PANORAMA

A mysterious large change in earth's gravity field recorded[14]

Satellite data collected since 1998 from the U.S./French ocean-observing satellite Topex/Poseidon, indicate the bulge in earth's gravity field at the equator is growing, and scientists think that the ocean may hold the answer to the mystery of how the changes in the trend of earth's gravity are occurring.

Before 1998, earth's equatorial bulge in the gravity field was getting smaller because of post-glacial rebound that occurred because of the melting of the ice sheets after the last Ice Age [all the ice ages happened between roughly 2300-1700 B.C.[15] *–Ed.*]. When the ice sheets melted, land that was underneath the ice started rising. As the land rebounds, the profile of the earth's gravity field changes.

The observations of the earth's gravity field show that something is counteracting the gravitational effects of post-glacial rebound. The rebound had been decreasing the bulge in the earth's gravity field at the equator, as expected, but recent observations show that the bulge is increasing. The usual explanation is that such changes are caused by movements of mass from the high latitudes to the equator. Such large changes may be caused by climate change, but could also be part of normal long-period climatic variation. Three factors that can trigger large changes in the earth's gravitational field are oceans, polar and glacial ice, and the atmosphere.

The atmosphere has been ruled out as the cause. That leaves ice and water moving from high latitude regions to the equator, but the estimates of glacier and polar ice melting are too small to explain the recent changes in the gravity field. If melting ice were the cause of the recent changes in the gravitational field, it would require melting a block of ice 6.2 miles (10 km.) square by 3.1 miles (5 km.) high every year since 1997, and pouring it into the oceans. As the ice is already floating, the recent reports of large icebergs calving in Antarctica can't be the cause. Further, radar altimeter observations of the average sea level rise provided by Topex/Poseidon show no corresponding change in the rate of the global sea level increase.

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[14] Buis, A., R.J. Gutro, and D.E. Steitz, 2002. "Satellites reveal mystery of large change in earth's gravity field," JPL Press release no. 2002-156, Aug. 5. Also see the Aug. 2 issue of *Science*.

[15] Oard, M.J., 1990. "The evidence for only one ice age," *Proc. 2nd Intl. Conf. on Creationism*, (CSF, Inc.:Pittsburgh) **2**:191-200. Also, C.W. Mitchell, 1995. "A short ice age: why not?" *Proc. 6th Europ. Creationist Conf.*, (Evangelische Hogeschool: Amersfoort, Netherlands), p. 40-45.

That means the mass must have been redistributed within the oceans. Ocean currents can redistribute mass quickly enough to match the changes observed in the last five years. The Topex/Poseidon observations of sea level height do show an increase in the equatorial bulge of the oceans corresponding to the observed gravity changes, but the data are still inconclusive. One critical factor is the temperature of the world's oceans, and its salinity, for which detailed data are not yet available.

There is another possibility, which apparently had not yet occurred to the evolutionary-minded scientists. Assume for a moment that the ice age is as recent as Oard and company believe. The rebound, which was three feet per century (measured roughly from 1850-1950) in the town of Churchill on Hudson Bay in Canada, may have hit its maximum and may now be rebounding downwards. Some of our more skeptical readers may want to know how the three-foot rise was measured. Churchill is a harbor town. The posts and docks in the water became land-locked as the land rose. And how did I know of it? It was part of the eighth grade curriculum in Canada during the 1950s; in other words, I learned it in school.

Evolution says: Man is older than his ancestors[16]

A newly found fossil skull in Chad has confounded the proponents of the theory of evolution. Darwinist scientists confess that this fossil has rocked the very foundations of the theory of evolution. The fairy tale of "an evolutionary chain stretching from ape to man" has once again collapsed. This new ape fossil found in Chad turned all evolutionary theses upside down.

The new fossil skull found in the central African country of Chad has dealt a heavy blow to the evolutionary claims regarding the origin of man. Given considerable space in world-renowned scientific journals and newspapers, this new fossil has shattered the claim that "man evolved from ape-like creatures" so doggedly maintained by Darwinists for the last 150 years. Discovered by the French scientist Michel Brunet, the fossil was given the name *Sahelanthropus tchadensis.*

The fossil has set the cat among the pigeons in the world of Darwinism. In its article giving news of the discovery, the world-renowned journal *Nature* admitted that the "New-found skull could sink

[16] Yahya, Harun, 2002. "New Fossil Discovery Sinks Evolutionary Theories," e-mail communication from a group of Turkish creationists. Though evolutionary ages are quoted in the paper without comment, neither Dr. Yahya nor the Biblical Astronomer believe the ages. Except for words in brackets, the article is completely printed here.

journal *Nature* admitted that the "New-found skull could sink our current ideas about human evolution."[17]

Daniel Lieberman of Harvard University said that "This [discovery] will have the impact of a small nuclear bomb."[18]

The reason for this is that although the fossil in question is 7 million years old, it has a more "human-like" structure (according to the criteria evolutionists have hitherto used) than the 5 million-year-old Australopithecus ape species that is alleged to be "mankind's oldest ancestor."

