

# WEIRD AND WONDERFUL

## Quails

**Q**UAILS are small birds not more than 25cm (10 ins.) long. There are many different species, that live in many parts of the world. Quails are often kept, like chickens, to produce eggs for sale. Quail eggs are small. In the wild, quails, like most birds, build nests in which to hatch their eggs. The mother quail lays around 12 eggs over a period of about two weeks.

Although the eggs are laid over a period of time, they all hatch together. This is important, because quails build their nests on the ground, so when the chicks hatch they need to be cared for and protected by the mother quail. If some chicks hatched before the others, they would wander from the nest, and the mother quail wouldn't be able to leave the other eggs to care for them. So why do the eggs, laid at different times, hatch together?



A Brown Quail

Wikipedia photo by Duncan Wright



A recently-hatched quail chick

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Scientists have discovered that, as the baby chicks grow inside the egg, they signal to each other with a clicking sound. These clicks act as a kind of "egg timer" which makes the eggs that were laid last speed up, and the older eggs slow down. The chicks then break out of their shells at almost the same time, and their mother is free to feed and care for them all. This means that the chicks are more likely to survive until they can fend for themselves.

**Did this wonderful system evolve gradually? If so, how would the chicks have survived before it was working perfectly? It makes more sense to believe that God designed quails (and some other birds) to do this from the beginning.**

## Our True History

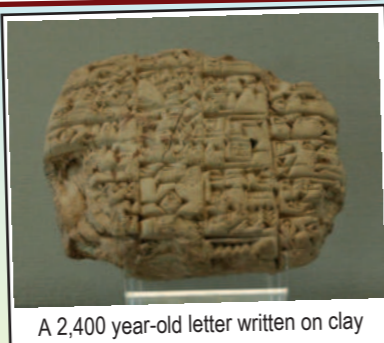
The idea that ancient people were simple and primitive is completely wrong! They were capable of projects which are often difficult to copy, even in the 21st century. The scientific name for humans is *Homo Sapiens* – Latin for "wise man" – and the evidence shows that human beings have always been wise and inventive. People who believe in evolution are often puzzled by the achievements of ancient people. The Bible says that humans were created by God in the beginning with the same abilities as us, and did not evolve from ape-like ancestors, and the evidence supports this.

Archaeologists tell us that humans have always had some kind of religion, and today every people group on earth has some kind of belief in a God or gods. This is because God created us in His image, and intended that we should know Him. Many people have a false religion, but God visited earth in the Person of Jesus Christ, who said, "I am the way. I am the truth and the life." (*John 14: 6*). Jesus died on the Cross to take away the sin that comes between us and God. If we accept Him as our Saviour, we receive God's forgiveness, and the promise of eternal life, because Jesus rose from the dead.



Humans have always been religious. This temple in Athens, Greece, was built 2,500 years ago.

Wikipedia photo by Adam Carr



A 2,400 year-old letter written on clay

## PUZZLE ANSWERS

**Jumbled names:**  
 1. Stonehenge, 2. Polynesia, 3. Baalbek, 4. Easter Island, 5. Turkey, 6. Petra.

**Bible verses:**  
 The Lord is the God who lives for ever. He created all the world (*Isaiah 40: 28*)  
 Let's kneel before the Lord who made us. He is our God. (*Psalms 95: 6-7*)

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Wikipedia photo by Jastrov

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# OUR AMAZING ANCESTORS

The idea that the first people on earth were primitive and ignorant is totally wrong. The facts show that humans have been clever and creative from the very beginning!

## MYSTERY OF STONEHENGE



The famous standing stones at Stonehenge, England — weighing up to 100 tonnes each — came from a Welsh quarry 75 miles away, and had to be carried across a river estuary. Stonehenge was built around 4,500 years ago. How did those who built it manage without modern equipment? There have been many theories, but no-one has come up with a convincing answer. Some engineers tried moving a similar stone using a wooden raft. The raft sank! So the builders of Stonehenge had skills which 21st century engineers know nothing about!

