

# ACTS & FACTS

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CREATION RESEARCH

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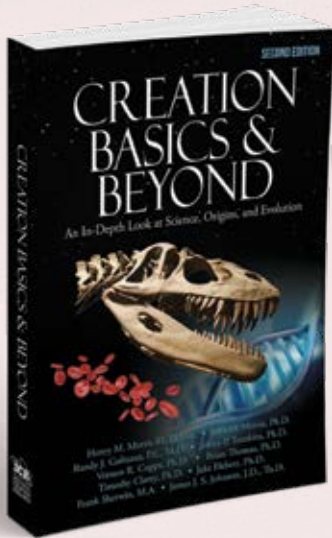
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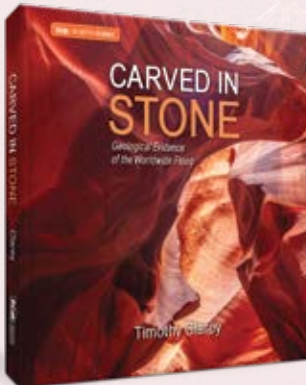
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#### EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Jayne Durant

#### SENIOR EDITOR

Beth Mull

#### EDITORS

Michael Stamp  
Christy Hardy  
Lori Fausak

#### DESIGNER

Dennis Davidson

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# 2020 Vision: An Unexpected Year in Review

**2020** has been a year like no other. We began the year at ICR with our mission in focus, seeking to honor Jesus by sharing His glorious work in creation. We also started the year anticipating a greater outreach through the ICR Discovery Center for Science & Earth History, with grand plans to reach new friends as well as welcome old ones. In the spring we hosted a Made in His Image Weekend and Origins: Re-examining the Evidence events to share the truth about creation and refute evolutionary claims. We had many more plans in the works, but then coronavirus struck—and plans changed for almost everyone in the entire world.

When some of the ICR staff were required to work from home due to government regulations, we continued to publish *Acts & Facts*, *Days of Praise*, and online news articles. In-person events were cancelled or postponed, but we initiated online events and reached audiences around the world with the creation message. We were amazed at the success of these virtual sessions and found that many families stuck at home had become more interested in answering deeper questions of faith and life.

After the Discovery Center reopened, friends of ICR joined us for Labor Day-week special events to celebrate our Dallas museum's one-year anniversary. The festivities included a petting zoo, food trucks, live science presentations, and fun activities. In October, we welcomed hundreds of homeschoolers to our Homeschool Day event with special presentations, exhibit hall tours with scientists, exploration with microscopes, and other ministries.

2020 marks ICR's 50th anniversary, and in August Dr. Randy Guliuzza was named ICR President, and he announced an intensified focus on biological design and

the CET model. He notes in this month's feature that ICR's "most pressing task today...is to fundamentally change the way people understand biology by constructing a completely new theory of biological design that incorporates recent discoveries while respecting the biblical narrative" ("Jesus Christ, Our Savior and Creator," pages 5-7). We look forward to sharing the fruits of this effort in coming months.

This issue also celebrates Dr. Henry M. Morris III's many years of service at ICR and honors him as he retires from his position as CEO. As an experienced businessman, he not only understood those aspects of his job, he also brought a pastor's heart to the role, showing interest and concern for the well-being of ICR staff members. Dr. Morris stayed true to his vision for ICR throughout his time here. He stood firmly on his faith, never wavering from his stance on the inerrancy and authority of Scripture. In "Dr. Henry M. Morris III: A Kingdom-Focused Life" (pages 17-19), ICR editor Christy Hardy says, "It's our joy at ICR to give honor where honor is due. We are deeply thankful

for Dr. Henry's impact on ICR, his sacrificial investment in creation ministry, and his example of a life committed to the truth of God's Word and the work of the Kingdom."

Though we could never have anticipated the unique challenges of 2020, we see ways God has used this time to accomplish good things for our ministry. We learned how to think outside the box, persevere through obstacles, and focus our eyes anew on our Creator, who has not been surprised by anything this year held. We were reminded that God can use seemingly unideal circumstances to reach people who need to hear creation truth, and we watched Him provide our every need through the generosity of so many of you! As 2020 draws to a close, let's celebrate the Christmas season with gratitude and renewed vision, remembering the Lord's goodness and looking forward to another year of fellowship and ministry with Him.

We wish you a very Merry Christmas!

*Jayme Durant*

**Jayme Durant**  
EXECUTIVE EDITOR



article  
highlights

- ICR's mission is to exalt the Lord Jesus as both Savior and Creator in everything we communicate and do.
- ICR reveres Christ by highlighting His creation workmanship and sharing our scientific knowledge and expertise to lead people to worship Him.
- ICR counters the work of those who use selectionism to credit nature rather than God as the source of life's diversity.
- ICR uses science to rightfully credit Jesus Christ as Creator as well as the Son of God who takes away our sin, gives us the hope of eternity with Him, and continually upholds and rules the universe.

# JESUS CHRIST, *Our Savior and Creator*

R A N D Y J . G U L I U Z Z A , P . E . . , M . D .

Beautiful Savior, King of creation,  
Son of God and Son of Man!  
Truly I love Thee; truly I'd serve Thee,  
Light of my soul, my joy, my crown!

The Lord Jesus truly is the light of our soul, our joy, and our crown. If you'd like an early Christmas gift, one that is totally free, I'd encourage you to listen to the lovely rendition of the hymn "Beautiful Savior" sung by the Master's Chorale and conducted by Tom Fettke.<sup>1</sup>

Christians are hungry—perhaps even starved—for the glory of Christ. Thus, ICR's primary mission is to consistently exalt the Lord Jesus through everything we communicate. As a science-based ministry, ICR is privileged to render honor and glory in the most basic way Christians can—by regularly emphasizing the rightful *credit* due to Jesus as our Creator.

ICR also endeavors to honor Christ in our other assignments, continuing the goal of ICR founder Dr. Henry Morris to win science and scientists back to Christ. Last month's feature article discussed ICR's most pressing task today,<sup>2</sup> which is to fundamentally change the way people understand biology by constructing a completely new theory of biological design that incorporates recent discoveries while respecting the biblical narrative. One of our goals is to ignite a second creationist revival. Our contribution to this hoped-for end will be to stir up a sense of certainty in Christian truth that leads to confident, mature, evangelistic believers.

The Christmas season is an especially fitting time to emphasize ICR's overriding mission to glorify the Lord Jesus by specifically identifying Him as our Creator as well as our Lord and Savior. As we do that, we follow the lead of the angel who announced the birth of Jesus: "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:10-11).

## ICR's Mission: Doing Our Utmost to Revere Christ

We are the Institute for *Creation* Research. The glory of the Lord Jesus—in fact, His very deity—is directly linked to His being the *Creator* God of the Bible. Therefore, our communication must highlight the workmanship of Christ, which is unfailingly glorious.<sup>3</sup> It's our job to ensure that the “frame” we use to accentuate the picture of Jesus' handiwork—i.e., our published material—is worthy of the subject matter.

Occasionally it's good to simply ponder who God *is* before even meditating on what He's like. The Creator is God. This reminds us of His awesome position (i.e., “rank”) and ours. We know that God just spoke and the universe came into existence. The ICR Discovery Center for Science & Earth History's planetarium is showing a brand-new documentary, *Exploring Deep Space*, filled with stunning imagery depicting the size and beauty of our universe. This viewing experience defies imagination. A Christian's understanding of God's infinite power and omnipresence is expanded, leaving a deep impression of the awesomeness of God.

At Christmas we celebrate the mysterious truth that Jesus is Immanuel, which is translated “God with us” (Matthew 1:23). The Bible unambiguously declares that “the Man Christ Jesus” (1 Timothy 2:5) is “the Son of God” (Mark 1:1). Therefore, Jesus Christ is both “Son of Man” (Acts 7:56) and undiminished deity. ICR's main mission is to consistently exalt the Lord Jesus. As we read through the following passages, note that they not only speak to Christ's deity as Creator but also accentuate His glory.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God....All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made....And the

Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:1, 3, 14)

[Jesus Christ] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. (Colossians 1:15-17)

[God] has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high... (Hebrews 1:2-3)

The primary purpose of these verses is to establish the deity of Christ by identifying Him as Creator. Yet “the heavens declare the *glory* of God” (Psalm 19:1) and not merely His existence. Romans 1:18-25 details that people can know there is a God from creation, and the wonder of His workmanship in creation reveals that God “is for-

ever *praised* [by His handiwork in creation]” (v. 25, NIV).<sup>3</sup>

If ICR scientists do a proper job in their teaching, then our *science* should lead people to worship Jesus Christ. It's shameful that evolutionary selectionists have long abused science to rob Christ of His glory. That's why at ICR events some people ask me a bit doubtfully, “Are you really saying that science should lead people to worship?” Yes, indeed. The best way to do that is to ensure that *Christ* is very clearly given the *credit* for His surpassing workmanship, genius, and wisdom revealed in creation.

## ICR's Mission: Standing with Christ Against His Enemies

Sometimes believers face bitter opposition when they simply render worship to the Lord Jesus. Such hostile behavior isn't new. At Christmas we recall that sometime after Jesus' birth wise men from the east came to Jerusalem asking, “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews?”

