

ACTS & FACTS

INSTITUTE FOR
CREATION RESEARCH

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*The
Deceptive Dance
of
Compromise*

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Sorry, I Don't Dance

Recently we alerted *Acts & Facts* readers to the hazards of an organization called BioLogos, a non-profit group founded by Dr. Francis Collins that aggressively engages the disciplines of science and religion with one key message—*thinking Christians believe in evolution*.

As part of their campaign to push evolution into evangelical Christian ministry and education, BioLogos is teaming up with progressive creationists, Intelligent Design proponents, political pundits, religious philosophers, and a variety of well-known professors and pastors in an attempt to merge some semblance of old-earth scientific concepts with biblical Christianity. Called The Vibrant Dance of Faith & Science, this symposium will be held in Austin, Texas, this fall and is intended to teach pastors that it is okay to believe in and teach evolutionary ideas in their churches. Read our feature article this month by Dr. Henry Morris III titled “The Deceptive Dance of Compromise.”

What do I mean by evolutionary ideas? I received a call recently from a gentleman who wondered if I had gone too far in my June column in attributing the term “evolution” to groups like Reasons to Believe or the Intelligent Design movement. Both of these groups (via the underlying principles they accept) embrace some form of old-earth thinking—i.e., the Big Bang, billions of years, non-literal understanding of the six days of creation, death before sin, etc. All of these ideas are foreign to the text of Scripture—historically, grammatically, and contextually. Of course, while the Institute for Creation Research conducts scientific studies in the area of origins and earth

history, we do so with an unwavering commitment to the authenticity, accuracy, and authority of the biblical record. The Word of God (which is inerrant and infallible) will always be more accurate than the words of men (who are prone to error).

Groups like BioLogos and Reasons to Believe look for ways to retain their dependence on evolution-based scientific theories when reading the Bible, thus forcing them to insert into the pages of Scripture man-made ideas that cannot be justified in the text or supported by the testimony of the other writers of the Bible. The Intelligent Design movement is (by design) a non-Christian movement, with a strategic policy to develop evidence and ideas about design (which is good) without identifying a designer (which, at least for Christians involved in the movement, is dangerous). ID struggles at remaining non-religious while their work consistently hints at a *supernatural* designer.

The bottom line is that the scientific establishment—owned and operated by atheistic and naturalistic evolutionists—grows tired of all three of these groups. Evolution, rightly understood, has no place for God and never will. No amount of harmonious conversation or even “vibrant dancing” is going to change that fact.

Biblical Christianity—the kind that Jesus taught and exemplified—is a polarizing faith that separates believers from unbelievers, just like God will do on the Day of Judgment. This reality will never be changed by any sort of sophisticated symposium or academic two-step.

Lawrence E. Ford
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

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Henry M. Morris IV



The Deceptive Dance of Compromise

HENRY M. MORRIS III, D.M.I.N.

*“Curiouser and curiouser!” cried Alice (she was so much surprised, that for the moment she quite forgot how to speak good English). . . .
“Oh dear, what nonsense I’m talking!”¹*

For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.²

Both of these widely separated quotes deal with the same issue. Sometimes, folks just cannot (or will not) see truth. The wonder is not that some get caught up in lies, confidence scams, news “spin,” or outright efforts to deceive. The wonder is that those who claim to be the people of God—those who have been given “the mind of Christ”³—can be taken in by such “nonsense.” Paul’s warning to Timothy, after urging him to “preach the word,” was that such would be the case, however, as time continued on.

Over the past year or so, there has been a coalescing of several independent groups that have combined their talent and notoriety to

capture the intellectual ascent and theological agreement among evangelicals that “creation” certainly does not have to be recent. Nor, in their estimation, did it have to occur during six “normal” days as is indicated by the words of Scripture, but rather can be understood to mean “natural development over time”—as has been “proven” by modern science.

Their arguments are not new. Theistic evolution has been taught in one form or another for 150 years. The so-called “day age” interpretation of Genesis is equally long-lived, and various harmony theories have been propagated, such as the gap theory, progressive creation, and the more recent “creation by evolution” postulated by Bruce Waltke.⁴

The organization that has risen to be the “umbrella” under which most of these various proponents gather is the BioLogos Foundation, founded by Francis Collins and funded by the Templeton Foundation. Under the leadership of President Darrel Falk, BioLogos has co-sponsored a new initiative called The Vibrant Dance of Faith & Science, whose stated mission is to:

...inspire, educate, and unify pastors, scientists, Christian leaders, and concerned lay people, as well as seekers and skeptics, with the growing congruence of scientific discovery with our Christian faith and to explore the implications and applications of that congruence.⁵

This “series of symposia and online resources” is led by a number of well-known speakers from Reasons to Believe, BioLogos, Discovery Institute, and several eminent universities and world-renowned churches that espouse a harmony of naturalistic science with the biblical text.

More than ever before, recent scientific discovery is both confirming and illuminating our Christian faith. From progressive-creationism to theistic-evolution, there is a wide spectrum of interpretations of both science and the fact-and-mode of God’s creative activity. Informed, non-confrontational discourse will be a key to furthering the gospel of Christ.⁶

The men and women who are heading and leading these efforts “by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts” (Romans 16:18). Some, perhaps, have been themselves deceived by those “good words,” but all of them—all—are superimposing the words of “scientific” men (most of whom are open atheists) over the inspired words of God. I grieve for them. I grieve for the ones who will be led astray by the “fair speeches” of those who at the very least are looking for the “praise of men more than the praise of God” (John 12:43).

It is worthy of note that the Bible lists several key characteristics by which the sincere believer may identify those who are seeking to distort the truth of the Scriptures. Permit me to remind the reader of the basics.

2 Peter 2:1-3:

- They come from “Christian” churches or backgrounds.
- They deny the biblical Lord Jesus in some way (think Creator).
- They may become very popular, especially with emotional people.
- They will cause important teachings of Scripture to be degraded.
- They often use human greed and hidden meanings to attract followers.

2 Corinthians 11:3 and Genesis 3:1-7:

- Paul specifies that “as the serpent beguiled Eve,” our minds can be corrupted from the “simplicity that is in Christ.”

• Satan’s classic and ongoing strategic plan to deceive the believer is to:

- *Dispute* the *accuracy* of God’s Word. (“Yea, hath God said...?”)
- *Deny* the *ability* of God to do what He said. (“Ye shall not surely die.”)
- *Denigrate* the *actions* of God toward man. (“For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.”)

The Bible’s text is amply clear. The creation account is written so precisely that one must both insert words and override clear meanings of words to make the passage say anything other than a six-“ordinary”-day creation, making, and organizing of the cosmos. Not only is Genesis clear, but the many, many such references and verification throughout the biblical text support, amplify, verify, and demand adherence to what God has done. It is simply wrong to disavow what the words teach.

I have come to personally know many of the proponents of the “other” side. And while I do not (and have no authority to) question their salvation, I certainly question their motivations and conclusions. The most common answer that I get when I ask “why?” is “well, science has proven that the earth and the universe are billions of years old, so we must interpret the Bible in the light of science.”

Perhaps one might consider the rest of what these scientists propose and where such arbitrary discarding of the clear text of Scripture might lead, before so glibly endorsing the “doctrines of men.”⁷ ●

References

1. Carroll, L. 1957. *Alice in Wonderland*. Philadelphia, PA: John C. Winston Company, 9-10.
2. 2 Timothy 4:3-4.
3. 1 Corinthians 2:16.
4. See Morris III, H. 2010. Creation by Evolution. *Acts & Facts*. 39 (6): 4-5
5. Our Mission. The Vibrant Dance of Faith & Science, posted on www.vibrantdance.org.
6. Vibrant Dance Overview, *ibid*.
7. Colossians 2:22.

Dr. Morris is Chief Executive Officer of the Institute for Creation Research.



ICR asks you to take note of those who openly espouse evolutionary ideas in their presentations of science and/or Christianity. Below are the personalities and organizations involved in the upcoming “Texas two-step” event on faith and science.

Speakers include:

- Andy Crouch
- Ross Hastings
- Hugh Ross
- Fazale Rana
- Stephen Meyer
- Darrel Falk
- John (Jack) Collins
- Walter Bradley
- Deborah Haarsma
- Rob Norris
- Dan Heinze
- Dinesh D’Souza
- Alister McGrath
- Bruce Waltke
- Walter Kaiser
- Bill Dembski
- Bruce Gordon
- John Walton
- Doug Axe

Co-sponsors include:

- American Scientific Affiliation
- BioLogos Foundation
- Chuck Colson Center for Christian Worldview
- Discovery Institute
- Grace Covenant Church, Austin, Texas
- Reasons to Believe
- Redeemer Presbyterian Church, Austin, Texas
- World Magazine

THE IMPETUS FOR BIOLOGICAL CHANGE

NATHANIEL T. JEANSON, P.H.D.

