

# ACTS & FACTS

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CREATION RESEARCH

ICR.org

JANUARY 2020

## ***Homo naledi*: Another Failed Evolutionary Ape-Man**

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## **The Plan to Replace God**

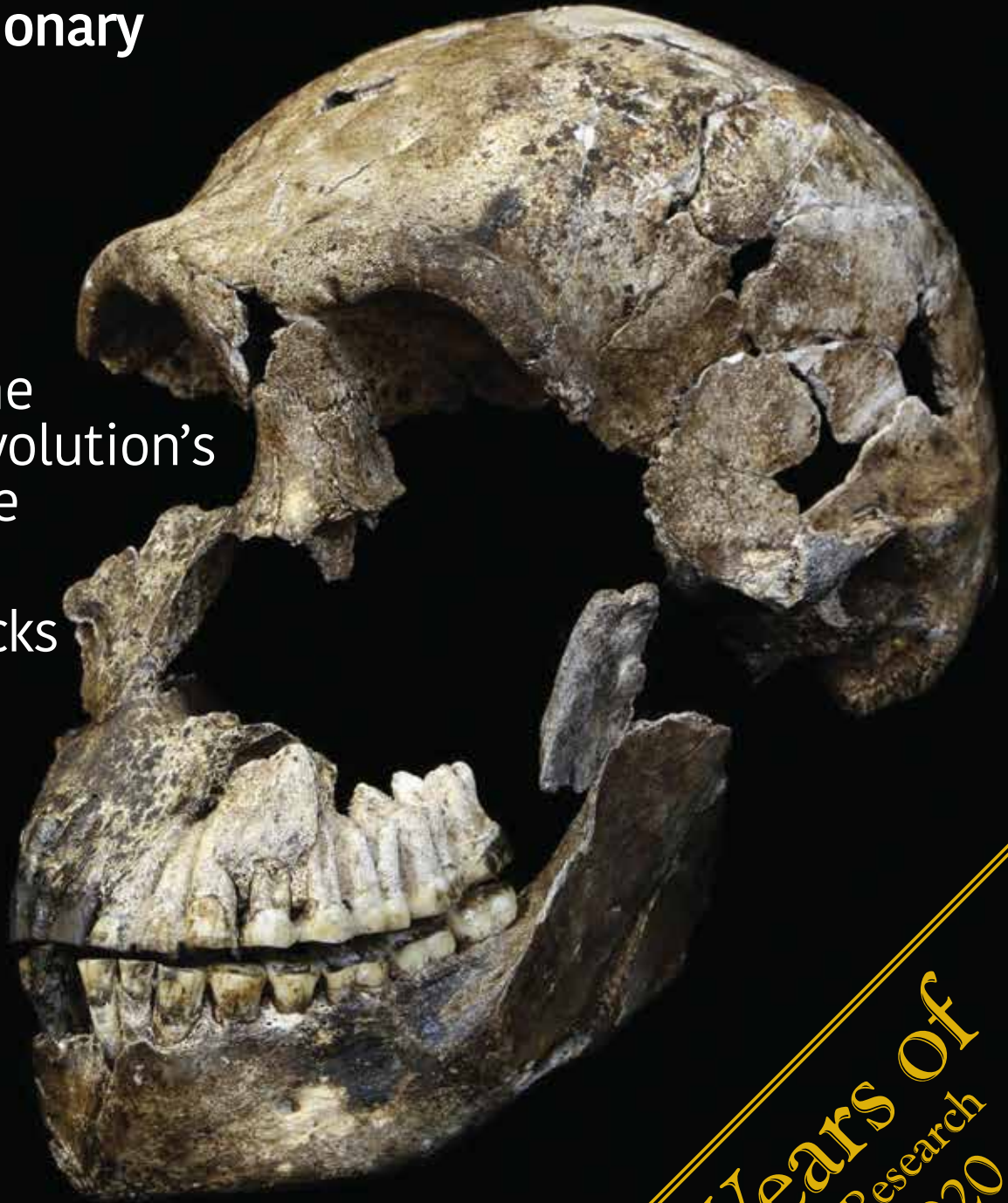
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## **Survival of the Fittest and Evolution's Death Culture**

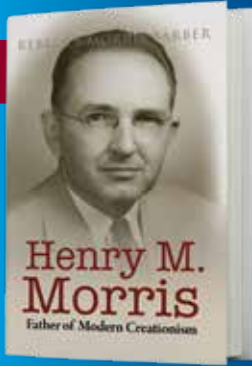
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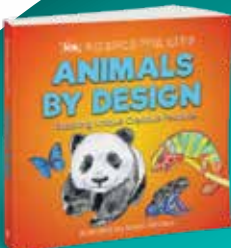
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**EXECUTIVE EDITOR**

Jayne Durant

**SENIOR EDITOR**

Beth Mull

**EDITORS**

Michael Stamp  
Truett Billups  
Christy Hardy

**DESIGNER**

Dennis Davidson

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Front cover: *Homo naledi* skull  
Johannesburg, South Africa.  
Image credit: Xinhua/Alamy Live News



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# 50 Years of Ministry

This year the Institute for Creation Research celebrates 50 years of ministry. ICR founder Dr. Henry M. Morris' groundbreaking book *The Genesis Flood* sparked the modern creationism movement and set the course for a ministry unlike any that had come before it. As a scientist who loved the Lord, Dr. Morris saw how science supports the Bible and dedicated his life to making Christ known through creation research.

Our feature article this month, "50 Years of Creation Research and Scholarship" (pages 5-7), highlights noteworthy milestones in ICR's history. The timeline begins in 1970 when Henry Morris, Tim LaHaye, and others, driven by a passion for science and the Bible, came together and helped establish what would become ICR.

Over the following decades, ICR scientists conducted debates, seminars, and conferences that drew tens of thousands. To expand its reach, the ministry produced *Acts & Facts* magazines, *Days of Praise* devotionals, radio broadcasts and podcasts, educational programs, online news articles, and dozens of creation-based books. Anchored in the timeless truths of God's Word, the ministry continues to adopt new and innovative ways to communicate how science points to our Creator. Today, the ICR Discovery Center for Science & Earth History is reaching people with technology and innovative exhibits our founder probably only dreamed about.

Some ICR staff members have experienced major milestones of this ministry from its earliest days. Current CEO Dr. Henry Morris III said, "When Dad's book



Dr. Duane Gish and Dr. Henry M. Morris

with Dr. [John] Whitcomb [*The Genesis Flood*] hit the market in the '60s, boy, it was like, whoosh—just a breath of fresh air. And we grew from a two-man operation to a 50-employee operation, reaching thousands on a regular basis...For all practical purposes, we became a new organization when we moved [to Dallas in 2007]. It was an interesting challenge trying to find and hire and rebuild the organization during those first half-dozen years or so."

Mary Smith, our founder's daughter, said, "I started working at ICR in 1971, stepping in as the secretary for my dad, and later also for Dr. [Duane] Gish. It was truly a privilege to work with two such dedicated servants of God and to learn from them...I have counted my work at ICR as my ministry for my Savior. Thank you, Dad, for having the vision to serve God in this way."

ICR President Emeritus Dr. John

Morris said this about his father: "While fully experienced in and trained by several major universities, he had long held a vision and burden for a thoroughly Christian and creationist educational and scientific research group comparable to a great university that would teach from a literal, biblical perspective. ICR was patterned after this dream."

When I think of what I've witnessed at ICR the past decade, I'm amazed at the impact God has allowed this ministry to have. We hear from *Acts & Facts* readers about life's changes and challenges, and many say how ICR has helped them sort through the confusion stemming from evolutionary thinking. On our social media page, Lyndon

said, "I love learning real science. Finding creation-based info is like finding a precious needle in an enormous haystack." And Sonja said, "Thank you so much for providing this wonderful resource [*Acts & Facts*], for free!... Always edifying, you all do so much for His Kingdom and to encourage His saints."

ICR has equipped believers with biblical and scientific truth for a half-century now. Our vision is to continue, with God's help, to demonstrate how science confirms the Bible, encourage believers to have confidence in God's Word, and glorify our Lord by proclaiming His wonders in creation. Thank you for sharing this mission with us. We invite you to celebrate with us as we carry the vision in 2020!

Jayme Durant  
EXECUTIVE EDITOR



OF CREATION RESEARCH

AND SCHOLARSHIP

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

— ICR FOUNDER DR. HENRY M. MORRIS

When the children of Israel first crossed the Jordan River to begin their occupational campaign, Joshua instructed each of the 12 tribe leaders to take a stone from the middle of the Jordan,

“That this may be a sign among you when your children ask in time to come, saying, ‘What do these stones mean to you?’ Then you shall answer them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD; when it crossed over the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. And these stones shall be for a memorial to the children of Israel forever.” (Joshua 4:6-7)

That memorial practice has been mimicked over the centuries by Kingdom ministries wanting to mark the provision of God as He has blessed, challenged, and provided for the work for which they were called into existence. We at ICR would like to do something similar with this short trib-

ute so that those of you who have helped support this ministry might rejoice with us.

#### In the Beginning

ICR founder Dr. Henry M. Morris didn’t start out with a plan to found a creation research ministry. It was a vision that developed over time. He realized that if the Bible is God’s Word, it must be trustworthy from beginning to end. When the book of Genesis came under attack—even within the church—he began researching how science confirms the Bible. As a geologist, professor, and avid scholar, he saw profound evidence for the Genesis accounts of the six-day creation, the global Flood, and the Tower of Babel, and he sought to share those insights in order to reestablish the church’s confidence in Scripture.