For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.” But “when Herod the king heard this, he was troubled” and subsequently planned to “seek the young Child to destroy Him” (Matthew 2:2-3, 13).

Though no one is able to “destroy” Christ physically today, the intention to hurt Him is still very active—but through different means. Opponents today target His deity and accompanying glory. They wield the authority of “science” to deny that God is the cause of both the origin of the universe and the diversity of life on Earth. Instead of a blunt denial of God's existence, it's important to understand how unbelieving scientists take a subtler route to arrive at the same conclusion.

Romans 1:20-25 teaches that despite the evidence of God's workmanship being clearly seen—especially in living creatures—unbelievers won't *acknowledge* or *credit* God's agency as the cause of nature.<sup>4</sup> Giving credit is the unmistakable first step

to a sense of gratitude and from there to conferring glory, but modern science redirects those steps. We're taught the Big Bang is a wholly sufficient cause—a credit unto itself—for the universe's origin, and that Darwinism explains why creatures look so incredibly designed without crediting Christ as the Designer.

Darwin devised an entire externalistic worldview called *selectionism*, in which random geological and ecological changes drive the evolution of life's diversity. How? Darwin envisioned a scenario of ceaseless deadly struggles over scarce resources where few individuals of a species survive but somehow the population doesn't go extinct. Both atheistic and theistic selectionists embrace the view that environments somehow

exercise agency to mold the diversity of life. Selectionism begins with the projection of God-like volitional "selective" capacity onto nature. Proponents visualize nature as an omnipotent adaptive agent "acting on" organisms through its perceived powers to "favor" some or "weed out" others—even though nature doesn't have a mind.

Nature's inherently mystical pseudo-agency animates all Darwinian explanations. Selectionism is how Darwin reintroduced veneration of nature back into science.<sup>5</sup> Scientists should find this unsettling. Some religious practitioners ascribe volition to inanimate things, yet scientifically how can selective abilities ever legitimately be projected onto an immaterial concept like "natural selection" or to a mindless en-

tity like "nature"?

Clearly, the most basic and effective way to rob Christ of His glory is to not give Him credit for creation. Jesus' enemy seeks to further *insult* Him through the pseudo-scientific worldview of selectionism that misleads people into personifying nature in such a way that they don't give credit for the creation to Christ but to creation itself.

### ICR's Mission: Specifically Crediting Jesus Christ as Creator

All of us at ICR feel privileged to use science to rightfully credit Jesus as our Creator. The following paragraphs synopsise truths that the ICR family holds dear and expresses why Jesus is worthy to be the center of our deepest love, affection, and devotion.

**T**he Lord Jesus created, upholds, and rules the universe according to the counsel of His own will for His good pleasure. Never has a man spoken words like Jesus. Christ's words are always faithful and true. All who saw Him marveled at His wisdom and were astounded by His unimaginable power. Wind and rain obeyed Jesus' voice. He commanded Satan and called the dead back to life. He knows the secrets of your heart and can see you from afar. He's the same yesterday, today, and forever. Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Christ is faultless and holy, and thus He alone fully satisfies the righteousness of the Father through the redemption that is His blood. Therefore, unless you honor the Son, you can't honor the Father. For anyone who has seen the Son has seen the Father because Jesus and the Father are one. Christ promised to send us the Holy Spirit, who also glorifies the Son. The Spirit honors Jesus by bringing His words to our remembrance. The host of heaven is at Christ's immediate, obedient service. The highest of angelic beings adoringly prostrate themselves before Him. Jesus will judge all angels and people, and His decisions are perfect and final. Every knee will bow to Him and every tongue will confess that "Jesus Christ is Lord." Throughout eternity, all heavenly inhabitants will ascribe to the Lamb blessing and honor and glory and power. Who are we to be the objects of His boundless love? Jesus came to seek and to save us who were lost. He steadfastly set His face to go to the cross. Christ alone entered the Most Holy Place once for all to obtain eternal redemption. Jesus calls all people unto Himself and promises to forgive their sins, and salvation can be found in no other name under heaven. All who call on His name shall be saved. Thus, the Lord Jesus is forever the High Priest over the house of God. Christ's faithful intercession never ceases. He will keep to the final day all who come to Him. Jesus is the one mediator between God and people. He sympathizes with our weaknesses and carries our burdens on His shoulders and our names on His heart. All who belong to Jesus await a marriage supper as His precious Bride, anticipating when they will forever bear on their forehead that precious name that is above every other name. Jesus cannot promise more—or do more—than what He has done. To His name alone be all honor and glory.

Have a joyous Christmas season! ❄️

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Dr. Guliuzza is President of the Institute for Creation Research. He earned his M.D. from the University of Minnesota, his Master of Public Health from Harvard University, and served in the U.S. Air Force as 28th Bomb Wing Flight Surgeon and Chief of Aerospace Medicine. Dr. Guliuzza is also a registered Professional Engineer and holds a B. A. in theology from Moody Bible Institute.



DECEMBER

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## GIVING TUESDAY

Giving Tuesday is December 1, 2020  
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## RESCHEDULED EVENTS FOR 2021

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MAY 2

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SEPTEMBER 15-19

Flint, TX  
**God's Grand Design Conference at Flint Baptist Church**  
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OCTOBER 8-10

Battle Ground, WA  
**Uncovering the Truth about Creation Conference at Word of Grace Bible Church**  
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JANUARY

5-9

### BIBLICAL CREATION 101: WINTER INTENSIVE

Dallas, TX

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# Rogue Moths Didn't Start Out That Way



## article highlights

- Moths appear harmless, but the Calyptra moth feeds on blood.
- Were “vampire moths” designed to do this?
- It appears that similar to mosquitoes’ nectar-feeding ability, these moths’ piercing mouthparts were originally designed for eating fruit.

Butterflies and moths fluttering around a flower are a beautiful sight. They innocently lap up nectar and float on the wind. Countless plants depend on the pollination that occurs during their feeding.

One group of moths, however, deviates from this utopian state by feeding on blood. Meet the vampire moth.<sup>1,2</sup> Like a tiny flying Dracula, this moth creeps up on its sleeping prey and drills into its skin with a ferocious tooth- and claw-covered proboscis. Inflatable hooks on the tip of the feeding tube firmly anchor it to the skin while it feasts on the prey’s blood.

Calyptra moth actually built to do? Eat fruit.<sup>4</sup>

Nearly all 150 or so moth species in the Calpini tribe feed exclusively on fruit. Only about 10 species have been definitively identified as blood-feeders. Because the majority of Calpini moths never taste blood, we can conclude that the tearing hooks and spines are designed to make what is, essentially, a fruit smoothie. The inflatable hooks expand to make a larger pool of fruit juice to drink. The moths feed on oranges, grapefruit, strawberries, raspberries, cherries, and even tough-skinned longan and litchi.

The vampire moth’s mouthparts

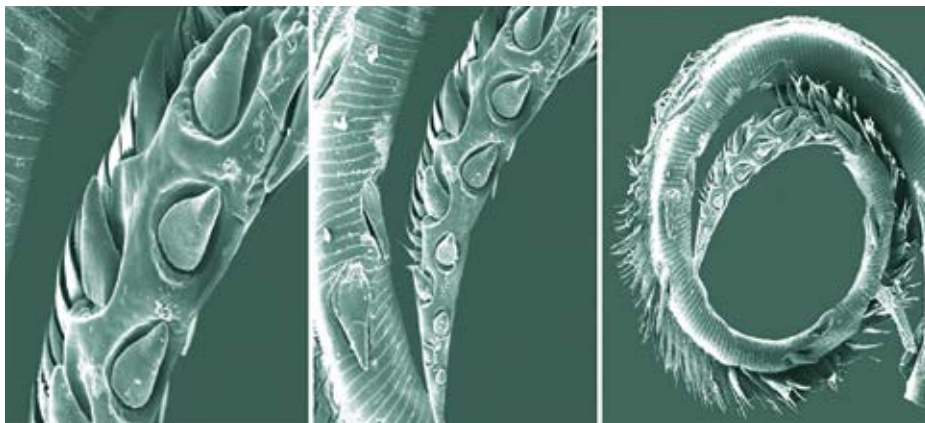


Figure 1. The Calyptra moth’s proboscis with barbs, hooks, and spines

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Was the vampire moth designed to be a blood-feeder? The electron microscope image of the Calyptra moth’s mouthparts in Figure 1 shows that the tip is reinforced for piercing and the sides are laced with tearing hooks, rasping spines, and erectile barbs. The teeth rip away at blood vessels, causing a pool of blood to form under the skin for the moth to drink.

Vampire moths feed on humans, zebu, cattle, rhinoceros, and even elephants. These moths seem purposely built with all the tools they need to drink blood, right? Well, the truth may surprise you. What was the

look threatening—but so do the blades of a store-bought blender. What if the moth had been named “the fruit smoothie moth” and all anyone knew about were its fruit-eating habits? Maybe then you could reason that the purpose of the menacing-looking hooks in Figure 1 is to juice the inside of a raspberry. If you later discover that the moth can also use them to “bite” and drink blood, you would recognize this wasn’t necessarily their original intention. Learning about the feeding habits in this order doesn’t naturally lead to the incorrect conclusion that God designed moths to suck blood.

