

*"The heavens declare the glory of God" (Psalm 19:1)*

# REASONS TO BELIEVE - SEATTLE AREA CHAPTER

NEWS AND VIEWS

NOVEMBER 2005

## What's Happening?

### RTB Appearances

Nov. 26th, Dr. Ross and Dr. Rana interviewed on the "Science Show with Rob Schmidt" on Adelphia Cable TV, at 10:30 P.M. Pacific.

Nov. 30th, Dr. Ross interviewed on "Radio Envoy with Richard Beatti" on Salem Radio Network, Celebrate World Wide, Armed Forces Radio Network, at 10:30 A.M. Pacific.

### Other Broadcasts

Nov. 23rd, the documentary "The Privileged Planet" will air at 9:00 P.M. on Seattle PBS Stations KBTC (Channel 28 & Cable 12) and KCKA (Channel 15).

### Get Connected

Join us in spreading the word that science and the Bible agree! We're looking for people who want to make a difference in their communities. For more information, contact us at [seattle@reasons.org](mailto:seattle@reasons.org).

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## Geographic Support for the Local Flood Theory

STEVE SARIGIANIS

The question of whether the Genesis Flood was local or global is one that arouses great passions within the Christian community. A simple reading of the Genesis 6-9 text in English certainly makes a global flood interpretation appealing. The scientific evidence against a global flood, however, is daunting. This evidence includes the lack of sufficient quantities of water, the geological record, the ark's inadequacy to hold every land-dwelling species on Earth, and the inability of a global flood to account for Earth's biodeposits (fossil fuels, metals/ores, limestone, marble, topsoil, etc.).



In *The Genesis Question*, Dr. Hugh Ross clearly lays out the case for a local flood that supports both biblical inerrancy and scientific credibility. By applying more rigorous rules of biblical exegesis, a global flood interpretation is not as obvious as it first seems. The case for a local, but universal flood interpretation of Genesis 6-9 can be divided into three general categories:

- Theological – the Biblical text supports a local flood interpretation when viewed in context. A prime example is seen in Genesis 8:9, where the dove sent out by Noah could find no place to set its feet "because there was water over all the surface of the earth." Yet only four verses earlier, Genesis 8:5 records that the flood waters had receded enough so that the "tops of the mountains became visible." Obviously, proper interpretation depends on establishing the point of reference for the dove, and by implication, Noah as well. Likewise, the Genesis 7 phrases "under the entire heavens" and "the face of the earth" must be interpreted from Noah's perspective. There are several examples in the Bible that demonstrate the requirement for this same careful interpretation. In Genesis 41:56-57, we are told that a famine required all nations to go to Egypt for food. We understand these words to

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# Seeing the Impact

GREG MOORE

Earlier this month, the Seattle Chapter brought Dr. Hugh Ross and Dr. Fuz Rana to the area for a series of outreach events. Dr. Rana spoke on “Solving the Mystery of Adam”—how science supports the Biblical account of humanity’s origin—Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> at Lake Sammamish Foursquare Church in Bellevue and Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> at Christ Memorial Church in Poulsbo. Dr. Ross spoke on “Putting Creation to the Test”—how science points to a Creator—Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> at the University of Washington and Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> at His Place Community Church in Burlington.

The response we received at the events was simply fantastic. Many people told us they were excited by the information and anxious to pass it on to their non-believing friends. Many parents spoke to us of their desire to use the



RTB materials to help their kids to think objectively about the evolutionary dogma they are being taught in public schools. And, one thing that particularly struck me was the glowing endorsements the pastors gave RTB. In fact, a couple of the pastors spoke of the critical role RTB has

played in their individual journey to love God with all their heart *and* mind.

In total, about 1,700 people attended the four days of events. We made many new contacts and over 250 people signed-up to be on the RTB and chapter mailing lists. We also set new records at the chapter booktables with over \$3,000 in sales of RTB books and DVDs.