What does the Bible teach about biological change? In recent articles, the Institute for Creation Research life sciences team has shown that the Bible teaches *limited* common ancestry¹ and a *limit* to biological change.² But the Bible also suggests that there was a burst of biological change in the more distant past, which leads to the fourth key origins question in biological research—the cause of this change.

The key scriptural passage for understanding the cause of biological change is Genesis 6-7. God commanded Noah to bring seven of every kind of clean animal and two of every kind of unclean animal on board the Ark to preserve each kind of creature. Clearly, the meaning of the word for *kind* is critical to understanding which creatures boarded the Ark. Yet, the meaning of *kind* is unclear.¹ However, since God commanded Noah to take a *male and female* of every kind of creature (rather than a male from one kind and a female from another kind), this suggests that reproductive compatibility is at least a part of the definition of *kind*. Hence, if two creatures can successfully interbreed, they're likely members of the same kind. Furthermore, this means that all the land-based biological diversity we see today must have come from the kinds taken on board the Ark.

Did Noah take on the Ark two (unclean) or seven (clean) representatives of every species alive on earth today? There are two reasons that this is unlikely. First, all the species alive on earth today would not fit on the Ark. Second, "species" is an imprecise term that sometimes separates creatures into different categories despite reproductive compatibility between the two. Thus, "kind" and "species" are not equivalent terms, and Noah likely did not take two or seven of each species on board the Ark.

What happened to the kinds that boarded the Ark? When biological classification is based on reproductive compatibility (rather than the label "species"), it is readily apparent that much diversity has occurred since the Flood. For example, horses, zebras, and donkeys can interbreed; thus, they likely descended from two original members of the horse-like kind on the Ark. Hence, some process of diversification (currently unknown) appears to have produced a significant amount of diversity from two original pairs in just 4,000 years since the Flood. Thus, Scripture teaches that biological change can happen fast.

Since the apparently rapid diversification shortly after the Flood, rates of biological change seem to have slowed down. Horses, zebras, and donkeys are all readily identifiable creatures in the wild—that is, if diversification were still occurring, one might expect to find

wild populations of horse-like creatures with blended features from each of these equids. Yet we do not find "blends" of wild equids, but distinct types. Thus, whatever the mechanism of diversification immediately post-Flood, it appears not to be operating at present.

Postulating that different mechanisms for biological change existed at different points in history is not an outrageous idea. Creation geologists have long pointed out that the present rates of *geologic* change are not the key to the past rates—we know that the past was very unlike the present due to a worldwide flood. Hence, it would not be surprising if present (slow) *biological* processes were not the key to past ones, and we should not be ashamed to think so.

This discussion raises important research questions: What was the mechanism of post-Flood diversification? In other words, how and why do species change? The life sciences team is currently reviewing the data and generating hypotheses to test. ●

References

1. Jeanson, N. 2010. Common Ancestry and the Bible—Discerning where to draw the line. *Acts & Facts* 39 (6): 6.
2. Jeanson, N. 2010. The Limit to Biological Change. *Acts & Facts* 39 (7): 6.

Dr. Jeanson is Research Associate and received his Ph.D. in Cell and Developmental Biology from Harvard University.



ICR AUGUST EVENTS

August 6-7

Oklahoma City, OK
Wake Up America Conference
(J. Morris) 800.652.1144

August 6-7

Vancouver, WA
Remembering Mount St. Helens
Seminar, Bus Tour, and Hike
(Austin) 509.852.5627

August 13-14

Plano, TX
North Texas Home Educators' Net-
work 15th Annual Summer Home-
school Conference
972.722.7798

August 14

Reseda, CA
Grace Hungarian Reformed Church
(Austin) 818.344.1885

August 20-22

Ripon, CA
Central Valley Presbyterian Church
(Sherwin) 209.401.6710

August 22

Cedar Hill, TX
Demand the Evidence Conference
Hillcrest Baptist Church
(H. Morris III, Jeanson, Guliuzza,
Gunther, McCombs) 972.291.3521

August 28

Birmingham, AL
Demand the Evidence Conference
(H. Morris III, Guliuzza, Jeanson,
J. Morris, Sherwin) 205.641.0646

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Over 10,000 Pastor's Resource Kits Distributed at SBC

This summer, the Institute for Creation Research was invited to introduce our ministry at the annual Southern Baptist Convention Pastors' Conference held in Orlando, Florida. Our specific purpose was to attend the first two days of this denominational event that is devoted to SBC pastors from around the world. ICR distributed 10,000 Pastor's Resource Kits, which included books, DVDs, magazines, and other resources about the ministry of ICR.



Misreading Earth's Groanings

Why Evolutionists and Intelligent Design Proponents Fail Ecology 101

JAMES J. S. JOHNSON, J.D., T.H.D.

For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.

ROMANS 8:22

The ecological crises affecting our planet today should make every thinking Christian groan over the enormous burdens that have been placed on the world God made due to the devastating consequences of sin. The Bible reminds us that the natural world is groaning as it waits for the Creator to restore the earth to a fully redeemed condition.

But the Bible's explanation for *how* and, more importantly, *why* nature is "groaning" is aggressively rejected, or strategically ignored, by two major groups that disparage biblical creationism: evolutionists (either atheistic or theistic), and deists (often represented by Intelligent Design proponents).

Both camps misread our world, failing to comprehend the scientific importance of Adam's fall and the global curse that it triggered. As a result, explanations from both groups are fundamentally flawed when it comes to understanding real-world ecology.

Evolution's "Survival of the Fittest" Concept Contradicts Real-World Ecology

Evolutionists, of both the atheistic and theistic varieties, are quick to declare evolution's concepts of "survival of the fittest" and "might makes right" as *natural law*. With a fetish for such "selfish gene" behavior patterns, it is no wonder that Darwin's bulldog, Thomas Huxley, encouraged the unrestrained and irresponsible over-fishing practices that have abusively crushed the population dynamics of the North Atlantic cod (*Gadus morhua*), which was once so plentiful.^{1,2}

How did evolutionist dogma doom future generations of codfish? Huxley, as chief cheerleader for "survival of the fittest" propaganda, argued to a British government commission that more aggressive fishing of cod would only cull out the "less fit" cod (i.e., the evolutionary "losers" that would be caught in



the British fishing nets). This would keep their habitat's edible resources for the "better fit" cod, which then would reproduce so that future generations would descend from those "fittest" cod—a win-win result for both cod and mankind, it was argued. But the decimated cod population realities of the North Atlantic have actually falsified (i.e., proven as false) Huxley's irrational dream of nature as the ever-resilient and "evolving bigger and better" mythical phoenix rising from the ashes.

If codfish could speak, no doubt they would protest Thomas Huxley and his "survival of the fittest" attitude toward God's creatures. Biblical respect for the Creator entails honoring Him in all aspects of life, including by our conduct as *stewards* of His now "groaning" earth. Yet ecological self-restraint is a concept literally as old as Moses, and in fact as old as the human race.³

Intelligent Design's "Closed Bible Policy" Ignores Ecological Groaning

Similar to deists, proponents of Intelligent Design are, in essence, "secular creationists" who refuse to publicly acknowledge that the Lord Jesus Christ is our Creator. This is, of course, a strategy that they hope will allow them access to the secular-controlled scientific community. However, by intentionally

keeping their Bibles closed, they ignore the fact and consequences of the events that occurred in the garden of Eden.

Failing to affirm the historicity of Genesis 3 (and its cause-effect truth), ID scientists, just like deists of prior centuries, ignore the only logical explanation for how a “very good” creation could somehow become degraded into a “not so very good” creation, where life is tainted, even cursed, by death and disease, parasites and predators, catastrophes and corruption, entropy and extinction.

This “closed Bible” approach to studying nature is routinely blended with evolution-based old-earth concepts, uniformitarian geoscience assumptions, and disdain for the historical occurrence of a global flood—betraying an accommodationist compromise with evolutionary mythology. The Genesis young-earth timeframe is routinely ignored and denied by “evangelical” ID proponents, even though Genesis (which some profess to be inerrant, understandable, and authoritative⁴) clearly teaches a short timeframe from Adam to Abraham, regardless of whether the Genesis genealogies are generationally “open” or “closed.”⁵

Bypassing any big-picture understanding of real-world ecology, ID scientists downplay (or deny) how Adam’s sin in Eden triggered divine judgment on all the earth (Romans 5:12). Their failure to acknowledge the biblical basis for entropy (i.e., the fallenness of man and nature that was begun in Eden) is paralleled by their pattern of denying the catastrophic impact of the global Flood (as chronicled in Genesis 6-9).

Benjamin Franklin’s Misplaced Faith in Deistic Science

Deism had a similar problem with understanding how to explain the “very good” supernatural design universally displayed all throughout nature, with the equally obvious evidence of nature’s fallenness.