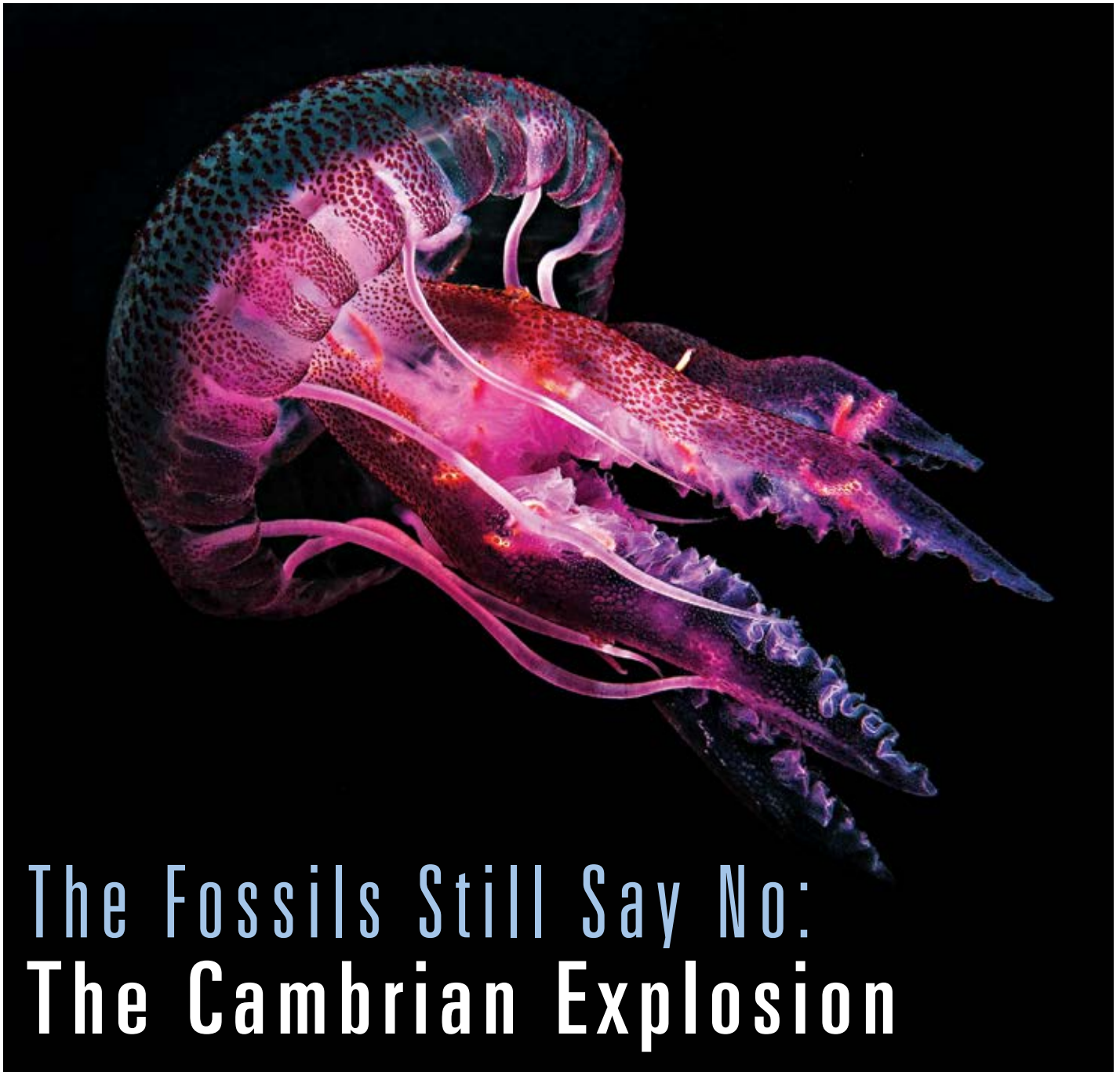
Butterflies and moths may feed on carrion, dung, wounds, tears, and sweat in the absence of their primary food source. Evolution bombards us with the message that death is normal,<sup>5</sup> and that can influence us to think that sharp teeth or claws were made to snack on blood or flesh.

But there are no differences in the equipment of fruit-feeding and blood-feeding moths.<sup>3</sup> Moths use tools originally designed for a good purpose in a now-harmful way when fruit is unavailable. Like other predators living today, God originally designed them for the vegetarian diet all creatures had in the beginning.<sup>6</sup> ✍

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Mr. Arledge is Research Coordinator at the Institute for Creation Research.



# The Fossils Still Say No: The Cambrian Explosion

## article highlights

- The transitional species Darwin expected to be found in the fossil record have never been discovered.
- In the Cambrian Explosion, fully developed creatures suddenly appeared with no evolutionary precursors.
- Living fossils are creatures living today that show virtually no change from their Cambrian counterparts.
- Original tissue remnants in Cambrian fossils are evidence against evolution and for a recent global flood.
- Cambrian fossils still say “no” to evolutionary theory.

The modern theory of evolution has its roots in Charles Darwin’s 1859 book *On the Origin of Species*, in which he proposed the fundamental conjecture that “all the organic beings which have ever lived on this earth have descended from some one primordial form.”<sup>1</sup> In the extrapolation of this concept, millions of progressive life forms should have developed in an evolutionary continuum along all the different branches of life leading up to the huge diversity of plants and animals that are alive today. Many current biology textbooks depict this universal common ancestry as a “tree of life” similar to the analogy that Darwin first proposed over 160 years ago.

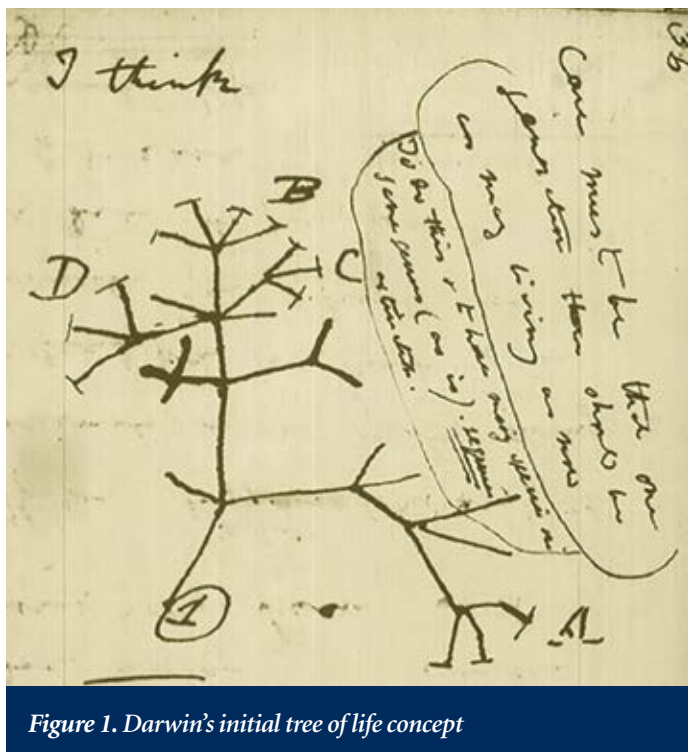


Figure 1. Darwin's initial tree of life concept

This evolutionary tree of life Darwin got going has many problems explaining both living organisms and the fossil record. Chief among them is the lack of transitional forms. Not only do we not see one fundamental type of creature evolving into another today, we see no evidence of transitional forms in the fossil record. Renowned evolutionary paleontologist Stephen J. Gould admitted this embarrassing fact:

The extreme rarity of transitional forms in the fossil record persists as the trade secret of paleontology. The evolutionary trees that adorn our textbooks have data only at the tips and nodes of their branches; the rest is inference, however reasonable, not the evidence of fossils.<sup>2</sup>

### Darwin's Dilemma

In Darwin's day the fossil record was much less documented than it is today, but one of its most embarrassing enigmas deeply troubled him—the Cambrian Explosion. Its glaring contradiction of evolutionary expectations still remains. In the Cambrian Explosion, numerous forms of highly complex animal life appeared suddenly in the rock record with absolutely no evolutionary precursors.

At the time Darwin's *Origin* was published in the 1800s, the lowest-most fossiliferous rock layer where complex life first appears—what we now call the Cambrian—was then known as the Silurian. Concerning this explosion of life and the problem it posed for his theory, Darwin stated:

Consequently, if my theory be true, it is indisputable that before the lowest Silurian stratum was deposited, long periods elapsed,

as long as, or probably far longer than, the whole interval from the Silurian age to the present day; and that during these vast, yet quite unknown, periods of time, the world swarmed with living creatures. To the question why we do not find records of these vast primordial periods, I can give no satisfactory answer... But the difficulty of understanding the absence of vast piles of fossiliferous strata, which on my theory no doubt were somewhere accumulated before the Silurian epoch, is very great.<sup>1</sup>

### Sudden Appearance of Complex Animal Life

Evolutionists claim the Cambrian rock layers were first laid down about 540 million years ago. Highly complex multicellular creatures known as *metazoans* and a plethora of hard-shelled creatures suddenly appear in these sedimentary strata. Examples include clams, snails, horseshoe crabs, trilobites, sponges, brachiopods, worms, jellyfish, sea urchins, sea cucumbers, starfish, brittle stars, sea lilies, and other complex invertebrates.