It is so encouraging to see the impact Reasons To Believe can have in strengthening the faith of believers and removing the doubts of skeptics. It reminds me of why I am so committed to this ministry. Our chapter goal is to increase the frequency of these types of events. Currently, we are hoping to do more events in the spring, possibly including a “University Skeptics Forum” at the University of Washington in conjunction with the campus ministries there. Further down the road, we would like to host a regional RTB conference in this area, similar to those that have been done elsewhere around the country.

Of course, there is a catch. Before we can do this, we must have the resources to make it happen. If this is area where you can help, we welcome your support. If you want to get involved in the chapter, contact us at [seattle@reasons.org](mailto:seattle@reasons.org). If you are able to contribute financially, the chapter is a 501C3 corporation and all donations are tax deductible. Donations can be sent to Seattle RTB, PO Box 99683, Seattle, WA 98139-0683. If you write “outreach fund” on your check, your donation will be used specifically for the purpose of funding future outreach events.

*Greg Moore is president of the Seattle Chapter of RTB. He is a trained RTB apologist and works for the City of Everett.*

## In the NEWS...

### [Prospects of Perpetual Youth](#)

Are the long life spans cited in the Old Testament plausible? This study by Dr. Cynthia Kenyon suggests human life spans in the range of 500 years may not be that far out. Go to: <http://pub.ucsf.edu/missionbay/science/kenyon.php>.

### [A Theory of Education](#)

In this BreakPoint article, Alan Sears discusses how questions are the lifeblood of the scientific process except when it comes to evolution. Go to: <http://www.pfm.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=BreakPoint1&Template=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=17340>.

### [Kangaroo Court](#)

This article in The American Spectator discusses how the ACLU has gone from defending teachers against censorship to prosecuting them for questioning Darwinism. Go to: [http://www.spectator.org/dsp\\_article.asp?art\\_id=8908](http://www.spectator.org/dsp_article.asp?art_id=8908).

### [Goliath's Name Found](#)

Recently, archaeologists uncovered a shard of pottery bearing the name Goliath. While not proof of the Biblical account, it does indicate the name was not a literary creation. Go to: <http://today.reuters.com/news/newssearchresults.aspx?srch=Goliath&searchtype=a>.

### [Panspermia Revisited](#)

This article in Scientific American discusses the panspermia hypothesis, the false notion that life originated elsewhere and was transported to earth. Go to: [http://www.sciam.com/print\\_version.cfm?articleID=00073A97-5745-1359-94FF83414B7F0000](http://www.sciam.com/print_version.cfm?articleID=00073A97-5745-1359-94FF83414B7F0000).

### [Christianity and Politics](#)

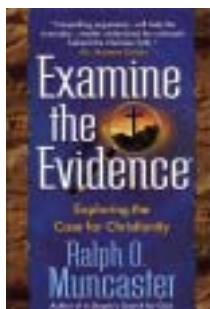
Should Christians be politically neutral? This article by Christopher Alexion discusses the claim that it is wrong to “Christianize” politics under any circumstances. Go to: [www.natreformassn.org./statesman/04/chrspol.htm](http://www.natreformassn.org./statesman/04/chrspol.htm).

## Book Reviews

### Examine the Evidence

Ralph O. Muncaster  
Harvest House, 2004

Reviewer: Mike Brown



Norman Geisler states: “In *Examine the Evidence*, former atheist Ralph Muncaster presents extensive evidence to validate the truth-claims of Christianity. He provides compelling arguments from science, biblical prophecy, history, and archaeology. This book will help the everyday Christian reader understand the rationale behind the Christian faith. It will also be a valuable aid for unbelievers who are seeking the truth.”