For example, Benjamin Franklin, once an optimistic deist, rejected a Christian friend’s advice to inoculate his four-year-old son Franky (Francis Folger Franklin) as a preemptive defense to a smallpox epidemic. Franky subsequently died in 1736. Bible-believing Christians knew well the world was fallen and its germs were hostile, so that an action plan was needed in human health matters:

In assessing the spiritual impact of Franky’s death on his father, we should remember the earlier controversy over smallpox inoculation. The New England clergy [*largely Calvinists like Franklin’s parents*] favored inoculation while the [*deistic*] scientific community opposed it. As believers in the [*so-called*] Enlightenment, young Franklin and his brothers sided with the scientists. But the clergy had been right, and the [*deistic*] scientists had been wrong—and Franklin’s failure to inoculate his son may have contributed to young Franky’s death. Did this shake Franklin’s faith in science and [*closed-Bible*] reason, and increase his respect for the clergy and revelation?⁶

Maybe so. Fifty-one years later, at the historic Constitutional Convention in 1787, it was the skeptical Franklin, of all people, who called for prayer so that the seemingly derailed convention might be salvaged from

political train wreck. Would a theologically consistent deist pray for God’s personal blessing, while alluding to the Bible’s teaching of God’s care for sparrows as a reminder of God’s personalized watch-care?⁷ Franklin did!⁸ And while he never became a biblical Christian, Franklin did learn (the hard way) to respect the fallenness of this “pretty good” world.

Ecology Involves a Fallen World

The world’s ecology displays the indisputable fact that God is our glorious Creator, yet it also displays His “dying thou shalt die” judgment.

Attempting to explain the empirical evidence apart from Genesis 3 (or, similarly, Genesis 6-9) leaves this awkward imbalance: How can such an incomprehensibly good creation—one that points to an infinitely good and personal Creator—have traits that are imperfect, even ugly and cruel, such as dying?

The fact is that all earth’s creatures are fallen, and not just a little. Drastic measures must be practiced to avoid death. Without a non-stop

intake of air, water, and food, we die immediately, and so do the animals. Metabolism is biological entropy. Even with all of our ongoing metabolic support, our bodies are metabolic wastrels, as are all other life forms—and we all eventually die anyway. Without human sin as death’s historic cause, death is senseless and meaningless and illogical. Certainly death is not “very good.”

The focus of Intelligent Design is on how Someone intelligently and purposefully designed what we see, and on how this Someone is immeasurably superior to the best that mankind could ever achieve. Without the biblical context, it menaces the mind to contemplate the origin of and explanation for the ugliness and disharmony we see in creation.

To understand the big picture of earth’s ecology—including how our world displays God’s providential care and orchestrated wisdom, while simultaneously demonstrating its sin-cursed fallenness—we must use both sight and logic, with open eyes *and* open Bibles. ●

References

1. The over-harvesting of North Atlantic cod even escalated into the “Cod Wars,” a post-World War II conflict on the high seas, when the Icelandic coast guard forcibly fought off “poachers” from Germany and even Great Britain, its NATO ally.
2. Thomas, B. Cod Still Recovering from Darwin Bulldog’s Bite. *ICR News*, May 28, 2009, citing Kurlansky, M. 1998. *Cod: A Biography of the Fish That Changed the World*. London: Penguin Books Ltd., 121-122; and Thomas, B. 2009. Huxley Error Led to Cod Calamity. *Acts & Facts*. 38 (8): 17.
3. Moses’ law included restrictions on excessively hunting wildlife (Deuteronomy 22:6-7) and imprudent deforestation (Deuteronomy 20:19-20), yet environmental protection laws are always balanced to value human life over nonhuman life forms (Matthew 6:26-30; Psalm 8; Jonah 4:8-11). Even Adam was put into Eden “to dress it and to keep it” (Genesis 2:15), and Noah managed the greatest biodiversity protection project ever (Genesis 6-9).
4. Genesis is inerrant history, not symbolic “poetry.” The critical proof of this is well summarized in Jonathan Sarfati’s interview of Dr. Robert McCabe in Sarfati, J. 2010. Theologian: Genesis Means What It Says! *Creation*. 32 (3):16-19.
5. Johnson, J. J. S. 2008. How Young Is the Earth? Applying Simple Math to Data Provided in Genesis. *Acts & Facts*. 37 (10):4-5.
6. Eidsmoe, J. 1987. *Christianity and the Constitution*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 203.
7. See Matthew 10:29 (Jesus teaching about God’s watch-care over sparrows).
8. Eidsmoe, 208 (with Ben Franklin quotation sources in footnote 70).

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Life's Indispensable Microscopic Machines

RANDY J. GULIUZZA, P.E., M.D.

light, molecular motions, heat, electricity, or chemical conversions.

Machine parts themselves are complex molecules corresponding to switches, batteries, motors, brakes, shafts, rods, hooks, bearings, bushings, springs, end caps, valves, seals, plugs, rivets, spot-welded joints, mounts, and braces. These are fitted together by other molecules that act like templates, work benches, clamps, and vises. Yet other molecules take the final products where they are trimmed, folded, and set to be activated. Another molecular work station will package, label, and transport products to their correct destinations. After the machine's useful life is ended, another apparatus will engulf it, break it down, and send the components back for recycling.

Molecular Machines Are Best Explained by Design

The microscopic size of these machines is vital to systematically fine-tune dozens of molecular properties. For example, many molecular motors must work cooperatively to transform molecular movements to visually detectable levels. All of these features are detailed in advance and the information is stored in the DNA's plans and specifications.

In a typical kitchen, there are food processors, blenders, and mixers. In some ways they *look* similar, but their capabilities actually have little overlap. Each machine

has a *primary* function which

it performs well based on the speed and manner in which its parts interact.

These parts fit tightly together, which means that though a few blender and mixer parts have exactly the

same function, one cannot just swap them. In similar manner, the

parts of molecular machines are meticulously fitted together for their primary purpose. Many function in totally unique roles that are critical for life. And some cannot lose a single part or exchange parts with other machines without that machine—and the entire organism—breaking down.

In most people's minds, the words "machine" and "designed" belong together, so just

Humans love machines. Everyone likes how they save time and make jobs easier. If a new machine is invented that helps detect specific diseases and aids in early diagnosis, it is big news.

People also enjoyed watching machines operate before their many moving parts were covered up for safety reasons. Now, TV programs that slice machines apart so people can look inside are popular. So it is likely that someone would listen intently if a Christian were to describe some real microscopic machines right inside *their own bodies* working to keep them alive.

Be assured that helping anybody learn of these intricate, minute machines will be a powerful testimony of the Lord Jesus' "invisible" qualities, like His endless power and intellect, that are clearly seen by the things He has made (Romans 1:20.)

Cellular Life Operates with Machines

Begin by showing that cellular machines, like man-made machines, consist of numerous interconnected moving parts that function together for an intended purpose—but are far superior. Functioning in repetitive mechanical cycles, cellular machines have chemical mol-

ecule "parts" that usually switch between two different—but still very precise—shapes in a strictly controlled manner. Like any motor, they convert fuel into kinetic energy to *make things move* in specific directions. A few examples are:

- DNA maintenance robots that proofread information, unwind the double helix, cut out defects, splice in corrections, and rewind the strands
- Intracellular elevators
- Mobile brace-builders that construct distinct internal tubular supports
- Spinning generators that move molecules from low to high energy states
- Ratchet devices that convert random molecular forces to linear motion
- Motors that whirl hair-like structures like an outboard motor
- A microscopic railroad with engines and tracks

Finally, describe *how* the machines are made to reinforce awareness of the total design process. Ask your acquaintance to visualize an assembly plant that is so advanced and so small that dozens could fit on the head of a pin. The energy to run both the assembly plants and machines is finely tunable and supplied by sun-



knowing that complex cellular machines exist is sufficient evidence to make that connection. But others are stuck in evolutionary explanations for the origination of molecular machines. It would be beneficial to know why this thinking is better at rationalizing than explaining.

Evolutionists Submit Implausible Explanations

When looking at the evolutionist's best scientific journals for explanations specifically on the origins of molecular machines, stay alert for extraordinary extrapolations.¹ For instance, if a window fan is the machine under investigation in one of these papers, be prepared to look for this predictable pattern:

Finding: Researchers discover that fans have electric motors that spin blades to move air.

Conclusion: Air conditioners are simple derivations of fans because they also have electric motors that spin blades—notwithstanding an air conditioner's unique motor, blades, compressor, condenser, evaporator, and thermostat.

The exaggeration is assured. Why? Since researchers *find* only one fully functioning machine or another, evolutionary *conclusions* of how, in the remote past, parts from one molecular machine morphed into another will always be conjectures inferred greatly beyond what the findings support.

