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INSTITUTE FOR
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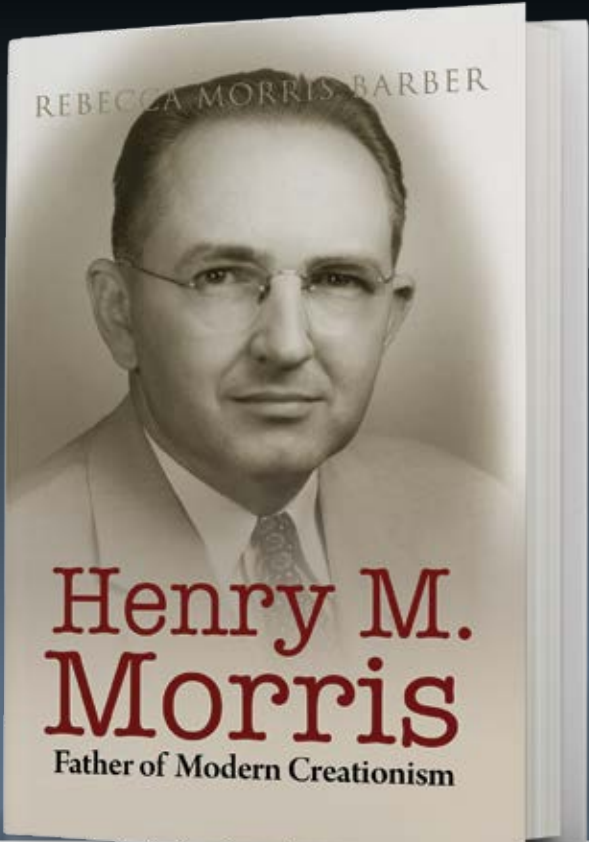
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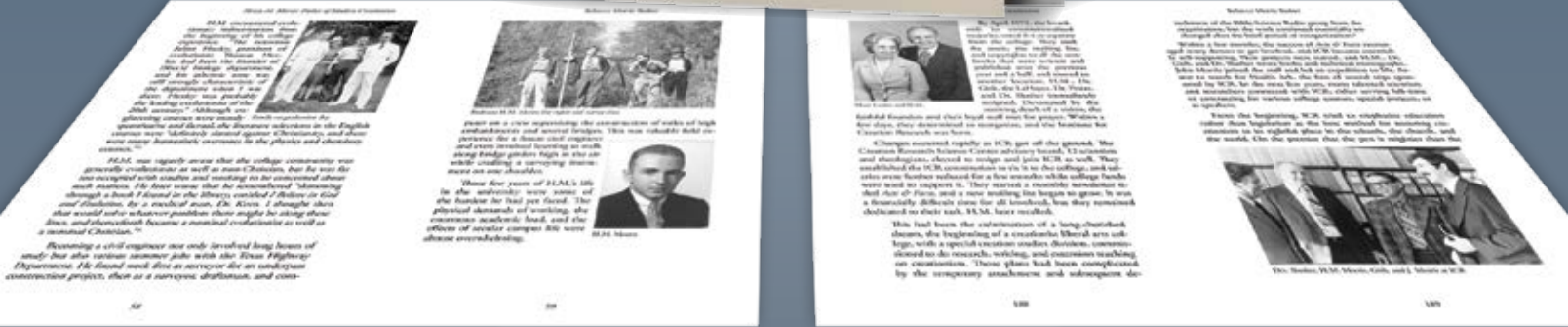
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“The creation/evolution issue is, in a very real sense, the most fundamental issue of all.”

— Dr. Henry M. Morris



Dr. Henry M. Morris, founder of the Institute for Creation Research, spent a lifetime investigating scientific evidence that confirms the Bible. Leaving his position as head of the Civil Engineering Department at Virginia Polytechnic Institute, he dove headlong into answering the tough questions of faith and science.

Through his research, Dr. Morris formed groundbreaking scientific explanations for creation and the Flood. Dr. Morris wrote over 60 books, and *The Genesis Flood*,

co-written with Dr. John Whitcomb, was a primary catalyst for the creationism movement.

In *Henry M. Morris: Father of Modern Creationism*, you'll see how God used this humble man to boldly proclaim the veracity of His Word. Dr. Morris' work rebuilt Christians' confidence in the accuracy of the Bible and turned many toward Christ for the first time. His legacy lives on in those who proclaim the authority of the Bible to a compromising church and unbelieving culture.

“No voice in the debate over creationism and evolution has ever spoken with more clarity and insight than that of Dr. Henry M. Morris. A brilliant scientist himself, Dr. Morris was also an outstanding theologian and Bible teacher. He could speak with unassailable authority on either geology or Genesis.”
— John MacArthur, Pastor-Teacher of Grace Community Church in Sun Valley, California

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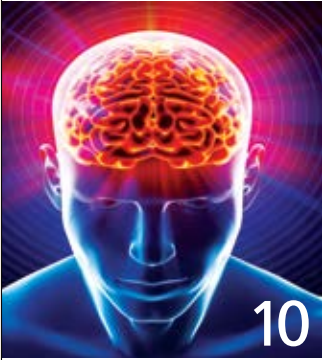
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Creation and an Eternal Perspective

While many of us struggle with daily routines that include high-pressure goals, chasing deadlines, and rushing to beat the tyranny of the urgent, our best-laid plans ultimately collide with another world—eternity. Whether it’s through the death of a loved one, our own failing health, or another significant life event, we all come to moments when we’re forced to stop and consider eternity.

In his feature article this month, “Eternal Perspective,” Dr. Henry M. Morris III says, “If there is any hope of our gaining an eternal perspective during our short lives, it surely must begin, focus, and thrive on the ‘word of God which lives and abides forever’ (1 Peter 1:23)” (pages 5-7). Dr. Morris reminds us that we only have one very short life. As believers, this compels us to consider how He wants us to use the time we’re given.

With an eternal perspective, we consider what matters most to God. He makes it clear that the souls of people are eternal and His Word stands forever. Our time and resources are best spent on what He says will last.

At the Institute for Creation Research, our mission pursues both of these God-given priorities. We use scientific evidence to defend and confirm the absolute authority of the Bible, and we do this to strengthen the faith of believers and reach the souls of those blinded by evolutionary philosophy. We are increasingly concerned that the biblical creation message is being rejected by unbelievers and believers alike. Students are pressured to settle for questionable explanations that discredit what God says about our beginnings. This generation willingly accepts evolution as real science.

Decades ago, ICR founder Dr. Henry M. Morris noticed this alarming movement of culture. In our new biography, *Henry M. Morris: Father of Modern Creationism*, Rebecca Morris Barber recounts his efforts to impact the world with creation truth from science and Scripture (see page 2). His life story will encourage you—

he surely lived with his sights set on eternity.

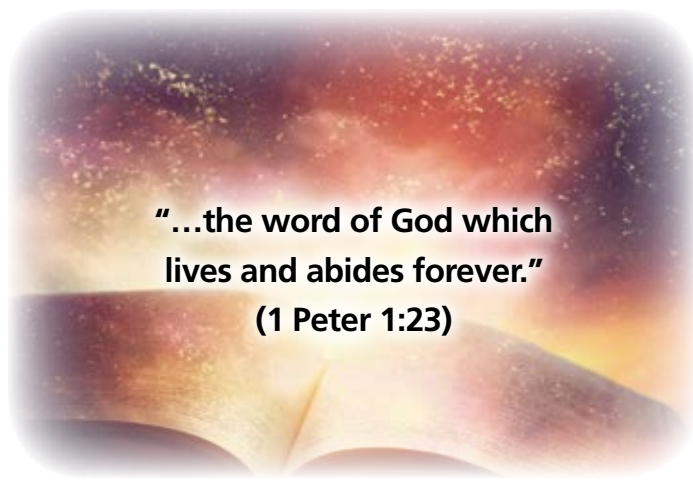
Building on Dr. Morris’ legacy, we want to equip you with ready answers for your creation questions. In this issue, nuclear physicist Dr. Vernon Cupps points out that “the biblical narrative provides us with a different paradigm for the origin of the elements” (page 9). Geneticist Dr. Jeffrey Tomkins shows us how the human brain defies “any explanation that relies on chance” (page 12). Physicist Dr. Jake Hebert says, “The answer to the question of human origins is found not in evolutionists’ mental projections and ever-changing evolutionary story but in the divinely inspired Genesis history—the

real story of mankind” (page 13). As demonstrated in these articles and thousands more on our website ICR.org, God’s inspired Word includes His historical record of how we all got here.

