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April 17th: God's Special Day

Careful note was given to explain that Noah's Ark landed on Ararat on "the seventeenth day of the seventh month" (Genesis 8:4). Henry Morris gives a possible explanation for this detail as being a topological reference to Christ's deliverance. Dr. Morris writes, "The Lord Jesus Christ rose from the dead also on 'the seventeenth day of the second month.' The seventh month of the Jewish civil year (and this is probably the calendar used here in Genesis 7 and 8) later was made the first month of the religious year, and the Passover was set for the fourteenth day of that month (Exodus 12:2). Christ, our Passover (I Corinthians 5:7), was slain on that day, but then rose three days later, on the seventeenth day of the seventh month of the civil calendar" (Morris, Record, p.209). As Noah was delivered from the bondage of the Ark, we too have been delivered from the bondage of sin.

The 17th day of the 7th month is the 17th of Nisan on the Jewish Calendar and this corresponds to our April 17th. It appears that there is more to this day than the above mentioned. Indeed deliverance first came on the 17th of Nisan through the Ark of Noah. However, a second deliverance came on the same day (17th of Nisan) years later at the parting of the Red Sea. If you recall, this is about the time the Passover was first instituted as the 14th of Nisan where God said, "And this day shall be unto you for a

memorial; and ye shall keep it a feast to the LORD throughout your generations; ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance for ever” (Exodus 12:14). The Israelites left Egypt the following day (15th of Nisan) and camped that evening at Succoth. On the 16th of Nisan they traveled again as far as Ethan and finally on the 17th of Nisan they reached Migdol and the Red Sea (Numbers 33:1-8).

A third deliverance on the 17th of Nisan is the entrance into Egypt which occurred before the exodus mentioned above. We know this because Scripture tells us that the above exodus occurred on the exact day 430 years earlier when the Israelites entered Egypt through Jacob’s family. We read, “Now the sojourning of the children of Israel, who dwelt in Egypt, was four hundred and thirty years. And it came to pass at the end of the four hundred and thirty years, even the selfsame day it came to pass, that all the hosts of the LORD went out from the land of Egypt” (Exodus 12:40-41).

Also a fourth deliverance occurs on this same day about 40 years later; after the Israelites wandered in the desert before being allowed to take the promised land. After crossing the Jordan, the Passover was celebrated (always on the 14th of Nisan). Then, on the 15th day, “they did eat of the old corn of the land on the morrow after the Passover, unleavened cakes, and parched corn in the selfsame day” (Joshua 5:11). On the 16th day, “the manna ceased on the morrow after they had eaten of the old corn of the land; neither had the children of Israel manna any more; but they did eat of the fruit of the land of Canaan that year (Joshua 5:12). That now brings us to the 17th day of Nisan again where Joshua went to check out the walls of Jericho and saw a man with a drawn sword. Joshua asks him if he is a friend or an enemy, where upon this “man” replied, “Nay, but as captain of the host of the Lord am I now come” (Joshua 5:13). Joshua then received detailed instructions of how to conquer Jericho. Jericho itself did not fall until seven days later due to the seven days of marching around the city walls but one can say that the same day the angel gave Joshua

those instructions was the same day in which Jericho and the promised land was delivered into Israelite hands.

A fifth deliverance on this day occurs about 800 years after the entrance into the promised land. After the period of the judges, Saul, David and Solomon, the kingdom was divided and a series of evil kings ruled Israel causing worship in God's Temple to cease. One of the last evil kings was a man named Ahaz who was replaced by his son Hezekiah, a righteous man who cleansed the Temple and restored worship therein. 2 Chronicles 29:1-28 gives us the chronological events climaxing on the 17th day of Nisan. Here we see that on the 16th day of Nisan the cleansing of the temple is complete. Worship and sacrifice then begins on the 17th of Nisan. A most important day in Jewish and Christian history for their salvation is again restored.

Yet a sixth deliverance on this notable day is mentioned as well. The book of Esther contains a story by which the entire Jewish race was nearly wiped out by one man named Haman who was under king Xerxes command. Through a long process of Godly intervention the Jews again are saved on the 17th day of Nisan. Haman had tricked King Xerxes into signing an edict to kill all of the Jews. Esther 3:12 tells us that this signing took place on the 13th of the first month, that being the month of Nisan. Immediately after Esther heard of this decree she had the entire Jewish community fast and pray for three days. When finished on the 16th day of Nisan (Esther 5:1) Esther went to the king and invited he and Haman to a banquet the following day; the 17th of Nisan. It was at this banquet that Haman's evil tricks were exposed and he was executed by the king while at the same time the Jews once again had been delivered.

As mentioned at the beginning of this section by far the most important of all the events that took place on the 17th of Nisan was the resurrection of Christ. A seventh deliverance, but for all

mankind. As you know Christ was crucified on the 14th of Nisan, the day the Passover began. After remaining in the grave for three days Christ rose from the dead on the 17th. If one calculates the odds of so many important events occurring on any given day you come up with 1 in 783,864,876,960,000,000 chances that such events could take place. From this alone it is clear that God controls the world and He watches over His people. Isn't it wonderful to have a personal relationship with such a loving and powerful God who has promised heavenly dwellings for all who follow Him. Certainly, nothing stands in the way of this promise, not even Satan himself.

Sickle Cell Anemia

For years evolutionary philosophers have argued that sickle cell anemia is evidence of evolution through beneficial mutations. One reason for this is because sickle cell carriers are immune to malaria. The germ which causes malaria feeds off of our hemoglobin but this germ does not like the hemoglobin of the sickle cell carrier.

The problem is that 25% of the sickle cell carriers will die due to the sickle cells themselves. However, if you live in parts of Africa where the death rate due to malaria (30%) is higher than that of sickle cell (25%), sickle cell appears to have its advantages. This is not evolution, nor is it beneficial, rather it is the better of two evils.

Creationists have never denied that there are variations among kinds. That is to say that there can be different kinds of dogs but never a half dog and half cat. The same is with germs and other bacteria that become resistant to certain antibiotics.

Evolutionists claim that one kind evolved into another kind with new information being created. For example, for the dinosaur to

evolve into a bird, somewhere in their genes the information for feathers had to evolve. This has never been seen in real life. When bacteria becomes resistant, there is nothing new at all.

1990, pp 9-14.