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The Fossils Still Say No: The Surly Cenozoic Flood Finale

page 4

The Flood Explains the Missing Dinosaurs

page 8

Another Function of “Junk DNA” Discovered

page 16

Does the Universe Look Old?

page 19

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and all year long

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DESIGNER

Dennis Davidson

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence. For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.

(Colossians 1:15-20)

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4



12



18



20



23

Front cover: Moraine Lake, Banff National Park,
Canadian Rocky Mountains
Image credit: BigStock

impact

4 The Fossils Still Say No: The Surly Cenozoic Flood Finale

JEFFREY P. TOMKINS, PH.D.

research

8 The Flood Explains the Missing Dinosaurs

TIM CLAREY, PH.D.

park series

12 John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park

GARY PARKER, Ed.D.

back to genesis

16 Another Function of “Junk DNA” Discovered

FRANK SHERWIN, D.Sc. (Hon.)

17 Mutation, Design, and Faith

MICHAEL STAMP

18 Hawaii Behind the Scenes

creation q & a

19 Does the Universe Look Old?

JAKE HEBERT, PH.D.

apologetics

20 Eating Bugs Isn't Always So Simple

JAMES J. S. JOHNSON, J.D., TH.D.

stewardship

21 A Battle for Hearts

LAUREN PENNINGTON

creation kids

23 Floods Form Fossils Fast

CHRISTY HARDY AND SUSAN WINDSOR

The Fossils Still Say No: The Surly Cenozoic Flood Finale



Hibiscus

article highlights

- The Flood peaked near the top of the Cretaceous system, then ongoing tectonic activity and sediment deposition continued to produce much of the Cenozoic strata and its fossils.
- The Cenozoic makes up about 30% of the total geological column and was produced during the final phase of the global Flood as water ran off uplifted mountain ranges and continents.
- Mammals, birds, insects, and plants that lived at higher elevations before the Flood were fossilized in these final rock layers.
- Vast coal layers representing upland forests are found in Cenozoic rocks both on land and in ocean basins adjacent to the continents.
- Near the top of the Cenozoic, where the Neogene meets the Quaternary, is the *N-Q Boundary*. This feature documents the end of the Flood.

The Cenozoic is the major upper system of the geologic column. It represents the last global Flood layers that were produced from violent Flood runoff as the newly separated continents and their mountain ranges were being uplifted in the final stage of the global Flood. Many unique types of mammals, birds, insects, and plants make their first appearances in the Cenozoic with no evolutionary precursors in lower rock layers. While this unique mix of catastrophically buried fossils is difficult to explain in an evolutionary scenario, the global Flood model of progressive burial by ecological zonation closely fits the data.

Darwin's Abominable Mystery Accelerates

As mentioned in the previous article in this series, about 20 years after Darwin published his famous book on evolution, he penned a letter to his close friend, the renowned botanist Joseph Hooker, grip-

ing, “The rapid development as far as we can judge of all the higher plants within recent geological times is an abominable mystery.”^{1,2}

The primary reason for Darwin’s claim of an abominable mystery was the sudden and massive appearance of numerous kinds of flowering plants known as angiosperms, which first began showing up in the Cretaceous and then exploded in the Cenozoic. In a recent paper, British botanist and evolutionary expert Richard Buggs showed that Darwin mainly considered the mystery to be abominable because the leading paleobotanists of his time such as his friend Oswald Heer and his evolutionary critic William Carruthers saw it as evidence for the work of a Creator.³ This glaring problem deeply bothered Darwin because the fossil record did not support his theory.

A 2016 research paper assessed the current extent of angiosperms in the paleontology databases. The authors claimed, “The Cenozoic angiosperm macrofossil record is extraordinarily rich” and “the diversification of angiosperms during the Cenozoic, and the causes of such changes in diversity, remains unclear.”⁴ In other words, Darwin’s mystery is more abominable for evolution today than it has ever been.

Abominable Cenozoic Coal Seams

Another powerful piece of evidence for the final receding phase of the global Flood involves the presence of huge Cenozoic coal beds formed from mostly angiosperm (flowering) plants.⁵ This is directly related to Darwin’s “abominable mystery.” Coal beds are formed by enormous amounts of plant material being ripped up, transported en masse, and then buried rapidly before the material has a chance to decay—exactly the type of catastrophic processes that occurred in

the global Flood. Compared to the Carboniferous coal beds formed earlier in the Flood that contained tropical coastal vegetation, the larger Cenozoic coal layers were formed from plants and trees growing at higher elevations in the pre-Flood world. Like the many other Cenozoic fossils, these coal beds had a propensity to form in large sedimentary basins that formed late in the Flood year where the plant material would have been easily trapped and buried.