These papers survive peer review still containing extraordinary extrapolations that sidestep real explanations for the arrival of fundamentally distinct parts, instead depicting molecular parts as (somehow) having been stripped from primary functions elsewhere in the cell and spontaneously re-assembled into new machines. Critics point out that those great gaps of information make the evolutionary path unbelievable. Note how these weaknesses are merely dismissed when a top evolutionary authority like Dr. Jerry Coyne says, "It is not valid, however, to assume that, because one man cannot imagine such pathways, they could not have existed."² Be content in recognizing that those types of responses cannot be satisfied with scientific answers.

Lacking experimental evidence sup-

porting their explanations about molecular machines, evolutionists have turned to a firm belief that if it can be imagined, it could happen. In conversation, highlight this disconnect. Point out that, given the extreme precision of these machines, evolutionary accounts *must* repeatedly use three words not normally associated with precision: "recruited,"³ "cobbed,"⁴ and "tinkered."⁵

Thus, evolutionists believe in a simplistic scenario where "the necessary pieces for one particular cellular machine...were lying around long ago. It was simply a matter of time before they came together into a more complex entity,"⁶ upon which natural selection tinkered away at cobbling together borrowed parts for millions of years. Aside from the magical whimsy, this explanation is like saying cars originated when an engine was coupled to a transmission, which was mounted to a chassis, and so forth. Leaving another major unanswered question—where did the engine, transmission, and chassis come from?

Learning a Short Example

Do evolutionists really recognize the intricacies of molecular machines yet attribute their origins to ill-defined forces? Princeton University researchers recently described a theory to explain how some cellular machines enable organisms to rapidly adapt to environmental stresses. The report detailed elaborate principles guiding cooperation between machines that was "analogous to a car's cruise control or a home's thermostat."

[Lead study author Raj] Chakrabarti said, "Control theory offers a direct explanation for an otherwise perplexing observation and indicates that evolution is operating according to principles that every engineer knows." The scientists do not know how the cellular machinery guiding this process may have originated, but they emphatically said it does not buttress the case for intelligent design, a controversial notion that posits the existence of a creator responsible for complexity in nature.⁷

An alternative explanation exists that actually fits with observed origins of every other machine. The information for the parts and construction of "cruise control"-style molecular machines was the result of real design with

the intent of enabling organisms to diversify, multiply, and fill new environments.

Pulling It All Together

The best way to appreciate machines is to watch them. Unfortunately, pictures of molecular machines are rare and drawings most likely will not be available during spontaneous conversations. But using words to build mental pictures of these incredible miniature machines can be effective. Human minds powerfully connect machines to design. People know that while some animals may use tools, only humans build machines.

For that reason, a conversation could be very engaging since it may be the first disclosure to most people of the existence of these machines. Why? Because in evolution-based education, not all scientific findings are equally welcome and, thus, are subject to being selectively promoted. The above frenzied foot-stomping denial of the research's obvious implication shows that getting people to believe in evolution is a higher priority than learning.

Revealing this convoluted thinking that *does* attribute precise microscopic machines to blind tinkering—but *not* to design—will let it be seen for what it is. So, go ahead and tell someone about these life-sustaining little machines. They may build the bridge for someone to find eternal life in their life-giving Creator. ●

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Recurrent Laryngeal Nerve Is Not Evidence of Poor Design

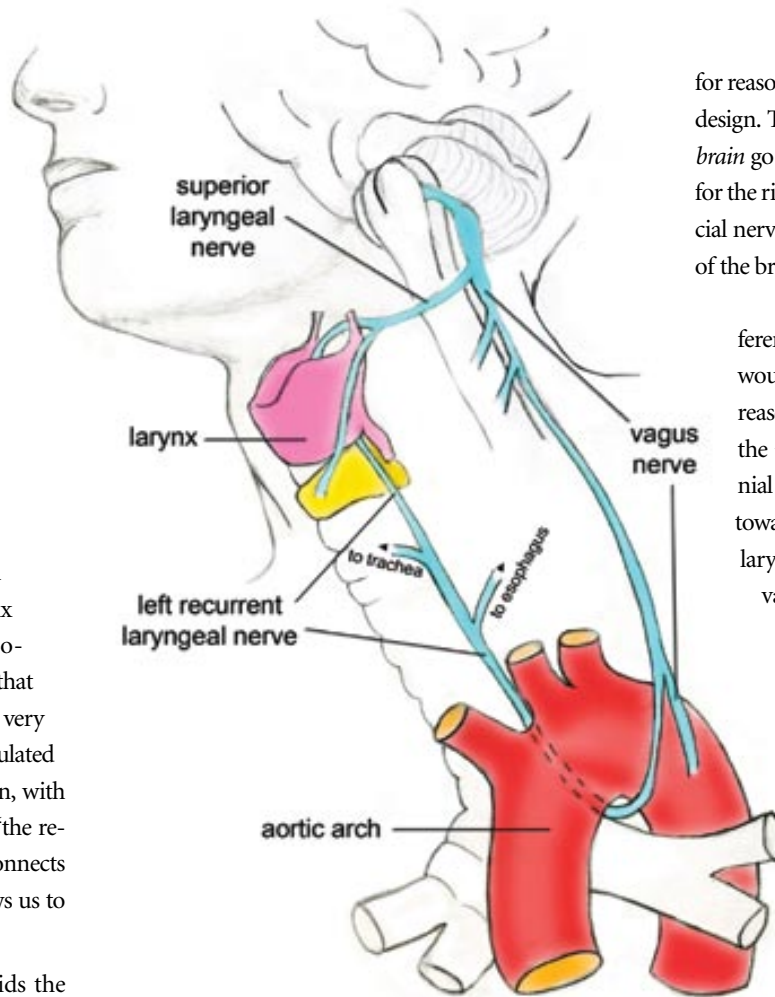
JERRY BERGMAN, P.H.D.

Introduction

A common claim by evolutionists is that the human body is poorly designed, which to them is evidence that it was not intelligently designed, but rather cobbled together by the unintelligent process of evolution. One of the most frequent examples of poor design cited by evolutionists today is the *recurrent laryngeal nerve* (RLN), which controls the mammalian larynx (voice box) muscles. Paleontologist Donald Prothero wrote that examples of “poor or at least very puzzling design can be accumulated endlessly,” thus proving evolution, with one of the best examples being “the recurrent laryngeal nerve, which connects the brain to the larynx and allows us to speak.”

In mammals, this nerve avoids the direct route between brain and throat and instead descends into the chest, loops around the aorta near the heart, then returns to the larynx. That makes it seven times longer than it needs to be.¹

Although the laryngeal nerve does not take the shortest route to the larynx, this is also



true for many other nerves. The optic nerves do not take the shortest route to the occipital lobe of the brain (the lobe near the back of the head), but rather cross over at the optic chiasm (where the two tracts cross over in the form of an “X”)

for reasons now known to be based on good design. The nerves *from the right side of the brain* go to the *left* side of the body (except for the right and left frontal branches of a facial nerve, which are supplied by both sides of the brain) also for good reasons.

Likewise, the left RLN has a different anatomical trajectory than one would first expect, and for very good reasons. In contrast to Prothero’s claim, the *vagus* nerve (the longest of the cranial nerves) travels from the neck down toward the heart, and *then* the recurrent laryngeal nerve *branches* off from the vagus just below the aorta (the largest artery in the body, originating from the left ventricle of the heart and extending down the abdomen). The RLN travels upward to serve several organs, some near where it branches off of the vagus nerve, and then travels *back up* to the larynx.²

This is the reason it is called the *left recurrent laryngeal nerve*. In contrast, the right laryngeal nerve loops

around the subclavian artery just below the collarbone, and then travels up to the larynx. Of note is the fact that the longer left RLN works in perfect harmony with the right laryngeal nerve, disproving the faulty design claim.

Reasons for This Design

The most logical reason is that the RLN design is due to developmental constraints. Eminent embryologist Professor Erich Blechschmidt wrote that the recurrent laryngeal nerve's seemingly poor design in adults is due to the "necessary consequences of developmental dynamics," not historical carryovers from evolution.³

Human-designed devices, such as radios and computers, do not need to function until their assembly is complete. By contrast, living organisms must function to a high degree in order to thrive during every developmental stage from a single-cell zygote to adult. The embryo as a whole must be a fully functioning system in its specific environment during every second of its entire development. For this reason, adult anatomy can be understood only in the light of development. An analogy Blechschmidt uses to help elucidate this fact is the course of a river, which "cannot be explained on the basis of a knowledge of its sources, its tributaries, or the specific locations of the harbors at its mouth. It is only the total topographical circumstances that determine the river's course."⁴

Due to variations in the topographical landscape of the mammalian body, the "course of the inferior [meaning lower] laryngeal nerve is highly variant" and minor anatomic differences are common.⁵ Dissections of human cadavers found that the paths of the right and left recurrent laryngeal nerves were often somewhat different from that shown in the standard literature, illustrating Blechschmidt's analogy.⁶

Developmental Variations

The human body begins as a sphere called a blastocyst and gradually becomes more elongated as it develops. Some structures, such as the carotid duct, are simply obliterated during development, and some are eliminated and replaced. Other structures, including the recurrent laryngeal nerve, move downward as development proceeds. The movement occurs because the neck's formation and the body's elongation during fetal development force the

heart to descend from the cervical (neck) location down into the thoracic (chest) cavity.⁷

As a result, various arteries and other structures must be elongated as organs are moved in a way that allows them to remain functional throughout this entire developmental phase. The *right* RLN is carried downward because it is looped under the arch that develops into the *right* subclavian artery, and thus moves down with it as development proceeds.⁸

The left laryngeal nerve recurs around the *ligamentum arteriosum* (a small ligament attached to the top surface of the pulmonary trunk and the bottom surface of the aortic arch) on the left side of the aortic arch. It likewise moves down as the thoracic cavity lengthens. The body must operate as a living, functional unit during this time, requiring ligaments and internal connections to secure

The left recurrent laryngeal nerve has a different anatomical trajectory than one would first expect, and for very good reasons.

various related structures together while also allowing for body and organ movement. For the laryngeal nerve, the *ligamentum arteriosum* functions like a pulley that lifts a heavy load to allow movement.