Dr. Morris received his B.S. in 1939 from Rice Institute in Houston, and his involvement with the on-campus Intersvarsity ministry inspired his serious search of the

Scriptures to resolve the obvious conflict between the science he was being taught and the words of the Bible. His M.S. in 1948 and Ph.D. in 1950 from the University of Minnesota developed his expertise in hydraulics and provided the necessary credentials to investigate how science confirms the Genesis Flood.

- 1961—Dr. Morris collaborated with Bible scholar Dr. John Whitcomb to write *The Genesis Flood*, which challenged the most basic secular beliefs of evolution and deep time and became the catalyst for the modern creationism movement.
- 1963—The Creation Research Society was established by like-minded creation scientists, including Dr. Morris. This 57-year-old professional organization is still thriving today.



1970s



■ 1970—Dr. Morris met Dr. Tim LaHaye and Art Peters, and the three sought to build the Christian Heritage College in San Diego. Within the college, the Creation Research Science Center was born, which later regrouped to form the independent ministry Institute for Creation Research (ICR).



■ 1972—ICR’s free monthly *Acts & Facts* began publication, and ICR launched its radio ministry with a 15-minute program called *Science, Scripture & Salvation*.



Throughout the 1970s and 1980s, Dr. John Morris, second son of ICR’s founder, made 13 trips to Mount Ararat in search of the remains of Noah’s Ark. Dr. John’s work, funded by ICR, has been a major impetus for the ongoing interest and notoriety of that significant archaeological artifact.

■ 1974—*Scientific Creationism* was published, one of Dr. Henry M. Morris’ most influential works.



Dr. Henry M. Morris and Dr. Duane Gish participated in hundreds of debates in the late 1970s and 1980s. Those debates were instrumental in bringing creation evidence onto the national stage.

1980s

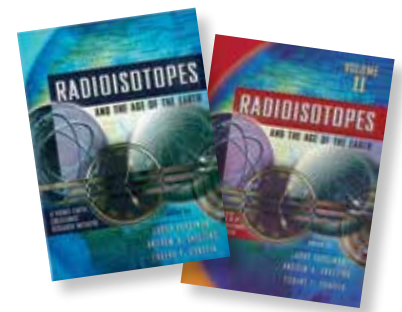
- 1984—ICR moved to Santee, California.
- 1985—*Days of Praise*, a quarterly devotional, began publication.

1990s

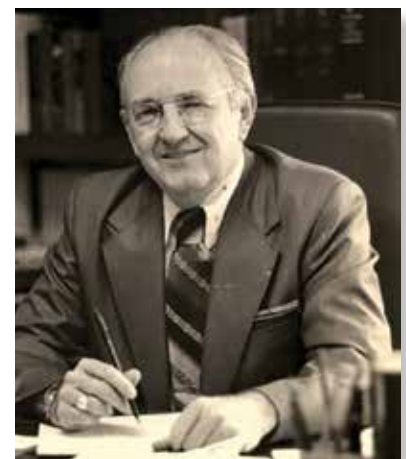
- 1994—*Answers in Genesis* was founded by Ken Ham, who spent his early years at ICR growing and gaining his reputation as a world-renowned speaker and promoter of the creationist message.
- 1996—Founder Dr. Henry M. Morris retired, and Dr. John Morris filled his position as ICR’s president.

2000s

- 2004—Dr. Henry Morris III, eldest son of ICR’s founder, moved to Dallas, Texas, to prepare for ICR’s relocation.
- 2005—The Radioisotopes and the Age of the Earth (RATE) project was completed after nearly eight years of careful analysis and laboratory research. The team of seven creation scientists—mostly



from ICR—discovered incredible physical evidence that supports what the Bible says about the young age of the earth. Two major books were published—the first detailed what was to be done and the questions to be debated, and the second reported on the findings.



■ 2006—ICR founder Dr. Henry M. Morris went home to be with the Lord. ICR purchased the Dallas campus and acquired properties over the next few years to prepare for a cutting-edge facility that would showcase the evidence for creation.



■ 2007—Dr. Henry Morris III was appointed Chief Executive Officer of ICR. Only a few California-based employees chose to move, giving Dr. Morris III the opportunity and challenge to recruit over 40 new staff members and science faculty.

## 2010-Present

ICR has continued its national ministry of seminars and educational efforts, while cutting-edge scientific research remains at the forefront of ICR's priorities.



Jeffrey P. Tomkins, Ph.D.

Geneticist Dr. Jeff Tomkins completed a human and chimp DNA comparison that refuted the claim that chimps are our evolutionary relatives. Geologist Dr.



Tim Clarey, Ph.D.

Tim Clarey and his assistant documented almost three-fourths of Earth's sedimentary deposits to better understand the progression of the Genesis Flood. Medical doctor and Professional Engineer Dr.



Randy J. Guliuzza, P.E., M.D.

Randy Guliuzza developed the continuous environmental tracking model, a creation-based explanation for animals' ability to rapidly adapt to environmental change. And zoologist Frank Sherwin continues his investigation into the intricacies of God's created creatures.



Frank Sherwin, M.A.



Jake Hebert, Ph.D.



Physicist Dr. Jake Hebert discovered inconsistencies in secular climate change research and showed how erroneous assumptions have contributed to the current alarmism. Nuclear physicist Dr. Vernon Cupps completed and released his stud-



Vernon R. Cupps, Ph.D.



ies on the nature of matter and the unreliability of radiometric dating methods. And paleochemist Dr. Brian Thomas studied



Brian Thomas, Ph.D.



the fast-decaying soft tissues found inside supposedly very old fossils.

- 2014—ICR produced its first theater-quality DVD series, *Unlocking the Mysteries of Genesis*. Three more successful series followed over the next three years.



- 2017—ICR hosted a groundbreaking ceremony for the ICR Discovery Center for Science & Earth History. ICR staff, board members, and a few hundred sup-

porters of the project attended the momentous occasion.



- 2019—ICR officially opened the ICR Discovery Center on September 2, with over 1,600 in attendance. Thousands of supporters—including many of you—helped us raise nearly \$35 million to complete this fabulous facility showcasing the astounding evidence of the accuracy and authority of God's Word.

## Celebrating God's Goodness

God's blessings over the past 50 years have been stunning! We plan to reflect on His goodness all year long, but ICR's official 50th anniversary celebration is scheduled for October, 8, 2020. We'll let our *Acts & Facts* readers know more as the time approaches, and we'd love for as many of you as possible to join us as we honor our Lord Jesus and His wonderful provision over these five significant and fruitful decades. ☞

Image credit: Joseph Haubert



JANUARY

10

Whittier, CA

**First Fundamental Bible Church**

(F. Sherwin) 562.695.3322

JANUARY

11

Santa Clarita, CA

**Bible-Science Association of Southern California**

(F. Sherwin) jlewis5@att.net

JANUARY

27

Dallas, TX

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

Christian Leaders Dinner

(H. Morris III) 214.615.8325

JANUARY

17-18

DALLAS, TX

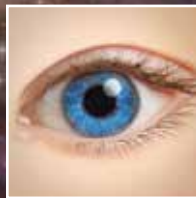
ICR DISCOVERY CENTER FOR SCIENCE & EARTH HISTORY

# MADE IN HIS IMAGE

WEEKEND

214.615.8325

[ICR.org/event/1965](http://ICR.org/event/1965)



Randy J. Guliuzza, P.E., M.D.



Jeffrey P. Tomkins, Ph.D.



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# ICR Research at GSA Convention

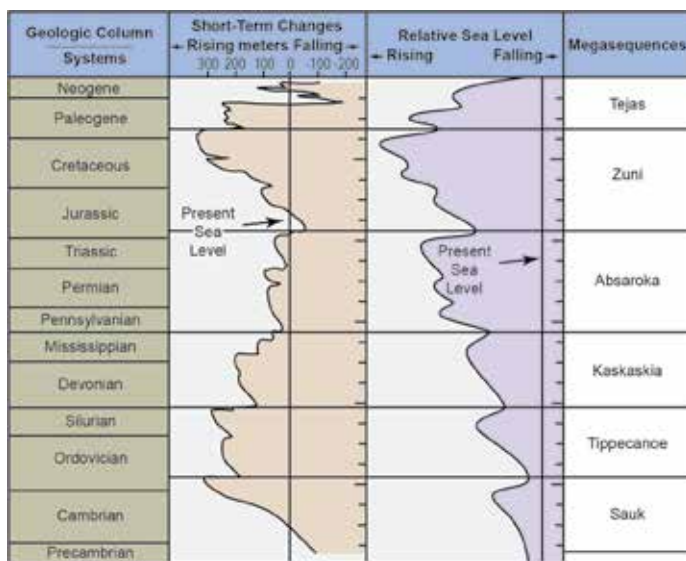
- ICR's Column Project team presented at the Geological Society of America's annual meeting.
- Their results fit the biblical Flood account, with water levels progressing gradually higher and reaching a single zenith during the Flood year.
- We look forward to opportunities to share ICR's cutting-edge creation research in similar venues.

article highlights

Recently, the ICR Column Project team presented their research at the Geological Society of America's (GSA) annual meeting in Phoenix, Arizona. Over 5,500 people representing 44 countries attended the four-day event, which is the largest gathering of academic geologists in North America.