Our founder said years ago, “If the Bible cannot be understood, it is useless as revelation. If it contains scientific fallacies, it could not have been given by inspiration.” The Bible is inspired from the first word to the last. Its truth feeds the human soul and shows us what really matters.

So, how do we gain an eternal perspective of life? How do we move beyond the daily activities that distract us from the soul issues? Surrender your life to the One who made you—the Lord Jesus Christ. Trust Him with everything, including the truth about your origins. When you spend time with the Creator of the universe—simply talking to Him and reading His Word—He’ll show you how you can impact souls. You’ll recognize the needs of those around you and be better equipped to point them to the Lord. And as you search the Bible, the Creator’s personal message to us, He’ll give you new eyes to see His wonderful works in creation.

Jayme Durant
EXECUTIVE EDITOR



**“...the word of God which
lives and abides forever.”
(1 Peter 1:23)**

Eternal PERSPECTIVE

...remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

(1 T H E S S A L O N I A N S 1 : 3)

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

One of the more difficult disciplines of the Christian life is cultivating an eternal perspective when evaluating how to use the resources the Lord makes available to us.

The challenge impacts us at every level of our lives, whether with mere personal decisions or in Kingdom leadership roles the Lord may grant as we mature. It is difficult to apply long-term thinking in any circumstance, but it is especially so with the key elements of the Kingdom. Long-term strategies must include how a given decision will impact people's responses to the Scriptures and/or to the multifaceted gospel message.

Nothing Physical Lasts

But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat;

both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. (2 Peter 3:10)

There are several such broad teachings in Scripture (Psalm 102:26; Joel 1:15; Isaiah 51:6; Matthew 24:35; Hebrews 1:10-12; Revelation 20:11), but the essence of these passages is a promise that the Creator will totally purge the universe of everything that is sin-tainted and restore a "new heavens and a new earth" (Isaiah 65:17; Revelation 21:1) in which total righteousness is the reality (2 Peter 3:13).

For all practical purposes, anything people build or develop has no eternal value—except as it relates to the matters the Lord Himself has identified as impacting eternity.

Eternal Words

Obviously, the essence of eternal rev-

elation to us is the written words of God, the Holy Scriptures (2 Timothy 3:16). "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away" is the statement that comes from the mouth of the Lord Jesus Himself (Matthew 24:35).

That principle appears frequently throughout Scripture. "Forever, O LORD, Your word is settled in heaven," the Lamed acrostic¹ announces in Psalm 119:89, echoed by Isaiah: "The word of our God stands forever" (Isaiah 40:8). If there is any hope of our gaining an eternal perspective during our short lives, it surely must begin, focus, and thrive on the "word of God which lives and abides forever" (1 Peter 1:23).

Eternal Works

In one form or another, the hallmark theme of the Bible is "Sow for yourselves

righteousness” (Hosea 10:12). If there is a distinguishing mark of the twice-born, it is:

By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome. (1 John 5:2-3)

Lest my emphasis is mistaken, there is absolutely no connection in Scripture between works and God’s gift of salvation, but there is every connection between a lifestyle of righteousness and the eternal life of the twice-born child of God. Jesus said to the Jews who believed in Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:31-32).

As the angelic messenger is escorting John through the magnificent Revelation of Jesus Christ, there is a scene that reveals the 144,000, the horror of the wrath of God, and the destruction of Babylon. Tucked in these “flash messages” is a description of the “patience of the saints” and “those who keep the commandments of God” (Revelation 14:12). These blessed dead are singled out for an unusual comment: “They may rest from their labors, and their works follow them” (Revelation 14:13).

Yes, it sometimes costs our earthly lives to serve the King, but we are given the high privilege and opportunity to be “steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that [our] labor is not in vain in the Lord” (1 Corinthians 15:58).

Eternal Attitude

As the Lord Jesus was wrapping up His instruction to His disciples, He used a common ranching experience to help them

understand how God would evaluate human activities to separate the “sheep” from the “goats.”

All nations were gathered for a final analysis of their behavior. Those who would “inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world” were set on one side, and those who would be thrown “into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels” were set on the other side (Matthew 25:35, 41).

The activity that gave evidence of the right heart attitude was acts of kindness (or not) to “the least of these My brethren” (Matthew 25:32-46). Even the little things are important to the great Creator and Judge—since they reveal the heart behind the deeds (1 Samuel 16:7).

Because the Word of God is eternal and the heart drives people to obey or disobey accordingly, “whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 5:19).

Eternal Behavior

During the incomparable Sermon on the Mount, Jesus listed a series of heart attitudes and their eternal consequences known more commonly as the beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-12). From that foundational evaluation, He spoke about our life as “light” and as “salt” that should demonstrate to the world what it really meant to live a godly lifestyle.

Even when godly motivation brings about disgust and persecution from the world, we should “rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven” (Matthew 5:12).

Jesus gave us two parables that set the stage for how we should evaluate our behavior in the light of an eternal perspective. Matthew’s gospel records one of the stories and Luke’s gospel the other. Both of them speak of a wealthy man who went into a far country to receive authority to rule. Both teach that the journey would take a long time and that the servants were given certain amounts of money to do business while he was away.

In Matthew’s account (Matthew 25:14-30), the servants were given differing amounts of money, “each according to his own ability.” In Luke’s account (Luke 19:12-27), each servant was given the same amount. Both sets of servants were expected to use the gifts to further the value of the owner’s property, not their own. When the owner came back, his evaluation of each servant would be based on how well he had performed on the owner’s behalf—and his reward would be in proportion to what he had done.

Matthew notes that two of the three servants had essentially doubled their master’s money by trading during his absence. Luke stressed the point that two of the servants had performed very well, although to different returns of the master’s investment. In both cases, however, one servant did nothing with the owner’s money but hid it because he was afraid that if he risked anything he might lose the money.

The four servants who invested or did good business while the master was away were rewarded with true riches by having authority over cities in the new realm under the owner’s domain. The master acknowledged they had been faithful in a few things and had proven their loyalty and worth so that they could be granted oversight over many things.

The two servants who had done nothing of value on behalf of their master, however, were called lazy, wicked, and unprofitable. Those worthless servants were thrown into “outer darkness,” and the original money was given to the most productive of the other servants.

God expects us to perform on His behalf. We are temporarily given the opportunity to work down here while the Lord is in the “far country.” We only have one life for a very short time until we will be brought before our “Owner” and evaluated for our eternal perspective.

Only One Life, ‘Twill Soon Be Past

Many of us have heard that little couplet, but few know who wrote it. Permit me to use that marvelous poem written by C. T. Studd (1860–1931), a famous British cricketer and missionary to China, India, and Africa.

Two little lines I heard one day,
Traveling along life’s busy way;
Bringing conviction to my heart,
And from my mind would not depart;
Only one life, ‘twill soon be past,
Only what’s done for Christ will last.

Only one life, yes only one,
Soon will its fleeting hours be done;
Then, in “that day” my Lord to meet,
And stand before His Judgement seat;
Only one life, ‘twill soon be past,
Only what’s done for Christ will last.

Only one life, the still small voice,
Gently pleads for a better choice
Bidding me selfish aims to leave,
And to God’s holy will to cleave;
Only one life, ‘twill soon be past,
Only what’s done for Christ will last.

Only one life, a few brief years,
Each with its burdens, hopes, and fears;
Each with its days I must fulfill,

Living for self or in His will;
Only one life, ‘twill soon be past,
Only what’s done for Christ will last.

When this bright world would tempt
me sore,
When Satan would a victory score;
When self would seek to have its way,
Then help me Lord with joy to say;
Only one life, ‘twill soon be past,
Only what’s done for Christ will last.

Give me Father, a purpose deep,
In joy or sorrow Thy word to keep;
Faithful and true what e’er the strife,
Pleasing Thee in my daily life;
Only one life, ‘twill soon be past,
Only what’s done for Christ will last.

Oh let my love with fervor burn,
And from the world now let me turn;
Living for Thee, and Thee alone,
Bringing Thee pleasure on Thy throne;
Only one life, ‘twill soon be past,
Only what’s done for Christ will last.

Only one life, yes only one,
Now let me say, “Thy will be done”;
And when at last I’ll hear the call,
I know I’ll say “twas worth it all”;
Only one life, ‘twill soon be past,
Only what’s done for Christ will last.