As a result of the downward movement of the heart, "the course of the recurrent laryngeal nerves becomes different on the right and left sides."⁹ These nerves cannot either be obliterated or replaced because many of them must function during every fetal development stage. Blechschmidt notes that "no organ could exist that is functionless during its development," an axiom that also applies to the nervous system.¹⁰ This movement appears designed to position the left RLN downward as the body elongates.

In addition, "the laryngeal branch splits up into other branches before entering the larynx at different levels."¹¹ These many RLN branches serve several other organs with both

motor and sensory branches, including the upper esophagus, the trachea, the inferior pharynx, and the cricopharyngeus muscle, the lowest horizontal bandlike muscle of the throat just above the esophagus.¹² Neuroanatomists describe larynx innervation as "complicated" and they are still trying to work out the specific targets of its nerve branches. The fact that the left RLN also gives off some fibers to the cardiac plexus is highly indicative of developmental constraints because the nerve must serve both the larynx (in the neck) and the heart (in the chest).

As noted, after looping around the aorta, the RLN travels back up to innervate the larynx. The superior (meaning upper) and recurrent laryngeal nerves then innervate an area known as Galen's anastomosis. Other cases exist of one nerve splitting off early and providing direct innervations, and another taking what seems like a circuitous route. One example is the phrenic nerve that arises in the neck and descends to connect to the diaphragm. This is a necessary path, since the pericardium and diaphragm arise in the septum transversum (a thick mass of tissue that gives rise to parts of the thoracic diaphragm and the ventral mesentery of the foregut) in the neck area of the early embryo.

It then migrates caudally (toward the tailbone) as the embryo enlarges by differential growth of the head and thorax areas, taking the nerve with it. The diaphragm cannot have evolved step-wise, since a partial diaphragm results in an imperfect chest-abdomen separation. Even a small defect results in herniation of the gut contents into the chest—which either compresses the lungs or results in strangulation of the gut.

A complicated issue still being researched is how the incredibly complex nerve-muscle system, the component nerve fibers, and the laryngeal muscles arise from the neural crest (cells between the epidermis and the neural tube that develop into the brain and spinal cord) and dorsal somites (cells that develop into muscles and vertebrae) respectively in the early embryo, and then migrate anteriorly (towards the front

of the body) into their final positions. Without explaining the nerve structure’s design system, function, and ultimate connections, alleging that the RLN is a poor design is a meaningless assertion.

Thus, the claim that it has to loop up the distance from the ligamentum arteriosum for no reason is invalid. For all these reasons, Prothero’s conclusions are incorrect and poorly considered:

Not only is this design wasteful, but...the bizarre pathway of this nerve makes perfect sense in evolutionary terms. In fish and early mammal embryos, the precursor of the recurrent laryngeal nerve [is] attached to the sixth gill arch, deep in the neck and body region.¹³

The Redundant Pathway Design

Some innervations to the larynx go directly to the larynx, including the sensory internal laryngeal nerve and the motor external laryngeal nerve. Other nerves, the left and right superior laryngeal nerves, branch off close to the larynx to provide this structure with direct innervation. The superior laryngeal nerve branches off of the vagus at a location called the *ganglion nodosum* and receives a nerve branch from the superior cervical ganglion (group of nerve cells near the neck) of the sympathetic nervous system (a branch of the autonomic nervous system).¹⁴

Aside from the developmental reasons for the circuitous route, certain benefits of overlapping sensory and motor innervations result when one of the nerves is slightly longer. One reason why laryngeal nerve branches are located both above and below the larynx (both branch off the vagus) is because this design allows some preservation of function if either one is interrupted. The redundant pathway also provides some backup in case of damage to one of the nerves.

Knowledge of the laryngeal innervation will help us to understand the necessity for the slightly longer route for a nerve, and a hint is provided from the fact that the two nerves

regulate different vocal responses. Paralysis of the *superior laryngeal nerve* (the non-circuitous nerve) causes difficulty in increasing voice loudness, producing a high pitch, vocal fatigue, and an inability to sing because the vocal cords lack their normal tone and cannot sufficiently lengthen. In contrast, paralysis of the *recurrent nerve* results in a weak voice that sounds like Mickey Mouse.

In one patient, a traumatic rupture of the aortic arch in a car accident required an aortic graft that left him with a severed left RLN. Although his voice was slightly feeble, his articulation was unaffected. He speaks perfectly well, but cannot project his voice

Without explaining the nerve structure’s design system, function, and ultimate connections, alleging that the RLN is a poor design is a meaningless assertion.

because the laryngeal muscles have multiple innervations and the set as a unit controls its function.

Finally, several studies found that the existing path occupies a relatively safe position in a groove that renders it less prone to damage or injury than a more direct route.¹⁵

Conclusions

Arguing that the left RLN is poorly designed implies that God should have used different embryo developmental trajectories for all the structures involved to avoid looping the left RLN around the aorta. One who asserts that the RLN is a poor design assumes that a better design exists, a claim that cannot be asserted unless an alternative embryonic design from fertilized ovum to fetus—including all the incalculable molecular gradients, triggers, cascades, and anatomical twists and tucks—can be proposed that documents an improved design. Lacking this information, the “poor

design” claim uses evolution to fill in gaps in our knowledge. Furthermore, any alternative embryonic design pathway would likely result in its own unique set of constraints, also giving the false impression of poor design.

The left recurrent laryngeal nerve is not poorly designed, but rather is clear evidence of intelligent design:

- Much evidence exists that the present design results from developmental constraints.
- There are indications that this design serves to fine-tune laryngeal functions.
- The nerve serves to innervate other organs after it branches from the vagus on its way to the larynx.
- The design provides backup innervation to the larynx in case another nerve is damaged.
- No evidence exists that the design causes any disadvantage.

The arguments presented by evolutionists are both incorrect and have discouraged research into the specific reasons for the existing design. ●

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Larry Vardiman

C H R I S T I N E D A O

When Dr. Larry Vardiman was a graduate student in atmospheric science at Colorado State University, he, like many Christian scientists, struggled with the conflicts between a literal interpretation of the Bible and what he was learning.

“With the assistance of several members of my church and a lot of soul searching, I finally made a decision in 1972 to believe the statements about creation and the Flood, even if it flew in the face of the conventional science that I was being taught,” the Chair of the ICR Graduate School’s Department of Astro/Geophysics said in a recent interview.

Less than two weeks after deciding this, two gentlemen named Dr. Henry Morris and Dr. Duane Gish came to his church for a weekend seminar on creation science. “I had never heard of either of them, but they said things during the conference that I had never heard before, which confirmed the decision I had already made,” Dr. Vardiman said.

Three years later, Dr. Morris referred a Dallas Theological Seminary student to Dr. Vardiman for help with his research. Dr. Vardiman had just completed his doctorate degree and was working in Denver, Colorado, for the U.S. Department of the Interior. The student, Jody Dillow, needed an atmospheric scientist’s assistance in refining his vapor canopy model. “I got caught up in his research on the vapor canopy and have been involved in creationist research in one way or another ever since,” Dr. Vardiman said.

Dr. Vardiman came to the Institute for Creation Research in 1989. His research here has included Ice Age studies in young-earth timeframes, simulating “hypercanes” that may have taken place within the millennium after the Flood of Noah’s day, and directing the Radioisotopes and the Age of the Earth project.

In 1994, he had the opportunity to meet and correspond with popular astrophysicist and cosmologist Carl Sagan. “We struck up a very cordial relationship at an American



Geophysical meeting in San Francisco,” Dr. Vardiman said. “I was hoping and praying that he would eventually accept the Lord before he died [in 1996], but as far as I know, he didn’t unless it was on his deathbed. Although he and I had two completely different worldviews, his death was difficult for me. I considered him a close friend. He was deeply religious, but he could not accept the Bible as the path to God. It was painful to watch someone who couldn’t accept what God so freely offers.”

