

# ACTS & FACTS

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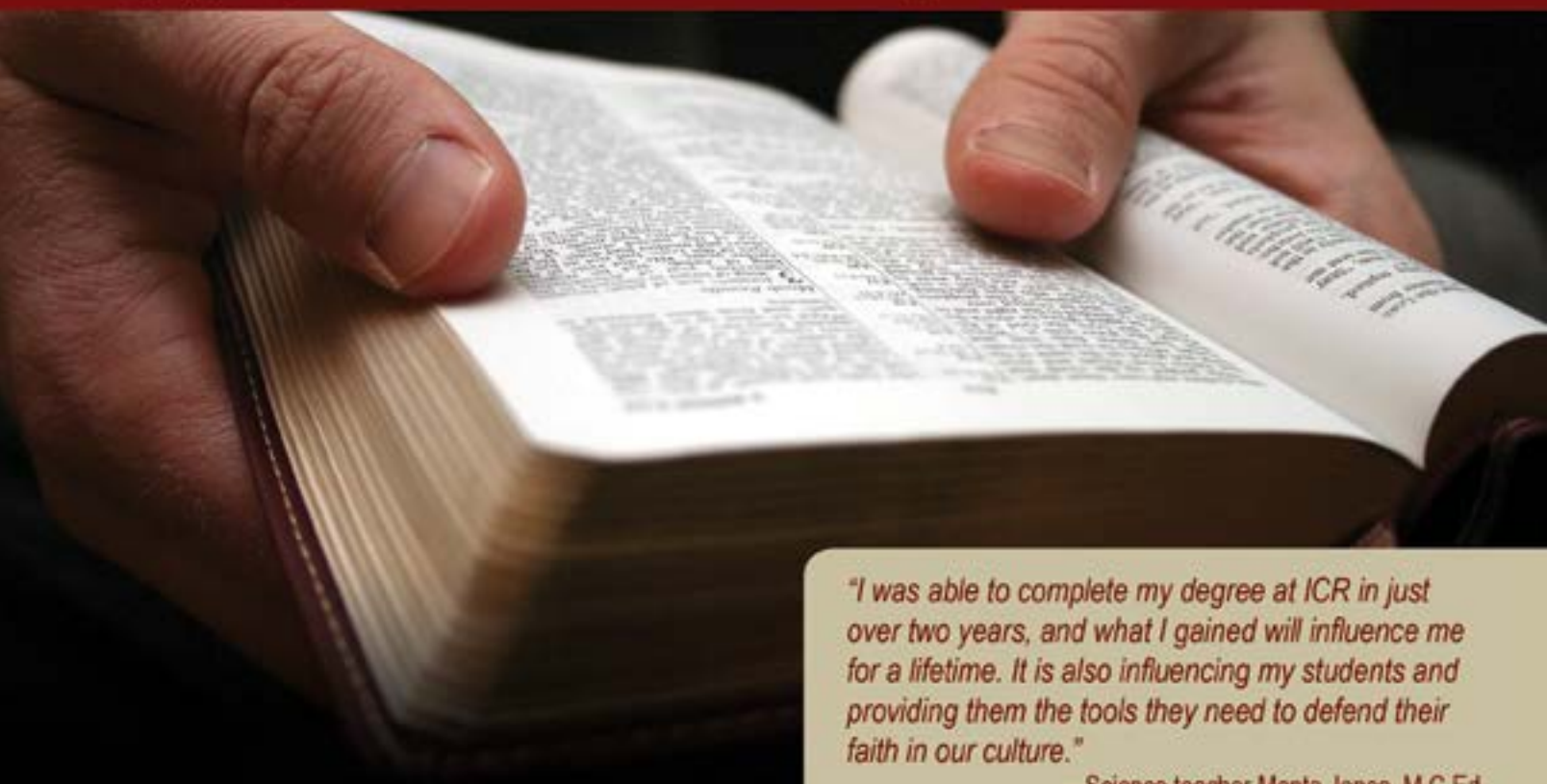
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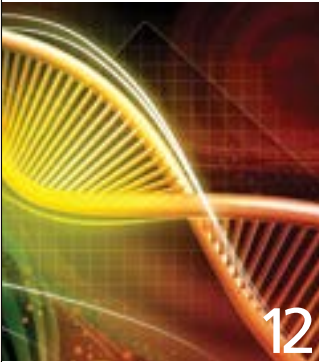
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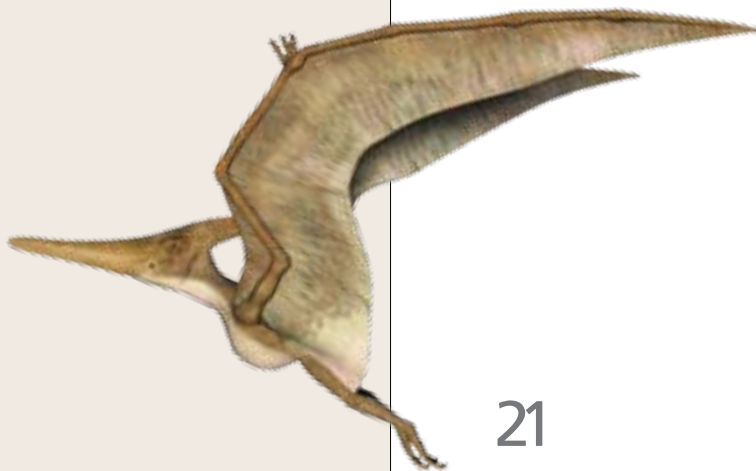
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## A Lifestyle of Learning

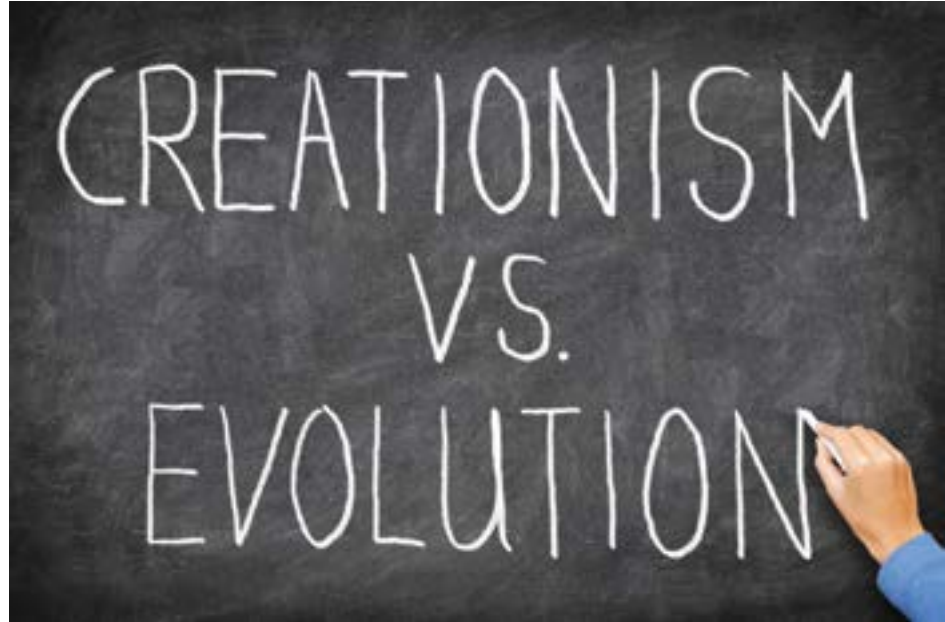
We can all probably remember a time when we heard a fellow classmate respond to a teacher's assignment with "Will this be on the test?" Meaning, *if it's not on the test, I'm not going to waste my time learning it.* And I must confess, during semesters with heavy courseloads, I might've been guilty of asking the same question.

When the school year resumes this month, and you experience the time constraints of a busy schedule, you'll want to be prepared since you or students you know will likely be bombarded with false information in the classroom. How can you scrutinize the science data with objectivity (see Dr. Vernon Cupps' article on page 13)? Approach the subject matter with an open mind and be willing to examine everything that teachers and textbooks tell you. Discard the assumption that evolution and a billions-of-years-old universe are based on facts and find out for yourself what the evidence really reveals.

Get ready—if you attend a public school, you will almost certainly be taught that evolution is akin to good science or even that it's the only *real* science. Equip yourself now to better understand the issues that will be coming your way.

Once you find yourself caught in the whirlwind of school activities, it will be tempting to just accept what the teacher says as fact because your time is limited. Researching and verifying everything you're taught will be difficult in the midst of tests and mid-term papers. But if you equip yourself before school starts, you'll be better able to identify the inaccuracies and address them with confidence.

Our resources were developed with you in mind, to provide an honest look at the data, beginning with the foundational books *Guide to Creation Basics* and *Creation Basics & Beyond* and the DVD series *Unlocking the Mysteries of Genesis*. ICR offers numerous resources—books, thousands of online news and *Acts & Facts* articles, *That's a Fact* videos, and more—that address the fallacies of evolution.



As a student or the parent of students, you'll need to do your homework before the semester starts—dig in and review the evidence for creation and evolution, then weigh the facts. Get into the habit of studying the things that will benefit you for a lifetime while you prepare for classes. Practice asking good questions and listening respectfully. If you have the opportunity to share your findings, do so "with a sound reason given in a gentle and respectful manner" (Dr. Henry M. Morris III, page 10).