A spectacular example of Cenozoic coal in North America can be found in the Powder River Basin, which extends from the center of eastern Wyoming up into the lower third of Montana.⁶ This large region contains some of the largest known reserves of low-sulfur subbituminous (black lignite) coal in the world, making it economically important. In fact, about 42% of United States coal production comes out of the Powder River Basin, and at least six coal seams in this basin exceed 100 feet in thickness, with some more than 200 feet thick (e.g., the Big George coal layer). Other extensive, but thinner, Cenozoic coal deposits are located across regions in the midwestern and southern states.⁶

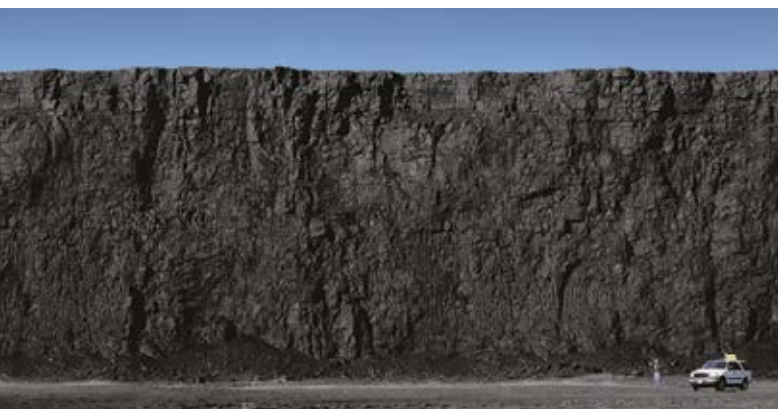
Huge Cenozoic coal deposits can also be found in other parts of the world such as South America, which comprise the thickest and most extensive across that continent as well.⁷ It has been estimated that these make up about half of all coal in South America with the total tonnage estimated to be greater than any other geologic system or combination of systems in that continent.

Cenozoic coals are also found in the ocean. Oil-well drilling in the South China Sea off the coast of Borneo has revealed a huge region of bedded Cenozoic coals that, according to evolutionists, “is both thick and rapidly deposited.”⁸ The only explanation for them is that the intense energy of the receding phase of the Flood transported and buried these land plants in late Flood continental runoff.

Mammal Fossils

The Cenozoic is often called the Age of Mammals due to the fact that many kinds of mammals make their first fossil appearances in these sediments. As in the lower parts of the rock record, the fossils in these layers that have living counterparts look the same, showing no sign of evolution (stasis). Cenozoic mammal fossils came from creatures living at higher, more temperate elevations than dinosaurs and thus would have been buried in the uppermost Flood layers. The mammal fossils found in these layers that are extinct likely would have been represented aboard Noah’s Ark but have since died off due to habitat loss or human hunting. Some examples of land mammal creatures making their first appearance in Cenozoic sediments include rodents, horses, rhinoceroses, elephants, dogs, cats, pigs, cattle, sheep, antelope, and gazelle.

One particular group of mammals that illustrate the global concordance of Cenozoic strata are monkeys whose fossils have been



Powder River Basin Coal Seam

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found across multiple continents. Monkey fossils of the same type have been found in the same Cenozoic rock layers of completely separate continents (South America and Africa).⁹ To explain this, evolutionists have actually proposed the absurd idea that monkeys rafted back and forth between continents on the open ocean.

While the intercontinental monkey fossil data give no credence to the idea of evolution, they do show that late Flood runoff

destroyed similar ecosystems on the newly separated continents as monkeys and other higher-elevation creatures were buried late in the Flood.

While many Cenozoic mammals are still with us today, a number of bizarre and intimidating-looking types have gone extinct.¹⁰ For example, paleontologists recently discovered the fossil of a ferocious-looking mammal bigger than any lion or tiger living today known as a *Hyainailourine hyaenodont*.¹¹ This creature was even larger than a grizzly bear, with a skull as big as a rhinoceros' and huge canine teeth. The creature was found in upper Cenozoic strata, and as the evolutionary story goes, "hyaenodonts arose in Asia in the late Paleocene and quickly spread across the northern continents in the early Eocene" (Paleocene and Eocene are lower Cenozoic layers).¹⁰ The magic words "arose" and "quickly spread" are typical evolution-speak, meaning that these creatures appeared suddenly around the world with no evolutionary precursors.