Over the past decade, Dr. Vardiman has become critical of the current view on global warming. “I have conducted considerable research on this topic and found that global warming was likely occurring from about 1850 to 2000, but it was only slightly caused by carbon dioxide released by man’s activities. Most of it was probably caused by fluctuations in the sun,” he said. “It now appears that cooling has possibly begun.” He publishes his research through ICR.

Research and education are critical activities from the creation perspective, Dr. Vardiman said. “Some Christians who have full confidence in the veracity of Scripture only need to study what the Bible says. But most Christians today are swayed by secular views of origins. Many only need one or two critical issues answered by logical scientific research to put their confidence in the Bible.”

“It’s not enough to just do Bible studies these days—we live in a different culture than our parents and grandparents. We must do legitimate creationist research and teach it to others, particularly those who will, in turn, teach it to yet others,” he said.

ICR continues to focus on research at its core, gathering the scientific evidence that verifies the authority, accuracy, and authenticity of God’s Word.

Ms. Dao is Assistant Editor.



The decay of earth's magnetic field has been one of the strongest evidences for the Bible's recent creation doctrine. This concept, developed originally by Dr. Thomas Barnes in 1971, was updated and revised by Dr. Russell Humphreys in 1983. Here are the details.

Earth is surrounded by a powerful magnetic field, generated by well-understood and

seven percent since then, giving a half-life of about 1,400 years. This means that in 1,400 years it will be one-half as strong, in 2,800 years it will be one-fourth as strong, and so on. There will be a time not many thousands of years distant when the field will be too small to perform as a viable shield for earth.

Calculating back into the past, the present measurements indicate that 1,400 years ago

for only about 100 years, while its half-lives are typically measured in the billions. The short half-life should be favored by uniformitarians for it minimizes the chances that something dramatic has happened to change things, since longer spans are more susceptible to out-of-the-ordinary events. Magnetic field decay also involves a whole earth measurement, and on this large scale it cannot be easily altered or "contaminated," as could any rock selected for radioisotope dating. The young-earth implications are even stronger when the *energy* of the field is considered rather than its strength, for the energy's half-life decays each 700 years.

Recent creation ideas are necessarily coupled with the global Flood in the days of Noah, during which all of earth's processes and systems were severely disrupted. As ferromagnetic material rose through the existing magnetic field (when the "fountains of the great deep [were] broken open," Genesis 7:11), temporary reversals in both local and planetary fields would have been induced rapidly, as in an electromagnet. This would have been recorded as "magnetic stripes" flanking mid-ocean spreading centers. Uniformitarians propose a self-generating dynamo (itself a contradiction in terms with inferior theoretical support) of circulating core fluids that slowly decline to zero strength and start up again with reversed orientation. While all processes wane in intensity over time, if a planetary field caused by fluid movements ever went to zero, it could not restart itself.

All things considered, the magnetic field "clock" might be the very best of geochronometers, nearly all of which indicate a maximum age for earth far too short for evolution to occur. The weight of the scientific evidence is on the side of the young earth—and of biblical doctrine. ●

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Dr. Morris is President of the Institute for Creation Research.



EARTH'S MAGNETIC FIELD



JOHN D. MORRIS, P.H.D.

well-documented electric currents in its metallic core. Incoming solar and stellar radiation continually bombards earth and does great damage to life, causing harmful mutations and likely contributing to the aging and death of living things. Indeed, if these rays were not impeded and filtered by earth's magnetic field, life here would be impossible.

The strength of the magnetic field has been reliably and continually measured since 1835. From these measurements, we can see that the field's strength has declined by about

the field was twice as strong. It continues doubling each 1,400 years back, until about 10,000 years ago it would have been so strong the planet would have disintegrated—its metallic core would have separated from its mantle. The inescapable conclusion we can draw is that the earth must be fewer than 10,000 years old.

Compare this "clock" with others used to estimate earth's age. This method utilizes a long period of measurement, amounting to over one-tenth of a half-life, whereas radioisotope decay has been accurately measured

God has created man with 100 trillion cells, each of which is a wonder of microminiaturization. The biochemical processes that occur moment by moment are nothing less than astounding. The bewildering complexity of these tiny functional units was acknowledged even before recent discoveries of how cells operate at the nanotechnological level.

If you could build a motor one millionth of a millimetre across, you could fit a billion billion of them on a teaspoon. It seems incredible, but biological systems already use molecular motors on this scale.¹

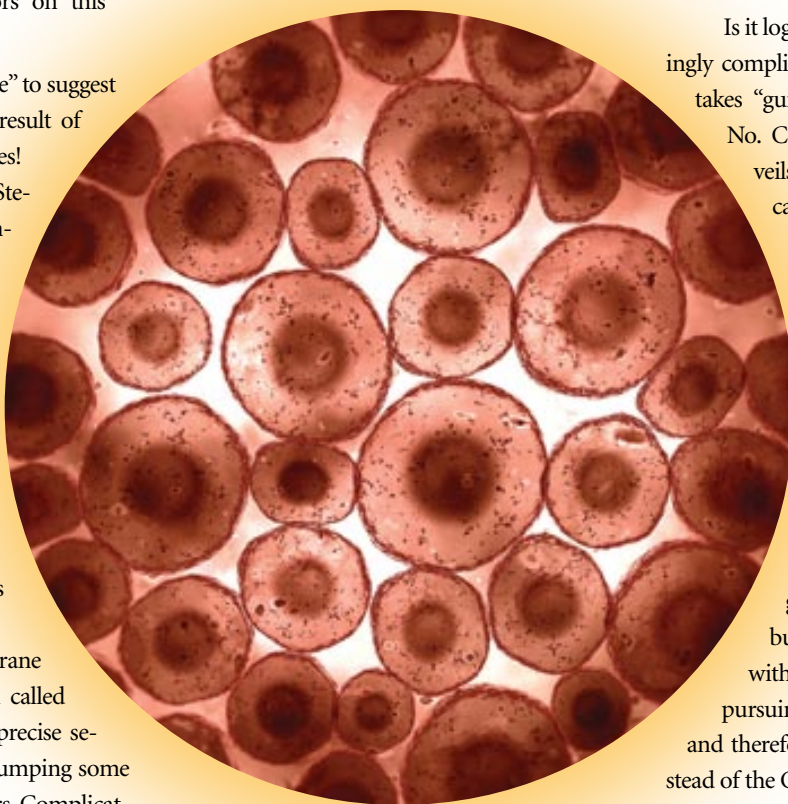
Indeed, “it seems incredible” to suggest that such sophistication is the result of chance, time, and genetic mistakes!

A 1997 *Nature* article by Steven Block detailed the “Real engines of creation” that included a discussion of sub-cellular structures composed of springs, rotary joints, and levers—all made of protein.² The awareness of cellular sophistication has only increased by orders of magnitude since then, further demolishing the increasingly anemic Darwinian explanations for the origin of cells.

The cell or plasma membrane surrounding each cell has been called living because of its extremely precise selectivity—allowing or actively pumping some materials in or out, but not others. Complicated but efficient protein molecules “float” in the midst of this bilipid membrane. Some extend halfway and others all the way through the two interconnected membrane layers.

For the cell to remain alive, there must also be a constant exchange of materials from the outside of the cell to the inside, and vice versa. For example, among many other ions, potassium is critical for cellular function and homeostasis.³ A precisely shaped and charged potassium gate found in the cell membrane is known to have a latch that rotates much like an

CELLS: Sophisticated and God-Designed



FRANK SHERWIN, M.A.

iris! It also has switches and pulleys.⁴ Working in exquisite harmony, the four principal parts of the gate—collectively called the Kir channel—are designed to selectively allow millions of potassium ions per second to pass through the gate while keeping out legions of pesky gatecrashers (other ions).

Cellular machines are not the stuff of randomness, but reveal unparalleled sophistication emanating from the mind of the wise

Creator. Consider this quote describing the transfer of an electron to a heme portion of a ubiquitous protein involved in ATP (energy) production in living systems:

This [electron] loading increases the redox potentials of both hemes a and a3, which allows electron equilibration between them at the same rate. Then, in 0.8 milliseconds, another proton is transferred from the inside to the heme a3/CuB center, and the electron is transferred to CuB. Finally, in 2.6 milliseconds, the preloaded proton is released from the pump site to the opposite side of the membrane.⁵

Is it logical to attribute such overwhelmingly complicated machinery to genetic mistakes “guided” by natural happenstance?

No. Cellular research increasingly unveils amazing discoveries that should cause Darwinists to consider Paul’s proclamation to the church in Rome: “For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse” (Romans 1:20).

Sadly, for many biologists it doesn’t matter what the burgeoning evidence shows. Those with a secular worldview must avoid pursuing the obvious design implication and therefore give glory to the creation instead of the Creator to whom it is due. ●

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Tentacular. Squid

Re-writing Squid Stories Before the Ink Dries

BRIAN THOMAS, M.S.

