidence that comes from the discovery of human remains in various old earth strata which represent geological formations of hundreds of thousands of years ago. It is held that human remains have been found in the Pliocene strata of the earth's surface, preceding the Pleistocene strata ~~of the earth, surface,~~ and corresponding with the earlier glacial periods, and immediately preceding the present surface formation. The Pliocene strata corresponds to terms of years to about 500,000 years ago; and it follows that if human remains are found in that strata then man lived upon the earth that long ago.<sup>6,f</sup>

I give the following abbreviated account of these various discoveries of human remains in these strata with the corresponding time period in years:

***Alleged Evidence of man's antiquity in the earth.*** (a) *The Java Man.* The finds in relation to this so-called man consist of a small top

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<sup>5</sup>Thomson, *Outline of Science* 1:88.

<sup>6</sup>Thomson, *Outline of Science* 1:92, 162-63, and illustrated plates.

<sup>f</sup>In referring to human remains from the Pliocene epoch, Roberts cannot mean members of the species *Homo sapiens*, but rather what current anthropologists would call pre-hominids, such as *Ramapithecus*, or possibly early hominids like *Australopithecus* or *Homo habilis*.



of the skull (skull cap), a thigh bone, and two back teeth. There is some dispute among authorities as to whether these remains are really of man or some pre-human ape-man; others hold that they are relics of a primitive man, but off the main line of "the ascent of man." Sir Arthur Keith holds this creature was "a being, human in nature; human in gait; human in all its parts, save its brain." In scientific phraseology they call him Pithecanthropus. He is supposed to have been about 5'7" in height, somewhat less than the average height of man today. The skull cap indicates low-cut forehead, beetling brows and a brain capacity of about two-thirds of the modern man. The remains were found by Dr. E. Dubois, a Dutch army surgeon at Trinell, central Java, 1894. The Java man is supposed to have lived from four hundred thousand to five hundred thousand years ago.<sup>g</sup>

(b) *The Heidelberg Man*. The remains of this fossil are a lower jawbone, and its teeth. It was discovered in Heidelberg in 1907 by Dr. Schoetensack. With the relic were bones of various mammals long since extinct in Europe, such as the elephant, rhinoceros, bison, and lion. There were also some crude flint implements with these finds. "But the teeth are human teeth," says Professor Thomson, author of the *Outline of Science*; "but" he adds, "the relic is of a primitive type, off the main line of human ascent." The reconstructed man from this jawbone receives the scientific name of Homo-Heidelbergensis. The age of this fossil is claimed to be three hundred thousand years.<sup>h</sup>

(c) *The Neanderthal Man*.<sup>i</sup> The fossils of this man were recovered from the Neanderthal ravine near Dusseldorf, Germany, 1856. According to some authorities the Neanderthal man was living in Europe a quarter of a million years ago. He was the "cave man" of that period. It is claimed he used fire, buried his dead reverently, and furnished them with an outfit for a long journey. [He] had a big brain, great beetling ape-like eyebrows. Professor Huxley was of the opinion that "the Neanderthal man represents a distinct species off the main line of ascent."<sup>j</sup>

(d) *The Piltdown Man, or "Dawn Man."* The remains of this man consist of two pieces of skull bone, a small piece of jawbone, and a canine tooth. Found in Sussex, England, 1912. It is thought by some that

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<sup>g</sup>Java Man is currently classified as a member of the species *Homo erectus*, now dated in the Middle Pleistocene, at about 500,000 years ago.

<sup>h</sup>Heidelberg Man is currently classified as a member of the species *Homo erectus*, dated in the Middle Pleistocene.

<sup>i</sup>Roberts consistently wrote "Meanderthal Man."

<sup>j</sup>Neanderthal Man is currently classified as *Homo sapiens neanderthalensis*, a species now dated from the Upper Pleistocene.

the two little bits—jawbone and canine tooth—may not belong to the skull at all. The conclusion is that the skull indicates a large brain, a high forehead without the beetling eyebrows. The time period of these fossil remains date from one hundred thousand to five hundred thousand years ago.<sup>k</sup>

(e) *The Cro-Magnon Man*. This is the cave man, or race we hear so much about, existing between the third and fourth ice ages of the earth, extending back from thirty to fifty thousand years ago. The evidence for the existence of such a race is much more satisfactory than the fossil remains of the other periods, and it is held by scientists quite generally, that this man approaches more nearly the modern man than any of the other supposed races.<sup>7</sup>

[*A Catholic cardinal's comment on this class of evidence.*<sup>1</sup> On the remains of the Piltdown, or Dawn Man, we have a recent interesting comment made by Cardinal O'Connell, American Cardinal of the Roman Catholic Church. The remains of the Dawn Man are in the American Museum of Natural History, New York, in the hall of the "Age of Man." "In that hall," said the Cardinal, "the popular feature arranged by Dr. Henry Fairfield Osborn is an exhibition of what might be justly termed the grotesque gullibility of so-called scientists. There is the Piltdown Man; two bits of skull-bone, a very small piece of jaw-bone, and a canine tooth. All these bones were found in different places in a sandpit of Sussex, and at long intervals."

"Now for the scientific process out of these scraps of bone which you could conceal in the hollow of your hand, by pure, unproven assumption, is constructed an ape-man and labeled Ecanthropus, or the 'Dawn Man,' out of the pure imagination, and false assumption, not backed by a single spark of evidence, science produces a purely fake skeleton and bids the world to come to the Natural History Museum for educational instruction!"<sup>8</sup>

~~*The author's comment.*~~ Of course, there seems to be telling affect in the sarcastic comment of the Roman Cardinal on these bits of **alleged** fossil human remains; but notwithstanding these sarcasms,

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<sup>k</sup>In the 1950s, the bones that were called Piltdown Man were revealed to be planted fakes. This fraud had deceived even the best of the scientific community for a number of decades.