We also encourage you to look into our School of Biblical Apologetics (SOBA, see page 2). We offer this program to encourage learning at many ages and stages of life with online course offerings to accommodate busy schedules. You'll find that SOBA fosters a love for learning the truths of Scripture and a deepening understanding of biblical truths. Adopting the habit of questioning, researching, and learning beyond what you hear in the classroom will develop into a lifestyle of learning.

*Jayme Durant*

Jayme Durant  
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

# ORIGINAL-TISSUE FOSSILS:

# CREATION'S SILENT ADVOCATES

B R I A N T H O M A S , M . S .

**W**hen the Jewish leaders objected to the celebration of Christ's entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, Jesus commented that if the people did not proclaim Him as the Lord and Messiah even the "stones would immediately cry out" (Luke 19:40).

Well, in this day of denial of the enormous evidence for the accuracy and authority of the Bible, Brian Thomas' article on the silent advocates is a real-life example of the very stones shouting the veracity of God's Word.

Brian is fast becoming an expert on the soft tissue evidence from the stones of Earth where long-dead creatures are crying out on the judgment of the great Flood of Noah's day. The effort to silence the stones' voice has been long and intense, but as we unearth more and more examples they continue to speak more loudly than ever before. Enjoy this informative article and pass it on to others.

*Henry M. Morris III  
Chief Executive Officer  
Institute for Creation Research*

**ICR** often receives passionate social-media feedback on our articles and news posts. For example, we recently reported the discovery of organic protein remains in fossils.<sup>1</sup> Although the secular scientists themselves described these remains as original animal tissue (i.e., unmineralized), one of our readers responded: "They never found soft tissue. They found *preserved* soft tissue. It was mineralized and not organic."

His words sound familiar. Almost without fail, whenever an ICR scientist discusses original tissue in fossils, we hear well-intended ex-

planations of how we got it all wrong—that the fossils in question are actually made of minerals. But they are *not* all mineral—that's the primary point of the technical articles reporting these discoveries. Why do so many have such a hard time accepting these clear observations? Perhaps if more people knew about original-tissue fossil discoveries, they would better understand what fossils really represent.

Evolutionists frequently use the fossil record as "proof" that Earth's history stretches back millions or even billions of years. The overwhelming majority of fossils are mineralized remains or impres-





sions of once-organic, long-dead creatures. Maybe those mineralized fossils could last that long, but that’s not the issue we’re addressing. A completely different class of fossils holds remnants of animal biochemicals like proteins, pigments, and DNA that minerals never replaced, and lab tests indicate that these organic tissue components could not last a million years—that’s what we’re talking about.

Interestingly, the concept of millions of years of “deep time” grew in popularity even as original-tissue fossils were being discovered and described. Deep time refers to a practically endless series of events that supposedly occurred before the appearance of man in the world. Even locked in rocks, original tissues shouldn’t have lasted from way back then until now.

### How Did Deep Time Enter the Culture?

Prominent secular thinkers wove the theory of deep time into Western culture centuries ago. In 1788, Scottish geologist James Hutton suggested that today’s slow and gradual processes might explain past geologic features. His “Theory of the Earth” paper concluded, “The result, therefore, of our present enquiry is, that we find no vestige of a beginning,—no prospect of an end.”<sup>2</sup> But did his “result” come from the data or from a preferred way to interpret those data?

Scottish lawyer Charles Lyell borrowed from Hutton when he wrote his immensely influential book on deep time *Principles of Geology*. He called them principles of geology, but they’re actually arbitrary. For example, he assumed present, slow processes required deep time to form immense rock layers. He ignored evidence for recent and rapid deposition of those layers, including fossils and a lack of expected scars between layers from deep time’s erosion. Lyell wrote a letter to a friend saying, “Free the science from Moses” by having gospel ministers “see at last the mischief and scandal brought on them by Mosaic systems.”<sup>3</sup> “Mosaic systems” clearly refers to Moses’ books—especially Genesis. Perhaps nobody will ever know why Lyell thought Genesis was mischievous or scandalous, but we do know that he labored to completely replace Genesis history with deep time.

### Christians and Secularists Both Assumed Deep Time

In the late 1700s and early 1800s, leading anatomist Georges Cuvier expertly interpreted the anatomies of fossil bones but explained them in terms of deep time. His writing influenced creation scientists like England’s Sir Charles Bell, who in the 1830s wrote a whole book on the human hand. When comparing hands to fossil limb bones of different creatures, Bell admitted, “Not merely do we learn that individual animals...existed at those distant periods: but even the changes which the globe has undergone, in time before all existing records, and before the creation of human beings to inhabit the earth, are opened to our contemplation.”<sup>4</sup> This non-Genesis time concept came from the pen of a man convinced of creation, but not biblical creation.<sup>5</sup> Deep time, fully entrenched in Western thinking for

generations, eventually provided Charles Darwin an expansive canvas upon which to conceive his stories about evolution.

Influential author Robert Chambers similarly wrote in 1887, “This is an outline of the arrangements of the crust of the earth, as far as we can observe it. It is, at first sight, a most confused scene; but after some careful observation, we readily detect in it a regularity and order from which much instruction in the history of our globe is to be derived.”<sup>6</sup> There it is again—subtly replacing *actual* history that ancient human witnesses wrote with an imagined history that later-living men attached to rocks. This unattested history demanded deep time, and after scientific gatekeepers like journal editors agreed on it, deep-time advocates no longer considered dissenters even worth listening to. In 1913, Arthur Holmes cemented deep time into scientific and broader culture with an early version of what became a series of iconic geological timescale charts.<sup>7</sup>

THE GEOLOGICAL SYSTEMS.	TIME SCALE IN MILLIONS OF YEARS.	
	HELIUM RATIO.	LEAD RATIO.
Pleistocene . . . .	1	—
Pliocene . . . . .	2.5	—
Miocene . . . . .	6.3	—
Oligocene . . . . .	8.4	—
Eocene . . . . .	30.8	—
Cretaceous . . . . .	—	—
Jurassic . . . . .	—	—
Triassic . . . . .	—	—
Permian . . . . .	—	—
Carboniferous . . . .	146	340
Devonian . . . . .	145	370
Silurian . . . . .	} 209	} 430
Ordovician . . . . .		
Cambrian . . . . .		
Algonkian . . . . .	} 710	1000-1200
Archean . . . . .		1400-1600

Arthur Holmes, pioneer of radioisotope dating, first correlated geological layers to deep time’s millions of years. From page 157 of his influential book *The Age of the Earth*.

### When Were Original-Tissue Fossils First Uncovered?

Ironically, however, all this time soft tissue fossils were silently advocating for recent, biblical creation. This Genesis perspective, alive but marginalized even back then, held that rocks and fossils should be interpreted in light of the historical Flood of Noah. Recent, widespread flooding, not deep time, explains many fossils—such as the ones England’s famous geologist Mary Anning found in the eroding cliffs near her hometown of Lyme Regis.

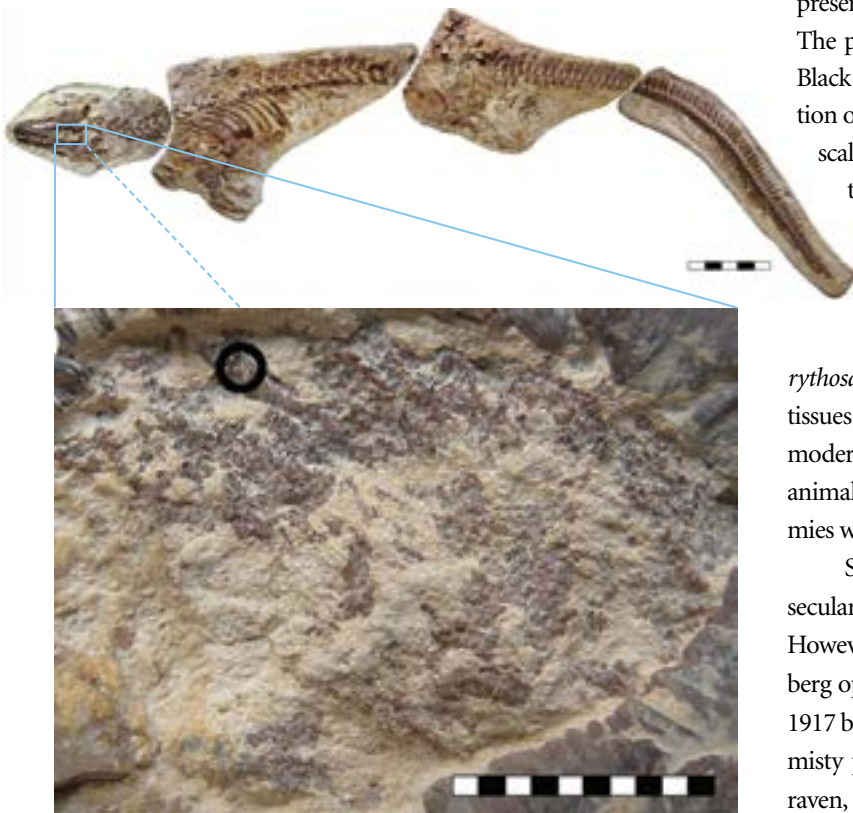
Mary found ammonites, fish, the first ichthyosaurs, and the first pterosaur in England, as well as fossil cuttlefish, which like squid can secrete ink when threatened. Referring to Mary’s fossils, Charles Dickens wrote, “Some of them are so perfect that the ink-bag has been



found and ‘utilised.’”<sup>8</sup> That is, utilized as ink. As reported on ICR.org, researchers in 2009 recovered ink from a fossil squid ink-sac found in Trowbridge, UK. They actually wetted its dried ink and drew a picture of what the creature looked like when it was alive.<sup>9</sup> Chemical analysis later confirmed the fossil and cuttlefish ink pigments as being virtually identical, but how could this chemical have remained unchanged 150 million supposed years?<sup>10</sup> Because the pigments are organic compounds that bacteria could consume and with which oxygen reacts, we would never expect them to persist for tens of millions of years. But that’s not all Mary found.