The ICR team participated in both the oral and poster presentations. Our oral presentation, which had 60 to 70 in attendance, focused primarily on the Sauk and Tippecanoe Megasequences. The traditional secular sea level curve shows a pronounced rise in sea level then of about 300 meters—almost 1,000 feet (Figure 1).<sup>1</sup>

Using our new findings, we argued that this part of the curve fails to reflect the true nature of the stratigraphic data across the continents.<sup>2</sup> We pointed out that contrary to what has been taught in geology classes for many decades, the Sauk and Tippecanoe have the



**Figure 1.** The secular global sea level curve on the left is modified from Vail and Mitchum.<sup>1</sup> The new conceptualized sea level curve on the right is based on the volume and extent of Phanerozoic sedimentation across four continents.

least extent and volume of all six megasequences. In fact, their limited extent and thickness suggest that only minimal continental flooding occurred during their deposition.

This revised sea level curve better represents the actual rock data and closely matches the biblical account showing a single global flood that started slowly and progressively inundated the continents. Peak water level wasn't achieved until Day 150, as shown by the high water level of the Zuni Megasequence (Figure 1).

Our poster presentation showcased the results of our recently completed column study across Europe. Many conference attendees appreciated the continental-scale study of 499 columns since few geologists conduct such macro-scale research. Although we didn't directly mention the global Flood described in Genesis, the evidence was there and spoke for itself.

The research also offers implications that have great bearing on the Flood/post-Flood boundary issue for creation geologists.<sup>3</sup> Our basal Tejas rock-type map across Europe shows that marine limestone comprises the majority of the deposition around Turkey, Syria, and Iraq. Recall, the Tejas represents the Tertiary strata.<sup>4</sup>

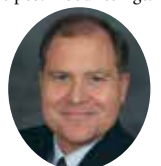
Assuming the Ark landed in eastern Turkey (the mountains of Ararat) as the Bible says, it's clear from our mapping that the Flood couldn't have been over during the early Tejas, the sixth megasequence. The rocks from the basal beds upward are mostly limestones, salt beds, and other marine rocks. These data show the floodwaters were still present during the deposition of the Tejas through at least the Miocene around Turkey, North Africa, the Middle East, and much of Europe. Rock data clearly show the Flood hadn't fully drained off the land around Turkey until after most, if not all, of the Tejas strata were deposited.

Our research offers significant evidence for a single rise in global sea level, not the multiple rises and falls taught for decades. We look forward to more opportunities like this to showcase our research. ✍

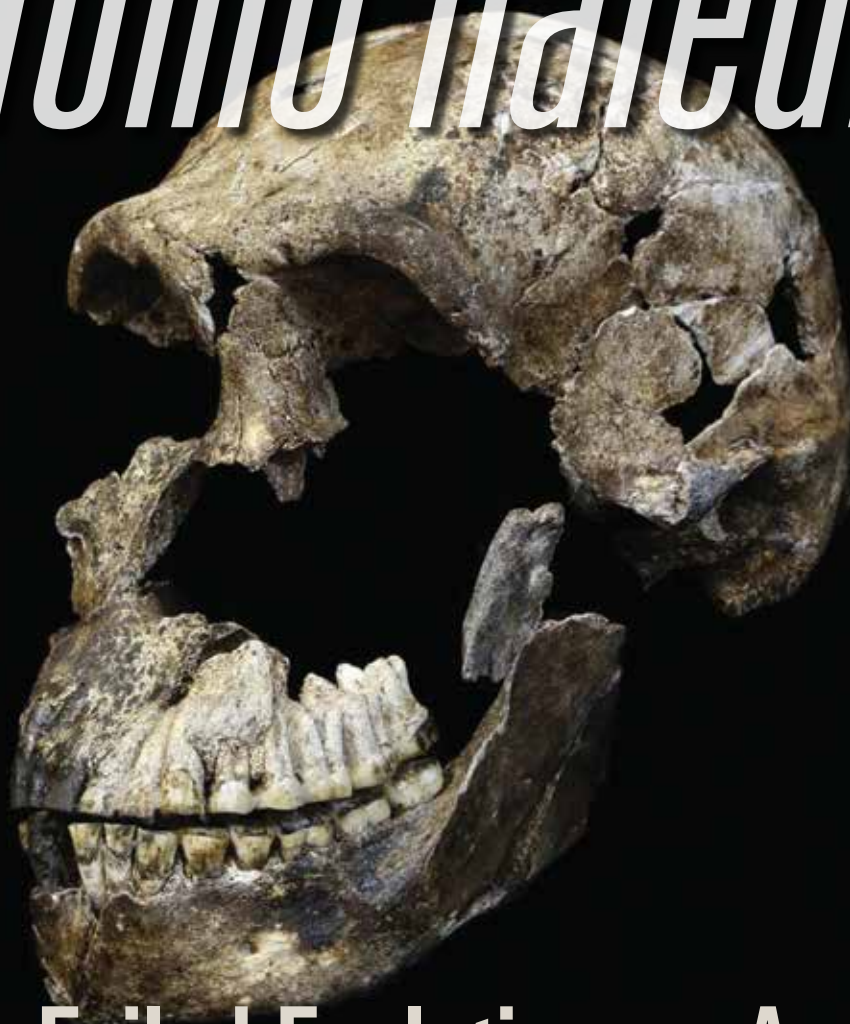
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1. Vail, P. R. and R. M. Mitchum, Jr. 1979. Global Cycles of Relative Changes of Sea Level from Seismic Stratigraphy. *American Association of Petroleum Geologists Memoir*. 29: 469-472.
2. Clarey, T. 2019. A Rock-Based Global Sea Level Curve. *Acts & Facts*. 48 (2): 9-10.
3. Clarey, T. L. 2017. Local Catastrophes or Receding Floodwater? Global Geologic Data that Refute a K-Pg (K-T) Flood/post-Flood Boundary. *Creation Research Society Quarterly*. 54 (2): 100-120.
4. The Tertiary System, which coincides with the Tejas Megasequence, is the bulk of the Cenozoic Erathum, minus the Quaternary System at the top that includes the post-Flood Ice Age. Recently, the Tertiary was subdivided into the Paleogene (Paleocene, Eocene, and Oligocene) and Neogene (Miocene and Pliocene) Systems.

Dr. Clarey is Research Associate at the Institute for Creation Research and earned his Ph.D. in geology from Western Michigan University.



# *Homo naledi:*



## Another Failed Evolutionary Ape-Man

Image credit: Xinhua/Alamy Live News

### article highlights

- Lee Berger's 2015 *Homo naledi* fossil discovery contained some 1,550 bone fragments and supposedly documented an intentionally buried new hominid species.
- Even some evolutionists were skeptical of Berger's claims, and bone analysis shows that *Homo naledi* was overall an ape-like creature.
- Dating of the fossils and rocks showed them to be much younger than the two million years the evolutionary story demands.
- This is another failed attempt to demonstrate human evolution.

One of the most confusing and enigmatic “ape-man” discoveries of the 21st century has been *Homo naledi*. Its discoverer was Lee Berger, a controversial American paleoanthropologist working at Wits University in Johannesburg, South Africa. The claims surrounding this discovery have been extolled, criticized, and debated by both evolutionists and creationists. In fact, a 2015 science news piece in *The Guardian* highlighted the raging controversy among secular academics over *H. naledi*. It was titled “Scientist who found new human species accused of playing fast and loose with the truth.”<sup>1</sup>

Since the first journal publication describing *H. naledi* in 2015,<sup>2</sup> much additional work and analyses of the bone fragments and other archaeological and geological aspects of the research have been published. As a result, we can now step back and take a fresh look at all

the data and conclude that yet another false ape-man story has been perpetrated upon the public to prop up a failed paradigm of human evolution.

## History of the *Homo naledi* Discovery

The story told by Berger in his book *Almost Human* reveals that a former student mysteriously showed up and convinced him to support an effort to explore caves in the area of South Africa where he was working.<sup>3</sup> The student also persuaded Berger to utilize the labor of several amateurs experienced in cave exploration. Fortuitously for Berger, the amateur explorers were able to penetrate the nearly inaccessible lower reaches of the Rising Star cave system and find a remote chamber littered with fossils. Berger's initial reaction to the pictures provided by the cavers of some of the fossils protruding from the chamber sediments was "It wasn't human; that much was clear."<sup>3</sup>

As the Rising Star cave system progresses downward, two extremely narrow passages connect the two lowest chambers (Figure 1). When Berger investigated the cave system, he just barely squeezed through the first narrow passage, called Superman's Crawl, and entered into a large chamber called the Dragon's Back. He immediately noticed that the walls were covered with fossils. In his book he states, "This chamber alone deserved further investigation, but we were here to see fossils farther on."<sup>3</sup>

Numerous fossils were embedded in sediments in the Dragon's Back wall through obvious flooding of the cave system. Berger's initial announcements omitted this highly relevant fact. They claimed the fossils in the chamber below it, the Dinaledi Chamber, had been intentionally buried—not flood-deposited. This chamber contained the fossils Berger was most interested in. Berger could not get through the narrow chute to reach it, so he hired a team of six thin, small women to do the fossil excavations.

After several rounds of excavation, the Dinaledi Chamber yielded 1,550 mostly disarticulated bone fragments plus an undis-

closed number of rodent and bird fossils, all buried in a shallow layer of clay-rich sediment. Berger's team tried to piece together as much of this hodgepodge of bones as they could and claimed that 15 different individuals were represented in total. These findings supposedly documenting an alleged new hominid species were then published in the lower-tier scientific journal *eLife*.<sup>2</sup> Berger's discoveries and new hominid claims also benefited from popular media coverage provided by *National Geographic* magazine.