<sup>7</sup>Thomson, *Outline of Science* 1:155-80; and Lull, "Antiquity of Man," 31-35. [Cro-magnon is now considered to belong to the same species as modern man, *Homo sapiens*.]

<sup>1</sup>Roberts marked the next three paragraphs "out," "page out."

<sup>8</sup>From synopsis of speech of Cardinal O'Connell, New York World, February 1, 1926 [quote not found].

comparative structural anatomy has to its credit some very wonderful achievements, and one must not attempt to settle the whole controversy on one item of evidence. All the fossil discoveries must be considered, not only those from the Pliocene and Pleistocene strata of the earth's crust, but with them **there** must be accounted ~~for~~ the human remains found in the various glacial periods of scores and hundreds of thousands of years ago, together with the written historical evidences, which are pushing back the line of man's antiquity in the earth far beyond the 4004 years B.C. of the supposed Bible account of creation. The stone ages of man alone gives greater antiquity to man than the Bible account of creation, and establish, one may feel very safe in saying, evidences of pre-Adamite races in the earth, and justifies the assumption we are about to test out, that so far as the revelations of God to the human race is concerned, they relate to the advent of man to the earth in very recent times to begin a dispensation of human life for the attainment of some special purpose with reference to the earth life of man—of ~~the~~ ***man as we know him, in the*** Adamic dispensation merely.]]

If it shall be urged that this conception of things with reference to the earth and its inhabitants only pushes back the problem of human origin to an earlier date, and by no means settles the question of human origins, we shall concede that such is the case, and answer that it is not our purpose to deal with these pre-Adamite conditions and questions, but only to account for man's origin as we know man now, and with special reference to the purpose of God in this present Adamic dispensation, leaving the disposal of the beginning and the end of pre-Adamite races to still further revealed knowledge from God, or to future knowledge ascertained by the researches of man.<sup>m</sup>

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<sup>m</sup>Draft 1 of this chapter 31 ended here. The material that follows was added later and is evidently what Roberts referred to in his letter to James E. Talmage, March 18, 1932:

I am sending you the chapter from "The Truth, The Way, and The Life" agreed upon in our conversation. I am sending it to you in the same form it passed into the hands of the Committee of the Twelve, but since its return I have added a few pages more of evidence in relation to the Antiquity of Man that was contained in the chapter as they read it. The spirit and facts of the chapter, however, are in no way changed, but the evidence has been a little increased.

I shall appreciate it, if after you have read it you will return same. I do not wish to have it copied by anyone.

*Further consideration of the word “replenish.”* Attention has already been called (in the preceding chapter) to the use of the word “replenish” in connection with the commandment to Adam to be fruitful and “replenish” the earth. The derivation of the word “replenish” comes from the Latin *replenir*; *re-*, again; and *plenus*—full (Standard Dictionary); hence in all the leading dictionaries the primary meaning of “replenish” is given “to fill again as something that has been emptied.”<sup>n</sup> In the intransitive sense the primary meaning is also “to fill again and to recover former fullness.” It should be noted however, that there are secondary definitions which render the word “to finish, perfect”; “to fill by occupying,” etc. And these do not necessarily include the meaning “to regain a state of former development,” but if the Bible use of the word be considered as used in the case of Noah and his sons (as already suggested) to whom God said, as well as to Adam, “multiply, and replenish the earth” (Gen. 9:1), we shall find “to fill again” or “refill” most nearly the mission given to Noah and his sons, *viz*: to again fill the earth with inhabitants; and this same word used in the commission to Adam, “to replenish the earth” in the event of some cataclysm having swept away pre-Adamite races, may have the same significance as when **the word was** said to Noah.

In this connection it is interesting to note that one of the original apostles of the New Dispensation, a contemporary of the Prophet Joseph Smith, and President Brigham Young, ventured to advance the doctrine of a pre-Adamite race and the above interpretation of “replenish.” Also his doctrine was publicly approved by President Brigham Young when the discourse was delivered. This was at the General Conference of the Church on the 6th of October, 1854, at which Orson Hyde, the apostle referred to, had been appointed to deliver a special lecture from which I quote the following:

I will go back to the beginning, and notice the commandment that was given to our first parents in the garden of Eden. The Lord said unto them, “multiply and replenish the earth.” I will digress here for a moment from the thread of the subject, and bring an idea that may perhaps have a bearing upon it.

The earth, you will remember, was void and empty (having in mind the description of the earth in Genesis 2), until our first parents began at the garden of Eden. What does the term replenish mean? This word is derived from the Latin; “*re*” and “*plenus*”; “*re*” denotes repetition, iteration; and “*plenus*” signifies full, complete; then the meaning of the word replenish is, to refill, recomplete. If I were to go into a merchant’s store, and find he had got a new stock of goods,

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<sup>n</sup>On the Hebrew from which “replenish” is translated, see page 294 above.

I should say—"you have *replenished* your stock, that is, filled up your establishment, for it looks as it did before." "Now go forth," says the Lord, "and replenish the earth"; for it was covered with gloomy clouds of darkness, excluded from the light of heaven, and darkness brooded upon the face of the deep. *The world was peopled before the days of Adam, as much so as it was before the days of Noah. It was said that Noah became the father of a new world*, but it was the same old world still, and will continue to be, though it may pass through many changes.