For several years now, Ralph Muncaster, author of *A Skeptic's Search For God*, has been putting together small booklets on evidences for Christianity in his “Examine the Evidence” series. Recently he put several of them together along with additional material to produce this 584 page work. The book is divided into the following sections:

- Part 1: Evidence of God's Existence in Creation
- Part 2: Evidence of the Reliability of the Bible
- Part 3: Evidence of God, the Bible, and Jesus in Prophecy
- Part 4: Evidence of the Resurrection of Jesus
- Part 5: Common Biblical Questions
- Part 6: 7 Independent Studies of World and Bible History

Each part is easy reading, with pictures and charts. He quotes Dr. Ross in a couple of places (in a positive light) and handles the age of the earth issue tactfully. Here is an excerpt:

The age of the universe is a *major stumbling block* for many nonbelieving people, who think that all Christians believe the universe is only 10,000 years old. They think that considering the God of the Bible requires abandoning their education and accepting a belief that has men and dinosaurs roaming the earth together about 7000 years ago—something many people feel is intellectually unacceptable...we are faced with an educated world—and many will never be receptive to the gospel message *unless they realize that many Christians agree with both the scientific estimate of the age of the universe and the Bible* (p. 65, italics his).

Muncaster has also written other books such as: *101 Reasons You Can Believe* and *Dismantling Evolution*.

### The Genesis Debate

David G. Hagopian, Editor  
Global Publishing Services, 2000

Reviewer: Jeannie Glenn



Presented in this debate on Genesis 1 and 2 are the 24-hour (Duncan and Hall), day-age (Ross and Archer) and framework (Irons and Kline) views.

Each of the scholars participating in this debate is recognized in his respective field of study as highly trained and well qualified to represent his views. All six adhere to the infallibility and inerrancy of Scripture.

This is not simply a collection a views gathered between the covers of a book, but rather it's a conversation among six men, captured in writing. The arguments, therefore, are not made in a vacuum, but are made and responded to directly. In a way, this format is superior to a verbal debate, as the participants are able to fully expand on their points and rebut the others points of view as well.

Hagopian has divided the book into three sections. In each section one view is presented, the two other views respond in turn, and then the view replies to the responses. This unique arrangement allows the reader to choose the order in which to read the book. For example, since the framework view was totally unfamiliar to me, I chose to read that section first so that I could later understand their (Irons' & Kline's) critiques of the other two views (the 24-hour view presented by Duncan & Hall and day-age view presented by Ross & Archer) with which I was familiar. Future reference is also made easy by this arrangement, as the various arguments and replies are individually accessible.

While these three views are not the only approaches to interpreting and understanding Genesis 1 and 2, they represent the most common, and the most scripturally supported, views. Extensive endnotes provide a means for further voluntary research into each of these views and, likewise, spare the casual reader from having to wade through deep theological issues or ancient and medieval writings.

Regardless of which view you espouse, reading this book can serve to enhance your understanding of the Genesis debate.

mean that the famine affected all the lands of the ancient Near East, and did not cause American Indians or Australian Aborigines to travel to Egypt. In 1 Kings 10:24 we learn that the whole world sought audience from Solomon, but that does not mean that every tribe from the Americas and the Far East sent representatives. Romans 1:8 describes how the faith of the Romans was being reported all over the world, but we understand Paul's use of "the whole world" to mean the Roman Empire, not every region of the planet. Additionally, Psalm 104:5-9, clearly states that the ocean basins were established early in Earth's history, drained water from the continents, and that water would never again completely cover the planet.

- Anthropological – a local flood is perfectly plausible assuming that all pre-flood humans lived in the Mesopotamian region, and that all humans today are descendants of Noah. If the Genesis flood destroyed all living humans at that time except those on the ark, the flood would have universal even though it was local in geographic extent. A local, but universal flood fits perfectly with the Biblical record of God's judgements on humanity for sin. Throughout the Bible, we see God's judgement as being limited to the sinners themselves, their children for several generations, birds and mammals used in their agricultural pursuits, their material possessions, and in extreme cases their agricultural lands. In Genesis 1-9, the only place names mentioned are in the environs of Mesopotamia.<sup>1</sup> Further evidence for man's failure to expand beyond the Mesopotamian region is seen God's command to fill the earth in Genesis 1:28 and again in Genesis 9:7, with the command not being fulfilled until God's direct action at Babel in Genesis 11:9.
- Geophysical – only a local flood interpretation fits the scientific facts about the quantity of water available in Earth's crust and atmosphere. Since Genesis 7:11-12 tells us that the floodwaters came from the Earth's aquifers and atmosphere, and that the waters eventually returned to those places, we know that there is not enough water to cover all the mountains of the earth. A global flood is only feasible by postulating radical geologic changes over the entire earth during the Genesis flood year. Such monumental changes in plate tectonics and rates of erosion defy all geologic evidence collected over the last 200 years. On the other hand, with a local flood interpretation known physical processes, albeit extreme, can account for God's recorded judgement on all of humanity.