However, Berger's discovery soon became controversial. World-famous hominid paleoanthropologist Tim White of the University of California, Berkeley revealed to the press that the prestigious journal *Nature* had previously rejected Berger's paper along with its conclusions.<sup>4</sup> In other words, Berger's claims concerning *H. naledi* were being met with strong skepticism even among evolutionists.

Another odd twist to the *H. naledi* story is the incriminating revelation made by Berger in his book that his group had known about another section of the cave system containing more hominid fossils that was much more easily accessible, but they kept it quiet while the *H. naledi* story was being formulated. Then later, in 2017, Berger's group published a paper detailing the presence of at least three more *H. naledi* fossils in this other section in what is now called the Lesedi Chamber.<sup>5</sup>

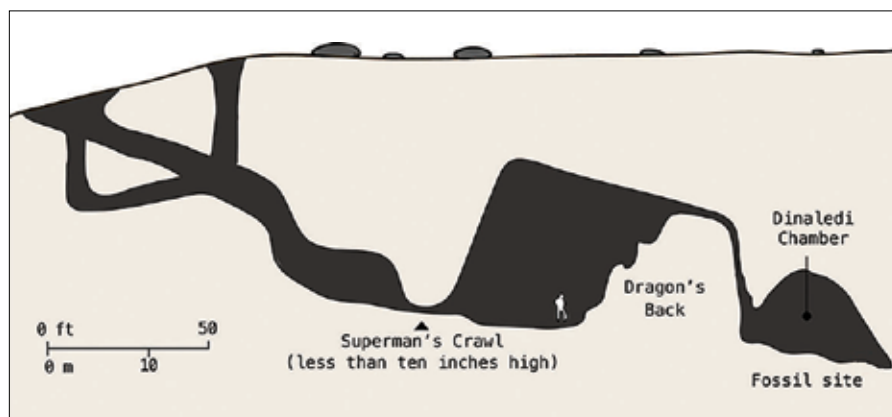
## What Is *Homo naledi*?

Many problems surround the myriad of bone fragments and their reconstruction to supposedly reveal 15 new hominids from the Dinaledi Chamber. We'll examine three. The first problem is that of homogeneity—whether all the fossils even belong to the same species. Berger and his researchers initially claimed (and still do) that the bones were homogeneous in their representation of a single almost-human species.<sup>2,6</sup>

However, the extreme non-homogeneity of the fossils was first noted by Jeffrey Schwartz, a well-known evolutionary biologist at the

University of Pittsburgh, who believed that the huge mix of bone fragments was too varied to represent a single species. He said, "I could show those images to my students and they would say that they're not the same."<sup>7</sup> Schwartz also claimed that one of the skulls looked like it came from an australopith (ape-like creature), as did certain features of the femurs. In a 2018 paper analyzing inner ear bones from the Dinaledi Chamber, Berger and his team state, "The Dinaledi ossicles resemble those of chimpanzees and *Paranthropus robustus* [an ape] more than they do later members of the genus *Homo*."<sup>8</sup>

Since the original 2015 *eLife* publication, numerous research papers describing anatomi-



**Figure 1.** The Dinaledi Chamber is the lowest room in the Rising Star cave system and can only be accessed through an extremely narrow and nearly vertical chute about 39 feet long.

Image credit: Copyright © Nautilus. Adapted for use in accordance with federal copyright (fair use doctrine) law. Usage by ICR does not imply endorsement of copyright holder.

cal analyses of the bone assemblage have been published, mostly by members of Berger’s team. They keep showing that *H. naledi* is nothing more than a suspicious hodgepodge of ape-like bones (*Australopithecus*) and a few human-like bones. These papers reported on analyses of skulls, pelvic remains, leg bones, hands, and feet and give the same original confusing anatomical mosaic story.<sup>6,9-13</sup> One of the few critical papers published outside Berger’s group contradicted the claims that *H. naledi* had flat, human-like feet.<sup>14</sup> In addition, a very recent paper analyzing pelvic remains stated:

Though this species has been attributed to *Homo* based on cranial and lower limb morphology, the morphology of some of the fragmentary pelvic remains recovered align more closely with specimens attributed to the species *Australopithecus afarensis* and *Australopithecus africanus*.<sup>10</sup>

The most recent attempt to bolster *H. naledi* as being almost human involved the study of a skull endocast (a cast of the inside of the cranium). This report by Berger’s group claims, “*H. naledi* shared some aspects of human brain organization.”<sup>15</sup> They are referring to a human-specific brain region called BA45. However, when Shawn Hurst, one of the study authors, consulted with Dean Falk, a neurobiology specialist in hominid paleontology at Florida State University, Falk disagreed:

“We agreed on most of the interpretations,” she says—but not on the presence of a modern BA45....“I’m not seeing BA45,” says Falk. “To me the general shape of the region looks ape-like.”<sup>16</sup>

### The Dating Problem

A second problem concerns the dating of *H. naledi*. When *H. naledi* was first published, there were no official radiometric dates to go along with it—just the evolutionary speculations of Berger and his team. They stated, “If the fossils prove to be substantially older than 2 million years, *H. naledi* would be the earliest example of our genus that is more than a single isolated fragment.”<sup>22</sup> These evolutionarily optimistic speculations of millions of years were soon to be dashed against the stones of their own old earth-biased radiometric techniques.

In 2017, a report was published using six different types of dating techniques.<sup>17</sup> These included radiocarbon (C-14), electron-spin resonance (ESR), uranium-thorium decay (U-Th), and optically-stimulated luminescence (OSL) in a central age statistical model (CAM), and OSL in a minimal age model (MAM). These techniques were applied to bones, teeth, and flowstones in the cave that were located where the fossils were found, with some even partially covering



Lee Berger kisses a skull replica of a *Homo naledi*, the find that made him rich and famous. Note the small, chimp-shaped skull. *Homo naledi* was only about 4 feet 10 inches tall and possessed a brain the size of a tennis ball.

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the fossils. Depending on the technique, ages came forth that varied widely from 33,000 to 849,000 years.

The youngest dates were derived from the C-14, U-Th, and ESR dating of the fossil bones and teeth, which gave ages from 33,000 to 146,000 years. In the end, the researchers rejected these dates and instead decided upon the older dates taken from the rocks and the high end of the range from the teeth. The researchers stated:

By combining the US-ESR maximum age estimate obtained from the teeth, with the U-Th age for the oldest flowstone overlying *Homo naledi* fossils, we have constrained the depositional age of *Homo naledi* to a period between 236 ka and 335 ka.<sup>17</sup>

However, even these cherry-picked dates completely throw off the original evolutionary story of *H. naledi* being a human ancestor since *Homo erectus* fossils have been found that supposedly date up to 1.9 million years.<sup>18</sup> And *H. naledi* would have also been contemporaneous with anatomically modern humans, which according to evolutionists have been around for at least the past 300,000 years.<sup>19</sup> As a result, the researchers of the dating study conceded:

These age results demonstrate that a morphologically primitive hominin, *Homo naledi*, survived into the later parts of the Pleistocene in Africa, and indicate a much younger age for the *Homo naledi* fossils than have previously been hypothesized based on their morphology.<sup>17</sup>

### The Intentional Burial Story

A third problem concerns Berger’s contention that the bones were intentionally buried. Not only were the extremely young (by evolutionary standards) dates a severe problem for the embattled *H.*

*naledi*, but the ridiculous story originally put forth by Berger and his team for the bones being intentionally and ritually buried has been just as troubling. The companion paper to the original 2015 publication describing the geology at the site stated:

The fossils are contained in mostly unconsolidated muddy sediment with clear evidence of a mixed taphonomic signature indicative of repeated cycles of reworking and more than one episode of primary deposition.<sup>20</sup>

So, not only were the fossils completely disarticulated and jumbled up in a muddy deposit, they were also intermixed with various bird and rodent bones.

As noted earlier, Berger revealed in his book that the Dragon's Back Chamber above the Dinaledi had walls covered with unspecified fossils. These were clearly washed in with so much water that they were pushed up and pasted against the sides of the cave. The obvious implication of both the geology and the wide array of disarticulated creatures is that all the bones were washed into the lowest chamber of the cave system by gravity through flooding.

Even more suspicious is Berger's careful storytelling to support his claim that the *H. naledi* fossils were purposefully buried while at the same time he hid the Lesedi Chamber discovery. If his story were true, then the Lesedi Chamber would have been a more logical location for the original participants to bury their dead since it is much more easily accessible and would not have required the super-gymnastic athletic ability needed to enter the Dinaledi Chamber. Also, why are we not being told what types of fossils were buried in the Dragon's Back Chamber directly above it? Is it because it contains the same hodgepodge of fossil debris as the Dinaledi Chamber below it? This would prove they were all deposited during a cave flooding event.

Along with the obvious fact that the muddy, jumbled deposit of bones looks exactly like it would if they were washed in by a local flood, the geology of the cave has now shown that it is largely a single deposit.<sup>21</sup> In addition, a machine-learning computer study demonstrated that based on the position of the bones compared to authentic ancient burial sites, *H. naledi* was not intentionally buried.<sup>22</sup> These data also fit well with the fact that no tools or signs of human occupation have been found in the cave, nor are there any signs of the use of burning torches to provide the light necessary for traversing the pitch-black environment and its narrow and treacherous passages.

