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Review: Refuting Compromise

David A. Dewitt

Liberty University, dadewitt@liberty.edu

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Book Review

Refuting Compromise by Jonathan Sarfati

Master Books, Green Forest, AR, 2004, 411 pages. \$14.00.

I have never watched a chess grand master play a game against a novice. However, after reading Jonathan Sarfati's latest book, *Refuting*

Compromise, I have a sense of what

such a match would be like. This third "Refuting" book is written to specifically address the old earth compromise teachings of Hugh Ross and other progressive creationists. Sarfati's rebuttal is so well documented and exhaustive that one almost begins to feel sympathy for progressive creationists—the sympathy one has for the novice chess player who has lost all his pieces and the king is now in checkmate!

Sarfati begins with an emphasis on the authority of the Word of God. From the outset, he frames the discussion from the supremacy of the Scriptures. Thus, he claims that the main difference between young and old earth creationists is how they view the authority of Scripture. He discusses the magisterial vs. the ministerial use of science and why nature does not count as a 67th book of the Bible.

From there, Sarfati embarks on a strong defense that the "days" of Genesis are normal 24-hour days. Along with the common arguments, he includes many that are rare. He discusses the appropriate semantic range of the Hebrew word "yom." He examines and rebuts typical objections to the 24 hour day including Hosea 6:2, Genesis 2:17 and the issue of days and nights before the sun. Following this is a chapter on the history of the interpretation of Genesis 1 which covers both ancient and recent theologians and scholars.

The chapter on the "Big Bang" clearly explains this theory even for the non-expert. He first presents the evidence commonly used to support the theory and then presents the scientific problems including quantized red-shifts, a rotating cosmos and the horizon problem. He wraps up by

addressing galaxy formation and the nebular hypothesis.

The book has chapters on the created kinds/speciation, the flood of Noah and the origin of death. This includes scientific and Biblical evidence for a global Flood that go far beyond simply addressing the size and capacity of the ark. He effectively refutes the notion of any type of local flood. Sarfati emphasizes the fact that death and suffering is the result of the Fall and the curse. He discusses the typical objections including predation, plant death, cellular death and pathogens.

Sarfati includes a chapter on the history of mankind in which he discusses the various source texts for the Old Testament and compares the genealogical dates and records among them. He addresses the alleged gaps in the genealogies. He also discusses the timing of the Fall which is a rare and under-appreciated component in defense of a young earth. He touches on the longevity of the patriarchs, the human fossil record and mtDNA evidence.

Refuting Compromise represents the best, most comprehensive, presuppositional defense of young earth creation currently available. It is well referenced with extensive footnotes and current citations—even from the 2003 International Conference on Creationism. The book is not simply a rehash of older material but includes many new arguments. Sarfati has compiled and distilled into one place a book that will be a key resource for years to come. The magnitude, quantity and sophistication of some of the arguments may be overwhelming to those who are new to the creation issue. Nonetheless, this book is definitely a must-have for those who want to defend creation and refute compromise.

David A. DeWitt, Ph.D.
Liberty University
1971 University Blvd.
Lynchburg, VA 24502
dadewitt@liberty.edu