### Early Fossil Eyeballs and Mummified Dinosaurs

She also found well-preserved eye lenses of an *Ichthyosaurus*, an extinct fish lizard some thirty feet long. Dickens wrote, “Thus was brought to light the first *Ichthyosaurus* (fish-lizard), a monster some



Close-up of a mosasaur eye. Lower scale bar equals one centimeter. The yellowish material is chalk stone, with purple material “possibly representing remnants of the retina,” according to PLoS ONE study authors.<sup>13</sup> They wrote it was phosphatized, but there are reasons to doubt this. Among those reasons are 1) the fact that modern retinal tissue is purple from pigment molecules, 2) the authors found microscopic eye structures called melanosomes (inside the small black circle) that still have the same shape as modern melanosomes, 3) they did not demonstrate the presence of phosphate mineral in the eye, and 4) elsewhere the carcass showed red patches of partly decayed hemoglobin.

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thirty feet long, with jaws nearly a fathom in length, and huge saucer eyes, some of which have been found so perfect, that the petrified lenses (the sclerotica, of which it had thirteen coats) have been split off and used as magnifiers.”<sup>11</sup> As “magnifiers,” light could pass through the lenses, so were they really petrified? It is difficult to imagine that these lenses are actually transparent minerals that replaced the original organic tissues. What if they had naturally mummified, or dried down, like the cuttlefish and squid inks?

And if the lenses were somehow mineralized, then where are these rock-hard fossil eye lenses today? More recently, researchers described possible original tissue in another extinct marine reptile, reinforcing the possibility that Anning’s fossil lenses were not mineralized. In 2010, researchers described a mosasaur eye retina—still colored purple—found in a chalk formation in Kansas.<sup>12</sup>

In 1908, famous American fossil hunter Charles Sternberg and his sons uncovered in Wyoming the first of two of the world’s best-preserved dinosaur remains—naturally mummified hadrosaurs. The placard beside a replica of the “Senckenberg mummy” in the Black Hills Museum of Natural History quotes Sternberg’s description of “the skin preserved with its complex arrangement of minute scales and clinging to the bones.” He did not use today’s sophisticated techniques to identify specific proteins, but his word choices more easily match the “original tissue” phrase that modern researchers continue to use as they verify proteins and tissues in supposedly ancient fossils.

In 1914, Barnum Brown described mummified *Corythosaurus*. They had muscles and tendons. Whether or not these tissues were original and not mineralized remains to be verified, but modern biochemical techniques have since confirmed many other animal proteins in fossils, opening the possibility that these mummies were not mineralized.

So, Sternberg saw the freshness of his fossils but, like today’s secular researchers, did not let it challenge his deep-time dogma. However, like Charles Bell and so many others before him, Sternberg openly discussed creation (though not biblical creation). In his 1917 book *Hunting Dinosaurs*, Sternberg wrote, “The creatures of the misty past are before them; God’s creatures, for if he cares for the raven, for the fall of a sparrow, he must have cared for the creatures of his hand, that existed so many ages before man appeared—these lords of creation, that domineer over God’s green earth.”<sup>14</sup> How could Sternberg’s presumably non-mineralized hadrosaurs have persisted throughout so many ages of a “misty past”? Dried tissues like skin and even bones simply don’t last that long.

### Many More Non-Mineralized Fossil Tissues

Original-tissue fossil discoveries and descriptions continued through the 20th century, right up to the present. Famed fossil dis-



HISTORY OF DEEP TIME / HISTORY OF ORIGINAL TISSUE FOSSILS	DATE
James Hutton interprets rocks as slow and gradual deposits.	1788
Mary Anning discovers ichthyosaur fossil eye, used as magnifying glass.	~1823
Charles Lyell assumes deep time before explaining rocks.	~1830
Mary Anning discovers fossil cuttlefish ink, possibly used as ink.	~1833
Charles Bell assumes deep time when explaining fossils.	1852
Charles Darwin uses deep time to imagine evolution.	1859
Robert Chambers imagines rock layers telling a deep-time history.	1887
Charles Sternberg discovers hadrosaur mummies with skin attached to bones.	1908
Arthur Holmes makes “geologic time” iconic.	1913
Roy Andrews uncovers dinosaur bones joined by tendons in China’s Gobi Desert.	1922
Polish researchers describe tissues in Gobi dinosaurs.	1966
Italian researchers describe dinosaur muscle.	1998
International team describes collagen in Jurassic sauropod dinosaur bones.	2013
European researchers analyze chitin fibers in Precambrian marine worm fossils.	2014

coverer Roy Chapman Andrews may have uncovered original dinosaur tissue when working in China’s Gobi desert during his wild times in 1922. He wrote of his adventures and discoveries, saying, “The dinosaur lay exactly as it died 70 million years ago.... Every bone was in place, even to the end of the tail. Tendons along the back



Over a century ago, a father-son team of paleontologists (the Sternbergs) uncovered an exquisitely preserved *Edmontosaurus hadrosaur* in the deserts of Wyoming. The preservation quality was so astounding that skin, ligaments, and various other articles of soft tissue were preserved.

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showed plainly.”<sup>15</sup> Andrews knew the preservation happened fast. If those tendons still had their original proteins, then the preservation happened quite recently. Investigating more specimens from a nearby area, Polish scientists reported in a 1966 issue of the scientific journal *Nature* on electron micrographs of bone cells and collagen fibrils in dinosaur bone.<sup>16</sup> Also, though the data are not yet published, creation researchers have discovered still-radioactive carbon in Gobi Desert *Psittacosaurus* bone and a few dozen other dinosaur bones. The radioactive carbon could only be there if the bones are fewer than 100,000 years old.<sup>17</sup>

Were deep-time-convinced scientists surprised in 1998 when researchers discovered in southern Italy a small dinosaur fossil with muscle tissue and what they called a “haematic halo” that looked like old, dried blood from its liver?<sup>18</sup> Researchers recently found that blood protein can last longer than expected—released iron atoms help preserve tissues to which they adhere—but they have not provided the extraordinarily long hemoglobin decay rate that deep time requires.<sup>19</sup> Instead, experiments continue to confirm that proteins can perhaps last hundreds of thousands of years, but certainly not millions.<sup>20</sup> Workers have described dozens of other original, unmineralized tissues in fossil pockets throughout the world, including these:

- » Histone proteins and DNA in a Cretaceous *T. rex*<sup>21</sup>
- » Bone collagen protein in a Jurassic Chinese sauropod<sup>22</sup>
- » Keratin protein in a Jurassic *Archaeopteryx* bird<sup>23</sup>
- » Chitin plus protein from Devonian scorpion and pseudoscorpion<sup>24</sup>
- » Chitin plus protein from Precambrian beard worm casings<sup>25</sup>





Number of published reports of original-tissue fossils:

Geologic System	Conventional Age MY = Million Years	Number of Original Tissue Reports
Paleogene	23MY	6
Cretaceous	65MY	23
Jurassic	145MY	4
Triassic	201MY	3
Devonian	359MY	3
Ordovician	444MY	1
Precambrian	540MY	1

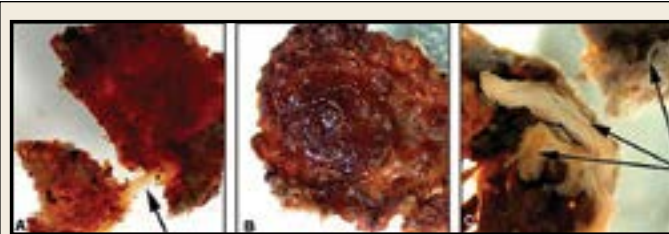
### Perception Versus Reality

These discoveries reveal an important conclusion: Secularists have maintained the dogma of deep time even as they continue to encounter original-tissue fossils that directly challenge that kind of thinking.

Remember the person who responded to ICR's fossil-protein report? He explained that if people would just read the "actual paper from the scientists that made this discovery and not just some website," they would discover that all these tissues were actually mineralized and not from the original animal. But we've seen all kinds of documented soft-tissue discoveries from numerous unmineralized fossils!

And the language in secular technical literature describing these finds confronts any claim that all specimens are mineralized. For example, the study authors of the Jurassic Chinese sauropod proteins wrote, "[SR-FTIR spectroscopy] made it possible to detect the preservation of organic residues, probably direct products of the decay of complex proteins."<sup>21</sup> Secular researchers wrote about the Precambrian worm casings, "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>24</sup>

We can understand why the ICR responder, like so many others, seems eager to deny that fossils contain original tissue. After all, the idea that fossils formed millions of years ago comes from a long line of deep-time advocates. A willing and investigative spirit is required to reckon with the evidence that challenges these old traditions. The science of original-tissue fossils confirms the globe-covering Flood



*Demineralized fragments of endosteally derived tissues lining the marrow cavity of the T. rex femur.*

- (A) The demineralized fragment is flexible and resilient and, when stretched (arrow), returns to its original shape.
- (B) Demineralized bone in (A) after air drying. The overall structural and functional characteristics remain after dehydration.
- (C) Regions of demineralized bone show fibrous character (arrows).