Furthermore, a forensic microscopic analysis of the *H. naledi* bones indicates they were fed on by snails that only live in the entrances of caves where there is some light.<sup>23</sup> When you combine this with the fact that the smaller *H. naledi* bones were broken up, the real story emerges that these ape-like creatures were likely killed by carnivores and then hauled into the entrance of the cave system.<sup>23</sup> They were then severely disarticulated as they were fed on and their carcasses continued to be scavenged. Eventually the bones, along with

those of rodents and birds, were washed and deposited into the recesses of the cave by flooding and gravity.

## Conclusion: Another Failed Attempt at Human Evolution

So, what can we make of all the bone fragment analyses and the conflicting results that vary depending on which particular bone fragments are being evaluated and who is doing the analysis? First, it is highly likely that most, if not all, of the hominid bones in the Dinaledi and Lesedi Chambers belong to *Australopithecus* (ape-like creatures). It is possible that a small human, perhaps a juvenile, could have been killed by a predator and added to the majority australopithecus mix. Given the track record of Lee Berger in the case of his previous *Australopithecus sediba* discovery, which was later determined to likely be a mix of human and mostly ape-like bones, this is entirely feasible.<sup>24</sup>

When you combine the ape-like nature of the fossil bones with the young dates achieved by evolutionary methods, as well as the overwhelming data for carnivory and a cave flooding-based deposition, *H. naledi* stands as nothing but another failed attempt at promoting human evolution. ✍

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



# THE PLAN TO REPLACE GOD

## article highlights

After reviewing the writings of some 18th- and 19th-century thinkers, I'm convinced that the popularity of ideas like "millions of years" and "organic evolution" prevalent today didn't come from scientific data but from clever strategies and crafted stories.

### Straw Man Arguments

One early strategy used straw man arguments to demote the biblical Flood. In this all-too-common break with logic, opponents of a view attack an imagined version of that view instead of the real one. Combatants claim victory over their opponents when all they really did was beat up a flimsy conception of their own making.

For example, in 1720 René Réaumur studied sedimentary layers near Tours, France. He noticed fossil leaves mixed with broken shells. He thought the leaves were "laid too neatly to be attributable to such a violent event as the Noachic cataclysm."<sup>1</sup> Réaumur assumed a flood that could not, during a whole year, present the mudflow rates needed to deposit leaves. But the real Flood may well have done it.

Similarly, from 1749 to 1788 Comte de Buffon used his high position in Paris' Royal Academy of Sciences to promote his own ideas of vast ages for the earth in his 36-volume work *Histoire Naturelle*. The very phrase *natural history* supplants biblical history with a view that's supposedly based on sedimentary layers. But layers convey no history. Eyewitness accounts do. Thus, the phrase leans on mere anti-biblical *interpretations* of layers. Buffon mentioned Noah's Flood, but his straw man version of the

- It appears a handful of 18th- and 19th-century European philosophers strategized ways to downplay the Genesis account of Earth's history.
- They aimed to replace the Creator God with nature.
- Rather than overtly assaulting the Bible, they found success "from slow and silent side attacks."
- Their strategies—not science—gave birth to the long ages and naturalistic theories that pervade culture to this day.



Comte de Buffon (1707-1788) statue on the facade of the Louvre

Flood was too gentle to disturb Earth's supposedly pre-existing rock layers—or even its trees and plants.

Since today's local floods can rip up rock, a worldwide flood would devastate all landscapes. Claiming the Flood was either too gentle to leave any trace or too violent to deposit leaves makes it easier to ignore. Straw man versions of Noah's Flood paved a path for imagined eons to deposit rock layers long before the Genesis events. This

long-age view still strangles minds today. It keeps many would-be believers from trusting the Bible, including its good news.<sup>2</sup>

### Gatekeepers in France

Another strategy that early naturalists used involved leveraging their professional platforms to emphasize cherry-picked talking points. Even before Buffon used his position, Bernard Le Bouyer de Fontenelle did the same. He became secretary of the Academy of Sciences in Paris in 1697. For over 40 years Fontenelle was the gatekeeper of academy publications. He was tasked with summarizing the most noteworthy scientific research. He selected those that matched his own view of an old earth.

British meteorologist and creation researcher Andrew Sibley summarized Fontenelle's endeavors in the *Journal of Creation*. He noted that Fontenelle "used the occasion to try and persuade French academic society that an ancient history of the world could be arrived at through studies of nature with very little regard for belief in Noah's Flood."<sup>1</sup> Anti-Flood sentiment then migrated across the English Channel.

### Stories in England

Famed philosopher David Hume used Eastern religious beliefs like Hinduism to argue against the fad of deism—belief in a creator who is uninvolved with his creation. Deism also denied God's judgment of global sin with a global flood, and it included replacing any scriptural implications for geological history with human guesses about which non-Flood processes may have caused the geology of the present world.<sup>1</sup>



David Hume (1711-1776)

Hindus believe in vast time cycles instead of the Bible’s record of a recent creation. Hume expressed his deep-time leanings nonconfrontationally through fictional characters in dialogue. In one of Hume’s books, a character named Philo said, “The world, say I, resembles an animal; therefore it is an animal, therefore it arose from generation.”<sup>3</sup>

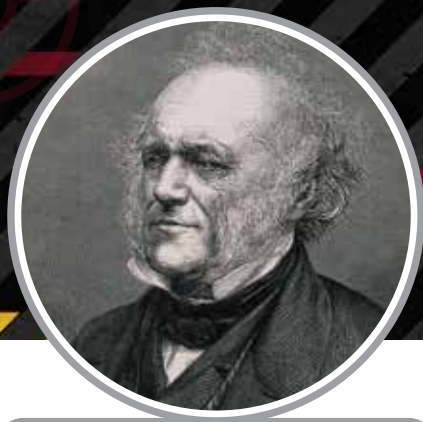
Hume knew Erasmus Darwin, Charles Darwin’s grandfather. Erasmus wrote in his book *Zoonomia*:

Hume...places the powers of generation much above those of our boasted reason; and...he concludes the world itself might...have been gradually produced from very small beginnings, increasing by the activity of its inherent principles, rather than by a sudden evolution of the whole by the Almighty fiat.<sup>4</sup>

There again, Erasmus simply cherry-picked a preferred story with no scientific basis. His grandson would cooperate in an even more subtle strategy to dress that story into a new history.

### Conspiracy to Revise History

Scottish lawyer Charles Lyell wrote a personal letter in which he suggested ways that even religionists could “join us in despising both the ancient and modern physico-theologians.”<sup>5</sup> Like today’s creation-believing scientists, physico-theologians believed that Genesis events like the Flood left



Sir Charles Lyell (1797-1875)

physical signs on Earth such as vast rock layers studded with fossils.<sup>6</sup>

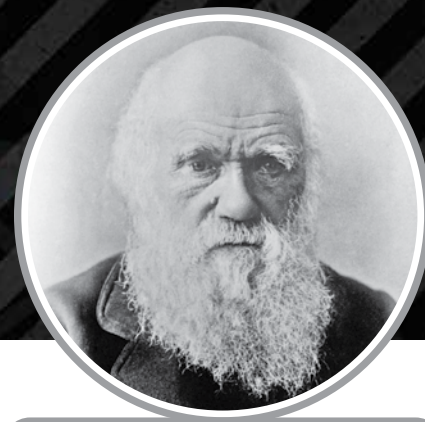
How would Lyell and his co-conspirators achieve their goal of garnering Flood despisers? Not through outright confrontation but by charming kindness. Lyell wrote in a letter to George Scrope, “I conceived the idea five or six years ago that if ever the mosaic geology could be set down without giving offence, it would be in an historic sketch.”<sup>5</sup> His plan came not from a desire to do good science but to “despise” and “set down” Genesis history. “The strategy worked; the church and the culture were blindsided.”<sup>7</sup> Charles Darwin advanced Lyell’s goal when he wrote *On the Origin of Species*, an anti-creation “historic sketch” that masqueraded as science. These men’s stories assumed deep time but never defended it.

In a letter to his son George, Darwin divulged his role in the plot to overthrow the Genesis Flood. He wrote:

Lyell is most firmly convinced that he has shaken the faith in the Deluge & etc. far more efficiently by never having said a word against the Bible, than if he had acted otherwise....P.S. I have lately read Morley’s Life of Voltaire & he insists strongly that direct attacks on Christianity...produce little permanent effect: real good seems only to follow from slow and silent side attacks.<sup>8</sup>

### The Impact of Clever Strategies

What kind of world did these conspirators craft? A world in which the very people



Charles Darwin (1809-1882)

God created deny their own creation. One in which people daily walk on, and sometimes dig through, thousands of feet of Flood-deposited sediments and yet deny that the Flood ever happened.

Clever strategies brought us here. Straw man caricatures of the Flood, cherry-picked talking points that ignore the Bible, leveraged positions of influence, and a conspiracy of stories gained the name of “science.” All the while, creation best explains why we have a world fit for life, and the Flood accounts for the billions of fossils buried inside countless tons of water-deposited rocks. Genesis recounts Earth’s true history. ☞

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



# Welcoming Groups

Since opening in September 2019, the ICR Discovery Center for Science & Earth History has welcomed groups both small and large. One recent group was Josh McDowell and his ministry team. Located in Plano, Texas—just north of Dallas—the ministry “serves and equips the Body of Christ in raising generations of purpose-driven Christians who know *what* they believe, *why* it is true, and *how* to live it out.”<sup>1</sup>

The group viewed a planetarium show about God’s creation in the solar system, explored Earth’s history in the exhibit hall, and attended Dr. Brian Thomas’ live science presentation on soft tissue discoveries in dinosaur fossils. Dr. Thomas also shared his Christian testimony and the evidences that led him to embrace biblical creation. ICR was pleased to host Josh McDowell and his guests, and we look forward to welcoming many more ministry, school, and family groups throughout the coming year.

