



# It's All About

# OIL

**H**ow far back can you remember, sitting at a gas station, having fuel pumped into your family's car or truck? It must have been about 1961 that I can remember my dad pumping his own gasoline into his VW bus, and then writing in a small spiral notebook how many gallons, and the price per gallon. Gas was about 27 cents in those days.

But people were pumping gas for decades before that. In the 1920s, Model-T Fords were all the rage. Back in 1870, John D. Rockefeller established *The Standard Oil Company*. Early European explorers had noted seeps of oil on the ground in western Pennsylvania and New York. Scientists eventually found potential use for that nasty, black goop. By the mid-1850s they were reporting the potential to

manufacture kerosene from crude oil. Just a few years later, industrialists developed ways to drill and pump oil out of the ground. And then came the automobile! Those surface seeps of oil became big oil fields to supply a growing demand. I have often wondered how much oil has been pumped out of the ground since commercial production began!

BY JEFF REICH

## STAGGERING FIGURES!

Today when I pump gas into my car, I think about all the cars and trucks around the world. Look at the congested highways of Mumbai, Chennai, Beijing, and New York City — these vehicles are nearly all powered by oil. I travel extensively, and everywhere I go I witness cities and nations pumping fuel into cars, trucks, lorries, jets, and trains. Then there are the massive plastic and textile industries, along with thousands of other byproducts that all come from oil. In summary, we have and still do use a lot of oil! And this use is increasing as nations are rapidly developing.

In 2008, two chemists from the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Istvan Lakatos and Julianna Lakatos-Szabo, theorized that around 100 billion tonnes of crude oil had been produced since 1850. However, John Jones, from the University of Aberdeen's School of Engineering, recently debunked their estimation. Jones pointed out that the two chemists, with their dubious estimations, gave no references for their research. His own research places the actual figure much higher. He claims that since 1870 — when J.D. Rockefeller established *The Standard Oil Company* — we have used at least 135 billion tonnes of oil.<sup>1</sup>

One hundred thirty-five billion tonnes? That's around 944 billion barrels of crude oil. How can we put this massive amount of oil into perspective? I did some quick calculating using metric tonnes. When you convert 135 billion metric tonnes into cubic feet, it calculates to 4.74 trillion cubic feet of oil. The Empire State building in New York City is 37 million cubic feet. So imagine this — we have pumped

enough crude oil since the 1850s to fill the Empire State Building 127,896 times! That was up to 2008 — and we are still counting.

I am sure this is all a certain amount of guess work, even by the best researchers. But the main point is, we have pumped and consumed massive volumes of oil!

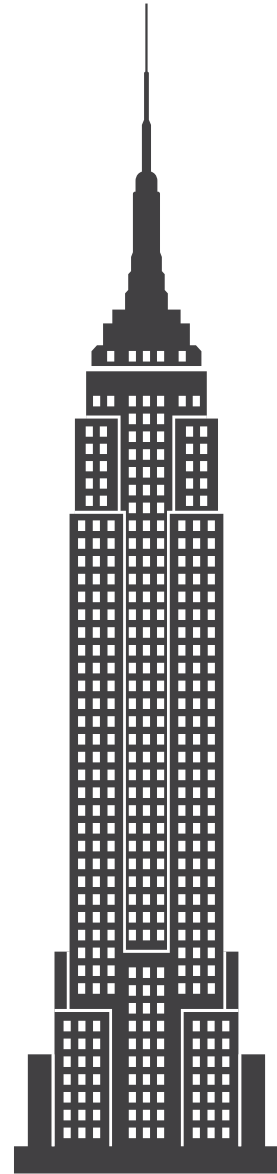
## BUT WHERE DID IT ALL COME FROM?

You can ask this question of any large petroleum company. In fact, some show you right on the brand signs. For instance, *Sinclair Petroleum* uses a Brontosaurus (now called an Apatosaurus) for their corporate logo. *The Shell Oil Company* uses a sea shell. The point is, crude oil is a “fossil fuel.”

Fossil fuels are made from buried combustible geological deposits of organic materials. These decaying plants and animals have been converted to crude oil and coal by exposure to heat and pressure in the earth's crust.<sup>2</sup> When I pump gas into my car, I often think, “This is the antediluvian world going right into my tank!”

“Antediluvian,” you might ask? Yes, that is the word used for the world that existed before the biblical Flood. And where is oil found? Deep below the earth's surface, with the exception of small amounts that have surfaced as petroleum seeps and tar pits due to cracks in the rock allowing leakage to the surface. An average oil well ranges between 4,000 to 5,000 feet deep.<sup>3</sup> We are talking massive amounts of organic material buried 4,000 to 5,000 feet below the earth's crust to produce all that oil! How did all this organic matter get buried so deeply?

Modern geologists have proposed popular theories that this organic matter was deposited at the bottom



Conservative figures state that since the 1850 to 2008, we have pumped enough crude oil to fill the Empire State Building some 127,896 times!



## The worldwide flood of Noah's time is the most logical explanation of how oil and coal were formed.



of oceans and covered over time. But how can that be, as the time of deposition and the covering of it incrementally over millions of years would have made a mixed-up mess of dirt and organic material? Production of coal and oil require rapid burial and high pressure. Where do we drill much of our oil today? Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq, Alaska, and Siberia, to name a few — hardly places we could call prehistoric ocean floors, yet the evidence is there.