Making this mystery even more evolution-defying is the fact that the rock layers below the Cambrian are devoid of invertebrates. While this was known in Darwin's day, the mystery has never been resolved, and a 2018 study reported that a thorough re-analysis of the Precambrian Ediacaran sediments showed they are completely empty of evolutionary ancestors. The researchers stated, "The lack of euarthropod body fossils in the Ediacaran biota is mirrored in all other preservational regimes in the Precambrian, including BSTs [Burgess Shale type deposits], phosphatised microfossils, and chert deposits."<sup>3</sup> They also found that the ancestors to the Cambrian creatures were "strikingly absent" in the Ediacaran period.

### Living Fossils of the Cambrian

The Cambrian strata are rich with fossils of creatures whose counterparts can still be found alive today essentially looking the same as their predecessors buried supposedly hundreds of millions of years ago. In other words, these so-called *living fossils* have not evolved at all, a phenomenon evolutionists call *stasis*. Not only do these creatures show no sign of evolutionary change, but many also disappear in rock layers above the Cambrian only to reappear as modern living creatures. While evolutionists have no good explanation why such creatures would abruptly appear hundreds of millions of years ago and then disappear for millions of years only to reappear and now be happily alive, a biblical Flood-based interpretation perfectly explains the data. Creationists know from both the rock record and the Scriptures that the Genesis Flood was a progressive year-long global event. The succession of fossils in the rock strata largely represents the progressive burial of ecological zones characterized by the plants and animals they contained. Thus, the Cambrian strata contain ocean-dwelling animals that would have been the first creatures to be killed and buried in Flood sediments.



**Figure 2. A fossilized *Spiriferina rostrata* brachiopod**

Image credit: Didier Descouens

An excellent example of a living fossil from the Cambrian is the brachiopod. It has a hard shell like a clam, only in a different configuration. The term “brachiopod” is derived from the Greek words *brachion* (arm) and *podos* (foot), which refers to the long pedicle that protrudes from a foramen (opening) in the shell that affixes the marine creature to the base of its burrow in the ocean floor.



**Figure 3. A baby horseshoe crab shell**

Image credit: Bigstock, Paperfish

Another example of a Cambrian living fossil is the amazing horseshoe crab. This curious complex arthropod with 10 eyes plays an important role in the ocean’s ecosystem. Because horseshoe crabs come up onto the shorelines and beaches to reproduce, they are commonly observed around the world.



**Figure 4. Brittle stars on top of a brain coral**

Image credit: G. P. Schmahl/NOAA

Yet another living fossil from the Cambrian is the brittle star, which is found in many ocean ecosystems in a huge diversity of species. Brittle stars are similar to starfish but have much longer snake-like arms that protrude from a central disc. They can reproduce sexually as well as through fission where the central disc divides in two and the newly created discs grow arms.

### Exceptional Cambrian Soft-Bodied Imprints

Extraordinary soft-bodied fossil preservation is known as *Lagerstätte* (German *lager* “storage/lair” and *stätte* “place”). Cambrian Lagerstätten provide spectacular examples of fossils of soft-bodied creatures with exceptionally preserved details. These fossils speak of a rapid cataclysmic burial in fine sediments in the very recent past. Some of the best examples of this near-perfect fossilization can be found in the Cambrian Maotianshan shales, Burgess Shale, and the recently exploited Qingjiang biota (supposedly ~518 million years old) that is chock-full of complex creatures.<sup>4</sup> One group of soft-bodied creatures found in a large diversity of body plans are cnidarians, which contain many creature types that are still alive today and are therefore classified as living fossils. Cnidarians include a variety of stationary types (sea anemones, corals, sea pens) and swimming varieties (jellyfish, box jellies). Cambrian ctenophore fossils are also found in abundance in a wide variety of body plans, and many types of ctenophores are also still alive today.

In addition to the huge array of soft-bodied creatures, Cambrian deposits contain many different types of complex creatures with a chitinous skin or exoskeleton (shell). One amazing example of a Cambrian invertebrate alive today is the Kinorhyncha (mud dragon), a common small marine invertebrate that lives in mud and sand. Another excellent example would be a group of unsegmented marine worms called *priapulids* that are also alive today. Only a rapid

catastrophic burial such as that recorded in Genesis could account for this exceptional preservation. And the fact that these soft-bodied creatures appear suddenly with no evolutionary precursors with many still alive today totally refutes evolution.

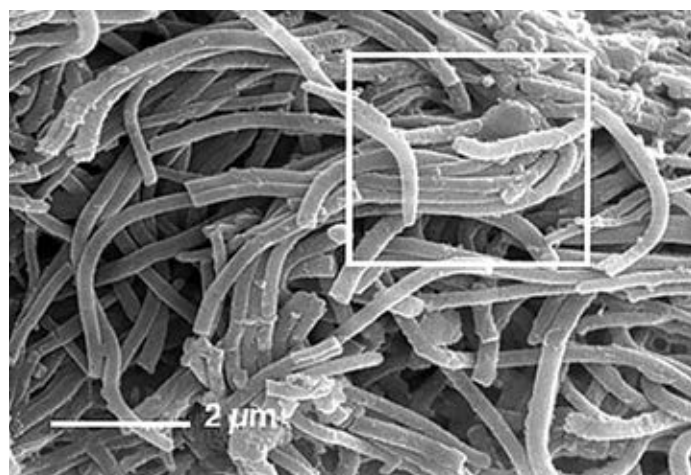
### Precambrian Tube Worm Soft Tissue Preservation

The incredible preservation of soft tissue impressions combined with an explosion of animal life in virtually every conceivable body plan with no evolutionary precursors utterly defies all naturalistic explanations—as does the fact that fossils from these rock layers contain soft tissues. The presence of actual undecayed tissues in fossils found at virtually every level of the geologic column completely undermines evolution’s deep-time paradigm.

Secular researchers have published at least 113 different technical papers describing the presence of soft tissues and biomolecules in fossils supposedly millions of years old.<sup>5</sup> Examples include mummified dinosaur skin, dinosaur blood hemoglobin, and dried-up eyeball retinas from a mosasaur.<sup>6-7</sup> The problem is that the science of tissue decay doesn’t permit millions of years. This evolutionarily inconvenient fact makes a 2014 soft tissue discovery one of the most spectacular—original pliable marine worm tube tissue found just below the bottom-most layer of the Cambrian.<sup>8-9</sup>

Publishing in the *Journal of Paleontology*, researchers detailed delicate fossil casings manufactured by beard worms in a rock layer just below the Cambrian dated at 551 million years. The buried fossils had chitin-containing worm tubes that look exactly the same as those made by living tube worms. In fact, the complex and intricate structural cross-layering of the fibers is still visible.

One of the most confounding anti-evolutionary features of these fossil worm casings was that they were not mineralized at all. Permineralization is a fossil-forming process in which mineral de-



**Figure 5. Organic fibers from fossilized Sabellidites tube worm casings**

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posits form internal casts of organisms by filling the spaces within tissue. In the case of these tube worm casings, the researchers ruled out preservation by different forms of mineralization. They stated, “Minerals have not replicated any part of the soft tissue and the carbonaceous material of the wall is primary [not replaced], preserving the original layering of the wall, its texture, and fabrics.”<sup>9</sup> The paper included electron micrographs of some of those fabrics’ fossilized fibers. In fact, it described the worm casings as still “flexible, as shown by its soft deformation.” And affirming that original biomolecules were still intact, the authors stated, “The body wall of *S. cambriensis* [fossil worm] comprises a chitin-structural protein composite.”<sup>9</sup> The notion that chitin or any intact biological material like soft tissue can last longer than a million years has no experimental support. The only valid explanation of these fossils is that the tube worms, which we know from living specimens lived at depths of 100 to 10,000 meters in the ocean, obviously would have been amongst the first creatures buried in the global Flood.

### Conclusion

The Cambrian Explosion is a complete evolutionary enigma for a number of important reasons. First, incredibly complex animal life appeared suddenly and without any sign of preceding evolutionary ancestors. Second, many creatures that appeared in the Cambrian layers have living counterparts today that show no sign of evolution—a paradox evolutionists label *living fossils*. Third, tube worms (another living fossil) have been found in rocks just below the Cambrian, and their fossils yielded soft, pliable tissue. The fact that their tissue, along with many other examples, is still soft and undecayed indicates they were buried only thousands of years ago in the global Flood described in Genesis.

Thus, according to a model of progressive burial by ecological zonation, we see that the Cambrian layers were the first to be deposited near the beginning of the global Flood in the sedimentary rock strata known by geologists as the Sauk Megasequence.<sup>10</sup> The evidence provided by Cambrian fossils continues to say “no” to evolutionary expectations. ✂

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Dr. Tomkins is Director of Research at the Institute for Creation Research and earned his Ph.D. in genetics from Clemson University.



And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

# Osteostracans Aren't Ancestors

## article highlights

- God created humans as unique living souls from the beginning.
- This counters evolution, which claims we descended from lower life forms like jawless osteostracans.
- These “remarkable” fish show up fully formed with a “sophisticated nervous system.”
- The fossil record supports the Genesis creation account.