When God said, Go forth and replenish the earth; it was to replenish the inhabitants of the human species, and make it as it was before.<sup>9</sup>

At the close of Elder Hyde's discourse, President Brigham Young arose and said:

*I do not wish to eradicate any items from the lecture Elder Hyde has given us this evening, but simply to give you my views, in a few words, on the portion touching Bishops and Deacons [on the matter of their being married men]. . . . We have had a splendid address from brother Hyde, for which I am grateful. . . . I say to the congregation, treasure up in your hearts what you have heard to-night, and at other times.*<sup>10</sup>

*Evidences of man's antiquity in the earth.* Of course we can not here go into extensive treatment of the subject outlined, the volume of evidence; and the extent of the argument are too great for that in these chapters; but it is possible to give citations and conclusions of those who have treated the subject at length.

*Sir James Lyell.*<sup>o</sup> Among those who recognized in the discoveries that were being made midway of the nineteenth century that man was not only contemporary with long extinct animals of past geological epochs, but that he had already developed, ~~at that time~~, ***in those epochs*** into a stage of culture above pure savagery—was Sir James Lyell M.A., F.R.S., the celebrated and all but father of the science of modern geology. In his earlier works on geology Sir James long opposed the idea of the great antiquity of man in the earth, but in 1863 he published the first edition of his *Geological Evidence of the Antiquity of Man*; "and the fact," remarks Andrew D. White, author of the two volumes of *A History of the Warfare of Science with Theology*, 1896, "that he had so long opposed the new ideas gave force to the

<sup>9</sup>*Journal of Discourses* 2:79; italics added.

<sup>10</sup>*Journal of Discourses* 2:88, 90; italics added.

<sup>o</sup>The man Roberts refers to as Sir "James" Lyell is actually Sir "Charles" Lyell (1797-1875).

clear and conclusive argument which led him to renounce his early scientific beliefs.”<sup>11</sup> Continuing, our author, White, says:

Research among the evidences of man’s existence in the early Quaternary, and possibly in the Tertiary period (hundreds of thousands of years ago),<sup>p</sup> was now pressed forward along the whole line. . . . These investigations went on vigorously in all parts of France and spread rapidly to other countries. The explorations which Dupont began in 1864, in the caves of Belgium, gave to the museum at Brussels eighty thousand flint implements, forty thousand bones of animals of the Quaternary period, and a number of human skulls and bones found mingled with these remains. From Germany, Italy, Spain, America, India and Egypt, similar results were reported.<sup>12</sup>

*Andrew D. White.*<sup>q</sup> White devotes three chapters of his great work to this subject under the title “From Genesis to Geology,” “The Antiquity of Man, Egyptology and Assyriology”; and “The Antiquity of Man and Prehistoric Archaeology.”<sup>13</sup> In his concluding pages of chapter 7, he says:

Human bones had been found under such circumstances as early as 1835 at Cannstadt near Stuttgart, and in 1856 in the Neanderthal near Düsseldorf; but in more recent searches they had been discovered in a multitude of places, especially in Germany, France, Belgium, England, the Caucasus, Africa, and North and South America. Comparison of these bones showed that even in that remote Quaternary period (several hundred thousand years ago), there were great differences of race, and here again came in an argument for the yet earlier existence of man on the earth; for long previous periods must have been required to develop such racial differences. Considerations of this kind gave a new impulse to the belief that man’s existence might even date back into the Tertiary period (a half a million years ago).<sup>r</sup> The evidence for this earlier origin of man was ably summed up, not only by its brilliant advocate, Mortillet, but by a former opponent, one of the most conservative of modern anthropologists, Quatrefages; and the conclusion arrived at by both was, that man did really exist in the Tertiary period. The acceptance of this conclusion was also seen in

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<sup>11</sup>See White, *Warfare of Science with Theology* 1:275. In a footnote on this page White cites the works of eleven writers on various phases of this subject, research workers and scientists all, who support the theory of man’s great antiquity in the earth.

<sup>p</sup>Quaternary is our most recent period, now thought to have begun about 1.8 to 2.5 million years ago.

<sup>12</sup>See White, *Warfare of Science with Theology* 1:275–76.

<sup>q</sup>Andrew D. White (1832–1918), the founder of Cornell University, was a professor of history and English literature.

<sup>13</sup>These chapters are in vol. 1, chs. 5–7, where he cites many authorities. In this last pages of chapter 7, he cites more than a score of scientific works on the subject.

<sup>r</sup>The tertiary is now thought to have begun about 65 million years ago.

the more recent work of Alfred Russel Wallace, who, though very cautious and conservative, placed the origin of man not only in the Tertiary period; but in an earlier stage of it than most had dared assign—even in the Miocene.

. . . Of attempts to make an exact chronological statement throwing light on the length of the various prehistoric periods, the most notable have been those by M. Morlot, on the accumulated strata of the Lake of Geneva; by Gilliéron, on the silt of Lake Neufchâtel; by Horner, in the delta deposits of Egypt; and by Riddle, in the delta of the Mississippi. . . . The period of man's past life upon our planet, which has been fixed by the universal church (he refers *here* to the Roman Catholic Church), "always, everywhere, and by all," is thus perfectly proved to be insignificant compared with those vast geological epochs during which man is now known to have existed.<sup>14</sup>

*Dr. John W. Draper.* In his work on *Conflict Between Religion and Science*, 1875, John W. Draper, M.D. LL.D., author of the *Intellectual Development of Europe*, also has an important *and* exhaustive chapter on "The Age of the Earth and the Antiquity of Man." In his closing pages of that chapter he says:

So far as investigations have gone, they indisputably refer the existence of man to a date remote from us by many hundreds of thousands of years. . . .