## The "primitive people" myth

**M**ANY people believe that we have evolved, over tens of thousands of years, from "primitive" people with hairy bodies, who lived in caves, couldn't read or write, used only stone tools, and knew nothing about growing crops or building houses. But that is a myth! The truth is that ancient people were just as intelligent as we are. Some of the things they did were so amazing that we still don't understand how they managed to do them! The evidence fits what the Bible teaches about human history. The Bible tells us that God created humans "a little lower than the angels." (*Psalms 8: 5*). Adam and Eve, the first people on earth, were 100% human!



## ANCIENT CITY CARVED FROM SOLID ROCK

Hidden away among the mountains of Jordan is the ancient city of Petra (right). It has temples, theatres, houses and roads, and even had piped water! The amazing thing is that this city was carved out of solid rock 2,600 years ago by a desert tribe! Though now deserted, it was once home to as many as 20,000 people. Even modern construction workers would find it very difficult to carve a city from this solid, red rock. Evolutionists are surprised that people could do this 2,600 years ago because it doesn't fit their theory, but it does fit what the Bible tells us about ancient people. (More about ancient builders inside)



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## Ancient seafarers



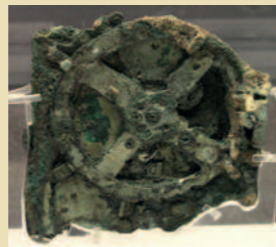
People were navigating the oceans and discovering new lands more than 4000 years ago. A strange map discovered in Turkey in 1513, known as the Piri Reis Map (left) showed the coastline of the Antarctic before it was covered in ice. It must have been copied from older maps, drawn at least 4,000 years ago – over 3000 years before the Antarctic

was “discovered” by people from Europe! It seems that ancient seafarers went there before the Ice Age, which creation scientists believe began several hundred years after the Flood.

1,600 years ago people from Polynesia sailed 2,600 miles across the Pacific Ocean to Easter Island. There they carved and erected almost 1000 stone heads (right), some of which are 10 metres (32 feet) tall and weigh about 90 tonnes. Some are still lying in the quarry, but most of them moved several miles overland and set up. Even modern engineers would find this a challenge, yet those people did it without modern equipment.



## A 2,000 YEAR-OLD COMPUTER!



In history lessons, you may be taught that the first computer was invented around 1822, but it seems that someone beat us by 1800 years or more! Around the year 1900 a strange object (left) was discovered by divers in a wrecked ship that sank near Greece around 65BC. At first, scientists thought it was some kind of clock. It took about 100 years of study to realise that it was the remains of a computer, made more than 2,000 years ago! It appears that this device, which had a very complicated set of about 30 gears, was used to predict the movement of the sun, moon, and planets, predict eclipses, and show the moon's monthly phases. Most scientists are amazed that something like this was invented so long ago. Is that because they believe that people living then couldn't be as clever as we are?



We use batteries (left) in many things. But batteries are not new. The object on the right, from Iraq, is about 2,000 years old. Using models, and an acid liquid, scientists have proved that it could produce electricity.



## HOW DID THEY DO IT?

4,500 years ago the Egyptians built many pyramids. One – the Pyramid of Cheops – is as high as a 30-storey building, covers 13½ acres, and contains 2.3 million stone blocks – some weighing 30 tonnes! The foundations have not sunk, and earthquakes have not destroyed it. Even today we don't know how the ancient Egyptians moved those stones from the quarry and lifted them so high. There is no evidence that the Egyptians experimented in pyramid building – they were perfect from the start. Lots of ancient pyramids have also been discovered in Central and South America. This doesn't fit the evolutionary theory, but it does fit the Bible record, which tells us that people were farming, building



The Pyramid of Cheops, and the nearby Sphinx, which is carved from solid rock

cities, making metal tools, and playing musical instruments soon after the human race began (see *Genesis chapter 4*).