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Genesis 2:7 states that man became a “living soul” (Hebrew *nephesh chayyâh*) when God breathed into him “the breath of life.”<sup>1</sup> Therefore, naturalism cannot be true. If it were, then humans would instead have inexplicably acquired some kind of *nephesh* through a gradual evolutionary descent from our alleged ancestors.

Since Scripture informs us so clearly that life originated with the Creator rather than through random natural processes, we can confidently examine evolutionary claims and find them insufficient to doubt our Creator’s Word. For instance, look at the osteostracans, bizarre fish-like creatures with about 200 species. They have a jawless head covered by a bony shield, the nature of which “is still unclear.”<sup>2</sup> Not surprisingly, they suddenly appear in the fossil record as fully developed Osteostraci.

The origin of the Osteostraci is much more mysterious than their disappearance. An investigator who seeks to know the steps by which these forms come into existence finds himself confronting one of the most perplexing problems in the study of vertebrate evolution.<sup>3</sup>

There is nothing simple about these sophisticated creatures—their morphology (form or appearance) is described as “remarkable,”<sup>4</sup> and they have a “sophisticated nervous system.”<sup>4</sup> With their secular worldview, however, evolutionists say this creature was the predecessor of humans. A recent article describing the ecological diversity of Osteostraci states no fewer than five times that these aquatic animals were our ancient ancestors<sup>5</sup> (as if repetition can turn something into a scientific fact).

If anything, the article inadvertently supports the creation model. It overturns the classical evolutionary tale of jawed vertebrates “driving their jawless relatives (osteostracans) to extinction.”<sup>5</sup> It instead describes—using computer simulations—how osteostracans were designed to interact with currents of water in a remarkable way.

These experiments revealed the bizarre spikes and spines that ornamented the heads of these jawless vertebrates were actually

hydrodynamic adaptations, passively generating lift from water currents flowing over the body. The varying head shapes of different species allowed them to adapt to different

positions, some high, others low, within the water. Our ancient ancestors were already ecologically diverse, long before the evolution of their jawed vertebrate relatives.<sup>5</sup>

Creationists maintain that all diversities of jawed and jawless aquatic creatures lived together, occupying different ecological niches. Jawless animals never evolved into a jawed condition. In the face of juxtaposing evidence, secular scientists are required to concede that the theory of such a strange transition “is more complex than previously thought.”<sup>5</sup>

In addition, Dr. Carlos Martínez-Pérez, a researcher from the University of Valencia in Spain, states:

Our simulations reveal that the different species of osteostracans show equally different hydrodynamic efficiencies. Some of them performed better when moving close to the sea floor or riverbed while others performed better when swimming freely in the water.<sup>5</sup>

Like *Tiktaalik*,<sup>6</sup> God designed the osteostracans to move into and fill specific ecological niches: “The different species’ body shapes are adapted to different environments, revealing distinct lifestyles among these groups of jawless early vertebrates.”<sup>5</sup>

Instead of the osteostracans being “our ancient ancestors,” we can conclude that these fascinating creatures were well-designed by God for a place in the aquatic ecosystem of the pre-Flood world. Human life, as Genesis states, was directly God’s creation. ✎

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Mr. Sherwin is Research Associate at the Institute for Creation Research and earned his M.A. in zoology from the University of Northern Colorado.



# Are We Living in a Computer Simulation?

SCOTT ARLEDGE AND BRIAN THOMAS, PH.D.

**T**he odds that we are in base reality is one in billions,” says famed inventor Elon Musk.<sup>1</sup> He reasons that if humans continue the current trend of technological advancement, we’ll develop the ability to simulate a universe inside a computer, and perhaps we are all inside one today. A recent NBC News poll reported that 56% of respondents believed it was likely we’re in a simulated universe.<sup>2</sup>

Top groups like Google, MIT, and Oxford are all actively pursuing this technology. Oxford professor Nick Bostrom leads simulation theory and outlines how humans are developing technologies that integrate with body systems.<sup>3</sup> In time, this will effectively cure disease and even prolong our lives. We also might use incredible processing power and artificial intelligence (AI) to either become superintelligent or create AI that becomes a superintelligent being that takes over. Futurists refer to this as the posthuman stage. In this scheme, such posthuman beings will decide to simulate human evolutionary history.

## The Real You

There’s one catch. Becoming posthuman implies that “you” are just a brain and that consciousness consists merely of neural networks. If so, then circuitry and code could replace your brain. Dr. Bostrom states, “It could be the case that the vast majority of minds like ours do not belong to the original race but rather to people simulated by the advanced descendants of an original race.”<sup>3</sup>

If we’re just brains, someone could build machines to simulate or become conscious beings that weren’t created by God. However, the Bible reveals you are more than neurons firing in a brain; you have both body and soul. Otherwise, Jesus wouldn’t have admonished His disciples, “And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul” (Matthew 10:28).

Scripture is clear that it’s possible for your spirit to be out of the body.<sup>4</sup> Since your brain is part of the body, then your brain is not “you.” Rather, it seems to be an organ that can function as an interface between the real you and your body. Even the best AI hardware with twice the synapses of the brain—complete with advanced software—will never become a human being. Earthly devices cannot simulate spirits. The simulation argument is over before it even gets started.

The simulation argument takes for granted the philosophy

called *materialism*, which teaches that only the physical is real. Simulation proponents thus reject the idea that humans have an immaterial spirit. They conclude that a spirit wouldn’t be of this universe, yet they appeal to a server running outside of the simulated universe. By definition their imaginary server isn’t part of that universe and is therefore a supernatural server. The simulation argument is self-defeating.

## Evolution’s Dirty Little Secret

The popular simulation concept exposes some of evolution’s inherently religious aspects. An upward trajectory of human development from single-cell organisms to post-humans merely extends evolution to the next step—we keep improving to become superintelligent, capable of writing the code to simulate an entire universe.

Whoever writes such a code would need to know how the entire universe works—i.e., have godlike intelligence and ability. Psalm 19:1 should then say the heavens declare the glory of—the programmer. An evolved human “god” replaces Jesus Christ as Creator, and Jesus becomes an unimportant part of the simulation past and not Creator God.

Some simulation proponents even describe a simulated afterlife of rewards for good works and punishments for bad behavior. How ironic—the evolutionary system designed to explain the origin of the

universe without the Creator and touted as scientifically superior to all other systems ends up being just another works-based righteousness religion that turns humanity into God.

You are not mere matter. You have the breath of life given and sustained by God. What is reality? Jesus is the Creator of all things—including you. ✍

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Mr. Arledge is Research Coordinator and Dr. Thomas is Research Associate at the Institute for Creation Research. Dr. Thomas earned his Ph.D. in paleobiology from the University of Liverpool.



### article highlights

- Some people think technology will enable us to create a computer-simulated universe—and that we might be living in one now.
- In that scenario “you” are just neurons firing in a brain, but the Bible indicates you have both body and soul.
- The simulation concept involves a godlike “programmer” and a continually upward evolutionary trajectory.
- A simulated universe is just another way to explain origins without Jesus, the real Creator.

# Volunteering God's Creation Truth

LAUREN PENNINGTON



**ICR Discovery Center for Science & Earth History**

1830 Royal Lane  
Dallas, TX 75229  
ICRdiscoverycenter.org



“Welcome to the ICR Discovery Center!” Kerry greets the guests with a smile as they walk into the exhibit hall. “Is this your first time here?” Over the last year or so, Kerry has interacted with thousands of the visitors who come to this special Dallas museum to learn how science confirms creation. She was the first volunteer to join the Discovery Center team back in 2019, and since then she has contributed more than 400 volunteer hours.

Several times a week, Kerry comes to ICR to engage with guests, guide them through various parts of the exhibit hall, or run the planetarium shows. She delves into many ICR resources on her own time, growing in her knowledge of creation science and then sharing with guests what she’s learned. She even keeps one of ICR’s books or an issue of *Acts & Facts* with her during her shift to review while she waits for the next visitor to come along. Her cheerful, Christ-focused

attitude encourages the hearts of many who interact with her—guests, staff, and fellow volunteers.

Kerry is not the only member of her family to invest in ICR’s ministry. Not long after she began volunteering, her husband, Jon, offered his time and talent as a retired engineer. Jon’s biggest contribution is behind the scenes—helping with various technical and mechanical projects.

“Jon is always willing to help when we need him—day or night,” says ICR Facilities Manager Michael Lane. Jon also assists with a variety of projects and repairs around ICR’s main campus. “No matter what the job is,” Lane continues, “he always does it with a good attitude—whether it’s climbing into the belly of the [mechanical] *T. rex* or power-washing the park area.” Jon even tapped into his engineering background to develop a custom LED light system for the entry and exit hallways near one of the Discovery Center exhibits.

Jon and Kerry love ICR, but their sights are set even higher. “[Jon] always says he is [serving here] for the Lord,” Lane states. And Kerry’s goal is very much the same: They both want to honor God with their resources, and they do that by pouring their time and energy into ICR.

“This is my ministry,” Kerry has said many times. To her, volunteering at ICR is not merely an alternative to other activities or pastimes—it’s a tangible way to reach into people’s lives with Christ’s truth and love, to encourage believers and lovingly challenge unbelievers.