We are thus carried back immeasurably beyond the six thousand of Patristic chronology. It is difficult to assign a shorter date for the last glaciation (~~period~~) of Europe than a quarter of a million of years, and human existence antedates that. But not only is it this grand fact that confronts us, we have to admit also a primitive animalized state, and a slow, a gradual development.<sup>15</sup>

*Dr. Richard Swann Lull.* A more recent authority, Richard Swann Lull, Professor of Vertebrate Paleontology, Yale University, 1921–22, in a Lecture Symposium published by the Yale University Press (1923), says

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<sup>14</sup>White, *Warfare of Science with Theology* 1:281–83. As to the evidence of man in the Tertiary period, see works already cited, especially Quatrefages, Cartailhac, and Mortillet. For an admirable summary, see Laing, *Human Origins*, chapter 8. See also, for a summing up of the evidence in favour of man in the Tertiary period, Quatrefages, *Histoire Generale des Races Humaines*, in the *Bibliothèque Ethnologique*, Paris, 1887, chapter 4. As to the earlier view, see Vogt, *Lectures on Man*; refutation of Sir J. W. Dawson's attempt to make the old and new Stone periods coincide, see H. W. Haynes, in chapter 6, of the *History of America*, edited by Justin Winsor. For development of various important points in the relation of anthropology to the human occupancy of our planet, see Topinard, *Anthropology*, London, 1890, chapter 9. **Omit reading of [these works].**

<sup>15</sup>Draper, *Conflict between Religion and Science*, 199.

in his discussion about the Piltdown or Dawn Man and the geological structure in which he was found that

the British authorities, Lewis Abbott and J. Reid Moir, both refer the older gravels to the Pliocene, but the more widely accepted belief is that the Piltdown Man is Lower Pleistocene, of Second or Third Interglacial time, so that in terms of years his age (i.e. of the Piltdown Man) is from 200, 000 to 300,000 years.

In the concluding paragraphs of Professor Lull's lecture he says,

All of our evidence points to central Asia as the birthplace of mankind, and to the Miocene (period), 1,000,000 to 2,000,000 years ago the time of his origin. . . .

The antiquity of man has thus been made known by *direct* evidence in the form of human relics, the greatest age of which can hardly be less than half a million years. *Corroborative* evidence lies in the great variation, not alone between the several species of prehistoric man, but also among the many races of *Homo sapiens* himself, of which Gregory recognizes twenty-six, with a number of sub-races. And that the major divisions are very old is attested by ancient murals and other documents of the Egyptians and other oriental peoples.<sup>16</sup>

*Later Utterances: Sir Arthur Keith.* Still later utterances by scientists of prominence in current periodicals abundantly sustain these authorities I have been quoting. For instance in the Magazine Section of the *New York Times*, for October 12, 1930, Sir Arthur Keith, the eminent anthropologist and world distinguished scholar, describes what he considers to be "one of the greatest triumphs that has ever been accomplished by patient, exact archeological inquiry," in the discovery that about 20,000 years ago in Europe a race of white, non-primitive Cro-Magnon man—displaced an earlier and inferior type, the Neanderthal man; and then at length discusses the question, "Whence did Cro-Magnon man come?" And this at some length. I may only quote briefly:

We have grown up with the belief that Europe has always been the home of white men: we never knew until recently that what has happened in North America and Australia during recent times—the replacement of one race by another—also occurred in the continent of Europe some 20,000 years ago, according to our present mode of reasoning prehistoric time. . . . At the present day the white man is replacing the Aborigines of Australia. What is our evidence for asserting that some 20,000 years earlier a similar replacement occurred in Europe—a primitive type of white man, men of the Cro-Magnon type, migrating into Europe, colonizing it and ultimately taking complete

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<sup>16</sup>Lull, "Antiquity of Man," 22, 38; italics in original.



possession of the continent? . . . We infer the date of the colonization from its relationship to the last Ice Age. We know that Neanderthal Man lived in Europe before the last Ice Age set in; we have found his fossil remains and his culture under its oldest deposits. Then there came an interlude—a temperate interval—in the Ice Age. It was in this interlude that the Cro-Magnon appeared in Europe and in which the Neanderthals either died out or were exterminated. So far we have found no evidence of cross-breeding, but it may have occurred. Then after the temperate interlude which saw the arrival of the Cro-Magnons, arctic conditions returned and continued until the dawn of the modern climate of Europe. By painstaking investigations the geologists of Scandinavia have been able to calculate approximately the number of centuries which have elapsed since arctic conditions came to an end in Europe. Their estimate is 12,000 years. . . . We estimate that at least 8,000 years must be added to the 12,000 to give the date of the glacial interlude which saw the first arrival of the forerunners of the modern inhabitants of Europe. The date of their arrival may very well be much earlier; it cannot be later.

He then presents the claims made by those who regard the migration of the Cro-Magnon people as coming from Africa. The advocates of this idea, Sir Arthur claims, can produce irrefutable evidence that the Sahara—the whole of North Africa—was then inhabited by man, for in deposits which have been laid down by those ancient rivers and streams, man's stone implements have been found.

English geologists, (Messrs. Sandford and Arkell), working for the government of Egypt, have proved (1929) that in the lower valley of the Nile there are deposits which contain the same succession of stone implements as occur in the valleys of the Seine and of the Thames. In the valleys of tributary streams issuing from the Libyan Desert, the same deposits are found with the same succession of implements.

In these early times the basin of the Fayum, which lies to the southwest of Cairo, was filled by the water of the Nile. In the beaches of this old lake Messrs. Sandford and Arkell found evidence that the desiccation of North Africa and of the Sahara began to set in during the period of Aurignacian culture—the period at which Cro-Magnon people appear in Europe (20,000 years ago). In Tunis and Algiers, French archaeologists have discovered and examined many of the workshops of Aurignacian man.

On the strength of this evidence the Pro-African school of anthropologists assume that it was the flaming sword of drought which compelled the Cro-Magnon people to emigrate from the Sahara and seek a new home in Europe.