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judgment that occurred only thousands of years ago just as Scripture says. It's time to listen to the thundering cries of biblical creation's silent advocates. ●

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# Apologetics, Evidence, and Relevance

H E N R Y M . M O R R I S I I I , D . M I N .

Some confusion persists with the terms “apologetics” and “evidence”—particularly because those concepts are expected to be culturally relevant. Throughout typical criminal investigation TV shows, evidence is gathered from the tiny pieces of materials and partial fingerprints to the most speculative circumstantial deductions of the brilliant detectives. Likewise, docudramas often “interpret” historical data and build a case (an apologetic) for the particular viewpoint favored by the filmmaker—this is especially true in religious presentations.

The misunderstanding of these terms is quite baffling within evangelical circles. Some churches and seminaries offer training in apologetics, recognizing the need to respond to the craftiness of the enemy, whose aim is to corrupt the minds of believers (2 Corinthians 11:3). The majority of churches, however, have become wary of long-term discipleship responsibility, preferring to focus their efforts on evangelism models and programs that make the gospel culturally relevant.

The combined power of the secular misuse of evidence and the increasing drift of churches to concentrate on relevant methodologies has had a negative impact on ministry. These approaches have devalued the need for a cogent understanding of foundational doctrines and have blurred the distinctions of and the applications for important disciplines.

## Apologetics

1 Peter 3:15 provides the biblical format for apologetics. We are told to “sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear.”

The English word “defense” is translated from the Greek word *apologian*, from which we render the descriptive term “apologetics.” The basic meaning is a response to an external request, clearly emphasized by Peter’s admonition to “be ready” to give the answer when someone asks you.

Furthermore, the answer is to be given in “meekness [mildness of disposition, gentleness of spirit] and fear.” That answer is also to be given with a “reason.” The Greek term from which “reason” is translated is *logon* (word, speech). Paul often spoke of his preaching in such a way that it is clear he was well-prepared with logic, since he was “appointed for the defense [*apologia*] of the gospel” (Philippians 1:17).

If we are to follow the biblical model for apologetics, we will first sanctify our hearts and then become ready to respond with an answer to all who ask us about our hope (the gospel—our salvation) with a sound reason given in a gentle and respectful manner.

## Relevance


The only biblical reference to “rel-

evance” indicates that believers should apply the knowledge, understanding, and wisdom of the Scriptures to themselves (Proverbs 2:2; 22:17; 23:12). Nothing in the Bible suggests churches should accommodate the world’s behavior or standards to the ministry of the Kingdom. However, Paul’s comment that “I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some” (1 Corinthians 9:22) seems to endorse the type of broad accommodation seen among seeker-friendly church programs.

But the context of that passage severely limits what Paul is suggesting. He is under constraint to preach the gospel, is a servant of the gospel, and is willing to forgo his right to live—get paid—from the gospel. Paul’s personal limitations are self-imposed to enable him to enter in to every cultural situation and “by all means” (whatever gives him the most freedom) to preach the gospel and to “save some.” That is a very different purpose from slipping a gospel message into a crowd after drawing them with methods and processes that blur the lines between holiness and worldliness.

Yes, we must be aware of the needs of our audience. Paul was quite versatile in his approach. He began with the Bible when he spoke to the Jews—they knew the Scriptures. He started with creation with the pagans and the sophisticated. He used his political, social, and academic stature in other situations. He quoted Scripture in every case. His focus was getting truth out—not





being “related” to the population. Truth-driven prophets and preachers did not try to please or appease the population. “We have been made as the filth of the world, the off-scouring of all things until now” (1 Corinthians 4:13).

The current use of relevance often bends the truth of the biblical message to make it acceptable and/or easy to swallow. While we must make sure the truth is heard, we must never leave out or gloss over parts of the truth that may be uncomfortable for the audience. The power to change lives does not come through the messenger or the method but through the written Word of God (Romans 10:17).

### Evidence

The Bible contains two distinct applications of evidence. The Old Testament emphasizes the physical evidence that documents the proof of something. The Hebrew word *cepher* is always used to describe hard evidence. Moses used Adam’s book (Genesis 5:1) to document early history. Jeremiah had a deed and associated papers (Jeremiah 32:11-16) to prove his purchase of property. We often apply this concept with historical or scientific evidence.

The New Testament emphasizes a conviction about an idea or belief. “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen” (Hebrews 11:1). The Greek words *elegchos* and *elegcho* (verb form) are always used to mean “con-

vince.” Faith is based on evidence that is unseen. The eternal truths that bring one to salvation cannot be seen (in contrast to the physical evidence emphasized in the Old Testament), but they are presented in such a way that one becomes convinced about those truths.

There are three fundamental unseen principles upon which our faith rests. The creation by our Creator-Savior took place when no one was around to witness it happening. The substitutionary sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross involved eternal transactions in the bowels of Earth and in the courts of heaven—far outside of the visual verification of any human. And the promises of eternal redemption in the new heavens and new earth are just that—promises! Yet all of those fundamental doctrines are part and parcel to the gospel that we are required to accept by faith.

Only the Creator has the infinite power and authority to save “to the uttermost” (Hebrews 7:25). God Himself recorded the creation week. Jesus demonstrated *ex nihilo* creation works when He was on Earth that we might have evidence of who He is (John 14:11; 20:31). The very foundation of faith is belief that the creation of the universe was accomplished “by the word of God” (Hebrews 11:3).

Only the God-man, the co-equal incarnated Son of God, could be *both* the sat-

isfactory and sufficient Lamb of God. His sinless substitution for our death sentence (Romans 6:23) made “propitiation for our sins, and...for the whole world” (1 John 2:2). The resurrection was the evidence provided for us that proved God’s requirement of holiness was satisfied (Acts 17:31).

Only the Creator-Savior-King can fulfill the promises of a “new heaven and a new earth” (Isaiah 65:17; 2 Peter 3:13; Revelation 21:1). Our hope can be defended with evidence because of the One upon whom and by whom the promises are given.

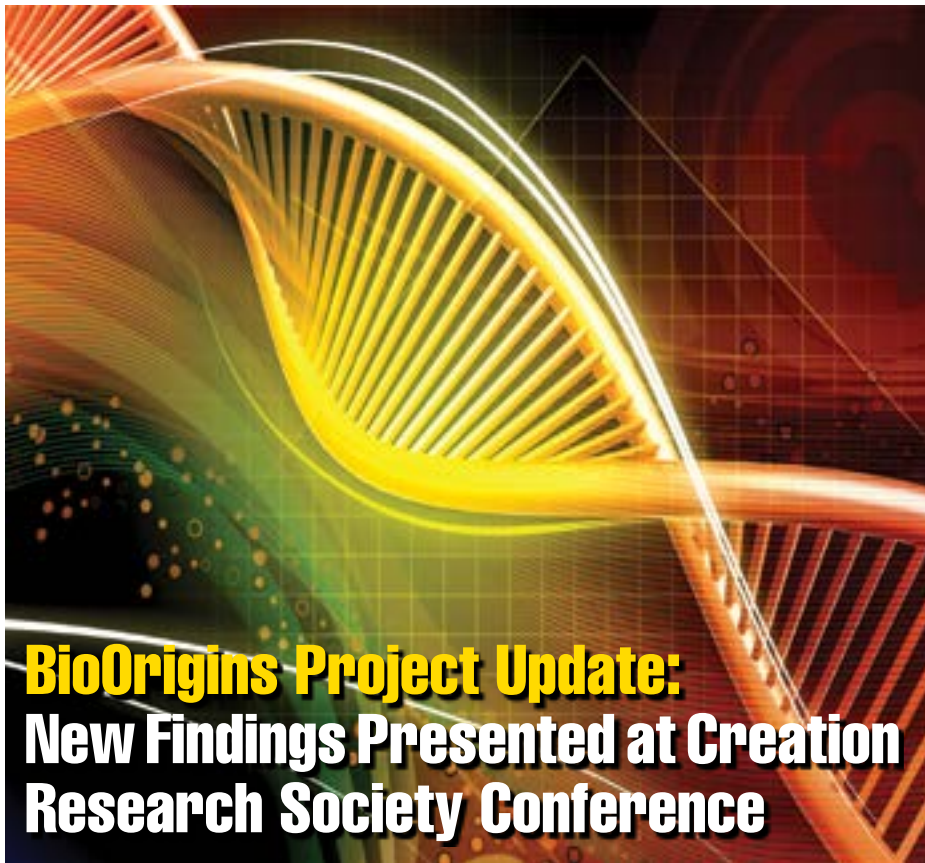
We are to use apologetics to defend our hope by a reason given in gentle respect to those who ask us for the evidence. The unseen truths of Scripture for God’s existence will be clearly seen (Roman 1:20), and the speech and knowledge of everyday reality (Psalm 19:1-4) can be used to exhort and to convict (Titus 1:9) those who are otherwise-minded (Philippians 3:15).