ICR Discovery Center

All of the above is to help you understand how we view the ICR Discovery Center for Science and Earth History. Even though the building will be absolutely beautiful, the building itself will not last. Even though we are trying to anticipate the best equipment and concepts available to us today, all of that will be outdated pretty quickly. We are trying to design the structure so we can update both the material and the equipment with a minimum of disruption, but the “stuff” is made out of highly organized dust, and the information will be subject to the same Second Law of Thermodynamics that every-

thing else is subject to.

What is *not* subject to decay and human finite imagination is the biblical principles and stunning verification of the accuracy and authority of the Bible. ICR is absolutely committed to those *eternal* issues.

We are genuinely trying to think eternally as we plan for this center. We are evaluating everything we put together by the Word of God. If there is *doubt*, we don’t want it in this building. If there is *opinion*, we are going to leave that for the pundits on TV. If there is *dogma* or *pontification*, we are consciously excising that from our planning.

Genuine science (observed, tested, repeated) is a wonderful tool for the Christian. We want science in this discovery center. We do not want guesses, philosophy, or slavish devotion to favorite ideas to be part of this place of discovery.

Genuine theology (“precept upon precept, line upon line...here a little, there a little,” Isaiah 28:10) is powerful! We want biblical theology and the clear principles of Scripture to flow through this ministry like water from the Rock (1 Corinthians 10:4). We do not want “religion” or denominational creeds. We want the “word of God which lives and abides forever” (1 Peter 1:23).

We are praying we can open this legacy in fall 2018. Pray with us. Share with us. Rejoice with us. Whether much or little, together we, “as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ” (1 Peter 2:5). ✂

Reference

1. Each stanza of Psalm 119 begins with a consecutive letter of the Hebrew alphabet.

Dr. Morris is Chief Executive Officer of the Institute for Creation Research. He holds four earned degrees, including a D.Min. from Luther Rice Seminary and an MBA from Pepperdine University.




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Dr. Jim Johnson and Mr. Brian Thomas will speak on biblical creation at New Life Baptist Church in Dallas, Texas. This will be a bilingual event in English and Spanish.

Date: September 24, 2017

Schedule

9:15 a.m.

Dr. Jim Johnson "Genesis on Trial"
(English only)

11:00 a.m.

Dr. Jim Johnson "Genesis on Trial"
(English and Spanish)

6:00 p.m.

Mr. Brian Thomas "Discovering
Dinosaurs" (English and Spanish)

Location

New Life Baptist Church
2626 Gus Thomasson Rd.
Dallas, TX 75228
For information please call
214.327.0535 or visit
NewLifeDallas.org



James J. S. Johnson, J. D., Th.D.



Brian Thomas, M. S.

Dr. Jim Johnson y Sr. Brian Thomas hablarán sobre creación bíblica en la Iglesia Bautista Nueva Vida en Dallas, Texas. Este será un evento bilingüe en inglés y español.

Fecha: 24 septiembre, 2017

Programa

9:15 a.m.

Dr. Jim Johnson "Génesis en prueba" (inglés solamente)

11:00 a.m.

Dr. Jim Johnson "Génesis en prueba" (inglés y español)

6:00 p.m.

Sr. Brian Thomas "Descubriendo dinosaurios" (inglés y español)

Ubicación

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Dallas, TX 75228
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214.327.0535 o visite
NewLifeDallas.org



Nueva Vida
New Life
Amar a Dios, amar a otros, alcanzar al mundo.

Did Heavy Elements Come from Supernovas?

Have you ever wondered where all of Earth's chemical elements came from? There is such a diversity of elements in the crust—ranging from the hydrogen atom with a single proton orbited by an electron to the uranium atom with 92 protons orbited by 92 electrons—that it is a formidable task for science to explain where they originated and how they came to be located in our solar system.

The traditional model holds that the light elements (those with 28 protons or less) are produced by fusion reactions within stars such as our sun. Indeed, observations of the sun's photosphere and chromosphere confirm the existence of oxygen, carbon, magnesium, calcium, silicon, and iron. Recent measurements of the neutrino flux from the sun also seem to confirm that hydrogen fusion is the primary mechanism for generating the sun's energy deep within its interior.¹

However, nuclear fusion reactions are only *exothermic* (producing heat) up to the ⁵⁶Fe to ⁶²Ni element range. Beyond that, the fusion reactions thought to produce the heavier elements become *endothermic* (the surrounding material must supply energy for the reaction to occur). This has led mainstream science to accept models that predict heavier elements (>⁶²Ni) are produced during the explosions of supernovas.

But can supernova remnants explain the abundance of heavy elements like Pb and U in our solar system? This is an important question since all radiometric dating methods, with the exception of the ¹⁴C, K-Ar, and Ar-Ar methods, depend on elements with questionable origins.

Because of their vast distance from Earth, only supernovas' atmosphere/ejecta can be observed, and they basically show extremely small amounts of the heavy elements barium,² mercury,^{3,4} and technetium.⁵ This isn't surprising since one might expect heavy elements produced in a stellar core to stay in that core and not be directly observable or widely dispersed.

Our solar system has virtually all of the heavy elements present, so where is the supernova remnant that supposedly generated these elements? This question was posed to a University of Arizona graduate student, and he gave the generally accepted secular view that our galaxy was seeded by a supernova (or perhaps several), and then our

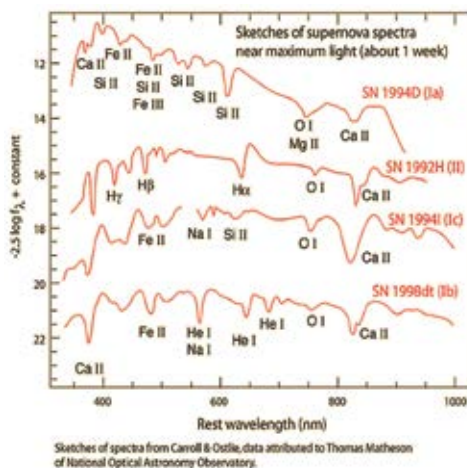
solar system formed from a nebula 4.5 to 5 billion years ago.⁶ This view, of course, assumes the deep-time paradigm for the evolution of the universe.

It's interesting to note that short half-life (10^5 to 10^6 years) radioisotopes such as ²⁶Al and several of the Tc isotopes have been observed in the residue from supernova.⁷⁻⁹ The eminent astrophysicist Donald D. Clayton remarked that "one of the most fascinating problems in stellar evolution and nucleosynthesis is that of separating abundance abnormalities into those contained in the star at birth and those produced by the star during its own lifetime."¹⁰ In

other words, Dr. Clayton is stating the obvious conundrum that secular scientists really don't know if the heavy elements were in the universe from its beginning or were produced over long time periods in stellar interiors.

The biblical narrative provides us with a different paradigm for the origin of the elements. According to the Bible, all matter/energy was created on the first day of creation, the earth on the second, and stars on the fourth. It's clear in this narrative that Earth's elements were created by God on the second day before any stars came into existence.

Since there is no definitive evidence that any of the elements with more protons than ⁶²Ni were formed in the interiors of supernovas, the deep-time paradigm of heavy element creation is a matter of belief, not fact. ☞



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Dr. Cupps is Research Associate at the Institute for Creation Research and earned his Ph.D. in nuclear physics at Indiana University-Bloomington. He spent time at the Los Alamos National Laboratory before taking a position as Radiation Physicist at Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory, where he directed a radiochemical analysis laboratory from 1988 to 2011. He is a published researcher with 73 publications.





The Human Brain Is “Beyond Belief”

The human brain, and any animal brain for that matter, is an engineering marvel that evokes comments from researchers like “beyond anything they’d imagined, almost to the point of being beyond belief”¹ and “a world we had never imagined.”² Why do discoveries about the brain evoke such startling statements from secular scientists? The main reason is that random, purposeless evolution and its imaginary processes are entirely unable to account for the brain’s seemingly infinite complexity. This article will highlight some of what researchers have discovered about this amazing organ and hopefully inspire the same awe in you and

direct the glory to our infinitely powerful Creator who engineered it all.