The case for a local flood still depends on God's direct action on Earth's atmosphere and geologic processes to bring about the convergence of vast quantities of water at one place, at one time in history. Although God's intervention is difficult to prove scientifically, there are factors that can be tested to show the plausibility of a local flood interpretation.

One such factor is the geography of the Mesopotamian region. More specifically, the region's topography combined with the Flood's extreme meteorological conditions must support the containment of the floodwaters for several months - flood waters deep enough to destroy all of humanity and their soulless

## Apologetic TOOLS

### Creation Update Webcast

Join Hugh Ross and Fuz Rana each Tuesday, 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM (PT), for webcast about how science agrees with the Bible. Listen live and/or download past broadcasts. Go to the RTB website and click on "Get Tuned In."



### Daily Discoveries

RTB posts a new scientific discovery on their website each day that supports the RTB creation model. You can also view past discoveries since 2003. For an archive of discoveries, go to the website and click on "Today's New Reason."



### Ministry Newsletters

RTB's free newsletters feature great articles on science and the Bible. They also keep you informed about what's happening at the ministry. Go to the RTB website and click on "Free Magazine." You can also view and print past issues.



### Message of the Month

Receive a monthly CD featuring special discussions by the RTB scholars while supporting RTB financially. This year's series is titled, "Adam: Miracle, Myth or Monkey?" Go to the RTB website, and click on "Donate."



### Outreach Brochures

Get RTB's brochures for initiating science and the Bible discussions. Topics include the big bang, the origin of life, the anthropic principle and the "days" of Genesis. Go to the RTB webstore and click on "ministry items."



### Apologetics Training Course

Take RTB's training course and become an official RTB apologist. Available through the chapter for \$200. Course materials include audiotapes or CDs, two videos (VHS or DVD) and seven books. Financial scholarships are available.



animals except for those on the ark.

Topography is often viewed by using digital elevation data to make a shaded relief map (Figure 1)<sup>2</sup>. Although subjectively appealing, analysis and measurement are difficult with this type of map.

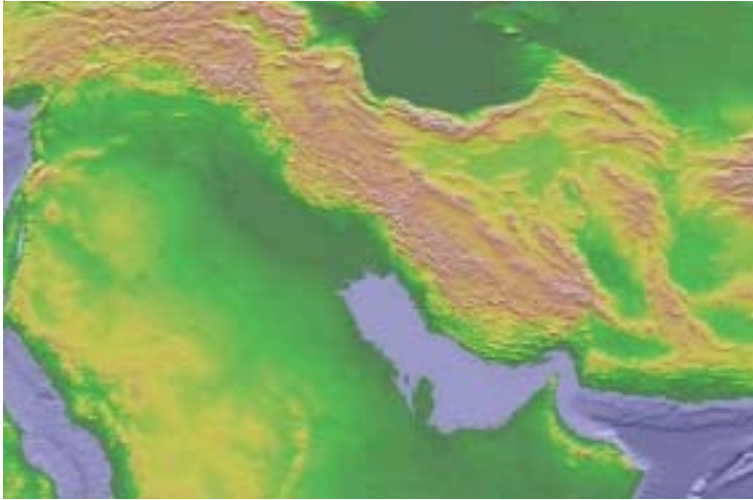


Figure 1 – Shaded Relief Map of the Middle East

A more effective way to analyze topography is to create an elevation layer tint to depict bands of elevation. Using a computer and geographic information system (GIS) software, the band/elevation combinations can be adjusted to make the desired information stand out visually. The widths of the bands also provide a general indication of slope. Elevation layer tints of the Middle East region have been made in the past, but typically from data with elevation posts at only one-kilometer intervals. Although general topography can be seen with one-kilometer data, subtle details in the terrain cannot be discerned (Figure 2)<sup>3</sup>.