Evidence must be the foundation for apologetics. The absolute purpose for relevance is to “declare His glory among the nations, His wonders among all peoples” (1 Chronicles 16:24). The abundant evidence God provides—both seen and unseen—is and will always be relevant. ●

Adapted from Dr. Morris’ article “Examining Evidence” in the September 2012 edition of *Acts & Facts*.

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





## BioOrigins Project Update: New Findings Presented at Creation Research Society Conference

**ICR's** BioOrigins team is entering a new, exciting phase of investigation. In August, we will present several preliminary research advances at the Creation Research Society (CRS) conference. This represents an important step forward in our current biology research initiatives.

To date, we have made significant progress toward answering the four major research questions that we described over four years ago.<sup>1-5</sup> For example, Dr. Jeffrey Tomkins has found that the supposed human chromosome 2 “fusion site” actually sits in the middle of a gene and encodes a functional domain, effectively refuting the pervasive evolutionary idea that humans and chimps share a common ancestor.<sup>6</sup> He has also discovered that the actual overall genetic similarity between humans and chimpanzees is not 98-99% as is frequently claimed but rather only 70%, a genetic gap far too large to be bridged even in the six million years of evolution that secular scientists commonly invoke.<sup>7</sup> Additionally, Dr.

Tomkins has investigated and rejected several of the “junk DNA” icons, and he is now in phase two of each of these projects.<sup>8,9</sup>

While Dr. Tomkins has focused intensely on genetics of the human–great ape branch, I have been reevaluating the mitochondrial DNA evidence for large swaths of the purported evolutionary tree of life for all animals. We now have a creationist explanation for one of the toughest evolutionary challenges from genetics, and the results of this research have developed a new venue in which to compare evolution and creation head-to-head.<sup>10</sup>

Good research always leads to more questions, and we told you last April about some of the new areas we’re investigating in addition to our original four questions.<sup>11</sup> Since then, I’ve discovered a novel answer to one of these questions,<sup>12</sup> and the success of this genetic argument for recent creation has led to preliminary answers for the remaining questions of species’ post-Flood geography, the mechanism of post-Flood speciation,

and post-Flood extinction. I’ll be presenting my initial findings on these topics at the CRS meeting as well.

What about the few original research questions that we haven’t yet explicitly addressed, such as finding new methods to identify the “kind” boundary of ancestry?<sup>2</sup> What about finding the mechanism that limits evolutionary change?<sup>5</sup> What about the origin of predation?<sup>11</sup>

All of the research that we’ll present this August has implications for these questions and will bring us one step closer to finding answers. The CRS meeting fulfills a vital role in the research process: peer review.<sup>13</sup> While the exchange of scientific ideas at the meeting is primarily oral rather than written, it constitutes an invaluable critique of preliminary ideas so that future research can move forward in the right direction.

By the way, ICR’s BioOrigins team won’t be ICR’s only representative at CRS. Our physical scientists will also present their latest findings on the geological implications of Noah’s Flood and on whether the solar system occupies a special position in the universe. Expect to hear exciting news from the science team in the future! ●

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# HIJACKING THE SCIENTIFIC METHOD



Are modern schools teaching the scientific method properly? It appears the general public and even the scientific community itself has a rather fuzzy understanding of what it is.<sup>1</sup> In its purest form, the scientific method can be succinctly defined as “a systematic methodology for studying natural phenomena.” For example, if we look at the simple pendulum at very small-angle oscillations, we might hypothesize that the *period* (the time for the pendulum to complete one cycle) depends on the mass attached to the end of the pendulum. This is a valid hypothesis since it can be either verified or falsified by direct observation and/or reproducible experimentation. If we run a series of period measurements with different masses attached to the pendulum arm, we will establish that the period remains the same independent of the mass. So our original hypothesis is incorrect. The scientific method now requires us to abandon that hypothesis.

The Greek philosopher Thales (6th century B.C.) refused to accept supernatural, religious, or mythological explanations for any observations or events that could be considered natural phenomena (such as origins) and thus set the foundation for *naturalism*, a philosophy based on the fundamental premise that anything supernatural is essentially fiction. Since, according to Thales, there can be no supernatural cause for the universe and logic does not allow

something to cause itself, the universe must be eternal. The concept of naturalism might lead to the explanation of many everyday natural phenomena, but it fails miserably in explaining origins. Yet this premise is the foundation for a worldview that has dominated modern science for the last three centuries

Plato’s development of deductive reasoning was an important step in forming the modern scientific method. In deductive reasoning, a conclusion is reached by applying general rules or principles that hold for the entirety of some closed group and reducing the range under consideration until only the conclusion is left. For example, we can apply the law of mortality to the closed group of all human beings and then conclude that Plato is mortal because he belongs to that closed group of mortals.

Before the scientific method could fully develop, two pagan views that strongly influenced the Greek thinkers had to be dealt with: 1) the organismic view of nature (nature and created objects are divine or are themselves without beginning or end), and 2) circular reasoning as opposed to linear reasoning.<sup>2</sup> The organismic view presupposes that nature was uncreated, i.e., no intelligent direction was necessary to produce the world we live in. So, in the organismic worldview, either random chance or a pantheon of gods produced the order we observe in the universe. But this is wholly illogical. Why would a purposeless and uncreated universe exhibit order? How can the universe be orderly if one assumes that multiple competing gods and goddesses are continually interfering with its operation? This fundamental assumption of naturalism is contrary to our observation that the order we observe in our world comes from an intelligent direction. In order to do science, one must assume that the universe is orderly, stable, and rational, but this assumption does not make any sense in a pagan or evolutionary worldview.

Early Christian leaders such as Clement of Alexandria (150–215 A.D.), Basil of

Caesarea (330–379 A.D.), and Augustine of Hippo (354–430 A.D.) encouraged future generations to view Greek wisdom as “handmaidens to theology” and science as a means to more exhaustively understand the Bible and God’s magnificent creation.<sup>3</sup> In a nutshell, they believed that science should be viewed through the window of the Bible rather than the Bible interpreted through the window of science. For them, and many of us today, this makes perfectly rational sense since the Bible addresses a far wider and deeper reality than science can. Science simply cannot be a foundation for things like

**In order to do science, one must assume that the universe is orderly, stable, and rational, but this assumption does not make any sense in a pagan or evolutionary worldview.**

mathematics, law, honor, faith, morality, ethics, logic, and love. In short, science does not equal naturalism or epistemology. Science is a powerful tool that helps us gain knowledge—but science is not knowledge itself.

Islamic scholars like Ibn Alhazen further refined the scientific method during the Middle Ages, but a more recognizable form of the method would have to wait until the late 12th century.<sup>4</sup> The English statesman, scientist, and Christian theologian Robert Grosseteste (1175–1253) and English thinker and experimenter Roger Bacon (1214–1294) added a repeating cycle of observation, experimentation, hypothesis, and the need for independent verification to the scientific method. The remaining vestiges of Aristotelian philosophy were thrown off by Francis Bacon (1561–1626) in his *Novum Organum*, in which he established a place for non-empirical philosophy (i.e., mathematics and logic) in the process of uncovering natural axioms (laws).

A positive example of the application of the scientific method can be seen in the recent debate over whether large carnivorous dinosaurs, such as *Tyrannosaurus* and

*Giganotosaurus*, were pack hunters. It had been long assumed that these large carnivores lived mostly solitary lives, much like tigers and bears do today. However, the discovery of the *Argentinosaurus* and *Giganotosaurus* in Patagonia, Argentina, led paleontologist Phil Curry (of the Royal Tyrrell Museum of Paleontology) to rethink this assumption.<sup>5</sup> The fossil beds in Patagonia seemed to suggest that *Argentinosaurus* was the only herbivore large enough to provide subsistence for the *Giganotosaurus*. Unfortunately the *Argentinosaurus* was too large to be prey for a solitary *Giganotosaurus*. Therefore, a revival of the original pack-hunter hypothesis seemed to be in order. Later, a site discovered in the badlands of western Canada provided the first indirect observational evidence for pack behavior in a large carnivorous dinosaur—12 individual *T. rex* ranging from young to fully mature were found together. The relative (< 5%) population density of *T. rex* in the region made the gathering of the bones due to local flooding highly improbable. A lack of prey animals at the site made a predator trap highly improbable. A second site in Patagonia yielded at least seven distinct *Giganotosaurus* ranging in age from very young to fully mature individuals and thus provided a second piece of indirect observational data to support the hypothesis. Based on the existing data, it could be concluded that these large carnivores did hunt in packs.

Another example is supplied by Louis Pasteur’s 19th-century investigation into the long-standing hypothesis of *spontaneous generation*. This hypothesis was based in Aristotelian philosophy and had somehow survived the reforms of Francis Bacon. Spontaneous generation is the idea that certain forms of life can originate (evolve) from inanimate matter, such as fleas coming from dust or maggots from dead fish. Pasteur’s experiments demonstrated conclusively that such organisms originated from genetically related parents of the same species and thus disproved the spontaneous generation hypothesis that had been generally accepted in



**To portray any hypothesis or theory as fact is a clear misapplication of the scientific method. Hypotheses must be verifiable or falsifiable through observation and reproducible experimentation to be considered a legitimate participant in the scientific method.**

academic circles for almost two millennia.