Perfect Optimization

A paper published in 1994 was one of the first to reveal the complexity of the human brain through the analyses of various animals’ nervous systems.³ The researchers applied the principles of combinatorial network optimization theory used in electrical engineering to see if they could fit the “save wire” principle with brain structure.⁴ The scientists found that at multiple hierarchical levels in the whole brain, nerve cell clusters (*ganglion*), and even at the individual cell level, the positioning of neural units

achieved a goal that human engineers strive for but find difficult to achieve—the perfect minimizing of connection costs among all the system’s components.

When the researchers studied a seemingly *simple* microscopic soil worm called a nematode, they found the same level of efficiency. From among 40 million possible network layouts of ganglia in the nematode’s nervous system, they found that each ganglion placement produced the least possible total connection length. Even the positioning of individual nematode neurons was thoroughly optimized. Similar results were obtained for datasets on the positioning of entire brain

“We found a world that we had never imagined. There are tens of millions of these objects even in a small speck of the brain, up through seven dimensions. In some networks, we even found structures with up to eleven dimensions.”

regions in humans and other mammals.

Vast Computational Power

In 2010, a group of Stanford University scientists published a new visualization technique based on targeting individual proteins involved in transmitting electrical brain signals.⁵ This technology allowed for previously unknown levels of multidimensional assessment of synapse complexity and diversity. Researchers discovered that a single synapse is like a computer’s microprocessor containing both memory-storage and information-processing features. The previous oversimplified belief was that synapses acted like

basic on/off switches—but nothing could be further from the truth since the brain acts more like a quantum computer than a digital computer. Just one synapse alone can contain about 1,000 molecular-scale microprocessor units acting in a quantum computing environment. An average healthy human brain contains some 200 billion nerve cells connected to one another through hundreds of trillions of synapses. To put this in perspective, one of the researchers revealed that the study’s results showed a single human brain has more information processing units than all the computers, routers, and Internet connections on Earth.¹

Phenomenal Processing Speed

As is typical of researchers bogged down in an evolutionary mindset where the complexity of living systems is routinely underestimated, the processing speed of the brain had been greatly underrated. In a new research study, scientists found the brain is 10 times more active than previously believed.^{6,7} In this project, scientists discovered that the branched projections of neurons (*dendrites*) are not merely passive conduits but are electrically active in animal brains and generate nearly 10 times more electrical spikes than the main body of the neuron cell (called a *soma*).

These new results overturned the long-held belief that electrical spikes in the soma are the primary way in which the mental processes of perception, learning, and memory formation occur. While the somas produce all-or-nothing spikes of electricity like a digital signal, the dendrites are hybrid systems performing both analog and digital transactions. Once again, this is more evidence of quantum computer-like brain engineering operating at warp speed levels. The large number of dendritic spikes also means the brain has more than 100 times the computational capabilities than was previously believed. While humans are only beginning to develop quantum computing devices, the Creator engineered our brains at a much more complicated, compact, and efficient level at the beginning of creation.

Petabyte-Level Memory Capacity

Yet another recent discovery revealed incredible levels of memory storage in the human brain.⁸ Terry Sejnowski, a leading scientist on the research paper, stated, “This is a real bombshell in the field of neuroscience.”⁹ Dr. Sejnowski perhaps also unwittingly framed the results using designed-based thinking when he explained:

We discovered the key to unlocking the design principle for how hippocampal neurons function with low energy but high computation power. Our new measurements of the brain’s memory capacity increase conservative estimates by a factor of 10 to at least a petabyte, in the same ballpark as the World Wide Web.⁹

What a mighty Creator we have who can engineer that much memory between our ears. Nothing engineered by humans even comes close.

Optimal Energy Efficiency

The brain is one of the most energy-hungry organs in the human body, consuming about 20% of the energy budget even though it represents only about 2% of the body’s mass.¹⁰ Despite this high-energy demand, the brain operates with startling efficiency—with no comparison among modern man-made devices. One Stanford scientist who is helping develop computer brains for robots calculated that a computer processor functioning with the computational capacity of the human brain would require at least 10 megawatts to operate properly. This is comparable to the output of a small hydroelectric power plant. As amazing as it may seem, the human brain requires only about 10 watts to function.¹¹ A phenomenal level of energy optimization engineering like this can only be attributed to an infinitely wise Creator.

Multidimensional Processing

One of the most daunting challenges in neuroscience has been detecting the link between brain structure and how it relates to information processing. Brain cells com-

municate and process information in a completely different way than computer networks, and the neurological data appeared to be very chaotic, primarily because scientists could not interpret them properly. This lack of a clear link between neural cell network structure and how information is processed was a huge barrier to understanding the brain's functioning.

Recently, scientists made progress by constructing three-dimensional graphs of neural cell networks that more accurately reflect the direction of information flow.¹² To do so, they analyzed the graphs using complex algebraic topology. Applying this approach to a local network of neurons in the neocortex region revealed a remarkably intricate and previously undetected topology of synaptic connectivity at multiple dimensions.

When the brain processes information such as a thought or some other task, temporary informationally interactive structures appear that consist of three-dimensional groups of cells called *cliques*. These structures communicate with each other while that action is processed—just like a group of people might briefly come together in a clique to chat. When the neural process concludes, the association disintegrates. But most amazing are the specific geometric structures called *cavities* that develop when these cliques form. One of the researchers, Ran Levi, stated, “The appearance of high-dimensional cavities when the brain is processing information means that the neurons in the network react to stimuli in an extremely organized manner.” He continued:

It is as if the brain reacts to a stimulus by building then razing a tower of multi-dimensional blocks, starting with rods (1D), then planks (2D), then cubes (3D), and then more complex geometries with 4D, 5D, etc. The progression of activity through the brain resembles a multi-dimensional sandcastle that materializes out of the sand and then disintegrates.¹³

He also said:

We found a world that we had never imagined. There are tens of millions of these objects even in a small speck of the brain, up through seven dimensions. In some networks, we even found structures with up to eleven dimensions.¹³

Biophoton Brain Communication

Not only does the brain work by chemically generated electrical pulses, but research is producing a growing amount of evidence indicating photons (packets of light) play an important role in the daily function of brain cells as well.^{14,15} Much of this evidence comes from observing cells in the dark and evaluating the light photons they produce as they work. In fact, data now strongly indicate that many cells use light to communicate. Prior to observing this, there were ample indications that bacteria, plants, and even kidney cells communicate with light. It has been shown that rat brains literally light up due to the photons produced by neurons and that spinal neurons can conduct light.

Neurons contain many light-sensitive molecules such as porphyrin rings, flavinic, pyridinic rings, lipid chromophores, and aromatic amino acids. Even the mitochondria machines that produce energy inside cells contain several different light-responsive molecules called *chromophores*. This research suggests that light channeled by filamentous cellular structures called *microtubules* plays an important role in helping to coordinate activities in different regions of the brain. Because it is difficult to explain electrical activity in the overall brain that synchronizes over long distances, researchers now believe that light communication aids the processing speed of the communications channels since photons move much faster than electrical signals.

It's overwhelmingly clear that evolution as a theory has failed to explain the complexity of the brain. It's entirely unportable that this organ containing spectacular levels of processing capacity, efficiency,

memory storage capabilities, up to 11 dimensions of structure for a single information process, and dual electrical-photon communication could have evolved by sheer chance. The brightest human engineers cannot come up within anything close to this level of ingenuity.

The great stumbling block for Darwinian evolution is explaining how a multitude of features could simultaneously coalesce to form a unified, functional biological system. Obviously, the human brain did not evolve by the progressive addition of one factor at a time as postulated by evolution. The brain's efficiency, power, and complexity not only defy any explanation that relies on chance, but also points directly to an omnipotent and all-wise Creator. ✨

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The Ever-Evolving Human Evolution Story

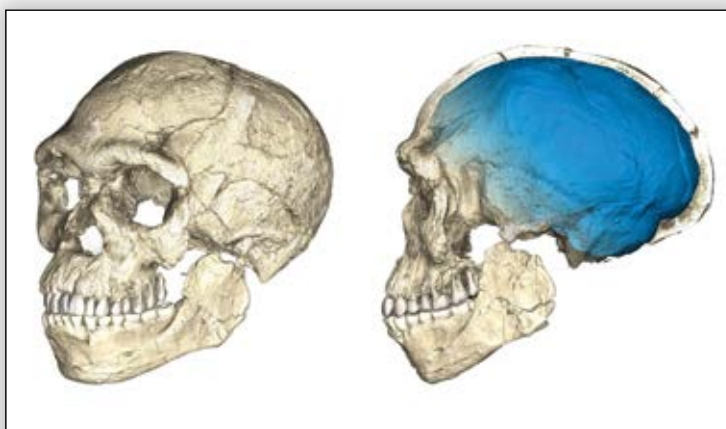
Evolutionary scientists recently announced that fossils from Jebel Irhoud in Morocco, dated at around 300,000 years old, are the oldest *Homo sapiens* fossils ever discovered.¹ This claim is based on the shape of a skull and the presence of stone tools at the site. This represents a potential rewrite to the human evolution story that pushes back the origin of “modern” humans by 100,000 years. It would also suggest that the “cradle of civilization” included the entire African continent rather than just eastern Africa, as long claimed by evolutionists.