We find pure crude oil in large reserves beneath the earth's crust. This means billions of tons of organic matter were somehow covered with thousands of feet of sediments which, over time, became sedimentary rock. When I have talked with geologists about how fossils are formed, they emphatically state that the only way a fossil can be made is by rapid burial of the plants or animals. In small collections, in what are known as fossil graveyards, we find animals in one area massed together to create well preserved fossils. In every situation, they are victims of rapid burial by water deposition. So fossil graveyards are nothing more than small burial grounds of organic matter.

In contrast, very enormous amounts of plant and animal life buried in the same way make up coal or oil deposits. The volume and depths of such organic materials required a catastrophic event to bury it rapidly. And it would have to be rapid — otherwise, millions of years of decay, wind, water, and rain would have decimated it by erosion so that it would never turn into oil or any type of fossil fuel.

### HOW IT GOT THERE

Here is what I believe — at the time of the Flood, the earth's crust opened, releasing massive amounts of pressurized water from what the Bible calls, "the fountains of the deep"<sup>4</sup> and displaced massive amounts of living matter on the surface deep down in the earth's crust. Added to that, massive waves and hurricane force winds swept the lush forests, vegetation, and living creatures together, burying it all under hundreds and even thousands of feet of mud. The picture created is the world as we see it today, with large oceans, jagged mountain chains, vast plains and deserts. The world of that time was buried as in a grave, eventually to become oil and coal.

The worldwide flood of Noah's time is the most logical explanation to how oil and coal were formed. Coal and oil formations are a sore spot for most evolutionary geologists because even their best "theories" have a hard time explaining how all the organic matter was buried — not only in depth, but in volume. What they say just does not make sense.

The Bible tells us that the world before the Flood was unlike the world as we see it today. It was, in its entirety, created to be inhabited. Before being ravished by a catastrophic flood, the world must have been a lush, tropical place with a more temperate climate toward the poles. In fact, recent research show that under the ice in Antarctica, there are the remains of large forests of firs and pines, as well as deciduous trees. Here is a quote from *The Dead Forests of Antarctica*:

"The discovery has come in the form of fossilized impressions of

wood and leaves in the region of Antarctica's Mount Achernar. Even the stumps of ancient tree trunks have been uncovered, believed to date back to prehistoric times.... Sarah Feakins, a biogeochemist from the University of Southern California, posits that the Antarctic coast was once lined with beeches and conifers; based on evidence taken from leaf waxes found in sediment cores extracted from the Ross Ice Shelf.”<sup>5</sup>

And again, scientists do not know how conifers could grow with almost no light in the dark months of the year. They have a lot of unanswered questions. But even in the cold frozen regions of Antarctica — the Transantarctic Mountains and Prince Charles Mountains — coal has been found.<sup>6</sup>

## THE WORLD THAT WAS

When we talk about the theories of origin, there are two models: evolution and creation. A creationist holds the Bible as the worldview of our origin and looks at the evidence and interprets it according to that worldview. One who does not accept the Bible as truth must interpret those same evidences according to their own worldview. For an evolutionist, this interpretation

requires millions and millions of years to explain the changes, based on the assumption that change has happened at the same pace as it is observed today. No matter which worldview one holds, both creationist and evolutionist models are really faith-based theories. I choose to put my faith in the Bible.

We see magnificent artwork in places like the anthropology departments at the Smithsonian Institute which show how the evolutionary process supposedly took place. Since evolutionists make free to imagine what the world was like millions of years ago, I would like to share an alternative view. I suggest that the world before the Flood was unlike the world of today in many ways. I believe that the earth, newly created by God, was exceedingly beautiful.

It was diversified with mountains, hills, and plains, interspersed with majestic rivers and beautiful lakes, but the mountains were not jagged and rough as we see them today. There were no deep chasms, no barren deserts or low-lying swamps so often described by evolutionists. Instead, there was fruitful soil with a diversified landscape with a luxuriant growth of verdure, graceful shrubs and delicate flowers which greeted the eye at every

turn. Everything then was much larger than today, including trees of enormous size. The fossil record confirms this. The air was fresh and sweet, and the entire landscape was created to bless humanity, who were created to care for and be blessed by the wonderful works of God. But all of that changed at the Flood. All that vegetation with its beauty was swept away and buried. Today, the world that was fuels the world that is. Every time you pump gas into your car, remember that it all came from a world that was destroyed to hinder the rapid growth of wickedness and to give humanity another chance. ♦

### ENDNOTES

- 1 “How Much Oil Have We Used?” Published by *Petro Industry News*. Apr 30, 2015. Also see: *Science News*, May 8, 2009, “How Much Oil Have We Used?”
- 2 *Science Daily*, Reference Terms, Fossil Fuels.
- 3 According to charts from the U.S. Energy Information Administration. “Average Depth of Crude Oil and Natural Gas Wells”.
- 4 Genesis 7:11
- 5 “The Dead Forests of Antarctica,” by Darmon Richter, January 27, 2014, found in the *Atlas Abscura*. Also see: “Antarctica Was Once Covered in Forests. We Just Found One That Fossilized” by Elaina Zachos, Nov 15, 2017. *National Geographic Online*.
- 6 “Human Impacts on Antarctica and Threats to the Environment - Mining and Oil” [www.coolantarctica.com/Antarctica fact le/science/threats\\_mining\\_oil](http://www.coolantarctica.com/Antarctica%20fact%20le/science/threats_mining_oil)

*Creationist worldview vs. evolutionist worldview*