A modern example of the misapplication of the scientific method is supplied by noted theoretical physicist Dr. Lawrence Krauss (who ironically is the director of the Origins Project at Arizona State University). He and many others claim as a scientific fact that the universe originated from a quantum fluctuation in nothingness, a quantum fluctuation being defined as the temporary appearance of energetic particles out of empty space.<sup>6</sup> Yet no one has ever observed such a fluctuation. How can the possible existence of such a large quantum fluctuation be verified or falsified? It is acceptable to put such ideas forward as philosophical *speculation* but certainly not as scientific fact. To do so is hijacking the scientific method!

Another example of misapplication is supplied by the well-known Darwinian theory of evolution—which is more properly categorized as a hypothesis. This hypothesis is closely tied to the idea of spontaneous generation, which Louis Pasteur disproved. Evolution hypothesizes that life on Earth sprang from inanimate matter some 3.5 billion years ago and has subsequently evolved through a series of genetic mutations and natural selection into the diversity we currently observe. The evidence cited to support this hypothesis is that the fossil record found in the geological column (rock strata) seems to move from less-complex to more-complex organisms. However, no transitional forms (organisms that combine features of two distinct species) have ever been definitely observed in the present or in the fossil record. No experiment to date has been able to produce a living organism from inanimate matter in spite of valiant attempts

by researchers such as Stanley Miller and Harold Urey at the University of Chicago. With no observational or experimental data to back it up, evolution somehow progressed from a suspect hypothesis to scientific fact in less than 50 years.

Observation and reproducible experimentation are the foundations of science and as such are the established facts upon which the various hypotheses, theories, and natural laws rest. To portray any hypothesis or theory as fact is a clear misapplication of the scientific method. Hypotheses must be verifiable or falsifiable through observation and reproducible experimentation to be considered a legitimate participant in the scientific method. Various hypotheses concerning the age and formation of our universe (the Big Bang and multiverse hypotheses) and the development of living systems (the Darwinian evolution hypothesis) are routinely taught in Western school systems as scientific fact, but none of these hypotheses have been confirmed through observation or experimentation. Alternate hypotheses are often not allowed to be even whispered. Have we now come full circle

back to Thales' stubborn dependence on naturalism alone? Is this science? Or is it the type of dogma that has characterized erroneous philosophies throughout the ages and led to incalculable human misery and a distorted understanding of reality itself?<sup>7</sup> We need to reclaim the scientific method and teach it correctly. ●

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**Men became scientific because they expected Law (order) in Nature, and they expected Law in Nature because they believed in a Legislator. In most modern scientists this belief has died: it will be interesting to see how long their confidence in uniformity survives it. Two significant developments have already appeared—the hypotheses of a lawless sub-nature, and the surrender of the claim that science is true. We may be living nearer than we suppose to the end of the Scientific Age.<sup>8</sup>**

— C. S. Lewis

**For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools. (Romans 1:20-22)**

**Any physical theory is always provisional, in the sense that it is only a hypothesis: you can never prove it. No matter how many times the results of experiments agree with some theory, you can never be sure that the next time the result will not contradict the theory.<sup>9</sup>**

— Stephen Hawking



# SHARK GENES DEVOUR EVOLUTION

Evolutionists believe that the ancient ancestor of modern humans arose over 450 million years ago from sharks that had a cartilaginous skeletal system (a class called Chondrichthyes, or cartilaginous fishes).

Over long periods of time, sharks supposedly evolved into fish that had a bony skeleton (a group called Osteichthyes, or bony fish). As the mythical story continues, fish evolved into vertebrate land animals, ultimately resulting in various types of mammals, including humans.<sup>1</sup> The key problem with this whole fanciful tale is that discoveries in modern genomics completely contradict it. In fact, several recent research reports show that alleged ancient shark genes and genomic features are more similar to mammals than they are to bony fish.

The first big shock came this year when a detailed report on the elephant shark genome was published in *Nature*.<sup>2</sup> This particular shark was targeted for full-scale DNA sequencing because it was thought to represent one of the most ancient creatures (like some kind of living fossil) that existed at the beginning of jawed-vertebrate evolution that supposedly led to the evolution of bony fishes. However, much to the surprise of the researchers, hundreds of protein-coding genes that are found in both the elephant shark and vertebrate land animals were completely missing in fish. Did evolution stick all these genes in its back pocket for millions of years only to pull them out again later right when they were needed?

Not only was this evolution-destroying anomaly observed for protein-coding genes, but also for hundreds of microRNA genes that encode small RNA molecules that regulate gene expression. These same trends were also observed for hundreds of regulatory sequences in the genome that also control the expression of genes. In addition, many of these genes and genome features not only went missing in bony fish and then reappeared later in vertebrate land animals, but they appeared suddenly in sharks with no previous evolutionary history in creatures that were supposedly the precursors to sharks.

The next big surprise came when a research group specifically

focused on a family of protein-coding sequences in elephant sharks called *Runx* genes that are key regulators of skeletal and neural development.<sup>3</sup> If evolution were true, wouldn't these important genes align with the mythical paradigm? Once again, the data utterly conflicted with the standard evolutionary story. In fact, much to the chagrin of the investigators, the *Runx* genes of the elephant shark were more similar in their structure to that of humans than of bony fish. Compared to fish, the structure of the *Runx* genes were totally rearranged. In addition, the *synteny* (or "gene neighborhoods") surrounding the *Runx* genes in elephant sharks were more similar to humans and other land animals than to bony fishes. Did evolution mix up these *Runx* genes in fish and the other genes that surround them and then put everything back together in humans (similar to the sharks' genes) millions of years later?

Another interesting aspect of these studies is that the researchers also found genomic features and genes that are unique to elephant sharks. They were not found in any other creature and appear suddenly and fully functional in the elephant shark.

So what sort of scientific model better predicts these types of research discoveries? Scientific observations reveal the genome to be a mosaic of incredible complexity, with certain design themes repeated at varying levels while other themes are unique. Clearly the data being uncovered in the genomes of Earth's diverse creatures exhibit the uniqueness of special creation and utterly defy the predicted patterns of naturalistic evolution. Again and again nature points to the Creator. ●

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# THE LIMITS OF VARIABILITY

JOHN D. MORRIS, PH.D.

One of the “heroes” of evolutionists is Gregor Mendel, a European monk who experimented with plant breeding in the latter half of the 1800s. While his contemporary Charles Darwin specifically tried to replace belief in creation, Mendel claimed he was trying to understand God’s creation. Evolutionists like to quote Mendel’s findings as proof for their beliefs, but in reality he demonstrated the strict limitations of biological change.

Mendel was a good experimentalist, working with plants in his monastery’s garden. He bred varieties of garden peas to enhance certain features and noticed that while there was variability in plants, there was a clear limit to that variability. The plants could be bred in one direction but there was a limit to how far they could go. He saw no evidence of evolution; indeed, he observed the opposite of evolutionary change. A plant with one color blossom might be encouraged to produce a plant with another color blossom, but the basic plant remained the same. Mendel’s efforts established the laws of genetics but uncovered no evidence for evolution.

He concluded what the Bible had been saying all along, that God created each animal or plant type after its kind and placed in each one the genetic “seed” to reproduce only after that kind. Plants and animals do not have the potential to vary into another kind. In biology this is called *stasis*—a condition in which things basically remain the same. They are “stationary”—fundamentally unchanging. They do not have the ability to become something different.

We see much the same thing in fossilized plants and animals, those that lived and died in the past. Each fossil can be placed into

a grouping of similar plants or animals. Clam fossils look much the same as modern clams. There is variability among the clams, but clams remain clams. Clams are not sea snails, nor are they roses. There is variability among sea snails and variability among roses, but they each are separate and distinct kinds. There is absolutely no evidence that a coral will evolve or ever did evolve into a sea snail. Each basic type remains that basic type.<sup>1</sup>

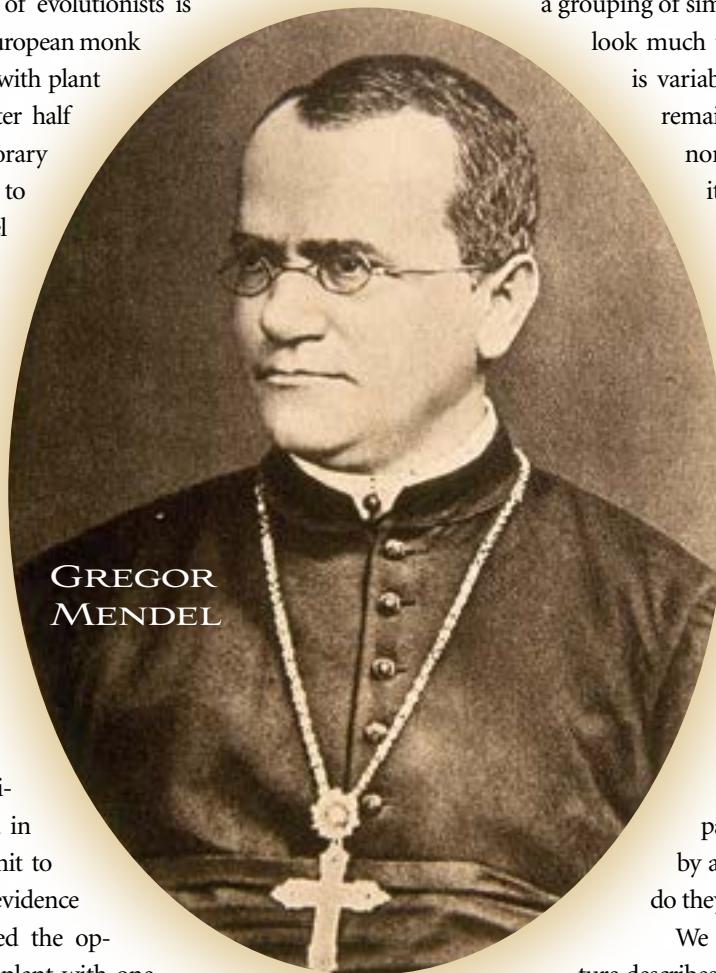
This is exactly what we read in Genesis 1. Scripture says that God created each type after its kind 10 times in that chapter (see verses 11-12, 21, 24-25). It seems that the writer of Scripture went out of his way to insist that animals and plants were created fully formed as particular kinds and did not get here by altering previous existing kinds, nor do they change into other basic kinds.