Even the pro-evolution magazine *Scientific American* acknowledged that these Moroccan fossils “mess up” the accepted human evolution story.² Why?

Secular paleoanthropologists have found similar stone tools at other African sites, but in the absence of accompanying fossils, they assumed the tools belonged to an older, not-quite-fully-human species. If evolutionists accept the Jebel Irhoud fossils as fully human, it would mean these other sites may have been occupied by genuine people as well. Likewise, evolutionists think that other fossils from Israel could be the same age as the Jebel Irhoud fossils,³ despite having what they consider to be somewhat “primitive” features. This means that evolutionists may have mistakenly labeled other genuinely human fossils as primitive due to their unusual anatomical characteristics.⁴ Thus, evolutionists would need to re-evaluate their earlier assessments of these fossils.

This would not be the first rewrite of

the evolutionary story. Purported missing links are regularly announced with much fanfare. But they are invariably debunked, only to be replaced by other equally dubious “ape-man” candidates. An entire parade of



A composite reconstruction of the Homo sapiens fossils from Jebel Irhoud, Morocco. The images are based on micro-computed tomographic scans.

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these missing links has come and gone: Pitted Man, Nebraska Man, Neanderthals, Lucy, *Ramapithecus*, Ida, etc. None of them have stood the test of time. Given evolutionists’ abysmal track record, why should anyone take their claims seriously?⁴ Evidence for human evolution seems to exist only in evolutionists’ imaginations.⁵

That no purported missing link has withstood scrutiny is consistent with Genesis. Since God created living things to reproduce only after their kinds (Genesis 1:24-25), apes have always been apes, and people have always been people.

Despite the inflated ages secular scientists have assigned to these genuine human fossils, they are the remains of people who lived after the confusion of tongues and dispersion from Babel several thousand years ago (Genesis 11:1-9).

Division of labor before they were scattered would mean that few, if any, of the dispersed people would have retained all their society’s accumulated technological know-how. Much of this knowledge would have been lost, with each family having to begin civilization anew with a limited skill set. Any iron tools they had would have eventually worn out, likely necessitating the use of stone tools early on. During the post-Flood Ice Age, some families would have found shelter in caves (Job 30:5-6). They would have hunted big game and buried their dead in cave dwellings (Genesis 23:11), as the Neanderthals—genuine members of the human family⁶—are known to have done. As the Ice Age ended hundreds of years later, people built

more permanent settlements and civilizations.

The answer to the question of human origins is found not in evolutionists’ mental projections and ever-changing evolutionary story but in the divinely inspired Genesis history—the real story of mankind. ✎

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Lee Huntington's Creation Story



Editor's note: Prominent San Diego engineer and industrialist Lee Huntington was an ICR Board member for over two decades. This article describes his creation journey.

Lee Huntington graduated from high school in time for the United States' entrance into World War II. He helped build B-24 bombers at Convair in San Diego, but at the war's end he was eager to continue his education. He especially wanted to be a mechanical engineer and chose to attend the University of California in Berkeley, which had a great science reputation.

As someone intent on entering the science research education field, he wanted to make sure everything he studied was true and accurate. He was also determined that nothing in his studies would be based on conjecture—everything must have an accurate foundation. Science and truth, he felt, should be close companions.

During the early days of his time at the university, Lee volunteered to work on various science experiments. His first project was directed by Dr. Ernest Lawrence, a Nobel Prize winner in physics and a professor at Berkeley. Other volunteer assignments were in the field of thermodynamics, one of which was to measure the heat transfer and design in special refrigerated boxcar walls.

After Lee graduated with his mechanical engineering degree, he served a tour in the U.S. Marines. At the tour's conclusion, he moved back to Berkeley with the goal of a master's degree in science. His work focused on better measurements for the human body's comfort in dealing with radiation and convection.

Lee moved to Los Angeles and began

work in engineering design for commercial air conditioning. The manufacture and use of this equipment was fairly new at the time. He later relocated to San Diego to start his own engineering business. The new venture often offered challenges. One such challenge involved working with British Petroleum (BP) on Alaska's North Slope in Prudhoe Bay. Lee's company was given the task of helping build power plants.

An interesting event occurred while Lee was up on the North Slope. The BP chief engineer gave him a handful of wood chips. He said workers had discovered them as they drilled up to 15,000 feet under the icy ground surface. Sometime later, Lee met Dr. Henry M. Morris in San Diego, and he told Lee those wood chips were likely from the Ice Age.

With his keen interest in science, Lee was determined to gain a greater understanding of the creation story. He attended a presentation by Dr. Walter Lammerts, a scientist and president of the Creation Research Society and a leader in the representation of scientific creationism. In 1970, this thoughtful Ph.D. introduced Lee to a book called *The Genesis Flood* by Dr. Henry M. Morris and Dr. John Whitcomb, and eventually Dr. Lammerts introduced him to Dr. Morris.

A short time after that meeting, Lee and his lovely first wife, Alice, attended a college-level course taught by Dr. Morris. This class was all about science and the worldwide Flood as described in Genesis. Dr. Morris had been the head of the Civil Engineering Department at Virginia Polytechnic. This university was and still is one of the top engineering schools in our country.

“There is a vacuum of creation information in our country and in our world.”



“I believe our Christian churches and schools need to be taught biblical creation as the most accurate explanation for new young scientists and for the advancement of our churches and school systems.”

.....

Dr. Morris was a very skilled and intelligent teacher. What a privilege it was for Lee and his wife to attend a Genesis class under him. What students learned in the class led them to examine age dating and other important questions and helped them begin putting together science and the creation story.

“Purpose in life” had always been an important consideration for Lee, and he searched for other respected scientists with different specialty skills who had been studying the same questions. He ran into many like-minded scientists who were extremely helpful in his quest.

One day in the early 1980s, Lee joined Dr. Henry Morris and Dr. Henry Morris III for lunch in El Cajon, a city in San Diego County. They asked Lee to join the Board of Directors of the Institute for Creation Research.

Lee continued to read all of the literature he could find on creation from a biblical and scientific point of view. In joining the ICR Board, he would meet men from all over the world who shared this belief. More and more young people were coming into

the fold—accepting and studying the idea of creation as being a reality. This direction was a monumental change in the standard scientific belief system. Could our world be a much younger world (a newer creation) than was previously thought?

Lee was now faced with the same dilemma that Dr. Henry M. Morris had when he was a smart young graduate. What is the real truth for us as science students? In Lee’s own words:

There are two laws of thermodynamics. These two laws have been accepted by science for many years. They were introduced to me during my engineering classes at U.C. Berkeley, and these laws seemed to conflict with old-age teaching. We were told that our universe was so very old, and now perhaps we were mistaken. The second law tells us everything is running down—especially the availability of energy. Everything had been young at some point as described in Genesis, and now there appears to be an end point that is sooner than we had been led to believe.

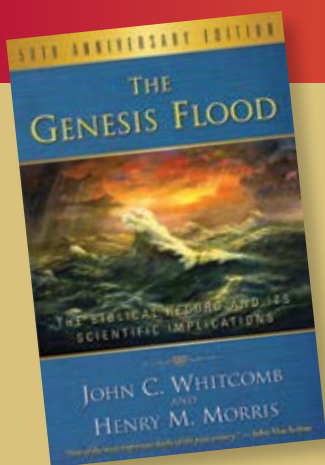
Does the Bible give us a real history of

our civilization? More than that, isn’t it likely that its history is written by a Master Teacher—our very scientific Creator? Was our Lord the real Master Designer, Creator, and Engineer, or do we toss this aside?

Dr. Henry M. Morris III and his team of world-class scientists have taken a big step in helping churches and schools understand creation. Many of us have now come to embrace what we believe is the most accurate explanation as to who we are and where we are going.