In addition to land mammals, many kinds of whales and other marine mammals make their first appearance in Cenozoic sediments. This can be explained by the fact that the large, bloated, buoyant carcasses of dead marine mammals like whales would have been some of the last marine creatures to have been buried in the Flood. In the global mapping of whale fossils, they are located along the coastal margins of nearly every continent and are also found across the entirety of Europe (Figure 1).¹²

Late Flood Runoff Explains Cenozoic

The paleontological evidence indicates that many of the diverse plants and mammals inhabiting higher and temperate pre-Flood elevations were buried in the late runoff phase of the global Flood.

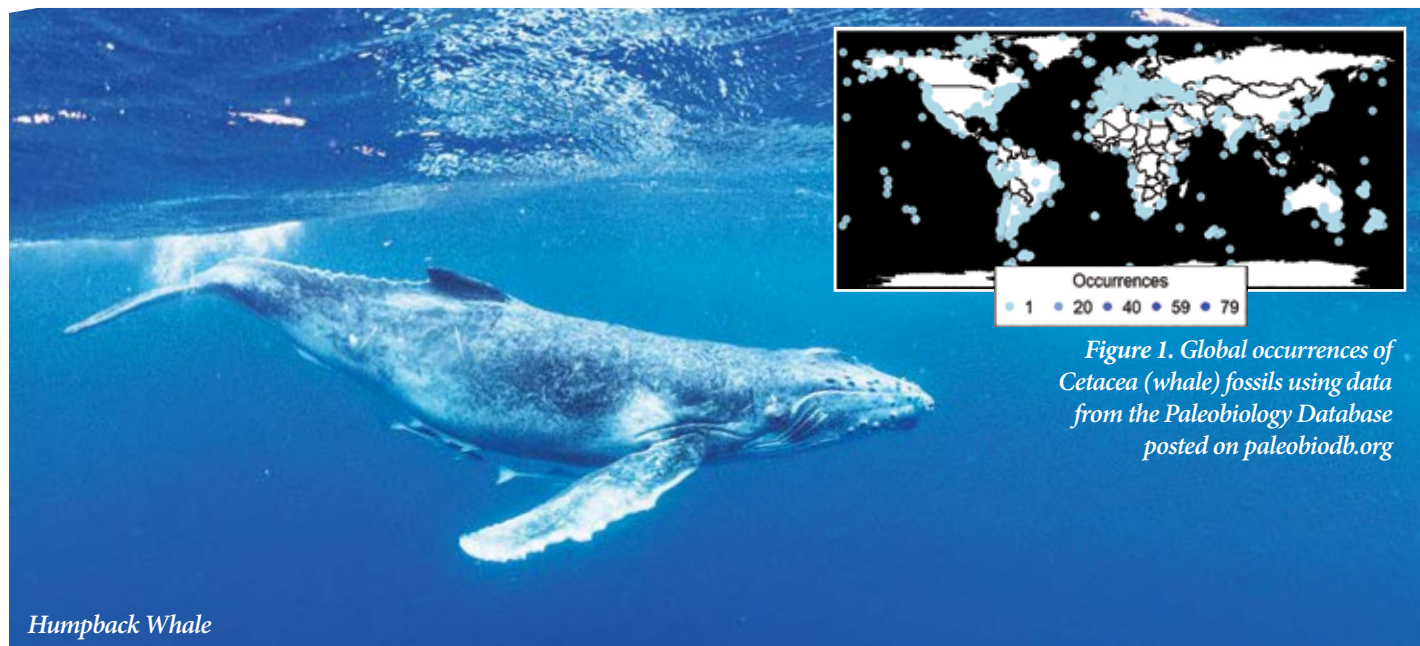


Figure 1. Global occurrences of Cetacea (whale) fossils using data from the Paleobiology Database posted on paleobiodb.org