We see in biology exactly what Scripture describes: stasis—not evolution. In the Bible we are told that plants and animals were created with a mechanism ensuring stasis, seemingly ruling out the possibility of large-scale evolution. The obvious correlation of scriptural truth with scientific truth encourages us to believe Scripture in other areas as well (John 3:12). We can have confidence in what it teaches about things we cannot confirm, such as our home in heaven and the forgiveness of sin. We can believe these things because His Word is so reliable and accurate every time it is put to the test. ●

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Dr. Morris is President of the Institute for Creation Research and received his Ph.D. in geology from the University of Oklahoma.





# SAVE THE DATES!

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## An Audience of Millions

Creation research is alive and well in South Korea. This year, the Institute for Creation Research's own Dr. Randy Guliuzza was invited to speak at several major occasions, and the results were nothing less than astounding.

The ever-dynamic Korea Association for Creation Research (KACR) hosted its annual conference on May 30 in Wonju, South Korea. KACR kicked off in 1981 with the help of ICR founder Dr. Henry M. Morris and Dr. Duane Gish, and it has since grown into the world's largest creation organization.<sup>1,2</sup> Several hundred of its 10,000 members perform doctorate-level research in academic institutions throughout South Korea.<sup>3</sup> KACR President Dr. Eunil Lee, a professor of medicine at Korea University, takes care to nurture KACR's historic roots with ICR—this year inviting Dr. Guliuzza to give the keynote address at their annual conference. The lecture had an overflow attendance of young creation scientists, and Dr. Guliuzza was enthusiastically received.

Chas Morse, a retired Air Force lieutenant colonel and current ICR Director of Church and Seminar Ministries, was sta-

tioned in South Korea from 2007 to 2009 and used his contacts there to arrange several events in conjunction with the KACR conference. Dr. Guliuzza spoke to the student body of the prestigious Yongstan International School of Seoul and the congregation of New Harvest Church of Seoul. He also conducted a two-day creation conference at Songtan Central Baptist Church that was attended by hundreds of Koreans and Americans.

Additionally, Pastor Nelson Chapman of Songtan arranged a television interview for Dr. Guliuzza on a program by

the Far Eastern Broadcasting Corporation (FEBC).<sup>4</sup> The program is hosted by Chuang Soo Kim, Manager of International Relations of the FEBC, and reaches an audience of tens of millions of people throughout South Korea, China, and Japan.

ICR was privileged to be a part of these outstanding international creation science events in South Korea. We are grateful to the Lord for the hard work and skillful organization of so many of these fellow creationist scientists and pastors, and we look forward to what He will do in the future. ●

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The Korea Association for Creation Research is the world's largest creation organization.



Above: Mr. Chuang Soo Kim of FEBC and Dr. Randy Guliuzza

Upper Left: KACR leadership and conference speakers

Left: Dr. Guliuzza and Mr. Kim during the interview







# ONE BANKRUPTCY, MANY ADVERSARIES

**T**heistic evolution is like a mega-bankruptcy case containing an almost countless number of adversaries and contests, like piecemeal mini-lawsuits that in aggregate address smaller conflicts within a large-scale mess.<sup>1</sup> Within this big picture it's important to keep in mind that every small-scale "contested matter" and every "adversary" conflict is an important opportunity to advocate for truth.<sup>2</sup>

Imagine the component problems involved in these famous bankruptcies: Texaco, Chrysler, Enron, CIT Group, Worldcom, General Motors, Washington Mutual, and Lehman Brothers.<sup>1</sup>

Let's quickly review some federal bankruptcy law. The American Constitution authorizes Congress to "establish uniform laws on the subject of bankruptcies."<sup>3</sup> Congress has provided statutory frameworks for private-sector debtors to process their insolvency problems, including Chapter 7 liquidations, Chapter 11 reorganizations, Chapter 12 proceedings, and Chapter 13 debt adjustment proceedings for individual debtors. Of these, the Chapter 11 reorganization proceeding is the framework used for

mega-bankruptcies. Literally billions of dollars in business assets, indebtedness (taxes, trade debt, investment debt, etc.), and contractual relationships are processed in such mega-bankruptcies.

Each mega-case is a mess but with a method to its madness. Particular asset disposition problems, as well as specific unfulfilled contract and debtor-creditor relationship problems, are routinely processed via detail-specific contested matters and adversary proceedings.

This is comparable to a long-drawn-out war composed of many component battles, each of which involves smaller skirmishes and localized individual conflicts. All the details add up to produce the results, when "all the dust (and debt) settles." Any one contested matter or adversary proceeding appears small when compared to the whole mega-case, yet every such mini-lawsuit is important enough to require due process.<sup>4</sup>

The same is true in adversarial dealings with the gargantuan and popular (yet unbiblical) theistic evolution enterprise.

Christians who strive for the faith like Paul (Philippians 1:7, 17, 27) will repeatedly

face "many adversaries" (1 Corinthians 16:9) and "contested matters," because biblical truth is not popular. But contending for the faith (Jude 1:3) is worth fighting "the good fight" (1 Timothy 6:12) piecemeal, one contested skirmish or conversation or email at a time.

A long war is composed of several strategically influential battles, connected to a network of contributory skirmishes. Likewise, countering the anti-Genesis teachings of theistic evolution involves a complex combination of small-scale opportunities to promote the Genesis record as part of the defense of the faith.

Yet Christ Himself promised that one day we would be held accountable for how we have treated the books of Moses, which begin with Genesis (John 5:45-47). So when all the dust of this temporal world settles, and it is no more, we will see the wisdom of having contended—while we had daily opportunities to do so—for the precious truths that God reported to us in Genesis.

Theistic evolution, which fails to authoritatively embrace Genesis, is a mega-bankruptcy.<sup>5</sup> Let us be faithful in how we each interact with the specific adversaries and contested matters we are faced with, knowing that God's truth ultimately stands at the close of the case. ●

### References

1. For example, imagine the component problems involved in these famous Chapter 11 bankruptcies: Texaco (\$35+ billion pre-filing assets involved), TXU / Energy Future (\$36+ billion in pre-filing assets), Chrysler (\$39+ billion pre-filing assets involved), Enron (\$101 billion in income claimed before fraudulent accounting practices buried this energy "giant"; \$63+ billion pre-filing assets involved), CIT Group (\$71+ billion in pre-filing assets), General Motors (\$82+ billion pre-filing assets involved), Worldcom Inc. (\$103+ billion in pre-filing assets), Washington Mutual (\$327+ billion in pre-filing assets involved), and Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc. (\$639+ billion in pre-filing assets involved, the largest bankruptcy filing in U.S. history).
2. According to Rule 7001 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure, an "adversary proceeding" is a bankruptcy-related mini-lawsuit initiated by an adversary complaint, whereas "contested matters" are initiated by a motion or objection.
3. U.S. Constitution, article I, section 8, clause 4.
4. Due process is implemented by 11 U.S.C. § 102 and the Bankruptcy Rules.
5. See Morris III, H. M. et al. 2013. *Creation Basics & Beyond: An In-Depth Look at Science, Origins, and Evolution*. Dallas, TX: Institute for Creation Research, 13-102.

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# Q: Did Dinosaurs Have Feathers?



FRANK SHERWIN, M.A.

**A:** A button reading “Dinosaurs are not birds” was handed out to interested attendees of the Florida Symposium on Dinosaur Bird Evolution in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, April 7–8, 2000. This statement flew in the face (so to speak) of a majority of evolutionists at the symposium who believed that heavy-tailed theropod dinosaurs somehow sprouted feathers and evolved into today’s heavy-chested birds.

Who were the vocal minority? Well, I was there, along with several members of the intelligent design community, and evolutionists including paleobiologist Alan Feduccia, Larry Martin (now deceased), and zoologist John Ruben.

Despite evidence to the contrary, most evolutionists today still generally agree that dinosaurs had feathers. For example, Kenneth Kardong showed in his college textbook a “hypothetical scale, intermediate stage between an enlarged reptile scale and an early bird feather.”<sup>1</sup> In the complete absence of genuine dinosaur feather examples, evolutionists supply hypothetical ones.

Before even considering the dinosaur-to-bird story as a possibility, we should first examine the anatomical precision of feathers. They grow out of skin follicles, much like mammal hairs. They are completely different from reptilian scales in their organization, development, function, and mode of replacement. Indeed, they are unique systems involving stem cells and specialized regulatory proteins. Built-in timers know when to shed a worn feather and grow a fresh replacement. Such complexity defies ideas of gradual change since all these parts have to be in place and working together at the same time to make even one feather. In contrast, scales are simply thickened folds of skin.