Ever since the 1920s, evolutionists have claimed that some characteristics of the Australopithecus genus resembled those of human beings, for which reason they have portrayed these extinct creatures as "man's most primitive ancestor." A great deal of evidence disproving that thesis has emerged. For instance, research in the 1990s revealed that Australopithecus did not walk upright, as had been claimed, but walked with a stooped posture just like other apes. The newly-discovered *Sahelanthropus tchadensis* fossil, another ape species that lived 2 million years before Australopithecus, is actually more "human-like" according to evolutionary criteria. In other words, it demolishes the "evolutionary scheme."

The essence of the matter is this: there are a large number of very different ape species that once lived in the past and are now extinct. The skull or skeletal structures of some of these show similarities to those of man. Yet those similarities do not mean that these creatures have any relationship to man. Evolutionists line up the skulls from these extinct species in a manner required by their theory and try to come up with "a ladder from ape to man." Yet the deeper research into the subject goes, the more it is realized that there is no such ladder, simply different species of ape lived at different times in the past.

Moreover, it emerges that man came about all of a sudden, with no evolutionary process behind him: In other words, that he was created.

John Whitfield, in his article "Oldest Member of Human Family Found" published in I on July 11, 2002, confirms this view quoting from Bernard Wood, an evolutionist anthropologist from George Washington University in Washington:

> "When I went to medical school in 1963, human evolution looked like a ladder." he [Bernard Wood] says. The ladder stepped from monkey to man through a progression of intermediates, each slightly less ape-like than the last. Now human evolution looks like a bush. We have a menagerie of fossil hominids... How they

[17] Whitfield, John, 2002. "Oldest member of human family found," *Nature*, 11 July 2002.

[18] Parsell, D.L., 2002. "Skull Fossil from Chad Forces Rethinking of Human Origins," *National Geographic News*, July 10, 2002.

> are related to each other and which, if any of them, are human forebears is still debated.[19]

The comments of Henry Gee, the senior editor of Nature and a leading paleo-anthropologist, about the newly discovered ape fossil are very noteworthy. In his article published in *The Guardian*, Gee refers to the debate about the fossil and writes:

> Whatever the outcome, the skull shows, once and for all, that the old idea of a "missing link" is bunk... It should now be quite plain that the very idea of the missing link, always shaky, is now completely untenable. "The very idea of the missing link, always shaky, is now completely untenable." Henry Gee, editor of *Nature*.[20]

In brief, the drawings of the "evolutionary ladder that stretches from ape to man" that we so frequently encounter in newspapers and magazines have no scientific value at all. They are merely propaganda from certain circles that are blindly devoted to the theory of evolution. At the same time as this propaganda is carried out, evidence that conflicts with the theory of evolution is kept hidden away.

In his book *Icons of Evolution: Science or Myth, Why Much of What We Teach About Evolution is Wrong*, which caused a great stir in America when it was published in 2000, the U.S. biologist Jonathan Wells summed up that propaganda mechanism in these terms:

> The general public is rarely informed of the deep-seated uncertainty about human origins that is reflected in these statements by scientific experts. Instead, we are simply fed the latest version of somebody's theory, without being told that paleo-anthropologists themselves cannot agree over it. And typically, the theory is illustrated with fanciful drawings of cave men, or human actors wearing heavy makeup.[21]

The Darwinist myth is now finally about to collapse. The mistaken nature of Darwinism, itself merely a 19th century superstition, is becoming ever clearer as science advances. The world of science is arriving at the most important truth of all: it was God who created the universe we live in, and everything, living or inanimate, within it.

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[19] Whitfield, 2002. *Loc. cit.*
[20] *The Guardian*, 11 July 2002.
[21] Wells, Jonathan, 2000. *Icons of Evolution: Science or Myth, Why Much of What We Teach about Evolution is Wrong*, (Washington, DC: Regnery Publishing), p. 225.