During a recent tour of the fossil displays on ICR's campus, a Dutch-speaking group referred to our fossil squid as an *inktvij* or "ink fish." This led to the discussion of a discovery in 2009, where researchers reconstituted dried ink from a squid's fossilized ink sac.¹ The paleontologists even drew a picture of what that extinct squid looked like using its very own ink!

Because the squid was found in a rock assigned an age of 150 million years, scientists were "stunned" that it "still looks as if it is modern squid ink."² No ink should have been found.

The squid at ICR is a body-impression fossil without ink or other original tissue present. However, the fact that fossils of soft-bodied organisms—like squid, jellyfish, sponge embryos, or algae—even exist is a direct contradiction of Darwin's primary explanation for the lack of fossilized transitional forms that should be there if his life origins story is accurate. He wrote that "no organism wholly soft can be preserved."³

But many "wholly soft" organisms were preserved. A five-centimeter-long fossil of a squid-like cephalopod has been found in a "Middle Cambrian" zone in Canada's Burgess Shale, near the very bottom of earth's fossil-bearing rocks. Cambrian rocks appear to represent catastrophic marine deposits made at the beginning of the Flood year.⁴

Named *Nectocaris pteryx*, it only had two tentacles and lacked the internal shell that modern squids have. The existence of this creature in this stratum forces the re-evaluation of many longstanding evolutionary conjectures about squid origins. Martin Smith of the University of Toronto, a co-author of the *Nectocaris* study that appeared in *Nature*,⁵ admitted that "we know very little about the relationships



ICR's remarkably well-preserved squid fossil.

between the major groups of molluscs, and the early history of the group."⁶ Paleontologist Donald Prothero speculated in 2004 about an evolutionary "radiation" of new cephalopod forms from a shelled ancestor:

The earliest known cephalopod, *Plectonoceras*, is a tiny Late Cambrian form with a simple conical shell, but it has chambers, septa, and a siphuncle. From such simple origins, the straight-shelled cephalopods underwent a spectacular Ordovician radiation.⁷

But *Nectocaris* had side fins, large gills, a flexible siphon for propulsion, a streamlined body for moving quickly through water, and refracting-lens eyes—like vertebrate eyes—

perched on eyestalks.⁸ "Early" cephalopods were anything but "simple."

Also, if the fossil record is supposed to show increasingly complicated features as one ascends the geologic column, then why does this already complicated creature appear at the bottom?

A new evolutionary story will no doubt be written. It could speculate that shell-less *Nectocaris* might have evolved into a shelled form, maybe with an internal shell like squids, or an external one like nautiloids. Or, it could have been a "dead end" form, irrelevant to cephalopod origins. Or, it could have come from shelled creatures that were never preserved as fossils. Perhaps it lost that shell, and some of its descendants regained it—or didn't.

Nobody will ever know, because fossils alone cannot provide as reliable a historical framework as the Bible. The best explanation for the existence of this creature remains the one presented in Genesis—each squid kind was created fully formed from the beginning. ●

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Mr. Thomas is Science Writer.



FROM PARASITES TO PICTOGRAPHS

ICR Apologetics School Surges Forward

So what can you learn about avian parasites, sedimentary rocks, fossilized clams, ostrich eggs, logical fallacies, plover migrations, giraffe blood systems, plesiosaurs, ancient Chinese pictographs, a Russian Viking king, the Moabite Stone, Hebrew word studies, Waldensians, and the providential preservation of the New Testament's Greek text?

And what do these varied topics have to do with the study of biblical apologetics? When one examines how Jesus Himself taught truth, then it's easy to see that the world of biblical apologetics compares God's most authoritative witness—His written Word—with another vital witness—the world He created.

Now wrapping up its first year, the ICR School of Biblical Apologetics (SOBA) is poised with exciting summer courses and a solid offering of relevant subjects to be covered in year two.

As a complement to ICR's Graduate School (ICRGS), ICR launched the School of Biblical Apologetics in 2009¹ with a resident evening program on the new Dallas campus of the Institute for Creation Research. Offering a Master of Christian Education degree program with a joint major in Biblical Education and Apologetics, SOBA allows students to pursue minors with concentrations in Christian School Teaching, Creation Research, Genesis Studies, and Sacred Humanities.

Six core courses were completed in year one with study in Many Infallible Proofs, Jesus the Master Teacher, General and Special Revelation, The Uniqueness and Supremacy of Christ, Bibliology, and Critiquing Secular and Religious Humanism. ICR staff and adjunct faculty included Dr. John Morris, Dr. Stan Toussaint, Dr. Randy Guliuza, Dr. Jim Johnson, and Mr. Frank Sherwin.

Summer electives have included Cre-

ationist Apologetics and Animal Life (Dr. Jobe Martin), The Genesis Flood (Dr. John Morris), and Biblical Archaeology (Dr. Eugene Merrill).

New to SOBA this year is the addition of ACSI-accredited CEU courses, including Understanding and Teaching Biblical History during August/September, and Logic, Evidence, and Apologetics in November/December. More information about SOBA degrees and courses, as well as how teachers and administrators can sign up for ACSI CEUs, can be found at www.icr.org/soba.

Thank you for your prayerful support of ICR's newest educational program. ●

Reference

1. ICR's graduate school has offered its Master of Science degree from California since 1981. Due to a legal position taken by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board in April 2008, ICRGS now offers its mostly-online program to applicants from every state except Texas. As this issue of *Acts & Facts* goes to press, this academic freedom-focused controversy is pending as a civil rights lawsuit in Austin federal court, as Civil Action 1:09-CV-382-SS (W.D. Tex.), *ICR Graduate School v. Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, et al.*

CEU CREDITS NOW AVAILABLE FOR ACSI TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS!

This summer and fall, the ICR School of Biblical Apologetics is offering ACSI-accredited CEU evening in-service opportunities for ACSI teachers and administrators in the Dallas area.

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Attend any two evenings of a course for 1.0 CEU credit. Attend all four evenings of a course for 2.0 CEU credits. Credits count as either Educational Studies or Biblical Studies. Classes will take place on the ICR Dallas campus.

For more information, visit icr.org/soba-acsi, call **800.337.0375**, or email soba@icr.org.

SUMMER COURSE	FALL COURSE
<p><i>Understanding and Teaching Biblical History</i> <i>Special Insights from Biblical Archaeology, Biblical Languages, and Biblical Geography</i></p> <p>Keynote guest faculty: Dr. Eugene Merrill</p> <p>Tuesdays, 6:00 p.m., August 10–September 7 (skips August 24)</p>	<p><i>Logic, Evidence, and Apologetics</i> <i>How to Use, Critique, and Teach Logic</i></p> <p>SOBA faculty: Dr. James J. S. Johnson</p> <p>Tuesdays, 6:00 p.m., November 23–December 14</p>
	

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

As a relatively new subscriber/reader of *Acts & Facts*, I am continually amazed at the depth of the articles and the obvious research that goes into virtually every one. Thank you for enlightening so many who “knew” evolution was true!

— M.B.

I wanted to pass along a great big thank you to all you *Days of Praise* people for creating and sending *Days of Praise*. I'm living in China for the foreseeable future and it's been brilliant getting a daily dose of God's Word. Thanks again and have a blessed day.

— R.W.

I just wanted to thank you for the work that you do at Institution for Creation Re-

search. Recently, Dr. Steve Austin spoke at my church....His presentation was quite amazing. His vast knowledge and his deep love of the Scriptures were evident. I didn't have a chance to talk to him, but my son and I thoroughly enjoyed listening to him speak.

— K.O.

I became aware of ICR about 1974 when I was introduced to the book *The Genesis Flood*. I was a new Christian at that time and was confused about evolution vs. creation. Dr. Henry Morris did an excellent job explaining the biblical truth of Genesis and the young earth idea, which is right in line with Scripture. Then about two years later, Dr. Henry Morris gave a lecture at our church....He grounded us on the creation model and it never left me wondering again.

I thank the Lord Jesus Christ for ICR and pray for its success in getting out the Gospel, glorifying Christ, and teaching many Christians to read and believe their Bibles again.

— W.B.

We believe very strongly in the ministry of ICR. Though we are not often in a position to give, we pray it is an encouragement to know that we are praying for you, and that we read and share what we have read from ICR with others. Do not lose heart! What you are doing makes a difference.

— T.&T.K.

Have a comment? Email us at editor@icr.org. Or write to Editor, P. O. Box 59029, Dallas, Texas 75229.

The Institute for Creation Research receives hundreds of letters each week, many from readers who have questions about a topic in science or a comment about the impact ICR is having in their lives.

Recently we received a letter from a friend that included a 12-page essay written by high school senior Ben Norcross. The title of Ben's school essay is "Evolution on Trial" and I printed just the first few paragraphs for you at right.