Sir Arthur Keith himself, however, finds the Asiatic origin of the Cro-Magnon race most convincing, which he argues at length, but assigns about the same period of time for the Cro-Magnon advent into Europe.

What I have been seeking to show is that they (i.e. these Cro-Magnon migrations) are but repetitions of migratory movements which are as old as the evolution of human races. The Australians of today are but repeating what their ancestors did in Europe 20,000 years ago.

And after lengthy argument he says:

The seizure of Europe by pioneer bands of white settlers was a slow process; it probably extended over several thousands of years; there were migrations. The European pioneers made a clean sweep in their new country; the original natives, Neanderthal men, disappeared from Europe just as completely as the native race did from Tasmania in the nineteenth century.<sup>17</sup>

**Sir James Jeans.** In the November 23, number of *The Times* (1930), is another exhaustive argument on the age of the earth in which it is stated by Wm L. Laurence, who discusses the question, that

Sir James Jeans, dealing with this same subject in *The Universe Around Us*, published in 1929, gives the age of the earth as 2,000,000,000 years; the age of life on the earth as 300,000,000 years; and the age of man on earth as 300,000 years. The first of these figures would seem to have been corroborated now by the latest findings of Professor Kovarik.<sup>18</sup>

**Sir Arthur Keith again: Evidence in South Africa.** In the *Times*, Magazine Section of November 23, Sir Arthur Keith again made an important contribution to the subject of man's antiquity on the earth. This time under the title of "Supermen—of the Dim Past and Future." This article was based upon recent discoveries in South Africa led by one J. B. Botha, a farmer at Boskop in the Transvaal. Many discoveries of the remains of ancient man went on until finally representatives of the British Association for the Advancement of Science visited South Africa in 1929. "Another important addition was made to our knowledge of these large-brained inhabitants of South Africa," says Sir Arthur Keith.

Local archaeologists had been busy searching caves and river deposits in Cape Colony, the Transvaal and Rhodesia for traces of ancient man and were able to demonstrate to their visitors that there was strange parallelism between ancient South Africa and ancient Europe. In both of these widely separated parts of the world men had lived and had shaped stone tools for hundreds of thousands of years—ever since the beginning of the last geological age—the pleistocene period of the earth's history.

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<sup>17</sup>*New York Times*, Magazine Section, October 12, 1930.

<sup>18</sup>*New York Times*, November 23, 1930.

In South Africa, as in Europe, one method of shaping stone tools, after having been in fashion for a long time, was succeeded by another method of “culture.” The strange thing was that although the South African stone cultures were never at any time identical with the European, yet there were many resemblances not only between individual cultures but in the sequence with which these cultures followed one another. Cave art flourished both in Europe and in South Africa. South Africa was even more rich than Europe in its rock and cave paintings. The British visitors were also surprised to learn that the rock paintings and rock engravings which were known to be the oldest were also the finest from an artistic point of view. As time went on, the hand of the South African artist lost its cunning.

Sir Arthur Keith also gives an account of the recent discoveries of a fossilized skeleton of a man at what is called Skildegat cave of which he gives the following account:

The floor of the cave was nearly 100 feet wide; they ran sections across it and had, by the Autumn of 1929, dug down to a depth of fourteen feet, passing through five distinct strata, every one of them rich in traces of humanity—hearths, implements, and burials. Above the fifth stratum and at a depth of nine feet they came across an ancient grave containing a complete skeleton. The bones were fossilized: the strata over the skeleton were intact. Now the stone tools of the stratum in which the skeleton lay were all of a kind which have been named “Still Bay”—because it was in a deposit at Still Bay, 200 miles to the east of Fish Hoek, that this culture was first discovered. A beautiful stone lance-head of the Still Bay type lay under the skeleton; all the evidence pointed to the fact that the Still Bay culture was the handiwork of the kind of man found in the Skildegat cave. It was the first time a human skeleton had been found in South Africa amid the tools which in life the man had fabricated and used.

Now the Still Bay culture of South Africa has its parallel in Europe; it is known as the Solutrean, and prevailed toward the end of the last ice age—having an antiquity of at least 15,000 years. There is every reason to suppose that the Still Bay culture of South Africa is just as ancient as the Solutrean of Europe. The skeleton found in the Skildegat cave is that of a man who inhabited South Africa some 15,000 years ago, or perhaps more. The man whose skeleton Messrs. Peers discovered has been named the Fish Hoek Man.<sup>19</sup>

***H. S. Harrison, President of the British Association for the Advancement of Science.*** In the *New York Times* of November 30, 1930, there is an article by H. S. Harrison, President of the Anthropological Section of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, in which he says:

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<sup>19</sup>*New York Times*, Magazine Section, November 23, 1930.

There is less inclination than there was to regard all known fossil human or humanoid forms as being ancestral types to modern man, and they are now welcomed as distant collaterals, rather than as forefathers. Neanderthal man of the Mousterian epoch, Heidelberg man of a rather earlier period, and the still more remote men or ape-men of Piltdown in England, of Java, and of Peking, are placed in different genera or species, as the case may be, from *Homo Sapiens*; to this are assigned all existing men, and all those who have lived since the end of Mousterian times, say 20,000 years ago.<sup>20</sup>