Figure 2 – Elevation Layer Tint from 1-Kilometer Data

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## RTB Resources

Was Adam an accident of nature? Are humans descending from primates? In this new breakthrough book, “*Who Was Adam*,” Hugh Ross and Fuz Rana examine the evidence that challenges these notions and points to a special, supernatural origin of mankind. *Intermediate/Advanced, Hardback, US\$ 12.95.*



In *Origins of Life: Biblical and Evolutionary Models Face Off*, Hugh Ross and Fuz Rana reveal how life’s beginnings can be tested. They examine origin-of-life research and compare it to the biblical model, exploding the myth of a naturalistic origin of life. *Intermediate/Advanced, Hardback, US\$ 12.95.*



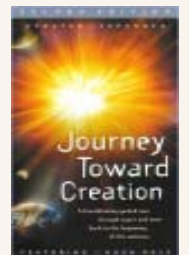
The length of time represented by the word “day” in the Genesis creation account is a source of controversy in the Christian church. In this new book, *A Matter of Days*, Hugh Ross explores how this controversy developed and addresses many of the key issues of the debate. *All Readers, Paperback, US\$*



Does the Bible teach the earth is 10,000 years old? How does science and the book of Genesis relate? In *The Genesis Question*, Hugh Ross examines these and other issues from an old-earth creationist perspective. A great book to share with Christians and skeptics alike. *All Readers, Paperback, \$US 9.95.*



Is life in the universe common or rare? What are the odds of finding other Earth-like planets? Take an amazing journey as Hugh Ross examines how the universe has been meticulously fine-tuned for human life using state-of-the-art computer animation. *All Viewers, VHS or DVD, \$US 19.95.*



RTB Webstore - <http://store.reasons.org>

I created the “Elevation Layer Tint of the Mesopotamian Region from 100-Meter Data” (Figure 3) by importing 204 one-degree cells of digital elevation data into ArcView GIS software. The raw data has an elevation post every 3 arc seconds (~100 meters) whose absolute vertical accuracy is  $\pm 30$  meters at 90% Linear Error. The next step was to merge the cells into one huge gridded data set covering 892,000 square miles. The data in each cell was then normalized into seven bands for ease of viewing and interpretation. Modern political

south and west by terrain that rises gradually, but consistently, to heights above 400 meters. The inevitable conclusion is that the Mesopotamian Plain is fully contained by elevations above 400 meters except where it meets the sea.

- The meteorological events that took place during the Flood were extraordinary. Besides the sudden opening of huge underground aquifers (“the springs of the great deep” in Genesis 7:11), Genesis 7:12 states that “the floodgates of the