This same goal characterizes many ICR volunteer team members. Each day the Discovery Center is open, they arrive ready to take part in ICR’s mission: to proclaim Jesus’ truth in creation. The evidence for biblical creation is “clearly seen” throughout our universe (Romans 1:20), and the Discovery Center is a powerful way ICR is getting the word out. Our volunteer team makes this crucial learning experience personal for each and every guest.

Without Jon and Kerry’s faithful service—and the dedication of many others like them who give their time, energy, talents, and other resources—ICR’s ministry would not be possible. We are thankful for all of you who partner with us, whether through volunteering, praying, donating, or anything else you do as part of the work we’re doing for the Kingdom.

If you live in the Dallas/Fort Worth area and are interested in ICR’s volunteer program, please send an email to [volunteer@ICR.org](mailto:volunteer@ICR.org) for more information about getting involved. We look forward to hearing from you! ✉

*Ms. Pennington is Volunteer Coordinator at the ICR Discovery Center for Science & Earth History.*



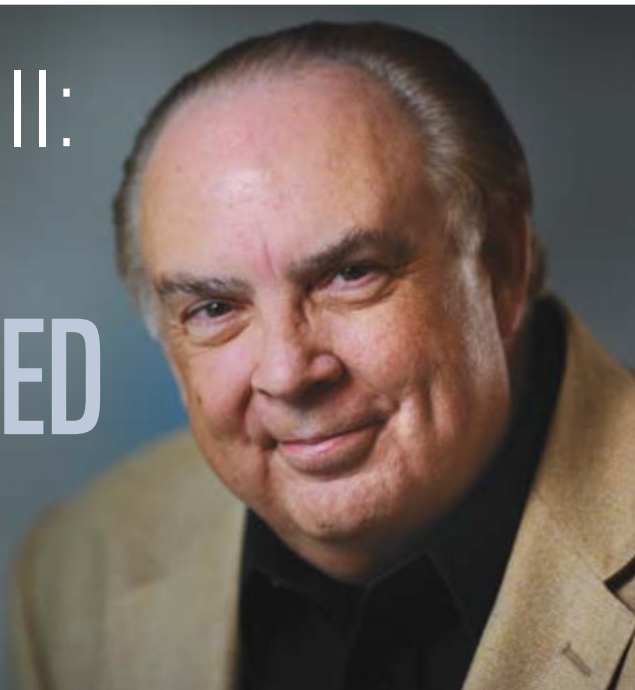
*ICR volunteers Kerry and Jon*





# DR. HENRY M. MORRIS III: A KINGDOM-FOCUSED LIFE

CHRISTY HARDY



**D**r. Henry M. Morris III has been at the heart of the Institute for Creation Research's ministry work for decades, using his gifts as a leader, speaker, and writer to proclaim the truth of God's Word and how science affirms creation. Some might say a passion for creation ministry runs in his family. His father, Dr. Henry M. Morris—widely known as the father of modern creationism—founded ICR in 1970, and his brother Dr. John Morris served as ICR President from 1996 to 2014 and as President Emeritus after that.

After his years of faithful service, Dr. Morris, known affectionately around the office as Dr. Henry, will retire from his ICR leadership position at the end of this month. We'd like to take some time to reflect on the many ways the Lord used his talents, skills, and experience to expand ICR's work during a pivotal time in the ministry's history.



*Dr. Henry and his father at an ICR fireside chat*

## Faith-Filled Beginnings

His impact on ICR can be traced to his roots growing up in the Morris family. His parents' influence left an indelible mark on him, shown particularly in his love for the Bible. Reflecting on his childhood, Dr. Henry said:

The hustle and bustle of the Morris manor was usually right at the threshold of chaos. Except at breakfast and dinner...those table times were family times, and we *always* read from the Bible and prayed together....All of us had the freedom (in fact, were often encouraged) to ask questions about what we were reading. The Bible always had an answer. That was the way we learned to trust the Scriptures.

When he was 17, he joined the U.S. Army. Though he went through a season of testing limits and wandering, the Lord ultimately brought him back to his faith-filled beginnings. He watched his father leave a prestigious position at a renowned university to devote his life to creation ministry. Dr. Henry said, "For him to give all that up to serve the Kingdom was a startling thing. I remember thinking, 'Boy, I just wonder if I can ever have that kind of commitment to just cut bait and let the Lord control.'"

Dr. Henry went on to earn four de-

grees, including a D.Min. from Luther Rice Seminary and the Presidents and Key Executives MBA from Pepperdine University. Over the years, he served as a college professor, administrator, and business executive, as well as pastoring two churches.

## A Strategic Move

Dr. Henry joined ICR in 2000 as Executive Vice President for Strategic Ministries. In 2004, he and his wife, Jan, moved to the Dallas area to prepare for the relocation of ICR from Santee, California, to that more central region of the United States. Once they found a place to live, their home functioned as a hub of the Texas "branch" for about two years, with the Dallas staff working from their living room until an office building could be located.

In 2007, Dr. Henry was appointed Chief Executive Officer and oversaw the full move of ICR's headquarters from Santee to Dallas. Only a few California-based employees moved along with the ministry, so Dr. Henry had the job of recruiting over 40 new staff members and scientists. Of this time, he said, "For all practical purposes, we became a new organization when we moved. It was an interesting challenge trying to find and hire and rebuild the organization during those first half-dozen years or so."

In spite of the challenges, Dr. Henry kept ICR's focus on its founding principles—trusting the accuracy and authority of the Bible, honoring Christ as Creator, advancing new research, and seeking God's power through prayer. He said:

When the Lord asked me to step in and take the responsibility for ICR, I made the commitment—not just to the Lord personally but to the growing staff professionally—that in Him was where our loyalty would lie. It was not to the founder, not to the position, not to the bylaws (though those things ought to be a reflection of that), but our commitment was to the authority of Scripture....And the Lord has honored that over the decades immensely.

### Building the Team

Between 2007 and 2010, Dr. Henry worked to establish a new generation of creation scientists who would be eager to uncover new evidence for biblical creation. The most important criteria he looked for were an unwavering commitment to Scripture and strong technical training in a scientific field. He said:

I was looking for men and women in their early professional lives that had achieved a Ph.D. at a recognizable discipline in school but who were also solid, unquestionable believers in the authority of Scripture....We interviewed quite a few, and from that the Lord gave us a bunch who are still with us today.

### Expanding the Ministry

Dr. Henry's most visible work often involved the enhancement and expansion of ICR's ministry outreach. For example, Dr. Henry made the decision to expand *Acts & Facts* from a small newsletter format into today's 24-page full-color magazine packed with creation articles and resources, which greatly broadened its appeal.

He was also instrumental in the push to create a DVD series churches could use to introduce their members to creation truth without the time and expense of bringing

in an ICR speaker. He said, "I became convinced that we needed to do something that would offer the smaller churches a quality educational resource without the expense of funding a seminar. That generated the idea of having a collection of these short, 20-minute, movie-quality episodes."

The project required considerable funding, and ICR donors generously pitched in to produce the groundbreaking 12-episode DVD series *Unlocking the Mysteries of Genesis*. This DVD series offers answers to the most pressing and controversial topics of faith and science. Twenty thousand copies have been distributed, and under Dr. Henry's leadership ICR has since produced the four-episode DVD series *Uncovering the Truth about Dinosaurs, Made in His Image, and The Universe: A Journey Through God's Grand Design*.

### Encouraging the Believers

As a passionate and engaging speaker, Dr. Henry often joined the ICR science team at creation seminars and conferences. He communicated the importance of the authority and accuracy of God's Word and exhorted Christian believers not to compromise but to uphold Genesis as a true account of our beginnings.

A prolific writer, Dr. Henry authored numerous *Acts & Facts* articles, *Days of Praise* devotionals, and books, including *The Big Three: Major Events that Changed History Forever; Exploring the Evidence for Creation; 5 Reasons to Believe in Recent Creation; Pulling Down Strongholds: Achieving Spiritual Victory through Strategic Offense; A Firm Foundation: Devotional Insights to Help You*



Dr. Henry signs copies of *The Book of Beginnings*

*Know, Believe, and Defend Truth; Six Days of Creation; Your Origins Matter; and Unlocking the Mysteries of Genesis*. His most extensive written work is the 750-page commentary *The Book of Beginnings: A Practical Guide to Understanding Genesis*.

### A Greater Vision

But Dr. Henry's biggest undertaking was the ICR Discovery Center for Science & Earth History. It took years for this vision of a creation-based Dallas museum to come to pass as ICR encountered various obstacles along the way. He said:

Some kind of place to showcase our evidence and research had been on my mind—and on ICR's mind as a matter of fact—for decades....But the vision for something greater germinated when I saw the announcement of the Perot Museum in Dallas. The lead article...back in 2008, I think...said that they were going to present the wonders of evolution.