***The Peking Man.*** In December 1929, scientists reported the discovery of one skull and several skeletons found in the stone quarries at Chow Outien, 30 miles from Peking, China. The skull was unearthed by Chinese geologists who claimed it belonged to a species of the famous Peking Man, the *Sinanthropus Pekinensis*, said to be associated with the period of the Piltdown skull and the Java ape-man. The dispatch making the announcement said, that “while the scientists who knew of the discoveries were sworn to secrecy, it was understood here (Peking), that they regarded them as perhaps the greatest human finds ever made.” The discoveries were made in the same limestone quarries where a very primitive type of men was found in 1928. The location of the more recently discovered skeletons was said to have convinced the discoverers that the ancient home of a distinctive type of primitive man had been discovered. “It was understood,” so the dispatch continued,

that the scientists believed with the various skeletons as well as the complete skull, they have material enough to reconstruct the entire drama of the life of the prehistoric colony or at least to sketch a portrait of man as he existed in the region of Peiping (near Peking) more than a million years ago. In addition to the human skull and skeletons, the fossil skull of a rhinoceros has been found in the quarry. Also there were uncovered heaps of bones believed to be those of other animals. Many of the bones were clearly broken as if by human hands, possibly, the scientists believe, by hungry men, seeking marrow as food.<sup>5</sup>

***Dr. J. G. Anderson.*** Dr. J. G. Anderson, Swedish adviser to the Chinese Geological Survey and others continued searching eagerly for the heads of the headless skeletons found. The first trace of the Peking Man was discovered [in] 1920 by Dr. A. Zedansky, a Russian, who found a tooth near the site where the latest recoveries have been reported.

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<sup>20</sup>*New York Times*, November 30, 1930.

<sup>5</sup>Peking Man is now classified as *Homo erectus* and is dated from the Middle Pleistocene.

*Dr. Davidson Black.* Dr. Davidson Black, an American at Peiping [Peking] Union Medical College, placed the Peking Man on a stage of development between the modern human and more ancient human or semi-human creatures. The time estimate of a million years ago as the period in which the Peking Man inhabited the district was based on recent advances in geology, whereby the age of the earth and that of its living creatures is calculated at far higher figures than it was a few years ago; by that scale, the Peking Man is believed to include the Neanderthal Man and to be about contemporaneous with the Heidelberg Man of Europe.

Such the dispatch concerning the discovery of December 15, 1929, to the press of America. On July 30, 1930, a second dispatch was received from Peking, announcing the discovery of still another human skull in the same vicinity, in which it was announced that Dr. Davidson Black had been lent to the survey by the Rockefeller Foundation to devote his entire time to the first skull of the Peking Man. He announced the decision in this second dispatch that the first find was a female skull and the second a male skull, and goes on with a lengthy statement of the new discovery. There came at the same time a cable from London to the *New York Times* in which Professor G. Elliot Smith—one of the foremost geological authorities of England, and connected with the University of London, who declared the discovery of a second skull of the Peking race of antiquity was of great importance as dealing with the fossil remains of extinct types of living creatures.

Still later, namely, December 14, 1930, a dispatch from New Haven, Connecticut to the *New York Times*, giving an account of Professor G. Elliot Smith of the University of London, delivering a lecture at Yale University on the Peking man, who in the meantime had visited Peking to participate in the discoveries, made at that distinct point, said, “that instead of one Peking man there were now available parts of the skulls of ten individuals, and that at least one is the skull of a female.”

“It is certain,” Professor Smith said, “that the prehistoric man of 500,000 years ago (the age assigned to these Peking finds), could speak.”

The skull of the Peking Man he said bridges the gap between the Pithecanthropus Erectus and the Piltdown Man which had been considered heretofore two distinct types and representative of two entirely separate eras in the development of man. The skulls which have been found in China disclose a relationship between the two types.

Of course such statements as these from leading scientists could be multiplied almost indefinitely, but surely sufficient is here set forth to show that the unbroken thread of researches made concerning the

antiquity of man, establishes so far as such researches and human knowledge can establish anything, the great antiquity of the human race on the earth; and certainly that man's life on the earth goes further back than any time fixed by the Bible sources of information; which, at best, as to the advent of Adam and his race, goes no further back than from 6,000 to 8,000 years, and the lesser date is the one usually accepted by orthodoxy. In references made to the existence of man in the earth in our modern revelation, say in Section 1:24 of the Doctrine and Covenants, no earlier existence for man is given than the Bible revelation;<sup>†</sup> and sure it is that the archeological evidences for man's existence even if all the claims of a great antiquity may not be allowed, still go far beyond anything that is set down in our sacred chronology, ancient or modern; and therefore far beyond Adam's period; which forces the recognition of the existence of pre-Adamite races, if there is to be any ~~reconciliation~~ **adjustment** between man's discoveries and the records of scripture; and therefore I am urging the recognition of the advent of Adam to the earth as merely the introduction of an Adamic dispensation of man's existence, all of which will tend to account for all the facts forced upon our attention, and give reasonable standing for what has been revealed with what man by his searching has found out.

There is no other way to account for the stone ages, old and new, than to say that they began in a culture far beyond the period of Adam's advent. The facts of revelation contained in the Bible and our modern revelation which accepts and coalesces with them, do not fit in with the facts of man's evident prolonged existence before the Adamic period **on any other basis**. Here is a fine opportunity for the development of a great truth.

A mighty stride forward in truth was made when it became known that the revelation given to Moses had reference not to the whole, vast universe, but to just this earth on which man lived and to its immediate heavens associated with it (see Moses 1:35); and now with the evidence of life and death on the earth so indisputably evident, including the pre-Adamite life and death of man, in various stages of a successive race-life, why not recognize that truth, and see that which is inevitable, that in the advent of Adam the time had come for the achievement of some special purpose in relation to man—some spiritual relationship—that brought about the introduction of the Adamic dispensation? Otherwise the whole volume of facts as they are disclosed

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<sup>†</sup>It is unclear how D&C 1:24 pertains to the subject at hand.

are thrown into confusion; and the revealed truths themselves for most men rendered doubtful, being out of harmony with the facts ascertained as to man's antiquity.