Before the great flood (*Genesis chapters 6-8*) people lived to be almost 1,000 years old. Imagine what skills and knowledge they would have after all that time!



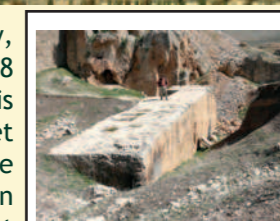
The ruins of Ur in Iraq, the city where Abraham was born. (see *Genesis 11: 27-28*).

Although the flood would have destroyed everything done before the flood, when Noah and his family left the ark, they would have taken their knowledge with them to quickly rebuild human civilisation. This explains why evidence of the first cities is found in the Middle East area.

**There is nothing new here on earth. A person might say, 'Look, this is new!' But really it has always been here. It was here before we were! People don't remember what happened long ago. (The Bible, Ecclesiastes 1: 10-11)**

## Roman Temple built of 800 tonne stones!

On the right is a photo of the ruins of a Roman temple at Baalbek, Lebanon built about 2,000 years ago. The pillars are 21 meters (70 feet) high, and they are resting on huge stone blocks up to 19 meters (60 feet) long, and weighing as much as 800 tonnes each! These stones were cut to shape in the quarry, moved to the site, and lifted 8 meters (26 feet) high. There is no mortar between them, yet they fit so tightly that a knife blade can't be pushed between them. We now have cranes that could lift these blocks, but the Romans didn't. So how did they move them? And why didn't they use smaller stones?



This stone block, still lying near the quarry where it was cut, weighs about 1000 tonnes – equal to 3 jumbo-jets!

## NATURE NOTES by the editor



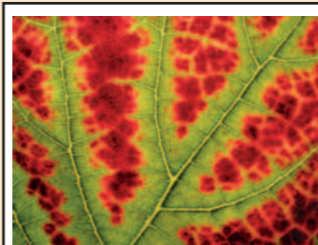
As I write this it is autumn in the northern hemisphere. All around us the leaves on the trees, which have been green since spring, are turning yellow, red and gold. Soon they will fall from the trees, but before they do they look very beautiful. What makes the leaves change colour? Green plants get their colour from something we call **chlorophyll**. It enables green leaves to act like tiny factories, turning sunlight and water into food.



In autumn, as the days get shorter, a tiny “trapdoor” below each leaf closes. This stops minerals and water from the soil getting into the leaf. The chlorophyll that makes the leaves green fades, so that we see their “real” colour, which is not green!

This yearly process is a reminder that God is keeping the promise He made to Noah and his family after the flood. “As long as the earth continues... summer and winter, day and night, will not stop.”

(*Genesis 8: 22*.) God could have created plants so that the leaves suddenly dropped off without changing colour. Then we would miss that glorious yearly display. God loves beauty, and autumn colours are just one of the many things He has given us to remind us that He is a wonderful Creator



In this leaf, the veins are still green while the other parts are turning red.

—Geoff Chapman

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## PUZZLE CORNER

**CRACK THE CODE:** Use the code key below to read these two Bible verses.

UIF MPSE JT UIF HPE XIP MJWFT GPS  
 FWFS. IF DSFBUE BMM UIF XPSME.  
 MFUT LOFFM CFGPSF UIF MPSE XIP  
 NBEF VT. IF JT PVS HPE.

Code key:

**BCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZA  
 ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ**

Unjumble the names of places mentioned in this paper.

1. GONEHENSET
2. SONAYLIEP
3. BEAKALB
4. RESTEA SANDIL
5. KEYRUT
6. TREP

Clues:

1. A famous English landmark.
2. People from here sailed across the Pacific Ocean.
3. Temple built with 800-tonne stones.
4. Place with carved stone heads.
5. Country where ancient map was found.
6. City carved from solid rock

(Answers on the next page)