Humpback Whale



Moraine Lake, Banff National Park,
Canadian Rocky Mountains

The megasequence representing this late Flood deposition is known as the Tejas and corresponds to the majority of the Cenozoic era (prior to the Pleistocene) in the geologic column and accounts for about 30% of the total volume of the sedimentary rock record.^{13,14} Thus, the end of the global Flood is defined at the upper margin of the Neogene system (just before the Quaternary at the top of the Cenozoic) where it meets the Quaternary. It is called the *N-Q Flood Boundary*.¹³⁻¹⁶

The floodwaters peaked in height, covering all the highest hills by at least 23 feet (15 cubits), during the deposition of Cretaceous system.¹³ The Cretaceous system also included the final phases of continental separation. Afterward, during the deposition of the Cenozoic, the newly separated continents and their mountain ranges were rapidly uplifted, causing the floodwaters to violently recede. This recession carved canyons out of the soft sediments (e.g., Grand Canyon) and buried massive amounts of plants and animals in large basins that had formed at the base of the mountains (e.g., Rocky Mountains).¹⁷ In addition, the continental runoff also formed massive Cenozoic sediments offshore such as the Whopper Sand in the Gulf of Mexico.¹⁸ While evolutionists have extreme difficulty in explaining Cenozoic geology and paleontology, the global Flood model fits the data perfectly. 🦋

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The Flood Explains the Missing Dinosaurs

article highlights

- Medium-size theropod fossils aren't found in uppermost dinosaur layers—only large and small specimens.
- This odd discovery is best explained by the Flood.
- Smaller theropods may have been quicker to react to the approaching danger, and the larger ones may have been able to physically weather the initial floodwaters.
- Again, the Genesis Flood is the best explanation of the geological data.

The pattern of fossils in the rock record has always been complex, and the dinosaur fossils may be even more so. A recent article tried to explain why only small and large-size carnivorous dinosaurs (theropods) are found in Upper Cretaceous rocks.¹ Evolutionary scientist Thomas Holtz suggested that juvenile tyrannosaurs may have outcompeted other medium-size dinosaurs, causing their disappearance, although he admitted that there may be another cause.²

ICR has a better explanation. Previously, our scientists analyzed 348 dinosaur species spread throughout the dinosaur-bearing rocks, finding that the average adult was about the size of an American bison, at 1,400 pounds.³ A subset of 152 species of theropods was also analyzed.³

Dinosaurs first appear fully formed and suddenly in Upper Triassic Flood layers. Theropods buried at this level were mostly small, averaging only 117 pounds.³ Higher in the Middle Jurassic, theropods achieved an average of 1,415 pounds and then 1,228 pounds in the Upper Jurassic, where allosaurs were buried.³ Theropods buried in the overlying Lower Cretaceous rocks maintained this average of 1,215 pounds.³ Finally, in the uppermost dinosaur-bearing units (Upper Cretaceous), theropods reached their highest average of 1,883 pounds.³ This was when tyrannosaurs were buried in the Flood. Even though the overall averages tended to in-

crease upward, we still found that there were small theropods mixed throughout all of the dinosaur-bearing units. This is what Holtz also found for the Upper Cretaceous—small and large theropods only.¹

What happened to the medium-size theropods in the Upper Cretaceous layers? Why only small and large theropods? Young, medium-size tyrannosaurs should have left fossils too. But Holtz never addressed this point.

Here's where Noah's Flood helps explain this unique occurrence. At least three factors likely helped determine the burial position for dinosaurs in the Flood: 1) elevation of their pre-Flood habitats, 2) mental attributes (reaction to danger), and 3) physical attributes (mobility and size).⁴ All dinosaurs lived in a pre-Flood lowland environment, but there may have been some elevation differences that factored into their burial.⁵ However, for the theropods, bigger factors were probably intelligence and size.

Theropods had the largest brain-to-body ratios of any dinosaur kind. Many had brains up to 1.8 times the size of a comparable-size lizard.⁶ Theropods known as coelurosaurs (the "raptors") had brains about 5.8 times a comparable-size lizard.⁶ The larger brain of the generally smaller-size coelurosaurs may have heightened their senses and allowed a faster reaction time to danger. This may be why we find small theropods still surviving until the highest Cretaceous lay-

ers. But what happened to the medium-size ones?

It may be simply because larger animals were able to resist the rigors of the turbulent and advancing floodwaters a bit longer. Most medium-size theropods didn't have the mobility or brawn of adult tyrannosaurs. Therefore, in the uppermost dinosaur-bearing rocks we find small, intelligent theropods and also large, mobile ones. The majority of the medium-size theropods were buried earlier in the underlying layers.