## Plan Your Group Visit

Who would you like to impact with the science that confirms creation? We encourage you to coordinate a visit to the Discovery Center for your church group, family reunion, or staff fellowship. We offer special

rates for groups of 12 to 60 people. Let us know what you have in mind and we’ll help you plan a memorable, faith-building event. Go to [ICRdiscoverycenter.org/groups](http://ICRdiscoverycenter.org/groups) or call **800.743.6374** for more information.

## What Will Your Group Discover?

- Planetarium shows, including 3-D options
- Engaging exhibits that teach the origin of the universe and how science affirms the Bible
- Animatronic creatures, special effects, and a chilly Ice Age theater
- Fascinating facts about DNA and human

ancestry, fossils and rocks, dinosaurs, and astronomy

- Development and application of critical thinking skills while discovering the latest scientific research
- A Bible-based journey through Earth’s history, highlighting scientific discoveries along the way
- Special events including live presentations by scientists and scholars
- A store full of creation-based science resources and educational kits
- An outdoor area featuring a 24-foot DNA sculpture, sundial, and covered picnic tables



*Josh McDowell autographs his book Evidence That Demands a Verdict for Brian Thomas*

Yes, the Discovery Center is open, but we still need funds to fully complete this incredible ministry outreach. Go to [ICR.org/donate/museum](http://ICR.org/donate/museum) for more information. Partner with us in prayer and help us proclaim the truth of our Creator, the Lord Jesus Christ! ✞

1. Quote from the Josh McDowell Ministry homepage, emphasis in original. Posted on [josh.org](http://josh.org), accessed November 25, 2019.



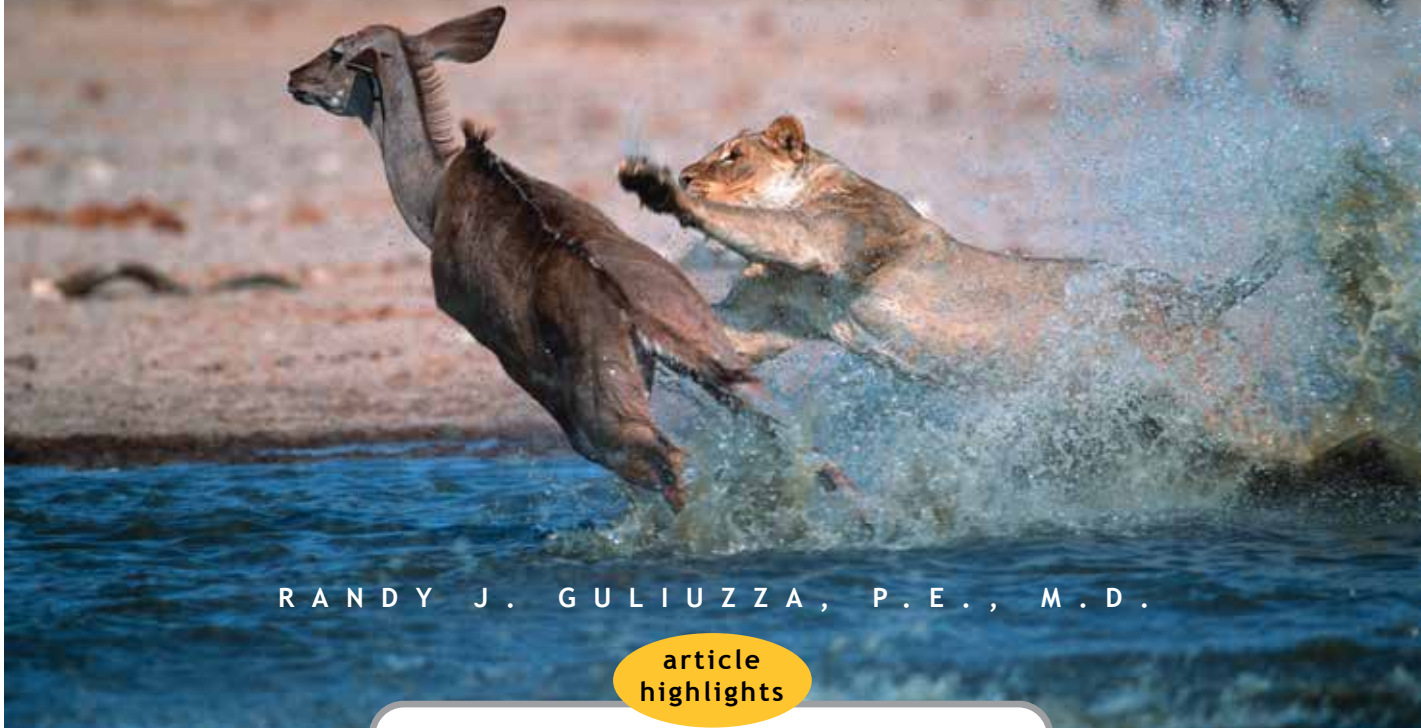
*Brian Thomas and Josh McDowell pose in the Discovery Center lobby*



*The Josh McDowell Ministry team*



# Survival of the Fittest and Evolution's Death Culture



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

## article highlights

To effectively tackle a problem, one must know what caused it. A doctor must correctly diagnose a disease to help the sick person get better. If a building collapses, engineers will use “root cause analysis” to probe with ever-deepening questions what triggered the accident. Unless the true cause is identified, a professional problem solver is left either treating symptoms or wasting valuable time.

A similar approach could be taken with societal ills. What is the root cause of so many of the problems that plague us?

- Darwin's concept of natural selection incorporates population theorist Thomas Malthus' assertion that creatures compete for scarce resources for survival.
- Belief in survival of the fittest breeds a culture with a diminished reverence for life.
- It was the specific concept of natural selection and not evolution in general that led to the policies that first advanced eugenics and later embraced abortion.

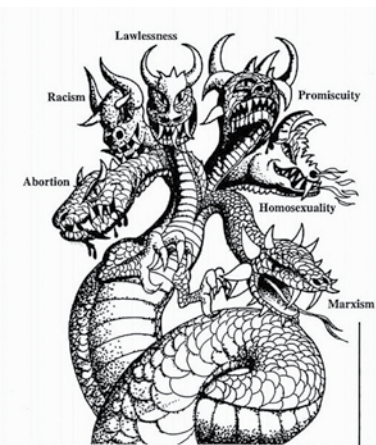
counted as a hallmark of liberation and the “right to choose.”

That they continue with such a high frequency reveals a society increasingly desensitized to death. How can whole cultures of Western civilization, which previously embraced Christian teach-

ings, get to this point? Is evolutionary humanism the direct cause of the numbness in society toward death? Would probing deeper into Darwinian evolution reveal something about it that smooths the way for people to see death as accomplishing good things?

## The Multi-Headed Dragon

In 1994, Dr. John Morris' book *The Young Earth* included a diagram depicting societal diseases, including abortion, as a multi-headed dragon sprouting from the body of evolutionary humanism.<sup>1</sup> Abortion is the killing of unborn children, declared legal in the United States in 1973 in the *Roe v. Wade* Supreme Court decision. The other afflictions associated with each dragon head could easily be replaced with diseases of a more lethal nature: mass shootings, infanticide, euthanasia, genocide, and eugenics. Some of these behaviors leave us stunned. Others, however, are



Evolutionary Humanism—a Multi-Headed Dragon.  
Image credit: Master Books. Used by permission.

## Evolutionary Humanism's Deadly Obsession

Evolutionary humanism seems oddly obsessed with the idea that death is ultimately a good thing. Possibly no one illuminated more clearly the heart of Darwinian thinking than Steve Jobs, the founder of Apple Computer. Having been diagnosed with a fatal case of pancreatic cancer, he adopted the Darwinian meaning of death and said in his 2005 commencement address at Stanford University, “Death is very likely the single best invention of Life. It is Life's change agent. It clears out the old to make way for the new.”<sup>2</sup>

Our youth are bombarded with the idea

that diversity is a result of survival of the fittest—which involves, as Steve Jobs said, death as “the single best invention of Life.” No wonder they develop a perverse easiness with death. They watch a cheetah chase down a gazelle and reflexively react with “Oh well, survival of the fittest.” What causes our culture—and even many Christians—to think death is good?

### Romans 1 Identifies the Root Cause for a Culture of Death

Romans 1:18-25 describes a dichotomy in how people respond to the “clearly seen” revelation of God in nature.<sup>3</sup> It contrasts how humans either give credit for nature’s origins to a Creator’s agency or credit nature itself. In short, either God creates nature or nature creates itself. For example, Edward O. Wilson of Harvard contends, “If humankind evolved by Darwinian natural selection, genetic chance and environmental necessity, not God, made the species.”<sup>4</sup>

In ascribing the power to choose to unintelligent natural forces, Darwin perpetuated the greatest intellectual swindle in the history of ideas. Nature has no power to choose.