Moreover, by giving this interpretation to Bible facts and the evident truths science has discovered, we shall be doing just now not only a service to our own church, especially to the youth of it, but a service to all Christendom, and to humanity in general, in that we shall make it possible to all Christendom and the world to see a way to harmony between the Bible facts of revelation and the truths revealed by science, which is but the facts discovered by human research placed in orderly array.

On the other hand, to limit and insist upon the whole of life and death to this side of Adam's advent to the earth, some six or eight thousand years ago, as proposed by some, is to fly in the face of the facts so indisputably brought to light by the researcher of science in modern times, and this as set forth by men of the highest type in the intellectual and moral world; not inferior men, or men of sensual and devilish temperament, but men who must be accounted as among the noblest and most self-sacrificing of the sons of men—of the type whence must come the noblest sons of God, since the glory of God is intelligence; and that too the glory of man. These searchers after truth are of that class. To pay attention to, and give reasonable credence to their research and findings is to link the Church of God with the highest increase of human thought and effort. On that side lies development, on the other lies contraction. It is on the former side that research work is going on, and will continue to go on, future investigation and discoveries will continue on that side, nothing will retard them, and nothing will develop on the other side. One leads to narrow sectarianism, the other keeps the open spirit of a world movement *with* which our New Dispensation began. As between them, which is to be our choice?

### **Addendum**

[Draft 2 of chapter 31, pages 43-49, contains the following additional material. One can safely conclude that when Roberts presented his ideas to the Quorum of the Twelve on January 7, 1931, he read the draft of chapter 31 together with the preceding sections and this conclusion. Counting the cover sheet, these total fifty pages:]

[[Well, here is my presentation of the evidence for the antiquity of man and of life and death in the earth previous to Adam. Do not, I pray you, regard it as all the evidence in hand. From my own files of accumulated evidence I could supply several more such papers as this here

submitted. I have said nothing of the frequently reported discoveries of a great antiquity of animal life and death unearthed in the bed of the old sea that once occupied our own Great Basin of this Rocky Mountain plateau ~~region~~ and which ante-date any antiquity that can possibly be assigned to Adam, although I have preserved in my files some of these reported discoveries of ancient life and death in this region.

You Brethren will have observed also perhaps that I have not followed any pin-picking method of argument in dealing with the excerpts from Elder Smith's discourse presented here, but rather have depended upon great, sweeping cumulative, and to me, overwhelming evidences of man's ancient existence in the earth, his life and death in the world through such great periods of time that the facts pertaining to his advent upon the earth **at the time of Adam** ~~at~~ the utmost of the claims made for his coming—~~from six to eight thousand years ago~~ cannot by any process whatsoever of technical interpretation of words or passages of scripture be made to stretch over and explain the facts of the antiquity of man in the earth. If the evidence submitted proves the fact that races of men existed in the earth long ages ago, fifteen or twenty thousand years ago, to say nothing of the longer time of hundreds of thousands of years ago, ~~that in those long ages ago~~ **when** these men lived and died, then *amen* to the claim that all this existence with its life and its death have been wrought within the period of Adam's advent to earth, and his fall, and his life and death. ~~upon it, some six or eight thousand years ago: and so far as I know no greater antiquity than this or can be claimed for the advent of Adam upon the earth and his life and death upon it, on the basis of revelation ancient or modern.~~

*The argument based on the interpretation of scripture.* Of course there is the statement of scripture quoted and emphasized by Elder Smith, **to be accounted for**, that Adam is the "ancient of days" (Dan. 7:9), "the first man of all men" (Moses 1:34) upon the earth; that if "Adam had not transgressed he would not have fallen" and there would have been no death, for "all things which were created must have remained in the same state . . . forever" and have "had no end" (2 Ne. 2:22); also that God when he had finished the creation pronounced it "good" and the inference is drawn that it could not have been "good" if death existed in the created world; "nor was there any death upon the earth," Elder Smith assures us, in terms as strong as type can be made to say it; and of course we are reminded that these are things said by our scriptures and must be true. But they may be reconciled with the facts of death upon the earth in ages previous to Adam—as the discoveries of men undoubtedly prove—if Adam's advent is understood as describing the introduction of a special dispensation on the earth to accomplish some particular purpose of God in the development of man such as bringing ~~man~~ **him** into special spiritual relationship with ~~him~~, **the Lord**, and men **into special relationships** with one another. Then it is not difficult to see a reasonable understanding



of these passages of scripture relied upon by Elder Smith to sustain his views. For example, to take the very strongest scriptures he quotes, Adam is called by the Lord “the first man of All men” upon the earth; and called by the Prophet of the New Dispensation, “The Ancient of Days, or in other words “the first and oldest of all.” All right, but let it stand as applying to Adam with reference to his particular dispensation and his mission to the earth, and all the difficulties of interpretation disappear, and all the facts are accounted for, as follows: Adam was the first man of all men upon the earth—*in his dispensation*. The first and oldest of all—of his time **or period; ~~the ancient of days~~**; and had he not transgressed he would not have fallen, nor would he have died and all things must have remained in the same state in which they were *after the earth was prepared for Adam* and his race; and they must have remained forever and had no end; **had it been possible for him to have maintained the status quo, this life, previous to his fall!—But, of course, it was not possible. But** What fact of scripture referred to by Elder Smith is not accounted for and harmonized by this suggestion and interpretation? If it is not accepted, then it remains for those advocating Elder Smith’s theory of all life and death in the earth having occurred since Adam’s advent, to give such interpretation as will accord with the stern proven facts of life and death, ages and ages before Adam appears on the scene.