God engineered exquisite flight feathers for lightweight aerodynamic efficiency. Using a microscope, one can see an amazing display of interlocking hooks and barbules—features absent from *all* dinosaur fossils so far described. When the bird preens with its bill, the zippering effect flattens feathers and snaps them into shape again. In order to preen, the feather-possessing creature must have a bill. Some dinosaurs had beaks, but none had bills. Furthermore, true bird fossils appeared *before* dinosaurs in the fossil record—a fact that those who promote the strange dinosaur-to-bird theory gloss right over!

If feathers didn’t evolve from lizard scales, then what are these “feathered dinosaurs” we’ve seen in evolutionary museum dioramas?

Dinosaur fossils sometimes show fibrous filaments, but these are hardly feathers. Dissenting evolutionists (those who do not believe dinosaurs evolved into birds) at the Florida symposium showed how those filaments looked just like decaying skin fibers from partly rotten carcasses.<sup>2</sup> But one thing is certain: they are not real feathers.

Illustrations and museum models of feathered dinosaurs are not based on fossils but only on evolution-inspired imagination. For example, caenagnathids are a family of theropod dinosaurs and part of a group of dinosaurs most evolutionists think are most similar to birds. Their North American fossils show no feathers. But Wikipedia’s caenagnathidae entry supposes they “would have been covered in feathers.”<sup>3</sup> This is speculation, not science. Senior writer Stephanie Pappas said in *LiveScience* that a caenagnathid dinosaur called *Anzu wyliei* “probably wore feathers.”<sup>4</sup> Probably?

In 2011 news reports fluttered over alleged “protofeathers” in amber samples from two Canadian museums reported on in the journal *Science*.<sup>5</sup> The word protofeathers assumes that simple tufts and filaments somehow evolved into true flight feathers. *LiveScience* cautioned, however, that “the fossil record of this evolution from simple to complex feathers is spotty. Researchers actually have older records of more modern feathers than they do of the simple dinosaur protofeathers.”<sup>6</sup> Two evolutionists later criticized the 2011 *Science* paper, saying that proposed protofeather fibers could actually be plant material or mammal hair and not even from dinosaurs.<sup>7</sup> Clearly, the “dinofuzz” buzz was pretty bad science.

Did dinosaurs have feathers? Since nobody can interview any dinosaur that lived, we cannot say with scientific certainty that none had feathers. But so far, no dinosaur fossils show actual feathers, and many scientific reasons oppose this feathered tale. ●

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# Powerful KINGDOM GIFTS



Some years ago, a dear Christian lady began preparations to send a box of supplies to missionaries from her church. A neighborhood girl heard of her venture and desired to help. But being only a small child, she had very little that would be useful to the missionaries. The child did have a penny, however—a gift from a favorite uncle—which she cheerfully presented to the woman to help her friends on the mission field.

Touched by the child's heartfelt generosity and not wanting to offend her in spite of her small gift, the lady graciously accepted the coin. But the gift was much too small to purchase supplies, and the lady was uncertain how she could put it to good use. Then an idea occurred to her, and she used the child's penny to purchase a single gospel tract.

On the day when all the necessary supplies had been gathered, the lady asked the child to help her prepare the box for shipment. One by one, the lady and the child packed the items, being careful to include the gospel tract purchased with the penny gift. The box was finally sealed and addressed, and together the lady and the girl took it to the post office to be shipped to their friends halfway around the world.

A few weeks later the box reached the missionaries. The supplies it held brought a measure of sweet relief to their modest circumstances. Near the bottom of the box, the missionaries discovered the gospel tract, which they soon gave to one of the local people.

The tract was passed among the people, eventually reaching a great chief who lived in a nearby region. Intrigued by its message but unsure of its meaning, the chief called for the missionaries to come and explain the teachings. They came and began to share the gospel, and in time the chief yielded his life to Christ as his personal Savior and Lord. The chief told the story of his conversion to his people, many of whom also believed. Eventually, the new believers established a church, and through it over fifteen hundred people were brought to a saving knowledge of Jesus.

This remarkable story, which began with the gift of a child's penny that led to the salvation of many souls, marvelously demonstrates the power our gifts can have on the work of the Kingdom. However, to be truly acceptable to God—and thus receive His greatest blessing—our gifts should be given for the right reasons and with the proper attitude.

As the apostle Paul relates in 2 Corinthians, acceptable gifts should be given willingly and within our means (8:12), and should not be offered reluctantly or given out of necessity ("under compulsion," 9:7). Most importantly, the offering most loved by God is one that is cheerfully given (from the Greek *ἡλάρως*, pronounced *hilaros*, the root of the English term "hilarious"). Thus, truly effective and acceptable Christian giving lies not in the amount given but rather in the spirit and attitude of the heart that gives it.

This side of heaven we may never

know what impact our gifts may have for the cause of Christ. But as our story shows, no gift, willingly and cheerfully given, is too small for God to use in a mighty and miraculous way. Are you giving to the Kingdom? Are your gifts being effectively used to further Christ's work here on Earth? Please know that ICR will honor and apply your gift as though it came directly from the hand of God. ●

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



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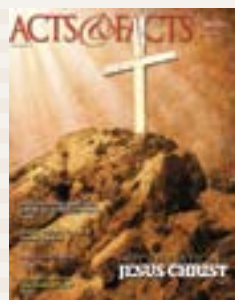
It was my pleasure to contribute to the support of the *Unlocking the Mysteries of Genesis* project. My parents used your resources to guide and teach me as I grew up. I now have a solid foundation in

**My love for Jesus explodes when I think about the intricate ways He designed me and our vast universe. As an engineer, He is my inspiration to design with excellence and care. I love following in His footsteps.**

the biblical view of creation, and it impacts every aspect of my life. My love for Jesus explodes when I think about the intricate ways He designed me and our vast universe. As an engineer, He is my inspiration to design with excellence and care. I love following in His footsteps. Thank you for your continued faithfulness to always view science through the Word

of God. I haven't had a chance to look in depth at *The Solar System [God's Heavenly Handiwork]* booklet, but I plan to! Also, great job on the *That's a Fact* video series and your use of social media. As a millennial, you've hit the nail on the head to engage with us. God bless!

— S.Y.



The June issue of *Acts & Facts* arrived yesterday and I ordered, with eager anticipation, the *Unlocking the Mysteries of Genesis* DVD series. How exciting! I did not mean for so much time to lapse before writing to thank ICR and Gloria Dei Lutheran Church for hosting the Your Origins Matter conference [in March]. It was tremendous!

All the speakers were great and Christ was honored. What a joy to hear Frank Sherwin and Dr. [Randy] Guliuzza in the Chapel. It was like a happy and God-centered conversation (Ephesians 5:19). Learning was fun! It is such an encouragement to hear men like Vodie Baucham in person and know his family is making a difference in our world. Dr. [Jason] Lisle and Colonel [Jeff] Williams, Dr. Guliuzza, and Frank Sherwin gave enormous evidence of biblical creation. All made an impact on the audience. Very much appreciated, and I enjoyed the fossil exhibit.

— C.F.

The *Acts & Facts* magazine has given us so much good material to strengthen our faith and help in witnessing to the lost. Twenty-five years ago I resisted the gospel and the calling of God because I igno-

rantly thought scientists had proven evolution over millions of years and I had no need to fear the judgment of God for my sin. Then a friend gave me a tract that challenged that worldview, and the Spirit of God began to work on me. After years wrestling with these opposing messages, one glorious day God opened my eyes and I saw that He is the Truth—He created everything. He loves me, and Jesus died for my sins so I could be pardoned from them. I am not much of a reader so I very much appreciate the short articles in *Acts & Facts* and



visual media like *That's a Fact* videos and ICR's DVDs. That's why I am really looking forward with much anticipation to your new DVD set, *Unlocking the Mysteries of Genesis*.

— L.T.

Thanks so much for covering ice core dating [in *Ice Cores*, *Seafloor Sediments*, and the *Age of the Earth: Part 1* in the June *Acts & Facts*] so thoroughly. A few years ago, I tried digging to the bottom (pun intended) of the assumptions scientists must make to come up with the timelines they do but could find nothing available about the lower layers. Even asking a scientist directly produced no results....

Looking forward to reading the next installment!

— C.F.



Just received the series and watched the first episode [of *Unlocking the Mysteries of Genesis*] with my 7- and 9-year-old boys. Very professional. The illustration about the junkyard and the sports car having a designer made sense to my 9-year-old, and he spontaneously mentioned it later to another adult in the family. It is going to be fun to watch these together this summer.

— S.Z.

Have a comment? Email us at [editor@icr.org](mailto:editor@icr.org) or write to Editor, P. O. Box 59029, Dallas, Texas 75229.

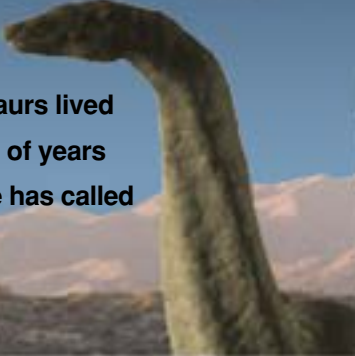
Note: Unfortunately, ICR is not able to respond to all correspondence.

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