The above is the complete text written by the Turkish creationist, Harun Yahya. He is totally correct about the nature of the evidence, but he is too optimistic about his fellow man. As a Moslem, he works from an assumption inherent in every religion in the world except scriptural Judaism and Christianity, and that is that man is basically good. Scripture says man is inherently evil, indeed, desperately wicked (Jer. 17:9), not at all inclined to seek after God (Rom. 3:11). The natural man seeks to establish his own righteousness, which means he must reject God's righteousness. For that reason I must take issue with Yahya's conclusion in his last paragraph. Man will not accept the truth of creation, not as long as there's another "if" or "suppose" left in his mind. Fiction still outsells non-fiction, and books promoting sin outsell Bibles. The second law of thermodynamics still says that men will not believe the truth; so how then will natural men come to accept the evidence of the truth?

The Georgia tektites

In 1968, NASA published a list of 578 phenomena observed on the lunar surface from 1540 through 1967.[22] These are usually dismissed as errors or nonsense. But in February 2002, NASA announced evidence that the Moon has an active, molten core, justifying the brave observers who reported their observations in the face of professional hostility.

The NASA announcement stirred a near-dormant interest in what many used to think were lunar volcanic ejecta, namely, *tektites*. For a long time geologists thought that these volcanic glass rocks may have come from the moon and crashed to earth after violent lunar events. Most are found near active volcanic regions on earth such as regions of Asia and Australia near the sweep of undersea and surface volcanoes between the northern shore of Australia and south of the Indonesian Islands. Evolutionists think these tektites, amounting to thousands of tons of volcanic glass, reached earth from the moon "within the past million years." What makes it hard to believe is that they are so close to the surface that one would suspect that they are only thousands of years old, not hundreds of thousands.

In the United States, there are two tektite fields, both near formerly-active volcanic fields. One is in Texas, and the other is in Georgia. The Georgia tektites are extremely rare and are said to be 34.5

[22] Middlehurst, B. M., J. M. Burley, P. Moore, and B. L. Weither, 1968. *Chronological Catalog of Reported Lunar Events*, NASA Technical Report no. R-277. Xeroxed copies can be obtained from: The Sourcebook Project, P.O. Box 107 Glen Arm, MD 21057.

million years old. Since 1970, Harold Povenmire, a Florida Institute of Technology astronomer and former NASA Project Apollo engineer, has been mapping the Georgia field. His work has expanded the Georgia tektite zone from 500 square miles to over 7,000 square miles. The number of Georgia tektites he discovered increased from 200 to over 1300.

The current theory rejects the lunar origin for tektites and instead holds that tektites were formed when asteroids or comets hit the earth and melted its rocks. But tektites are a dry homogeneous natural glass and do not resemble wet inhomogeneous impact glass found around many meteor craters. A terrestrial origin for the tektites is rejected because of the presence of certain elements not usually found in terrestrial volcanic glasses, but believed to be more common in asteroids and meteors. Still, one needs to keep in mind that tektites appear to have a very violent origin.

Countering the asteroid theory of the origin of tektites, Povenmire notes that the slow way tektite glass formed, and the volcanic features some researchers have observed within chunky, layered tektites, can't be explained by the widely accepted terrestrial-impact theory. Ablation (the dissipation of heat due to atmospheric friction) studies also prove that the velocities of tektites reached 3.5 miles per second (6 km per second) or greater. This is viewed as an unlikely speed for terrestrial ejecta to attain from a volcanic explosion, though no one really knows how fast some rocks from Krakatoa may have been ejected. Furthermore, cosmic-ray traces inside tektites show they didn't spend a long time in space, not nearly long enough to be of asteroidal impact origin. This doesn't preclude the possibility that they were ejected as liquid drops by impact of the asteroid on earth.

Even though astronauts on Apollo 12 and 14 returned several lunar highland and presumed subcrustal rocks with tektite-like chemistry, it does not follow that tektites are of lunar origin. The lunar origin theory of tektites has been around since a European geologist first suggested it in 1900. In the waning decades of the twentieth century, the problems with that theory forced scientists to consider the asteroidal impact theory. Now the Georgia tektites, at least, provide some serious evidence against that new theory. The new evidence, however, does not offer support for the lunar origin theory, for there are still serious dynamic problems with that theory. In essence, the fields are too localized to come from the moon. One would expect them to be distributed in long bands, not in oval fields. Then, too, there remains the problem that tektite fields are located in active or formerly active tectonic or volcanic regions. If they started out as molten rock, they may have been ejected fast enough, and with enough spin, to have torn the hydro-

gen atoms from the oxygen of its water molecules,[23] and so dried themselves and even layered themselves in much the same way as Jupiter's cloud bands are formed.