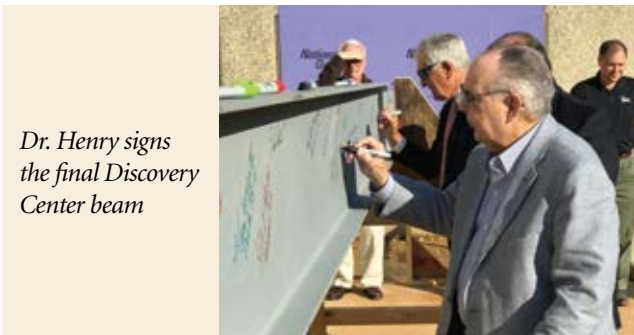
ICR staff prays at the future Discovery Center site

He was intimately involved in the plans and decisions to ensure that the Discovery Center reflected ICR's commitment to solid science and the ultimate authority of Scripture. It was his hope and expectation that the Discovery Center would equip Christian believers with the scientific evidence that confirms biblical creation and refutes evolution. He wanted the new facility to build visitors' confidence in the Bible, as well as serve as a training ground for Christian pastors and educators. He had a heart to reach homeschool families and other students ranging from elementary through college.



*The April 2017 Discovery Center groundbreaking ceremony*

Since the Discovery Center’s grand opening in 2019, thousands of visitors have already come to explore the wonders of God’s creation and gain confidence in the veracity of His Word. Dr. Henry said, “It’s been an absolute delight and joy to see it birthed from a scrawling idea on the back of a lunch napkin to something that is really significant.”



*Dr. Henry signs the final Discovery Center beam*

## Committed to the Kingdom

Dr. Henry’s steadfast leadership has carried ICR through an era marked by renewed vision and expansion, and he faithfully upheld the ministry’s commitment to the authority of Scripture, which has been key since its founding. Though this marks the close of this particular role at ICR, he has no intention of abandoning his passion for creation ministry. In fact, he plans to continue writing for ICR part-time.

Scripture tells us to honor our leaders and those who have provided a faithful example for others to follow. Hebrews 13:7 says to “remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct.” It’s our joy at ICR to give honor where honor is due. We are deeply thankful for Dr. Henry’s impact on ICR, his sacrificial investment in creation ministry, and his example of a life committed to the truth of God’s Word and the work of the Kingdom. ✍️

*Ms. Hardy is an editor at the Institute for Creation Research.*



“

Very rarely do you see somebody accomplish what Henry has done with ICR, which is to take another foundation (in this case, his father’s), maintain it, and build on it. And achieve great improvements and great success, but not change the essence of who ICR is.

— Dan Mitchell, Chairman, ICR Board of Trustees

“

He’s sincere. He’s humble. And I think most importantly, he’s a man committed to prayer and to God’s leadership in everything that he does.

— Dan Farrell, ICR Board of Trustees

“

Dr. Morris assembled an extremely powerful team of research scientists. The quality of research that ICR is accomplishing at the end of his tenure is as good as anything that we have ever produced by a staff that is powerfully unified in heart and mind and accomplishing our mission.

— Dr. Randy Guliuzza, ICR President

“

It’s been really encouraging to see Dr. Henry’s trust in the Lord . . . and I think God has blessed ICR because of that trust in Him to provide.

— Beau Patterson, ICR Chief Financial Officer

“

He’s got business experience, he’s got theology experience, he’s got the heart of a pastor, and you put all of those things together and that makes a really good leader of an organization like this.

— Chris Kinman, Director of the ICR Discovery Center

“

I’m really impressed by how much time he spends in prayer for the staff of ICR. I think that’s really commendable and something that’s really stood out to me.

— Dr. Jake Hebert, ICR Research Associate

“

He can speak, but he’s not just a talker, he’s a doer. And the reason why we have a Discovery Center here in Dallas—and even why we have a Dallas operation—is because Dr. Henry had the vision. But he also followed through on that vision and made it happen.

— Dr. Jim Johnson, ICR Chief Academic Officer

“

I think the Lord prepared him in his willingness to try things that haven’t been done before, his temperament that “we can get this done.”

— Rebecca Morris Barber, ICR Discovery Center Associate

article highlights

- If you're a young person interested in a career in creation science, you have a unique opportunity and challenging path ahead of you.
- First, discover which area of science most interests you by absorbing all the information you can.
- Your best college choice may be secular if it better fits your goals.
- Above all, continually pray for guidance and protection.

## Q: How Do I Prepare for Creation Ministry?

Many of today's creation researchers can testify that information from the Institute for Creation Research sparked a burning, lifelong passion for creation ministry. Based on messages we receive, the same is true for many of the young people reading this article. What steps can you take to make this desire a reality?

First, learn as much as you can about the creation-evolution controversy. Read, read, read! Obviously, ICR.org and *Acts & Facts* are great resources, but you should also read in-depth papers published by ICR scientists. Consider joining the Creation Research Society (CRS). Doing so will give you access to the *Creation Research Society Quarterly* technical journal and other CRS resources. CRS members can mentor you and provide exciting opportunities for cutting-edge creation research, perhaps even while you are in college or graduate school. Moreover, CRS has an annual meeting in late summer that provides wonderful opportunities to interact with leading creation scientists. Scholarships are available, allowing full-time students to join cost-free ([creationresearch.org](http://creationresearch.org)).

Second, find out what area of science

interests you and find a school that has a strong program in that area. For instance, you may want to major in physics but are particularly interested in astronomy. Not every physics program emphasizes astronomy, so you'll want to find one that does. What good is attending a prestigious school if it doesn't offer research opportunities that interest you? That's a prescription for a miserable experience!

If young earth creationist (YEC) institutions don't have programs in your field, don't rule out attending a secular school. The evidence strongly confirms creation, so a young creationist student should have no fear of encountering the strongest arguments for evolution. All of the science staff at ICR attended secular schools, and we did fine. However, be aware that discrimination is considerably more likely if you major in fields with strong evolutionary influences—concentrations such as geology, paleontology, or biology. You should be honest, but it's best to maintain a low profile about your creationist beliefs while obtaining your degree. Creation ministries definitely need future scholars in all areas of science.

If you are thinking of attending a Christian school, I strongly recommend you

exercise due diligence. Don't be afraid to ask probing questions of the staff and faculty to find out what they *really* believe regarding creation. Did God make the universe in six days? Were these literal 24-hour days? Was there truly a globe-covering flood in the days of Noah? Should we expect to find evidence for recent creation and the Flood? Does it matter? Some Christian schools are effectively secular when it comes their non-literal views of Genesis history and acceptance of evolutionary ideas.

Christian colleges or seminaries may be significantly influenced in some way by the evolutionist leaven, including institutions with reputations for rock-solid orthodoxy. At some YEC universities, undergraduate students may not be fully educated in the evidence for recent creation. However, other professors at those schools might be doing outstanding, cutting-edge creation research. So, depending on your situation, a given Christian school (even one that is explicitly YEC) could either be a good or a bad fit.

Above all, pray for the Lord's guidance. Choosing a college or graduate school is a big decision, and it should be a matter of prayer. May God give you wisdom as you seek His path for you. ✞

*Dr. Hebert is Research Associate at the Institute for Creation Research and earned his Ph.D. in physics from the University of Texas at Dallas.*



# December, Winter Weather, and Washington

Wintery-mix weather dominated Christmas night in 1776 as General George Washington and his boat-ferried troops crossed the Delaware River to surprise the British and Hessian mercenary forces encamped at Trenton.<sup>1</sup> It was freezing cold, with “nor’easter” winds blasting the night in what felt like, to one soldier, a “hurricane.” The sneak attack was brazenly bold and stunningly successful—Washington’s troops quickly overran the British garrison, capturing 1,000 of 1,400 soldiers and obtaining much-needed supplies while losing only three Americans.

But Washington didn’t need to fight this battle or any of the war’s battles. As a plantation owner with lucrative tidewater fisheries, Washington could’ve conveniently stayed home at his Mount Vernon plantation, growing field crops and netting literally millions of Potomac River fish.<sup>2</sup> But Washington cared more for his fellow colonists’ security and liberty, so he sacrificed his convenience to give selfless service.

What Washington did at the finite and fallible level, God Himself did—by His incarnation in what we call Christmas—to an infinite and flawless degree when our Creator came into His own creation as the Redeemer.

He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own,

and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name. (John 1:10-12)

The Lord Jesus could have “stayed home” as we, His human creatures, self-destructed on Earth. But Christ chose to leave convenience and comfort and the glories of heaven to insert Himself into His own space-time creation to redeem us from our sins and our sorrows.<sup>3</sup>

What Christ did 2,000 years ago was incomparably more bold and surprising—and everlastingly impactful—than General Washington’s Christmas-night crossing of the Delaware in 1776. Christ’s incarnation set history’s stage for His substitutionary crucifixion, burial, and resurrection.<sup>4</sup>

George Washington’s life also reminds us of another life-or-death benefit that Christ has given us, without which none of us could ever know or enjoy God. Washington’s very life is illustrative proof of God’s earlier providence—centuries before—when Washington’s own family lineage was at risk in another battle.