Evidence for the global Flood is readily discernible in the patterns of theropod burial. Secular stories about juvenile tyrannosaurs out-competing other medium-size theropods are unsatisfactory because no fossil evidence supports them. Instead, the Flood offers the best explanation for the size discrepancy. 🦖

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OCTOBER 1-2



Hamilton, MT
Bitterroot Valley Creation Conference
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OCTOBER 8-10

Battle Ground, WA
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OCTOBER 16

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OCTOBER 16

Georgetown, TX

Heritage Baptist Church

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OCTOBER 16

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OCTOBER 26-28

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(R. Guliuzza, J. Durant, J. Hebert)

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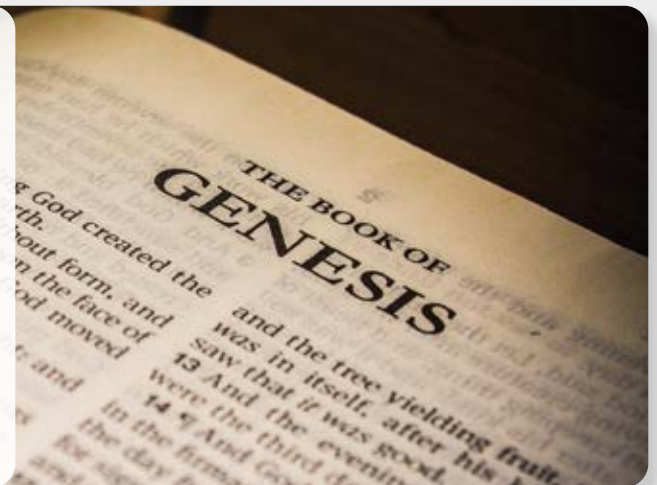
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(R. Guliuzza, T. Clarey)

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Dr. Tim Clarey leads a field trip to the South Rim of Grand Canyon and explains the successive deposits of the Flood during the Creation Research Society annual meeting held in Phoenix, Arizona.

Image credit: Ken Lawson



Prof. Tom Meyer, "The Bible Memory Man," visited the ICR Discovery Center in July.



Dr. Tim Clarey presented at Lone Star Cowboy Church in Navarro County, Texas, in August.

When 10-year-old Brett heard ICR's podcast *Science, Scripture, & Salvation*, it piqued his curiosity. He wanted to know more about creation science, so his family placed several orders for ICR books and DVDs. The resources perfectly blend Brett's love for the Bible with his love for science. Since then, he's told everyone he wants to be a preacher and work for ICR when he grows up. He's become one of ICR's biggest fans.

Brett's mother sent us these pictures from Brett's recent family visit to ICR and wrote, "I have come to believe ICR's mission work is core to bringing modern Americans and others to salvation in Christ. ICR, and our interactions with others about ICR, has shown me the incredible damage to Christianity the pervasive evolutionist view has caused."



Brett, in the red shirt, chats with Dr. Randy Guliuzza at the ICR Discovery Center.



Brett attends a workshop with Dr. Brian Thomas.



JOHN PENNEKAMP CORAL REEF STATE PARK

GARY PARKER, E.D.D.



Queen Angelfish

surely enjoyed leading college student groups on spring break camping trips to John Pennnekamp Coral Reef State Park on Key Largo in Florida. Diving excursions to the coral reefs about three miles offshore were my favorite parts, but there were also fascinating boardwalk and canoe trips to the mangrove for-

article highlights

- Coral Reef State Park offers a profound look into the diversity and harmony of creation.
- The variety of living things in the ocean demonstrates God's artistry and engineering.
- Some corals live in symbiotic relationships with algae, while large fish symbiotically allow small fish to clean their teeth.
- Four stages of ecological zones show how each one is uniquely designed to work with the others.

ests along the shore. Near-shore swimming gives opportunities to meet intriguing sea creatures up close and personal, plus trails wind through exotic forests that grow nowhere else in America. On a late-night walk along a sandy beach, you could stir up flashing points of light by disturbing bioluminescent sea creatures—"fireflies" of the

sea. Want to come along?