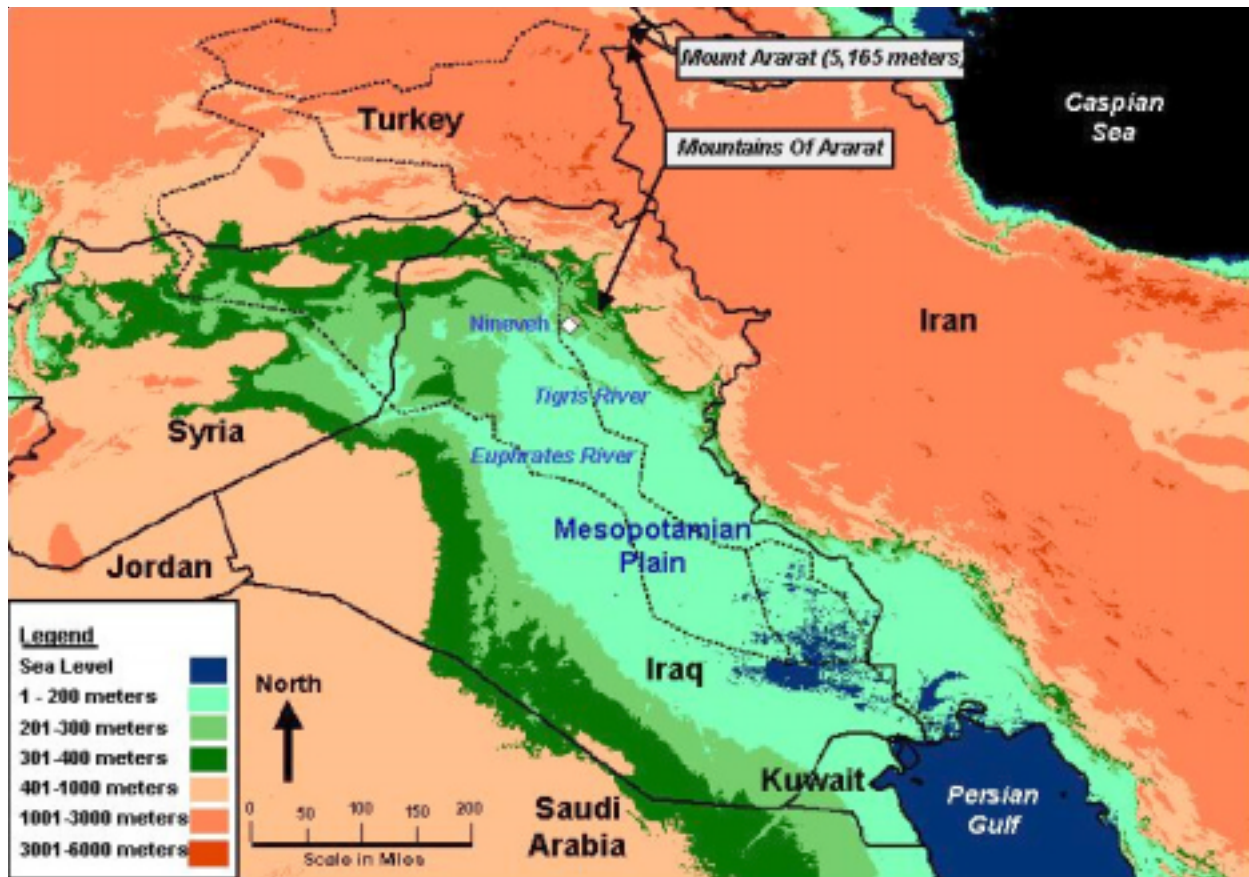


Figure 3 – Elevation Layer Tint of the Mesopotamian Region from 100-Meter Data

boundaries and vectors representing the two major rivers in the area were added for reference. Finally, country names and map annotations were added for clarity. Because of the resolution of the elevation data, intricate topographic details can be seen at 200, 300 and 400-meter elevation, details corresponding to likely extents of the Flood.

Several important deductions can be made from the Elevation Layer Tint of the Mesopotamian Region graphic:

- The topography of the Mesopotamian region forms a huge U-shaped bowl that stretches 600 miles from the Persian Gulf to the northwest. The Mesopotamian Plain is bounded on the north and east by steep escarpments that rise quickly from less than 200 meters to 1000 meters. The Plain is bounded on the

heavens” were opened, and rain fell for 40 days and 40 nights. In other words, hard rain fell in the region continuously for 40 days. Meteorologically, the described rain is unprecedented in a region that only averages 10-20 inches of rainfall per year<sup>4</sup>. There is no natural explanation for a storm so large, intense or persistent. This miraculous super-storm could have produced a storm surge in the Persian Gulf sufficient to maintain the destructive flood levels for the required length of time.