One other item I wish to present that is mentioned in the excerpt made from Elder Smith’s discourse that is not brought out in the discussion I have presented here on the Antiquity of Man in the earth; and really does not specifically enter into that subject, nor is it my purpose to discuss the matter at length on this occasion. I mention it now merely to bring it into the record of this case that it may receive consideration and not be lost sight of, for it is very important, and should receive more attention than I am attempting to give it here.

It is in relation to Adam, and the physical status of him at his advent upon the earth. I quote from the excerpt of Elder Smith’s discourse read at the commencement of ~~my~~ **this** paper.

“By revelation we are well informed that Adam was not subject to death when he was placed in the garden of Eden, nor was there any death upon the earth.” Then:

“He ⟨Adam⟩ did not come here a resurrected being to die again for we are taught most clearly that those who pass through the resurrection receive eternal life, and can die no more. It is sufficient for us to know, until the Lord reveals more about it, that Adam was not subject to death, but had the power through transgressing the law, to become subject to death, and to cause the same curse ⟨?⟩ to come upon the earth and all life upon it. For this earth once pronounced good, was *cursed* after the fall. It is passing through its mortal probation as well as the life which is upon it, and will eventually receive the resurrection and a place of exaltation which is decreed in the heavens for it.”

I am very glad to observe that Elder Smith in opening this subject says, speaking of Adam ~~in the above~~—“He did not come here ~~to the earth~~ a *resurrected being to die* again for we are taught most clearly that those who pass through the resurrection receive eternal life, and can die no more.” I am pleased I say, that Elder Smith makes this declaration that “Adam was not a resurrected being,” for it makes it possible for me to add, *then he was not an immortal being, for the only way to the status of immortality sometimes referred to as “eternal life,” is through mortality and the resurrection from death to immortality. The resurrected Christ is the true type and ensample of an immortal man, deathless; he can die no more!*

But Elder Smith says, in the above, “Adam was not subject to death”; Then he was immortal.—Quoting again: “But (he) had the power, through the transgression of the law, to become subject to death, and to cause the same *curse to come upon it* **to come upon the earth and all life upon it.**” Well, if Adam *could* die, as he did, then he was after all *subject to death*. No matter what means, I repeat, if he *could* die, by any means whatsoever, then he was subject to death; he was not immortal; and the proof that he was subject to death is in the fact that ~~Adam~~ **he** did die. It does not help matters to say “but (he, Adam) had the power through transgressing the law, to become subject to death”; for if he had that power, he was subject to death, and he did die. In the face of that stern fact it is useless and illogical to say Adam “was not subject to death.”

Let us recapitulate: “Adam was not a resurrected being,” we are assured. Then he was not an immortal being, for the only way to bring about immortality to men is through mortality, and the **resurrected from the dead.**

But Adam was not a resurrected being, yet, according to Elder Smith, when he came to earth though not a resurrected being, “he was not subject to death”!

But by transgression of law Adam brought death upon himself and upon all life in the earth:!  
Therefore, after all, he *was* subject to death ~~for he died~~: **he brought it upon himself, and he did die!**

It seems to me that before you put a straight line of consistency through all this, we shall have to understand Adam to be of a different order of men, that is, in a different stage of development, than *not* a resurrected being, yet not subject to death; and yet dying!

Let it be remembered that there is no such thing as conditional immortality. Men are ~~either~~ **mortal or translated**, or immortal, **if for if** they die ~~for any cause~~ **no matter from what cause**; they are mortal; for they are subject to death. **Translated men are those in whom death is (?) but are still subject to death.** If they are immortal then they are not subject to death, **They cannot**; they are like the Christ, in that respect, spirit and element are inseparably connected in them (D&C 93); **which is what God is aiming at through man’s earth life**; and they cannot die under

any condition, they truly are not subject to death. The prophet Alma of the Book of Mormon describes the status; speaking of **the** resurrection from the temporal death of the human body he says:

The spirit and the body shall be reunited again in its perfect form; both limb and joint shall be restored to its proper frame, even as we now are at this time; and we shall be brought to stand before God. . . . I say unto you that this mortal body is raised to an immortal body, that is from death, even from the first death unto life, that they can die no more; their spirits uniting with their bodies, *never to be divided*; thus the whole becoming spiritual and immortal, that they can no more see corruption. (Alma 11:43, 45; italics added)

**Of the earth being “good” before death entered it.** Elder Smith argues that this earth when created was pronounced “good”; and as necessary to that “good,” there was no death upon it. This his language: “The Lord pronounced the earth *good*, when it was finished. Every thing upon its face was called *good*. There was no death in the earth before the fall of Adam.” Then later: “This earth once pronounced *good*, was *cursed* after the fall.” And all this because death came upon it. But was the death of Adam and **of** all life on the earth a curse? But the earth was pronounced “good” before death came upon it? Yea, and more than that, it was pronounced, “*very good*” (Gen. 1:31); ~~and~~ **But** it was “good,” not so much ~~that~~ **because** no death was upon it, but because it was put in the way of becoming better, even best; for it was put in the way of becoming through death, a celestial world, the habitat of immortal, resurrected men. I have never understood that death was to be considered a *curse* no matter what words God had to use in his revelation to meet the understanding of man in marking off the changes to take place in the experiences of men in their progress through the world—through death and sorrow to immortality an everlasting joy, which ~~for~~ ~~man~~ God has designed in his purposes for man; and one may not—looking at the matter in **large**—refer to any of the means to the accomplishment of this as “a curse,” unless one is prepared to pronounce God’s program for man in the earth a curse. That I am sure none of us is prepared to do, or has the desire to do.]]

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Further references recommended by Roberts for this lesson: “The standard works on anthropology”; Genesis; Moses; and Abraham.