Tropical reefs like those in the Florida Keys feature corals on shallow sea floors. Each tiny coral animal (*polyp*) is essentially a tiny stomach with "fingers" (tentacles) for stuffing itself with food. It has no brain, eyes, heart, lungs, or liver and lives in a secreted limestone



Bioluminescent Plankton



cup (*corallum*) cemented to hundreds or thousands of its closest neighbors to form a coral colony. The colony may be shaped like a boulder, brain, antler, fan, or bush that sways in the waves.

Many corals need very little food because their polyps and stony cups house green algal cells that can make their own food by photosynthesis. The algae share their food with the corals, while the

coral supplies the algae a safe living space. The relationship between a coral polyp and its algal cells is called *symbiosis*—specifically mutualistic symbiosis, since both partners benefit. The coral-algae partnership is a relationship “made in heaven” by God’s decree at creation!

God also demonstrates His artistic range by producing a stunning array of colors, forms, and sizes, all expressing distinctive variations on His creative themes. He did the same in creating human beings with the ability to appreciate all that creativity. Colorful, swaying forms of large sea fans, sea plumes, and sea whips are favorites of snorkelers, divers, and

visitors aboard glass-bottom boats or in aquariums who find them particularly beautiful.

The Lord of creation engineers astonishing actions as well as beauty. For example, at fish cleaning stations, small fish near distinctive corals are willing to clean the teeth of big fish while they literally wait in line! When its turn comes, the big fish swims up, opens its

mouth wide, and lets a cleaner fish swim in and pick bits of debris from its teeth. Then the second miracle occurs. The big fish with clean teeth lets the cleaner fish out—before it goes off to hunt other small fish to eat! What effect do you think Darwin’s “war of nature” would have on cleaning symbiosis? Cleaning stations showcase fish behaviors in another example of mutualistic symbiosis—and another example of the Lord’s handiwork.

The outer barrier reefs set the stage for a dramatic series of ecological—not evolutionary—changes called *succession*. In now-falsified Darwinian thinking, environments make changes in organisms. In the reality that we call creation science, organisms track and even alter their environments in predictable ecological succession. One group prepares an environment for organisms living in a different area to move in. Together they “multiply and fill” the Earth (Genesis 1).

Visitors at Pennekamp can trace four stages in ecological succession, beginning with (1) the outer reefs. These provide storm pro-

tection for (2) the sandy-bottom grass beds with their patch reefs, a shallow water habitat rich in varied life forms that delight snorkelers and swimmers. Toward shore (3) mangroves anchor the shoreline with storm-resistant roots, provide shelter for egg deposits, and protect newly hatched larvae from predators. Park visitors use canoes, kayaks, or boardwalks to explore these “nurseries of the sea.” Lastly, (4) the walking trails at Pennekamp weave through orchids, lianas, and exotic trees like mahogany in America’s premier tropical forest.

Most of Pennekamp’s dive sites and ecological zones feature God’s handiwork, but one was shaped by a human sculptor’s hands. A huge underwater statue called Christ of the Deep stands in 25 feet of water. The statue reminds us that Christ stands ready to save those “lost at sea” as well those lost on land. Whoever turns to Jesus for forgiveness of sins finds a place of peace and joy forever with Him! ✝

Dr. Parker is Director of Creation Adventures Museum and earned his Ed.D. in biology/minor geology from Ball State University.



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Another Function of “JUNK DNA” Discovered

For decades, evolutionists suggested that huge sections of our genome (about half) did not actively code for the production of proteins or polypeptides—and so were useless, or “junk DNA.” But unsurprisingly, further research has uncovered functions for these “worthless” DNA sequences.¹ One creation scientist stated:

To conclude that a DNA sequence has no function (i.e., that it is “flotsam and jetsam” or “junk”), a scientist must have tested every base pair (the four DNA base pairs are A, T, G, and C) in the human genome (the totality of our DNA sequence) for function. This is an impossible task.²

Jiyue Zhu is a leading researcher at Washington State University whose team just published an important paper related to the issue of junk DNA.³ Zhu is an authority on the process of aging and recently said:

These DNA sequences tend to be considered as “junk DNA” or dark matters in our genome, and they are difficult to study. Our study describes that one of those units actually has a function in that it enhances the activity of the telomerase gene.⁴

Telomeres are large parts of DNA that average anywhere between 5,000 to 15,000 bases long in the human genome.^{5,6} (Bases are like the letters of the genetic code.)