That’s easy for Wilson to declare, but is nature a sufficient agent to bridge the gap between his imagined scenario for life’s origin and real human beings who look like the workmanship of a brilliant Engineer? Intelligent design advocate William Dembski explains how Darwin contrived a way to see nature as intelligent and able to exercise agency:

In short, evolutionary biology needs a designer substitute to coordinate the incidental changes that hereditary transmission passes from one generation to the next, and there’s only one naturalistic candidate on the table, to wit, natural selection. Indeed, it’s no accident that the word *selection* and the word *intelligence* are etymologically related....Before Darwin, the ability to choose was largely confined to designing intelligences, that is, to conscious agents that could reflect deliberatively on the possible consequences of their choices. Darwin’s claim to fame was to argue that natural forces, lacking any purposiveness or prevision of future possibilities, likewise have the power to choose via natural selection. In ascribing the power to choose to unintelligent natural forces, Darwin perpetuated the greatest intellectual swindle in the history of ideas. Nature has no power to choose.<sup>5</sup>

Darwin mentally projects volitional capacity onto environments by ascribing to them selective abilities. Thus, he personifies nature with the capability to exercise agency. His approach to making sense of the biological realm is called *selectionism*. This worldview underlying modern biological education is a powerfully seductive mental construct. One evolutionist summed up the situation: “The idea of a selecting power is deeply rooted and seemingly ineradicable from the modern biologist’s thinking about evolution.”<sup>6</sup>

Not only is this worldview pervasive, it’s misleading. Like Dembski, science historians note that prior to Darwin’s *Origin of Spe-*

*cies*, scientists only assigned selective abilities to conscious agents and not to unconscious nature.<sup>7</sup> Darwin’s imaginary projection of selective ability onto nature “appeared to reify [treat an abstract concept as a concrete reality], even to deify, natural selection as an agent.”<sup>8</sup> But what links selectionism to a culture easy with death?

### Selectionism Is a Death-Driven Worldview

“Walk it back” is an idiom people use to cast a situation or mistake in a different light in order to minimize its consequences. We can spot when natural selection is being walked back when it’s recast as, say, just a process or merely “differential reproduction.” But euphemisms like these seek to avoid the negative connotations surrounding the pivotal role *death* plays in the concept of selection. Listening to Darwin and other evolutionists in their own words will correctly characterize their thinking.

Darwin theorized a deadly intra-species competition that imparts an upward trajectory toward improvement. He incorporated British population theorist Thomas Malthus’ assertion that creatures compete for scarce resources just to survive. In Darwin’s *Origin of Species*, he explains:

This is the doctrine of Malthus, applied to the whole animal and vegetable kingdoms. As many more individuals of each species are born than can possibly survive; and as, consequently, there is a frequently recurring struggle for existence...we shall then see how Natural Selection almost inevitably causes much Extinction of the less improved forms of life.<sup>9</sup>

Darwin later adds:

I have called this principle, by which each slight variation, if useful, is preserved, by the term Natural Selection, in order to mark its relation to man’s power of selection. But the expression often used by Mr. Herbert Spencer of the *Survival of the Fittest* is more accurate, and is sometimes equally convenient.<sup>9</sup>

Harvard’s eminent evolutionary theorist Stephen J. Gould didn’t hide the centrality of death to selectionism. Extolling the selectionist worldview’s “power,” he wrote:

Moreover, natural selection, expressed in inappropriate human terms, is a remarkably inefficient, even cruel process. Selection carves adaptation by eliminating masses of the less fit—imposing hecatombs [slaughter of many individuals] of death as preconditions for limited increments of change. Natural selection is a theory of “trial and error” externalism—organisms propose via their storehouse of variation, and environments dispose of nearly all.<sup>10</sup>

A subsequent article finds Gould chiding the hypocrisy of those who believe they can embrace a benevolent view of God and pro-life positions while simultaneously commending the virtues of selection:

The radicalism of natural selection lies in its power to dethrone some of the deepest and most traditional comforts of Western thought, particularly the notion that nature’s benevolence, order, and good design, with humans at a sensible summit of power and excellence, prove the existence of an omnipotent and benevolent

Christ is not a eugenicist, so we should eschew believing that “selection” somehow shows His goodness after the Fall in providing a death-driven means to “weed out” unfit individuals from the population and thus preserve a purer gene pool.

creator who loves us most of all....*To these beliefs Darwinian natural selection presents the most contrary position imaginable.* Only one causal force produces evolutionary change in Darwin’s world: the unconscious struggle among individual organisms to promote their own personal reproductive success—nothing else, and nothing higher (no force, for example, works explicitly for the good of species or the harmony of ecosystems).<sup>11</sup>

Paradoxically, selectionists believe that this chaotic deadly scenario they envision is true while also believing that thanks to natural selection we have the marvelous diversity of creatures observed in our world.

### Natural Selection—Not Evolution—Inspired Eugenics

Survival-of-the-fittest thinking ranges from indifference to callousness toward the weak. That coldness for “unfit” humans took hold with the rise of eugenics, whose root cause is evident in explanations contemporaneous to its heyday. Renowned British biostatistician Karl Pearson persuasively used mathematics to promote eugenics on three continents from 1900 until his death in 1936, claiming:

That is, I think, the ever-present fear which the scientific mind recognises: civilised man has largely destroyed crude Natural Selection....In my own mind and in a growing number of other minds...[civilization will end] unless civilisation can find a method of doing for itself what Natural Selection did for man during his ascent—insuring that he shall breed only from his best. The study of how it is possible forms the subject matter of what we now term the Science of Eugenics. We have to replace the ruthless action of Natural Selection by reasoned conduct in civilised man.<sup>12</sup>

After the “reasoned conduct in civilised man” produced over 70,000 compulsorily sterilized people in the United States, the public found sterilization increasingly distasteful.<sup>13</sup> But *Roe v. Wade* and other factors have made culture more accepting of abortion. Social scientists Deborah Barrett and Charles Kurzman describe how eugenicists channeled their ambitions into abortion rights activities:

In keeping with the subterranean strategy, some eugenicists continued their work under the cover of non-eugenic disciplines and organizations, such as the birth-control and population-control movements. For example, the first administrator of the Population Council, a former president of the American Eugenics Society, recalled in 1974 that the post-war birth-control and abortion-rights movements were great eugenic causes, but “[i]f they had been advanced for eugenic reasons it would have retarded or stopped their acceptance.” Eugenic ideals such as rac-

ism, paternalism, scientific authority, and genetic manipulation did not disappear from the world, and were arguably institutionalized in certain wings of the reproductive sciences.<sup>14</sup>

### Conclusion

We live in a culture that’s easy with death because it’s permeated with Darwin’s survival-of-the-fittest thinking. Believing that death itself brings good things is the root cause. So, how do we navigate this culture while being pro-life and explain biology in a way that honors the Lord?

ICR affirms that death is an enemy and a curse due to Adam’s sin (1 Corinthians 15:26; Romans 5:12; Romans 8:18-23). Since the death of creatures with *nephesh* (soul-life) didn’t happen before the Fall,<sup>15</sup> Darwin’s survival of the fittest could not have been God’s mechanism for adaptation, and other mechanisms *not* driven by death were—and principally still are—the means of adaptation.

Christ is not a eugenicist, so we should eschew believing that “selection” somehow shows His goodness after the Fall in providing a death-driven means to “weed out” unfit individuals from the population and thus preserve a purer gene pool.

When a person is sterilized, aborted, or dies before reproducing due to a genetic disease, it is not a gift to the rest of us—it is a tragedy. ✂

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Dr. Guliuzza is ICR’s National Representative. He earned his M.D. from the University of Minnesota, his Master of Public Health from Harvard University, and served in the U.S. Air Force as 28th Bomb Wing Flight Surgeon and Chief of Aerospace Medicine. Dr. Guliuzza is also a registered Professional Engineer.



article highlights

- People are taught that Earth's geological features are millions of years old, so they naturally assume the rocks in them look that old.
- Many think the rocks' ancient ages are obvious, but this is a conditioned response to evolutionary indoctrination.
- Rather than looking old, Earth looks flooded.

# Q: Do Earth's Rocks Look Old?

**A** Some might argue that Earth's rocks are obviously ancient even apart from radioisotope dating results. In response to creationist claims, they might ask, "If the earth was created just 6,000 years ago, then why does it look so old?" But does Earth *really* look old?

Many people see rock layers like the ones in Grand Canyon and immediately assume they're millions of years old. But does anything about the rocks themselves indicate vast ages? If you think the answer is yes, take a moment and try to explain why you think that's the case. Saying "Well, everyone *knows* the rocks are old" is not a good answer because then you have to ask "How is it that people 'know' this?"

The answer is indoctrination, plain and simple. Growing up, we're taught this repeatedly through books, television shows, movies, and the educational system. So, it's hardly surprising that many people reflexively think it's obvious that rock layers are millions of years old. But is that conclusion drawn from scientific data, or is it a conditioned response to years of evolutionary claims?

Think about it. If someone is told since childhood that Grand Canyon rock layers are millions of years old, at some point this person mentally associates those rocks with

"millions of years." Later, when he is shown pictures of Grand Canyon, it seems obvious its rocks are extremely ancient.

However, this conclusion is based on circular reasoning: "Grand Canyon is millions of years old. And because it's millions of years old, its rocks are also millions of years old. Therefore, Grand Canyon rocks look that old because they *are* that old!" The person thinks the rocks look old because he's been *told* they're old. At no point did anyone make an argument for *why* millions-of-years-old rocks look like Grand Canyon rocks—this was simply assumed.