- With the treacherous mountains to the north and east, and inhospitable deserts to the south and west, the well-watered Mesopotamian Plain would have been a difficult place for early man to leave. Assuming the Earth’s entire human population

lived on the Mesopotamian Plain at that time, a flood that rose 200 to 300 meters would have destroyed humanity except for those on the ark. The modern country of Iraq has a population of over 20 million, most of who live in the Mesopotamian Plain<sup>5</sup>.

- If the most likely depth of the Genesis Flood was between 200 and 300 meters above current sea level, it included areas that today belong to Iraq, Iran, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Syria.
- The final resting-place for Noah's ark would have been below the highest flood elevation (~300 meters) in what is now North Central Iraq. Since it is logical to assume that no post-flood society would have left the ark's pre-cut lumber unexploited, searching for the ark is probably a fruitless exercise.<sup>6</sup>

*Steve Sarigianis is a RTB apologist, a research engineer and retired U.S. Army Officer with a Master of Science Degree in Geography from Penn State University. He has extensive experience in the field of military mapping and has taught Geography and Astronomy at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.*

#### REFERENCES

1. Hugh Ross, *The Genesis Question* (Colorado Spring, CO: Navpress, 2001), p.148.
2. World Maps, topographic color and shaded relief from GLOBE Elevations with bathymetry from Smith and Sandwell, found at [ftp://ftp.ngdc.noaa.gov/GLOBE\\_DEM/pictures/GLOBALeb3colshade.jpg](ftp://ftp.ngdc.noaa.gov/GLOBE_DEM/pictures/GLOBALeb3colshade.jpg).
3. Elevation Layer Tint of Mesopotamia by maps.com, <http://media.maps101.com/SUB/ATLAS/REFPDFS/iraqrah.pdf>
4. Sverre Pettersen, *Introduction to Meteorology* (New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company, 1969), p.274.
5. *The World Factbook 1994* (Washington, DC: Central Intelligence Agency, 1994), p.191.
6. Hugh Ross, *The Genesis Question* (Colorado Spring, CO: Navpress, 2001), p.170.



## Seattle Chapter Reasons To Believe

### Who Are We?

The Seattle Chapter of Reasons To Believe is a local extension of the worldwide, interdenominational Reasons To Believe ministry. We exist to support our parent organization and foster local involvement in the ministry. We serve the Puget Sound area and are composed of Christians of different ages and backgrounds.

It is our conviction the same God who created the universe inspired the Bible. Therefore, what God says through His word must agree with the facts of nature. We reject the notion that science and the Bible are at odds and seek to provide a scientifically-sound and Biblically-faithful alternative to Darwinism and young-Earth creationism.

### What Do We Do?

Our mission is to remove the doubts of skeptics and strengthen the faith of believers. We provide scientific, historical and philosophical evidence that supports the Christian worldview and helps remove barriers to a belief in God, the Bible and the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We carry out this mission by:

- Helping people access RTB and other scientifically and biblically sound resources.
- Bringing nationally-known speakers into the area to promote the scientific reliability of the Bible.
- Assembling a team of local apologists to address questions about science, the Bible and related topics.
- Working with teachers and homeschoolers to achieve a balanced approach to the teaching of origins.
- Building alliances with local churches, ministries and groups to maximize the exposure of the RTB ministry.
- Reaching out to unbelievers with gentleness and respect, encouraging them to evaluate their worldviews.

We welcome your involvement and support. For more information, contact us at [seattle@reasons.org](mailto:seattle@reasons.org). Tax-deductible donations can be sent to: Seattle RTB, PO Box 99683, Seattle, WA 98139-0683.

## Questions? Get Answers.

Whether you are looking for scientific support for your faith or answers to questions about God, the Bible, and science, contact us at [seattle@reasons.org](mailto:seattle@reasons.org). You can also call the RTB hotline seven days a week, 5:00 to 7:00 PM at 626-335-5282.