The telomerase gene controls the activity of the telomerase enzyme, which helps produce telomeres, the caps at the end of each strand of DNA that protect the chromosomes within our cells. In normal cells, the length of telomeres gets a little bit shorter every time cells duplicate their DNA before they divide. When telomeres get too short, cells can no longer reproduce, causing them to age and die.⁴

Zhu and his team have been studying a DNA region previously deemed “junk” called VNTR2-1. Its function seems to drive the

article highlights

- Due to preconceived notions about evolution, many geneticists used to believe that much of the human genome was nonfunctioning.
- But this concept was not based on observation or testing.
- As the science of genetics progresses, scientists continue to discover complex function for areas of the genome that were previously seen as leftover evolutionary junk.
- Telomerase gene research is just the latest example—creation scientists predict many more in the future.

activity of the telomerase gene. This is interesting because it is this sequence that prevents aging in certain types of cells and might help us understand how cancer occurs.

Because of this, it was thought that if a person had long telomeres then their aging was slowed down and they'd live longer. But this was found to be overly simplistic.

Zhu said it was worth noting that having a shorter [telomere] sequence does not necessarily mean your lifespan will be shorter, because it means the telomerase gene is less active and your telomere length may be shorter, which could make you less likely to develop cancer.⁴

Further research is pending. Regardless, as predicted by creationists, “the false evolutionary paradigm of ‘junk DNA’ has been utterly debunked in favor of a new model, one containing pervasive functionality and network complexity. The reality of this seemingly unending complexity is only just beginning to be revealed—an inconvenient fact that points directly to an omnipotent Creator.”⁷

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Dr. Sherwin is Research Scientist at the Institute for Creation Research. He earned an M.A. in zoology from the University of Northern Colorado and received an Honorary Doctorate of Science from Pensacola Christian College.



Mutation, Design, and Faith

Any alteration in a cell's DNA sequence is a mutation. These changes can come from copying errors, exposure to chemicals or radiation, or from an infection. But other types of genetic changes can come from purposeful genetic mechanisms within the creature. The term mutation can be misleading since when people hear it they likely assume the change is a genetic *mistake*.

Change by Design

ICR's scientists see virtually all beneficial DNA sequence changes as being driven by innate systems designed into creatures; the beneficial aspect is a planned, programmed response. This is one type of many inherent mechanisms that allow creatures to *beneficially change themselves* in response to their environments.

Beneficial DNA sequence changes are engineered from the inside—they are built-in features designed to be triggered from within the creature when specific conditions are detected. They function in specific ways as opposed to an occurrence happening to the creature from the outside and somehow causing a beneficial change.

Mutations and Randomness

Nearly all genetic mutations that can be inferred as *random* (e.g., DNA copying errors, or exposures) are either bad or presumed to be neutral. Instead of helping, these changes tend to harm. Virtually all cancers are linked to an initial random mutation.

The numerous beneficial mutations needed to enhance or propel a creature into a new and more adaptive state are too complex and coordinated—too well-suited for their countless functions—to be characterized as arising from mere random processes. And for many genetic changes there isn't an objective test to determine if their cause is truly random. Thus, many DNA sequences that evolutionists claim are “broken” eventu-

ally turn out to have been mischaracterized. For example, many pseudogenes (alleged broken genes) are functional and necessary for life.¹

Why do evolutionists use the word “random” in their explanation of beneficial mutations? It's because random is both an overtly broad explanatory term and a covertly anti-design term. As a broad term, random has an umbrella explanatory application. It's like using the word “somehow”—it attempts to explain a lot without the necessary details, specifically the details biology demands in our age of genetic understanding and the observance of rapid adaptation.

As an anti-design term, “random” attempts to eliminate design from the entire biological process—i.e., reproduction, growth, and speciation—and therefore eliminates the Designer. Thus, randomness of genetic change is a crucial assumption of current evolutionary theory. Randomness is speculative. It attempts to ascribe mystical, purposeless evolutionary causes in the absence of known function. It's a proven failure as a secular research model.²

We often see DNA changes in living creatures solve specific problems. These changes are triggered from within the organism and are rapidly expressed. These so-called mutations clearly appear engineered to solve functional requirements; they don't appear to be the product of the random and fortuitous. From bacteria to moths, we have clear examples of genetic mechanisms conferring new function.^{3,4}