The whole Morris family is dedicated to carrying this banner into the future. Dr. Henry Morris III, ICR’s CEO, assisted by his brother, Dr. John Morris, is carrying on the leadership for this mission. There is a vacuum of creation information in our country and in our world. I believe our Christian churches and schools need to be taught biblical creation as the most accurate explanation for new young scientists and for the advancement of our churches and school systems.

My commitment is to continue to help carry this banner and support ICR. ✉



THE GENESIS FLOOD

“The Genesis Flood is as timely, thought-provoking, and helpful as ever. A tour de force and a must-read resource for pastors, teachers, scientists, and anyone who is troubled by the conflict between the biblical account of creation and the ever-changing claims of modern evolutionary theory.”

— Dr. John MacArthur,
Pastor of Grace Community Church

Over 50 years ago, Dr. Morris and Dr. Whitcomb joined together to write a controversial book that sparked dialogue and debate on science and the Bible — culminating in what would be called the birth of the modern creation science movement.

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In the heat of July and August, work continued inside and out on ICR's Discovery Center for Science and Earth History. Inside, with the installation of heating and air conditioning systems and plumbing for the exhibit hall, and outside with drilling and pile-driving piers for the planetarium's foundation, as well as laying the groundwork for the parking area and landscaping.



To help document the construction progress of ICR's Discovery Center, Beck Architects placed an OxBlue time-lapse camera on a 60-foot pole and programmed it to take a picture every 10 minutes 24 hours a day. The big crane arrived on site August 1, 2017.



Future Discovery Center parking area and outdoor park with covered pavilions for families and tour groups.



Pile-driving equipment digging for pier placement for the Discovery Center's planetarium and auditorium foundation.



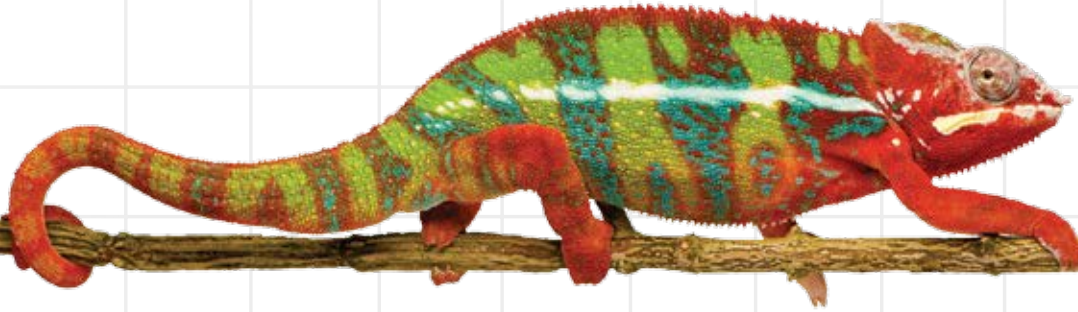
Installing air ducts and plumbing to prepare the exhibit hall.

Help Us Finish the ICR Discovery Center

Please help ICR reach generations to come with evidence that confirms the Bible. As we build the superstructure, we are still raising funds for the interior exhibits. Your gift will be put to effective use to point people to the truth of our Creator, the Lord Jesus Christ. Please visit ICR.org/DiscoveryCenter



Adaptability via Nature or Design?



What Evolutionists Say

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

Does Darwin deserve all the homage he gets? After all, the idea of evolution didn't originate with him. Others before him recognized that less "fit" animals die, and his book on human evolution, *The Descent of Man*, wasn't groundbreaking either.

Yet, Darwin was a profound forerunner in a vital area of biological inquiry. He pioneered a way to conceptualize *nature* as the creative agent of change for organisms.¹ Stephen Jay Gould's *The Structure of Evolutionary Theory* is likely unmatched in chronicling the history of evolutionary intellectual discourse. He lauds Darwin's trailblazing approach:

Darwin's theory, in strong and revolutionary contrast, presents a first "externalist" account of evolution.... Darwin overturned all previous traditions by thus granting the external environment a causal and controlling role in the direction of evolutionary change.²

Gould chose his words carefully, for he prefaced his conclusion by saying:

I proceed in this way for a principled reason, and not merely as a convenience. All major evolutionary theories before Darwin... [are] presenting a fundamentally "internalist" account, based upon intrinsic and predictable patterns set by the nature of living systems, for development or "unfolding" through time.²

What does Gould mean by "externalist" versus "internalist" accounts? It may be useful to let some of the most perceptive evolutionists speak in their own words on this issue. Listen carefully and learn how Darwin's externalism credits nature for effects that are normally the result of intelligent agency. The evolutionists' words make clear why we need a design-based theory of adaptability that uses engineering principles to explain the specified complexity and *internal* capacities that allow intelligently designed organisms to adapt to changing environments.

Environments Exercise Agency: The Replacement to Intelligent Agency

According to Gould, a key observation needs to be explained:

Organisms are well designed for their immediate modes of life—and intricate adaptation implies an agent of design, either an intelligent creator who made organisms by fiat as an expression of his wisdom and benevolence, or a natural principle of evolution that yields such adjustment between organism and environment as a primary result of its operation.³

After evolution prevailed, debates centered on internal mechanisms versus external forces as the impetus for change. Early in his career, Gould discussed this debate:

What is the motor of organic change? More specifically, how are life and the earth related? Does the external environment and its alterations set the course of change, or does change arise from some independent and internal dynamic within organisms themselves?⁴

He categorized externalists as holding "that evolution proceeded when changes in the physical environment established selective pressures for new adaptation.... I will refer to the belief in external control as *environmentalist* and to claims for an inherent cause of change as *internalist*." Externalists, therefore, "identified the agent of change not within organisms themselves, but in a fluctuating external environment."⁴

Synonyms for externalism are functionalism, selectionism, and adaptationism. Internalism, which holds that causality for biological function is internal, may also be called formalism, a category that includes structuralism.

The divide between these positions isn't trivial. Gould notes that "the designation of one principle or the other as the causal foundation of biology virtually defines the position of any scientist towards the organic world and its causes of order," which continues unabated



since “this dichotomy continues to define a major issue in modern evolutionary debates.”⁵

Harvard geneticist Richard Lewontin incisively describes how Darwin’s externalistic approach fundamentally changed the way biologists see organisms:

For Darwin, the external world, the environment, acting on the organism was the cause of the form of organisms. The environment, the external world with its autonomous properties, was the subject and the organism was, again, the object acted upon....It is from this view of environment as the cause of organisms that the entire corpus of modern biology arises. We cannot appreciate fully the nature of the change in biology wrought by Mendel and Darwin unless we understand the historical importance of the objectification of the organism.⁶

Science philosopher Trevor Pearce notes:

The new dichotomy of organism and environment proved both useful and portable. By the 1890s, it was already operating as an essential framing device in scientific and philosophical arguments. In biology and psychology, the environment was seen as a causal agent, highlighting questions of organismic variation and plasticity.⁷

Another theoretician, Marta Linde Medina, refines the view.

The term “internalist” makes reference to the nature of the originating organizing principle of biological form (in true “externalism” the originating organizing principle is imposed from without, regardless of how it may become inscribed in the organism).⁸

Externalists designate certain conditions as “selective pressures” they believe act upon trait variability conferred by genetic variability as a result of mutation. However, a prominent evolutionist perceptively characterized this non-quantifiable “pressure” and the “work” it is visualized as doing as “a metaphorical external agent.”⁹

Non-Darwinian biochemist Michael Denton explained how externalists see *all* traits as “the result of specific adaptations built additively by selection during the course of evolution, to serve particular functional ends, ends that are imposed by the environment and that are external to the organism itself.”¹⁰

The overarching premise that active environments mold passive “objectified” organisms—meaning that nature as a substitute intelligent agent *can* create the diversity of life—seems to elude most evolutionary biologists. In an exclamation turned to lament, Gould says:

I regard this passage [Darwin’s concluding paragraph in his chapter titled “Difficulties on Theory”] as among the most important and portentous in the entire *Origin*, for these words embody Darwin’s ultimate decision to construct a functionalist theory based on adaptation as primary....Yet this passage, which should be emblazoned into the consciousness of all evolutionary biologists, has rarely been acknowledged or quoted.¹¹

People fixate on “no Designer needed” but don’t recognize how that assumption traces back to the profound shift in understanding organisms that Darwin initiated.