Creation scientists would argue that clues within these rocks strongly suggest their water-deposited strata were laid down quickly and catastrophically, not slowly over millions of years. These clues include fossils embedded through multiple rock layers, lack of erosion between flat rock strata, and tightly folded layers.<sup>1-3</sup>

The carving of Grand Canyon is also best explained as a rapid, catastrophic process that didn't take millions of years.<sup>4</sup> Even recent erosion of the freshly deposited sediments in nearby Lake Mead resemble a miniature Grand Canyon, with vertical cliffs and slopes. These cliffs formed just in the last few decades.<sup>5</sup>

Many scientists claim radioisotope dating methods prove Earth's rocks are millions of years old. However, these are calculated ages based on assumptions about the past. Creation researchers have shown that many of these assumptions are flawed. Different radioisotope dating methods give different ages for the same rocks, and age estimates often contradict both eyewitness testimony and common sense.<sup>6</sup>

Creationists have long pointed out that Earth doesn't really look old. It is covered by a relatively thin layer of water-deposited rocks over much of its land surface, and more than 70% of its surface is underwater. Earth looks *flooded*, just as it should if the worldwide Flood described in Genesis was a real, historical event. Earth's rocks don't look old because they *aren't* old. ☞

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



# Jonah's Whale Adventure and Everyday Miracles

A skeptic once opined about the so-called problem of miracles, saying that “enlightened” thinkers doubt the Bible’s supernatural events such as “the whale miracle.” But which whale miracle did he reject? Was he thinking of Jonah being swallowed at sea yet living to tell the tale of the “great fish”?<sup>1</sup> Some assumptions need examination because there’s more than one whale miracle to consider.

What was miraculous about Jonah’s experience? Some say the miracle was God’s preservation of Jonah’s life while he was inside the beast, comparing this to how Christ miraculously defeated death after His crucifixion. In fact, the Lord Jesus Christ compared His own death, burial, and resurrection to Jonah’s miraculous adventure.<sup>2</sup> Surely God is powerful enough to accomplish both feats in three days.

Others, reviewing details of Jonah’s adventure (e.g., use of the Hebrew word *sheol*), suggest that Jonah actually died inside the animal, so they think the miracle was God’s restoration of Jonah’s mortal life.<sup>3</sup> Obviously, the resurrection of a human swallowed by a whale is a miracle that skeptics would quickly shy away from.

But what other whale miracles are there to consider? Could miracles be hidden in plain view?

Well, the very existence and activities

of whales are miracles that began on Day 5 of the creation week and continue today.<sup>4</sup> Consider these basic facts of blue whale (*Balaenoptera musculus*) biology. These whales have sensitive underwater hearing that detects other whales’ wailing and screeching songs from miles away, thick blubber that insulates their vital organs from cold seawater, blowholes that open to receive oxygen and close when submerged, and a “floating” rib cage that prevents lung collapse when they’re deep-diving.<sup>4</sup>

Female blue whales birth live young in ocean water and nurse the babies from recessed mammary nipples with pressure-ejected milk. Male blue whales’ internally located testes have a countercurrent cooling system that protects their procreative potential potency (ability to reproduce). Both males and females have flexible vertebral joints to enable their tail movement, and their tail flukes are controlled by a system of tendons and muscles.<sup>4</sup>

Blue whales use front flippers for maneuvering in ocean water. When water gets into their mouths, their “enormous tongues...press the water out of their mouths between the [baleen] whalebone lamellae, thus filtering the water and retaining the minute organisms” they feed on such as krill.<sup>5</sup> And many more amazing design details make whale life possible for every whale

in the world.<sup>4-6</sup>

Our skeptic friend questioned biblical events because of their miraculous nature, yet he was overlooking the many miracles of creation that surround him. For those with eyes to see it, every whale is a miracle of God, showing God’s power and bioengineering genius. No wonder David Coppedge said this about blue whale wonders: “The more details you learn about living things, the less excuse you have to chalk it up to evolution.”<sup>7</sup>

Surely Jonah would agree. ✂

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



## article highlights

- Bible skeptics ridicule the account of Jonah’s experience inside a great fish as a “whale miracle” that couldn’t be true.
- The existence and activities of whales are miracles in themselves.
- Those who doubt the Bible’s supernatural events overlook miracles of creation they see every day.



# 50 Years of Blessing

This year marks the Institute for Creation Research's 50th anniversary. Since 1970, God has blessed ICR tremendously and allowed us to reach untold multitudes across the globe. Perhaps the strongest evidence of God's favor is the remarkable number of creation ministries that have sprung up due to ICR's influence. Fifty years ago hardly any organizations focused on creation science. Now there are many—at least one or more in every U.S. state and 20 other countries. All glory to Him!

ICR's work is unique in the world of Christian ministry. We're not a church, but in a sense we're an arm of the church. An understanding of creation is vital for teaching "all the counsel of God" (Acts 20:27), and ICR has brought its creation-oriented message to churches and schools of just about every denomination.

The special and recent creation recorded in Genesis is the foundation on which all other biblical doctrines are based. Apart from Genesis 1, the rest of Scripture is meaningless. Thus, ICR has a vital evangelistic ministry through its message of creation as an essential element of the saving gospel of Christ (Colossians 1:13-23; Revelation 14:6-7).

Christ's commission to "go therefore and make disciples" includes "teach-

ing them...all things" (Matthew 28:19-20). As such, ICR is predominately a ministry of discipleship and education, applying the dominion mandate (Genesis 1:26-28) in the context of the complete gospel from creation to consummation. This ministry was founded on our uniquely creationist training programs, which have been supplemented over the years with conferences, debates, seminars, and now through the new ICR Discovery Center for Science & Earth History. Along with books, videos, DVD series (many of which are used as resources in schools and colleges), and a thriving social media presence, ICR's resources and activities have been a major factor in the revival and growth of biblical creationism around the world.

God has indeed blessed the work of ICR in marvelous ways, in spite of a low-key fundraising approach that doesn't employ professional fundraisers, phone solicitations, or other promotional methods that many organizations use. Our ministry has mainly been supported through contributions from concerned, praying Christian believers who receive our *Acts & Facts* magazine and *Days of Praise* devotional booklet. These free publications are a source of faith-building information and encouraging Bible

study, and judging by the thousands of testimonies we've received, they've served that purpose well.

The most important distinctive of ICR has been our commitment to the absolute authority and accuracy of Scripture. We place a strong emphasis on science, of course, but the primary reason for our scientific defense of special and recent creation is our conviction of the truth of biblical creation as recorded throughout God's perfect Word.

We live in an age of evangelical compromise, so ICR's continuing commitment to full biblical inerrancy and authority, to literal recent creationism and the global Flood, and to low-key fundraising may seem antiquated to some. But God has undoubtedly blessed ICR because of this, and we believe He'll continue to do so as we remain faithful and obedient to Him. We are immensely grateful for the prayers and financial partnership of our supporters, and we fervently hope that the coming decades—if the Lord does not return soon—will see an even greater harvest from the seed sown these first 50 years. ✍

Adapted from founder Henry M. Morris' article "ICR and the Word of God" in the December 1995 edition of *Acts & Facts*.

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



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This place was really cool. **It was nice to hear a geologist and [paleobiochemist] back up the Bible with science.** What we were taught in school about evolution is just a theory but taught as truth. What better truth than the Bible! Want to find out about the Bible and dinosaurs? Go check out the ICR Discovery Center. The new findings will blow your mind.

— A. A.



Amazing! We totally loved this place! It's beautifully presented, very informative, interactive, and fun! You will learn a lot about science, dinosaurs, DNA, the Ice Age, the creation of the earth, the animals, and the entire universe. **This is definitely one of the best museums in the Metroplex.** I really recommend this museum for all kinds of people—kids, teens, adults, elders, men, women, believers, and non-believers. You'll definitely enjoy while you learn amazing stuff that you won't find in any other museum. They have discounts for seniors and students, and they have guided tours for big groups. You have to go!

— A. S.

I led a group on a field trip to ICR. It was an incredible facility, great information, and the staff was so helpful. **They helped modify the experience to fit our 25 adults with special needs.** [I] highly recommend ICR. Something for all ages.

— H. L.



**The ICR Discovery Center in Dallas, Texas, is a great attraction at a very moderate price, especially in light of all it offers.** There's a planetarium that offers two different shows, one all about the oceans and the other about the sun, moon, stars, and planets. There's

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— S. and J. C.



**ICR shored up my faith in ways I can't possibly put into words.**

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— S. L.



*Members of the Disciples of the Way (DOW) Arabic Bible Study group watch the Return of Christ presentation in the ICR Discovery Center's final exhibit. DOW is an outreach mission to immigrant and refugee communities in the Dallas area.*

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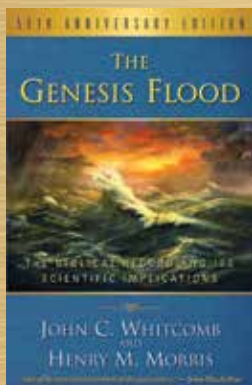
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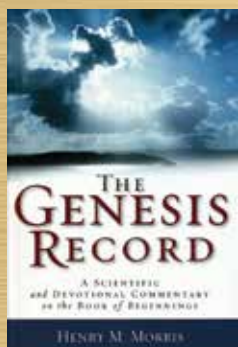


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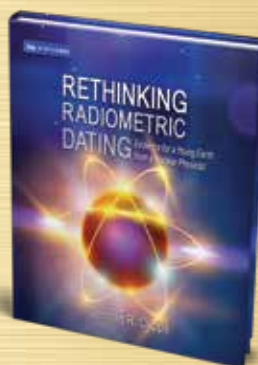
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