What if there had been no George Washington to “father” America?...His fate was at mortal risk on October 14, 1066, at the Battle of Hastings, where his own forefather the Norman duke William succeeded in conquering England. If the battle had gone the other way and William the Conqueror had

## article highlights

- George Washington was wealthy and could’ve stayed home and let others fight for freedom, but he instead chose to sacrifice for his countrymen.
- God could have stayed home, but He chose to become one of us and save us.
- Just as God providentially ordained events for Christ’s appearing, He ordains history today for His purposes.

died, then he would not have been alive to have a son named Henry (England’s Henry I), who was born two years after the Battle of Hastings. Since George Washington is a direct descendant of Henry I, Washington wouldn’t have been born roughly 700 years later.<sup>5</sup>

God’s providential workings at the 1066 battle to preserve the lineage that led to George Washington’s later presence that 1776 Christmas night are but one instance of His larger work in human history. Before Christ’s coming at Bethlehem to become our personal Redeemer, He was first our personal Creator who carefully coordinated the many historical events in prior generations needed to bring the incarnation about. Without Him, we ourselves would never have arrived on planet Earth!<sup>6</sup>

Jesus is the Reason for this season. He came as Savior. And as Creator, He providentially orchestrates procreation so we’re born as the exact humans we are. ❧

### References

1. Recognizing errors of logic is important in creation apologetics. To illustrate, recently some have committed the logical fallacy of oversimplification by falsely caricaturing George Washington as something less than an American hero.
2. Losing, B. J. 1870. *The Home of Washington; Or, Mount Vernon and its Associations, Historical, Biographical, and Pictorial*. Hartford, CT: A. S. Hale & Company, 67-68, 82-83, 210. The author thanks Kevin Turley of Landmark Events for these American history insights. See MountVernon.org.
3. Philippians 2:6-11; Hebrews 2:9-10.
4. Romans 5:8; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4.
5. Johnson, J. J. S. 2012. Christmas, Vikings, and the Providence of God. *Acts & Facts*. 41 (12): 8-10. England’s Dr. Bill Cooper provided helpful scholarship with this biogenetic research.
6. Psalm 102:18

Dr. Johnson is Associate Professor of Apologetics and Chief Academic Officer at the Institute for Creation Research.



# PERHAPS TODAY!

When I was a young boy, I remember a small, humble plaque that hung on the wall in my grandfather's ICR office directly opposite his desk. Painted in brown with ivory-colored words, it boldly proclaimed "Perhaps Today!" For those who knew



ICR founder Dr. Henry Morris personally, and even for the multitudes who only knew him through his writings, this simple phrase captured the essence of what drove him. Everything he said or did—whether in a book, article, lecture, or private conversation with a grandchild—was ultimately

focused on the much-anticipated return of our Creator, the Lord Jesus, who will set all things right.

And yet, in one of the great paradoxes of Scripture, Christ instructed us to "do business till I come" (Luke 19:13), even as we "see the Day approaching" (Hebrews 10:25). Thus, it's clear we're to continue working faithfully, even if the soon return of Christ would bring sweet relief to our toil here on Earth (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17). Granddad believed this with all his heart, and he set an excellent example for those who remain by working diligently up to the very moment the Lord called him home to glory.

As he so often reminded us in his writings, both the dominion mandate and Great Commission were never rescinded or altered. These provide Christians with a compelling reason to continue steadfastly in the work of the Kingdom. ICR was established on this same premise. Through scientific research and education, we strive to further mankind's dominion over the earth so that others may under-

stand the wonders of His majestic creation. By communicating these truths, we proclaim the Creator's unspeakable "love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

This Christmas season, let's not forget God's most precious gift to us. In these troubled times, fresh on the heels of a turbulent election and in the midst of a lingering pandemic, God's people can rest in the fact that the Lord is in control and loved us so deeply that He willingly died for us! While our nation may be undergoing great uncertainty and financial turmoil, we can be confident that He owns it all and "shall supply all [our] need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19).

### article highlights

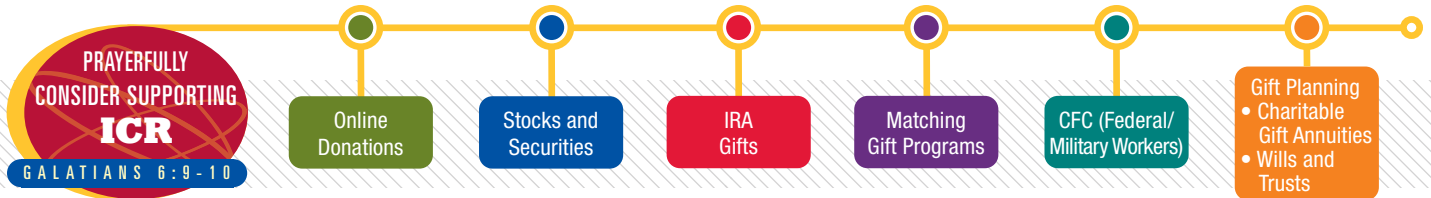
- As we wait for the glorious return of Christ we have work to do—we have a gospel to proclaim!
- The Institute for Creation Research will keep proclaiming Christ Jesus as Creator and Savior through both the good times and the trials.
- Please stand alongside us and support us in prayer and with your gifts.

ICR claims this promise on a daily basis. While our needs are many, we know they're insignificant in the grand scale of eternity. We should cast all our "care upon Him" (1 Peter 5:7) and focus on the work that remains to be done while He tarries.

If the Lord has blessed you this Christmas season and the work of ICR has encouraged you in some way, please share generously so that our ministry may continue in strength and vigor. "Perhaps Today!" may indeed turn out to be *today* (and what a glorious day that will be!)—but until that time, we invite you to do business with us till He comes.

On behalf of the entire staff of ICR, I wish you a most glorious and blessed Christmas as we rejoice in Him "who brings good news, who proclaims peace, who brings glad tidings of good things, who proclaims salvation, who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns!'" (Isaiah 52:7). Amen! ✍

Mr. Morris is Director of Donor Relations at the Institute for Creation Research.



Visit [ICR.org/donate](https://www.icr.org/donate) and explore how you can support the vital work of ICR ministries. Or contact us at [stewardship@icr.org](mailto:stewardship@icr.org) or **800.337.0375** for personal assistance. ICR is a recognized 501(c)(3) nonprofit ministry, and all gifts are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

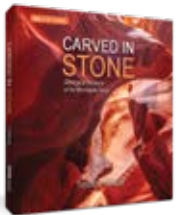


DNA and proteins have many specific functions. DNA codes for proteins that subsequently are used as enzymes, structures within the cells, production and metabolism of carbohydrates and fats, energy production, and probably many other functions....What boggles my mind is how the facts noted above accomplish the blueprint and finished product of a fertilized egg to a normal newborn



**None of the above functions tell me how most newborns have a nose in the right shape and in the right place. None of these functions tell me why most newborns have a perfectly shaped and functioning four-chamber heart.** Where does the almost always perfect blueprint come from?...It seems to me that the most accurate statement might be “you knitted me together in my mother’s womb.”

— D. E.



I just finished reading [Dr. Tim Clarey’s] book *Carved in Stone* and am writing to tell you how interesting I found it. I had only a slight

acquaintance with the geologic megasequences before, so your book was quite an eye-opener on that score. I particularly liked the way you had directly taken your data from the thousands of bore holes to build up your picture of rapid accumulation of the geologic column. **You put together a remarkable account of how everything fits together in terms of a young earth and the Flood.**

**The book is good science as well as being a great builder of faith in Genesis....**

I shall be recommending your book to all who will listen to me.

— J. C. W., Ph.D.



I graduated from NNC in 1965. I had become a theological evolutionist. In the early 1980s, Pastor Jerry Hannoum brought ICR to Vacaville for a week of lectures. **That completely changed me to a fervent creationist.** I have supported ICR with small donations since that time. Thank you for holding fast to the inspired word of our Living God.

— P. R.

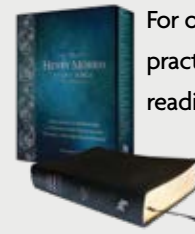


This place is amazing! I had no idea it was here until I just happened to drive by recently. I just took my whole family today, and we had a blast! The [ICR] Discovery Center is absolutely top notch and as good or better than any other museum I’ve ever been to. There are all kinds of multimedia exhibits, which really helps capture the kids’ attention. The robotic dinos are really impressive as well. **My favorite exhibit was the talking paintings**



**of the fathers of science! It’s so great to see a biblically based science center that shows solid evidence for the truth of creation and gives glory to God!** We loved it, and I recommend everyone take their family here for a wonderful day out. Extremely clean and nice facilities. The kids will love it, and so will the adults!

— T. C.



For over 50 years I have practiced the habit of reading the Bible every day. For much of that time I have been blessed by

reading articles and publications from ICR. This year I am enjoying Bible reading more than ever before, for two reasons. One is my retirement last spring, which has resulted in a much more relaxed schedule. **The second is that I started reading from the Henry Morris Study Bible, which I purchased a few years ago. This has been a great supplement to my Bible-reading time, being able to read Dr. Morris’ notes.** I thank God many times for Dr. Morris, his life, his faith, and his ministry.

— A. P.

**Editor’s note:** The final sentence on page 11 of the October *Acts & Facts* should have read “The child cannot be born before the parent.”

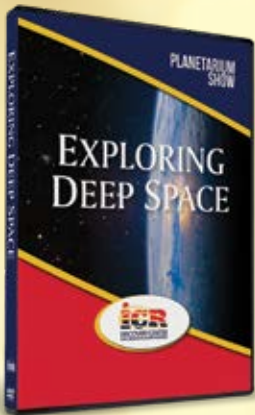
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# CREATION GIFTS



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