Passive Modeling Clay, Not Engineered Problem-Solving Entities

In contrast to the problem-solving capabilities engineers design into auto-adaptable man-made machines, externalism posits organisms as clay that is passively molded by the environment. Two researchers summarize Darwin’s externalism:

[Darwin] accepted the view that *the environment directly instructs the organism* how to vary, and he proposed a mechanism for inheriting those changes....The *organism was like modeling clay*, and remolding of the clay meant that each of the billions of little grains was free to move a little bit in any direction to generate new form....If an organism needed a wing, an opposable thumb, longer legs, webbed feet, or placental development, any of these would emerge under the proper selective conditions, with time.¹²

Linde Medina elaborates:

As a result, organisms are as passive as the matter that forms them: “Surprisingly, in spite of language like “struggle for existence”, for Darwin, organisms are far more passive and less tenacious in their grip on life; they simply vary—spontaneously. Natural selection does all the work of adapting populations of descendants to their changing circumstances” (Lenoir 1987, p. 27).¹³

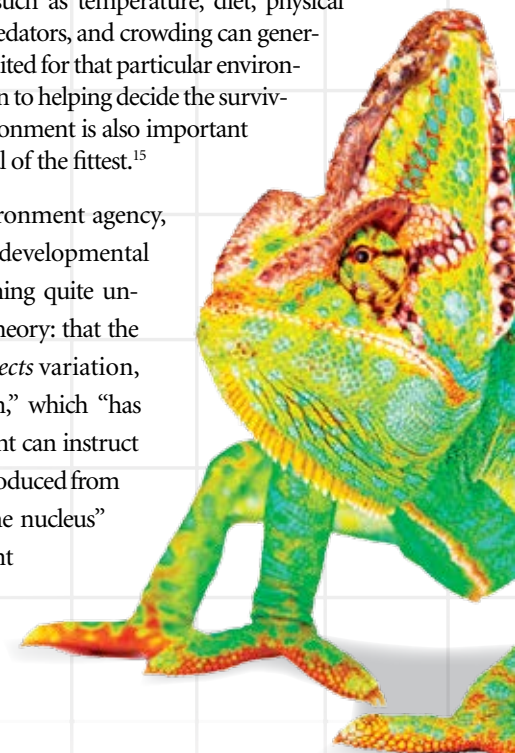
Gould adds that biology frames causation within an “explanation that treats organisms as inert substances, buffeted by an external environment and reacting immediately to physical stress without any counteracting, intrinsic control or even temporary resistance....i.e., stimulus leads to immediate and passive response.”¹⁴

Environments Cause Arrival and Survival of the Fittest

Concluding a chapter titled “The Environment as a Normal Agent in Producing Phenotypes,” developmental biologist Scott Gilbert said:

Environmental factors such as temperature, diet, physical stress, the presence of predators, and crowding can generate a phenotype that is suited for that particular environment....Thus, in addition to helping decide the survival of the fittest, the environment is also important in formulating the arrival of the fittest.¹⁵

Building off of environment agency, he added, “The study of developmental plasticity points to something quite unexpected in evolutionary theory: that the environment not only *selects* variation, it helps *construct* variation,” which “has shown that the environment can instruct which phenotype can be produced from the genetic repertoire in the nucleus” and thus “the environment is giving instructive information as well as selective pressures.”¹⁵



A Hardened Externalistic Status Quo Hinders Research

Many new scientific discoveries, however, don't seem to fit with externalism, which has resulted in vocal calls for reform. One reformer, Kevin Laland of the University of St. Andrews, describes the one-way thinking of externalistic causations in biology:

If correct, this form of evolutionary causation is *unidirectional*: it starts in the external environment (i.e., with selection) and ends with an adaptive change in the organism (i.e., with modified migratory behaviour). Unidirectional causation has historically been the default assumption within evolutionary biology.¹⁶

Denton agrees: "This is, of course, the currently prevailing and mainstream view. All Darwinists, and hence the great majority of evolutionary biologists, are *functionalist by definition*. . . . The English-speaking world adhered to some version of functionalism for so long that it is inconceivable to most English-speaking biologists that living things might contain a significant degree of order that arises from basic internal physical constraints," an idea "very alien" to them.¹⁷ Accordingly, Gould devoted a large section in *Structure* titled "Hardening" to describe this mental sclerosis.

Aware of these anomalies, Lewontin says, "Darwin's view of organisms as passive objects moulded by the external force of natural selection [has] become increasingly in contradiction with the known facts of developmental and population biology." Yet, due to hardening, "these well-known facts seem, however, to have made no impact on evolutionary theorists who continue to speak [circularly] about selection for a character and about genes that are selected because they produce that character."¹⁸

For example, recent findings show that many organisms detect changed conditions and self-adjust within their genome through epigenetic modifications. But hardened externalists interpret even these internal mechanisms as ultimately due to external causation, as one MIT professor illustrates:

But when we speak of Natural Selection as having programmed the human genome, I want to emphasize that it is precisely the capacities to respond and adapt for which Natural Selection has programmed the human genome.¹⁹

Getting Past "Entangled Causations"

Discoveries of pervasive *internal* mechanisms within intrinsically adaptable organisms frustrates "hardened" evolutionists. Lewontin observes that when they try to shoehorn such mechanisms into Darwin's externalistic ideas, they are "stalled by their attempt to use outdated concepts to confront a rich phenomenology to which these concepts clearly do not apply." He concludes that "it is a tribute to the power of long-held ideology that the study of evolution continues to lean so heavily on an impoverished view of the relation

between gene, environment, and organism."²⁰

The reflex explanation for ubiquitous internal mechanisms is that causality must obviously be both external *and* internal. But this view, per another reform advocate, is leading to "deeply entangled" causal explanations.²¹ Darwin had far more expertise than his disciples in intelligent design theory. He understood the illogic of "dual root" causes and, more importantly, that in a naturalistic worldview, final causality must trace back to nature.

Darwin hit his precise target by cleverly crediting nature with molding creatures even though the systems that produce variable traits, reproduction, and inheritance reside internally. If these functions of creature's systems truly do correspond to those of human-engineered auto-adaptable entities, then, by definition, the engineering causality is internal. Relationships to anything external are *enabled* by internal systems.

The answer to Darwin's externalism is intelligent design. We should start by identifying specified information and irreducible complexity,²² then utilize engineering principles and illuminate the full engineering causality of the auto-adaptability that yields incredibly active, problem-solving organisms. The rest of this article series will focus on that goal. ✎

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Q: Do “Simple” Eyes Reflect Evolution?

A: The complexity of the vertebrate eye disturbed Darwin, but he supposed it might have originated millions of years ago through a series of small steps that started with a rudimentary light-sensitive spot. Today, evolutionary theory claims that all eyes found in the animal world somehow evolved independently and can supposedly “be traced from a simple ancestral patch of photoreceptor cells.”¹ Those same authors stated, “There appears to have been a single evolutionary origin of light-sensitive cells.”²

Non-Darwinists ask, “Just how simple would this ancestral patch of cells be?” Since we cannot go back in deep evolutionary time to investigate these supposed structures, we must work with what we have today. Light-sensitive cells have a protein photoreceptor called *microbial rhodopsin* that absorbs photons—units of light. Rhodopsin molecules are embedded in a plasma membrane and would have had to evolve via blind chance, if evolutionists are correct.

Rhodopsin is found in Eukaryota (organisms whose cells have a nucleus), and single-celled Bacteria and Archaea. Rhodopsin molecules have ion channels as well as light-driven proton pumps. Could such sophisticated channels and pumps be the product of random evolutionary forces?

When a photon strikes a light-sensitive receptor cell, it causes immediate chemical changes in the rhodopsin molecules called *photobleaching*. This instant change results in a depolarizing event termed a *receptor potential*. This is simultaneously converted into an electrical signal, i.e., a current flow. Each signal has a destination such as a nerve net, or a concentration of ganglia (a small mass of nervous tissue including cell bodies and synapses), via a neural projection where the stimulus is then processed. This “simple” patch of photoreceptor cells is actually extraordinarily complicated!

Where did rhodopsin come from? “The origin of the first opsins is a bit murky,” states a University of California Santa Cruz genomics site.³ It looks like rhodopsin has always been rhodopsin, as predicted by creationists.