Ben goes on for many more pages detailing evidence after evidence that evolution cannot stand up to honest scrutiny.

It's important to note that young people like Ben are both hungry for the truth and capable of expressing their convictions clearly and boldly.

God grant us many more like Ben who are not afraid to speak the truth!

Lawrence E. Ford
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Evolution on Trial

BEN NORCROSS

Our oldest relatives—billions and billions of years ago—were composed of goo. But this was very special goo. This “primordial slime,” through the course of millions and millions of years, slowly started to change and become more complex. Starting out as the most basic groups of atoms, they shuffled around so much that the atoms aligned correctly, forming larger structures. These movements kept occurring, creating larger and larger beings. Eventually, our ancestors became perpetually more advanced organisms, and finally, they became humans.

You and I understand how extraordinary this story is. However, in a Gallup Poll in 2009, 39% of Americans claim they believe the above as fact! This explanation for the existence of human beings is a basic tenet of the Theory of Evolution, formally defined as “the theory that groups of organisms change with passage of time, mainly as a result of natural selection, so that descendants differ morphologically and physiologically from their ancestors” (medical-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com).

Such a bold debunking of God's willed creation is a shocking example of our fallen world: rather than believing we are a holy creation accountable to a just God, man would believe his origins were in ancient mud, holding no real significance whatsoever. But, “in the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth” (Genesis 1:1). This scriptural statement is not legend, not a simple fairy tale, and not a piece of ancient folk lore. Every aspect of our world ultimately reflects its Creator's handiwork. Especially through the complexity of our human bodies is this exemplified.

While Creationism supports a divine creator, the Theory of Evolution proposes a slow, natural evolution that eventually produced such complex organisms as human beings. Obviously, these two explanations are wholly incompatible; therefore, one must be false.

This month on “Science, Scripture, & Salvation”



WEEKEND OF AUGUST 7

Alaska the Great Land, Part 1


God’s handiwork of creation is displayed throughout the earth in the natural beauty that we enjoy. One area rich in breathtaking views of magnificent splendor is the state of Alaska. This “Great Land” is indeed a testimony to creation! Be sure to tune in.



WEEKEND OF AUGUST 14

Alaska the Great Land, Part 2

The natural beauty that is Alaska awaits the wide-eyed visitor and continuously thrills the long-time resident! Many people who go to Alaska hope to get a glimpse of the fantastic wildlife that thrives there. The animals that inhabit the forests, soar through the air, or roam the open tundra do more than just delight excited tourists. These creatures can show us the mighty hand of our great Creator! Join us to find out how.



WEEKEND OF AUGUST 21

Australian Geology

From the colossal Ayer’s Rock formation in the middle of the desert to giant kangaroo fossils, Australia is home to many fascinating geological discoveries. Join us this week as we discover how the “land down under” teaches us about creation and Noah’s Flood.



WEEKEND OF AUGUST 28

African Animals


Exciting and exotic animals thrive in different regions throughout the world. One such place is the continent of Africa. What kind of unique animals live here, and what purpose do they serve? Find out this week on *Science, Scripture, & Salvation*.

To find out which radio stations in your city air our programs, visit our website at www.icr.org. On the radio page, use the station locator to determine where you can hear our broadcasts in your area. You can also listen to current and past *Science, Scripture, & Salvation* programs online, so check us out!


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Back to Genesis with ICR President Dr. John Morris provides daily 60-second highlights on frequently asked questions about science and the Bible.



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ICR Radio is just one more way that the message of the Creator is proclaimed to the nations.

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WHERE THERE IS A WILL, THERE IS A CGA

H E N R Y M . M O R R I S I V

Without a doubt, the remarkable economic upheaval that began some years ago has impacted the entire financial spectrum. Dubbed the “Great Recession” by some economists, this prolonged period of economic uncertainty continues to involve high unemployment, languishing home values, and unprecedented volatility in the stock market. With worries over rising debt in European markets, it appears the global financial landscape has been drastically, if not permanently, changed.

It is easy to succumb to a pessimistic attitude during times such as these. Yet it is wrong to worry, for “your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him” (Matthew 6:8) and promises to “supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:19). What a comforting assurance from the Creator Himself, who owns everything under heaven and on earth!

Many believers may be reluctant to support the work of the Kingdom out of fear they will not have enough to outlast the current downturn. But attractive options still exist in such an environment for those who desire to support ICR in some way. Please prayerfully consider the following possibilities.

Charitable Gift Annuities

As financial markets decline, investors

typically turn to sources of guaranteed income like Certificates of Deposit (CDs). But with rates currently below three percent, CDs are not an attractive option. A much better alternative, especially for senior donors seeking a secure return and guaranteed income, can be found in Charitable Gift Annuities (CGAs).

CGAs provide several benefits that CDs simply cannot match, like guaranteed annual income for the donor’s lifetime and partial tax deductions in exchange for the gift. In addition, the American Council of Gift Annuities recently authorized increases in CGA rates, which is welcome news for donors who desire to support ICR but still need a source of income.

CGA rates vary by age, so ICR would be happy to design a customized proposal for you. Contact us with your name, state of residence (certain states are excluded), birth date, and the gift amount you are considering (\$5,000 minimum), and we will be delighted to do the rest. Or visit the Planned Giving section of icr.org/give to design your own plan for consideration.

Wills

Without a valid will in place, the resources God has granted us in life may not be distributed appropriately after we have gone home to heaven. State laws allow the courts to decide who will administer your estate, who will be the guardian to your minor children, and may deplete your estate with expenses that

Prayerfully CONSIDER SUPPORTING ICR

(Galatians 6:9-10)

Through

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 - Charitable Gift Annuities
 - Wills
 - Trusts

Visit icr.org/give and explore how you can support the vital work of ICR ministries. Or contact us at stewardship@icr.org or **800.337.0375** for personal assistance.

ICR is a recognized 501(c)(3) non-profit ministry, and all gifts are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

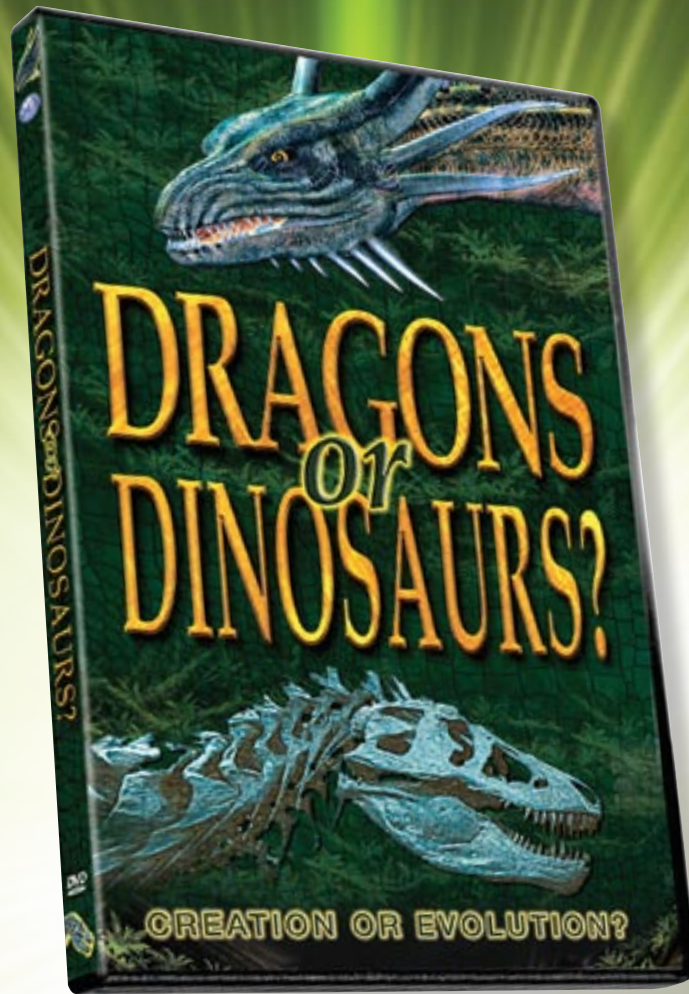
can be minimized through a well-planned will. And no bequests of any kind will be made—to your friends, to your church, or to charities that are dear to your heart.

ICR can help with samples of well-written wills and information on proper will preparation. Most wills can be prepared relatively inexpensively by a knowledgeable attorney, and ICR would be happy to recommend one in your local area. And should you desire to support ICR in some way, it is easy to include a simple bequest that ensures a portion of your remaining resources are shared with our ministry. We promise to apply it prayerfully and carefully for the eternal work of the Kingdom. ●

Mr. Morris is Director of Donor Relations.



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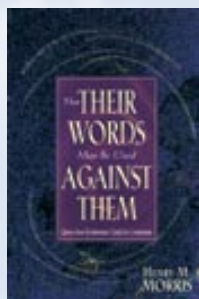
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