Meteor crater discovered in the North Sea[24]

British explorers have discovered a well-preserved (read "young") meteor crater in the floor of the North Sea, some 80 miles (130 km) from the mouth of the Humber River midway along the east coast of England. Oil exploration during the 1990s had hinted at the presence of a meteor fall somewhere in the North Sea, but only recently has seismological technology been able to reveal the crater.

The crater, named Silverpit, is about 1.8 miles (3 km) in diameter, and lies under a layer of sediment varying between 1000 and 4500 feet (300 to 1500 meters) in thickness. The crater is filled with a chalk and clay deposit. Its hilly rim raises as much as 150 feet (50 m.) above its floor, suggesting that the crater was rapidly buried, thus preventing the erosion characterizing most of the roughly 160 impact craters surviving to this day. Although evolutionists give it an "age" of 60-65 million years, we know from the persistence of oil pressure in the region that its true age is considerably less than 10,000 years.

Increasingly, data from GSFC shows global warming is bunk[25]

While recent studies have shown that on the whole Arctic sea ice has decreased since the late 1970s, satellite records of sea ice around Antarctica reveal an overall increase in the southern hemisphere ice over the same period. Continued decreases or increases could have substantial impacts on polar climates, because sea ice spreads over a vast area, reflects solar radiation away from the Earth's surface, and insulates the oceans from the atmosphere.

In a study published in the *Annals of Glaciology*, Claire Parkinson of NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center analyzed the length of the sea ice season throughout the Southern Ocean to obtain trends in sea ice coverage. Parkinson examined 21 years (1979-1999) of Antarctic sea ice satellite records and discovered that, on average, the area where southern sea ice seasons have lengthened by at least one day per year is roughly twice as large as the area where sea ice seasons have shortened

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[23] The dissociation of water into hydrogen and oxygen is a common problem in turbines

[24] Anon., 2002. "Krater van meteoriet ontdekt in Noordzee," *The Windmill Herald*, **44**(956):16, 23 Aug.

[25] Ramanujan, K., 2002. "Satellites show overall increase in Antarctic sea ice cover," NASA Press Release No. 02-128, Aug. 22.

by at least one day per year. One day per year equals three weeks over the 21-year period.

"You can see with this dataset that what is happening in the Antarctic is not what would be expected from a straightforward global warming scenario, but a much more complicated set of events," Parkinson said.

The length of the sea ice season in any particular region or area refers to the number of days per year when at least 15 percent of that area is covered by sea ice. Some areas close to the Antarctic continent have sea ice all year long, but a much larger region of the Southern Ocean has sea ice for a smaller portion of the year, and in those regions the length of the sea ice season can vary significantly from one year to another. To calculate the lengths of the sea ice seasons, Parkinson used satellite data gridded to 25 by 25 kilometer grid cells for the Southern Ocean region. For each grid cell, the satellite data were used to determine the concentration, or percent area, of the sea ice cover. Whenever the percentage was at least 15 percent, the grid cell was considered to have ice. Using this method, Parkinson went through the entire data set and for each grid cell had a computer count how many days of each year had ice, then calculated trends over the 21-year record.

Overall, the area of the Antarctic with trends indicating a lengthening of the sea ice season by at least one day per year was 5.6 million square kilometers (2.16 million square miles), about 60 percent the size of the United States. At the same time, the area with sea ice seasons shortening by at least one day per year was 3 million square kilometers (1.16 million square miles). Regionally, the Ross Sea, on average, had its sea ice seasons getting longer, while most of the Amundsen Sea and almost the entire Bellingshausen Sea had their sea ice seasons getting shorter.

"The Antarctic sea ice changes match up well with regional temperature changes," Parkinson said. "The one region in the Antarctic where the temperature records have shown prominent warming over this period is the Antarctic Peninsula, and indeed it's immediately to the west and east of the Antarctic Peninsula, in the Bellingshausen/Amundsen and western Weddell seas, respectively, that the sea ice seasons have been shortening rather than lengthening."

The Arctic also shows a mixed pattern of sea ice trends over the 1979-1999 period, but in contrast to the Antarctic, the area with shortening seasons in the Arctic is far greater than the area with lengthening seasons. The Arctic patterns suggest some connections with major oscillations in large-scale atmospheric pressures, called the Arctic Oscillation and the North Atlantic Oscillation, and it is possible the ice covers of both hemispheres could be influenced by oscillations that are still not fully identified, Parkinson said.