Today, the “simplest” eyes, called *pigment spot ocelli* or *eyespots*, are generally found in very complex animals such as sea stars (starfish), flatworms, and jellyfish.⁴

Larvae of marine invertebrates—worms, sponges, jellyfish—have the simplest eyes that exist. They consist of no more than two cells: a photoreceptor cell and a pigment cell. These minimal eyes, called eyespots, resemble the ‘proto-eyes’ suggested by Charles Darwin as the first eyes to appear in animal evolution.⁵

Is an eyespot automatically simple? An evolutionary zoology textbook states:

Eyespots of astonishingly advanced organization appear even in some unicellular forms. That of the dinoflagellate, *Nematodinium*, bears a lens, a light-gathering chamber, and a photoreceptive pigment cup—all developed within a single-celled organism.⁶

Despite evolutionary assumptions that “simple” eyes in certain organisms reflect the eye’s early evolutionary development, creationists maintain that invertebrates such as those listed above do not require the more complex eye anatomy found in other invertebrates (like octopus and squid) and vertebrates. They do not need more intricate eyes in order to do what they were created to do, nor are their eyes necessarily primitive.

Euglena, for example, is a single-celled flagellate with over 800 species that contains chloroplasts for photosynthesis but can also feed by autotrophy (the self-manufacture of food from inorganic substances). An evolutionist described the *Euglena*’s photoreceptor structure as “highly ordered”:

The paraflagellar body—the photoreceptor—is a highly ordered crystalline lamellar structure. Optical diffraction of the electron micrographs and resulting filtered images of the paraflagellar body suggest that it is formed of rods in a helical arrangement.⁷


No matter the structure, physiology, or overall function of a visual system—either in a “simple” marine larva or the primitive “proto-eyes” imaginatively suggested by Darwin—the systems are incredibly complex and their design shouts creation. ✎

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Do pointed questions help people think? Good questions can make them curious and open their minds to things they might not have considered. When people express doubts about the truth of the Bible, asking the right questions can help guide them toward the right answers—biblical answers.¹

Consider how God Himself often used questions to help humans think about important matters and look at their real motivations. Immediately after Adam sinned—with help from his helpmate—God asked a series of questions:

Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, “Where are you?” So he said, “I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself.” And He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?” Then the man said, “The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate.” And the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?”²

Obviously, God knew the answer to every question He posed to Adam and Eve, so God wasn’t seeking unknown information. So, why did He use questions?

Questions hold us in suspense until we find what we believe are good answers, so questions can motivate us to think about and learn specific information in a manner that’s engaging and almost automatic. Questions are great educational tools because they prompt us to recognize facts on particular topics. When we hear a question on a subject important or interesting to us, we want to know the answer.

Consider a few questions asked by the Lord Jesus Christ to guide and direct the thinking of His hearers:

“Which of you convicts Me of sin? And if I tell the truth, why do you not believe Me?”³

“For if you believed

Using Pointed Questions to Point to Answers

Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?”⁴

When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He said to her, “Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?”⁵

Accordingly, asking questions can be very helpful in apologetics-oriented conversations. Consider how these questions invite, if not trigger, analytical thinking:

Why are the evolutionists’ anticipated “missing links” still missing?⁶

Why do Darwinists use the term “natural selection” to refer to creatures’ interactions with their nonliving geophysical environment—something that

cannot think or make the kind of value judgments indispensable to any kind of “selection”?⁷

Why does the real-world ice-core layer data fit the biblical record regarding Earth’s climate history, yet it clashes with the uniformitarian (evolutionist) assumptions about Earth’s history?⁸

Why do evolutionists continue to use such discredited ideas as vestigial organs and Haeckel’s “recapitulating” embryos?⁹

Why were evolutionists so easily fooled by the Piltdown Man hoax?¹⁰

Why do we need reliable witnesses to know about unique events of Earth’s past such as creation week events or the global Flood?¹¹

Leading questions like these can guide discussions with those who question—as well as those who might not have been paying enough attention to have a question—ultimately pointing those with “ears to hear” in the right direction and aiming natural curiosity toward relevant truth.

Can you think of some questions that can point thinking people toward the right answers? 📖

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Scripture frequently uses agrarian images to emphasize the effort necessary to bring people to Christ or disciple them to maturity. Just as the farmer cannot expect a harvest unless the seed is first planted and nurtured, so too Christians must sow and labor in the hearts of mankind before God will produce spiritual fruit (1 Corinthians 3:5-10). And as Paul often reminded believers in the churches he founded, spiritual sowing and laboring takes various forms and is accomplished in different stages. We should always be looking for the opportunity to “do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith” (Galatians 6:10).

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— B. F.

These sounds bites are the bomb. Thanks for posting, ICR.
— T. R.



For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. (Psalm 139:13-14, ESV)

That means God assembled my DNA. He knew what cancer I would get and when. And He knew precisely what I would go through. And He was there to carry me when the road got too tough for me.
— J. B.

As a medical transcriptionist who types operation notes, rarely does a day go by that I don't marvel at how wonderfully made the human body is and the knowledge God has given doctors to fix it!
— W. K. M.

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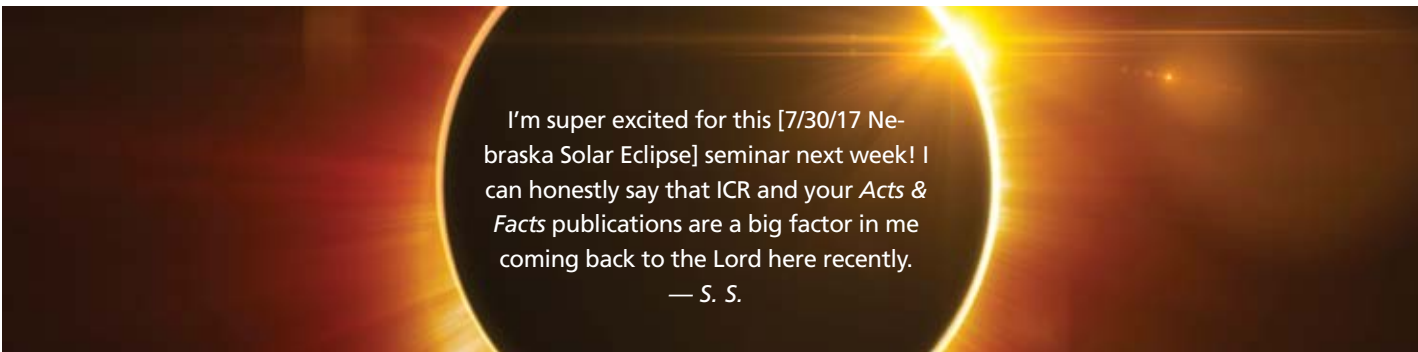
Belief in Creation Declines

What does this trend mean? It means that, unbelievably, more people than ever are willing to believe the unscientific claims that something came from nothing—that life came from non-life.
— J. Y.

He didn't bring me to Himself until I was 50; before then I was totally entrenched in evolution. As a baby Christian, and completely unchurched, I held to the gap theory because it was easier at that point. Before reading the creation account, I asked for wisdom—the answer was really quite simple—He said it. If a professing Christian doesn't believe creation, they throw out all of His God-breathed Word. I was wishy-washy until the truth was revealed.
— S. S.

Disbelief in creation is a symptom of disbelief in the Scripture.
— K. L.

Like many other Christians, I took a journey to belief in Genesis as history. I discovered through research and logic that Genesis is true—[this understanding] didn't come overnight. But it did start with Dr. Richard Leakey at a UCLA lecture admitting that Lucy was discovered in two sections, in different layers, and several hundred feet apart. He didn't think it was the same fossil. Then Pilt-down Man, Java Man, and Peking Man fell in succession.
— D. D.



I'm super excited for this [7/30/17 Nebraska Solar Eclipse] seminar next week! I can honestly say that ICR and your *Acts & Facts* publications are a big factor in me coming back to the Lord here recently.
— S. S.

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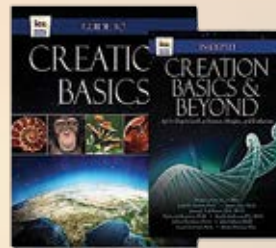
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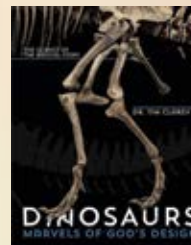
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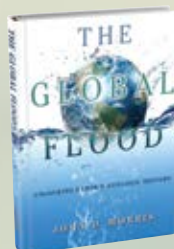
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