Faith and Empiricism

Evolutionists have faith in random genetic variability—faith that undirected processes can somehow do countless precise things in the right order and serve as a means to build living entities. Adding long spans of time to the scenario somehow allows random processes to work wonders: Since millions of years are part of the picture,

article highlights

- A genetic mutation is a change in DNA sequence. Most mutations are bad or neutral, and some are good.
- Evolutionists claim nearly all mutations come from random processes.
- Many good mutations that aid adaptation show mechanisms that point to design.
- Both bad and beneficial genetic mutations are strong evidence for creation.

then perhaps countless random processes could somehow eventually take place and create all these intricate living entities with complex biological processes and elaborate genetic language. With this kind of inexplicit approach, aren't evolutionists using unknowns to explain unknowns? This kind of speculative explanation isn't scientific.

Decay is a random process, engineering is not. Erosion is a random process, writing intricate language or code is not. Engineers go to great measures to eliminate chance and randomness from the building process—to do otherwise is to risk the final product.

Beneficial genetic mutations are strong evidence for creation. Studies on human genetic mutation rates show they occur far too rapidly for humans to have been around for millions of years.⁵ The genetic evidence indicates we began only thousands of years ago.

Evolution lacks a biological foundation to support its hypothesis, especially when it comes to genetics. Biblical creation is the best scientific explanation of our universe and the wondrous life we see on Earth. ✂

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Mr. Stamp is an editor at the Institute for Creation Research.



HAWAII *Behind the Scenes*



ICR Research Scientist Dr. Brian Thomas and ICR Video Producer Clint Loveness, with help from friends and family, recently shot footage in Maui, Hawaii, for upcoming video projects.

On the north side of the island, a beautiful beach venue provided an opportunity to discuss the argument for God from aesthetics. The team next searched for fast-adapting spiders on a jungle nature trail. These spiders were designed—innately engineered—from the beginning to switch between specific color combinations depending on their habitats.

On the island's south side, the team headed to Lava Fields to showcase how radioisotope dating fails to accurately date lava rocks of known age.

Finally, they drove up the massive Mt. Haleakalā volcano, at 10,000 feet, to highlight the formation of the Hawaiian Islands chain during the Flood year about 4,500 years ago.

We look forward to showing all these beautiful scenes and creation science evidences to you in the final videos!



Baldwin Beach, Maui



Waikamoi Nature Trail, Maui



Mt. Haleakalā, Maui

Image credit: Clint Loveness

Q: DOES THE UNIVERSE LOOK OLD?

Since distant galaxies are billions of light-years away, some understandably assume that distant starlight must have taken billions of years to reach us. Also, some galaxies are colliding. While God could have certainly created galaxies in the process of colliding, it's easy to see, given the vast distances between galaxies, how some could interpret this as evidence of great age.

However, the reality is more nuanced. The main argument for an old earth and solar system comes from radioisotope dating methods. Yet these ages are highly problematic (such as wrong dates for rocks of known age). Other than that, our solar system really does look young. Practically everywhere we look in our solar system we see strong indications of youth, including “upper limits” for ages of solar system objects that are measured in just thousands of years.¹

The deep-space argument for an old universe seems stronger, but there is *much* we don't know about cosmology and the universe, and such arguments often involve unproven—and in some cases, *unprovable*—assumptions.² Even so, there are hints that something is wrong with the standard view. If the universe really is billions of years old and the Big Bang model is correct, then we should observe distant galaxies *not* as they are today but as they were billions of years

ago. This means that these galaxies should appear undeveloped and “unevolved.” Yet distant galaxies routinely contradict that expectation.³ This means there is something wrong with either secular ideas of galaxy evolution or the assumption that distant starlight takes billions of years to reach us or both.

Moreover, some deep-space objects seem far younger than they should be if the universe were 13.8 billion years old. Spiral galaxies should have lost their spiral structure long ago, and secular astronomers have been repeatedly surprised by youthful features in globular clusters.⁴ Some exoplanets are so close to their host stars that they should no longer exist after billions of years!⁵

Many creationists think Einstein's theory of relativity, which allows clocks to tick at different rates, is the key to resolving these mysteries. God might have allowed clocks in deep space to tick at much faster rates in order to let distant starlight reach us during the literal 24 hours of the creation week's Day 4.

It is noteworthy that the strongest arguments for an old universe, such as distant starlight, involve extremely distant objects and unproven assumptions. Yet within our solar system, where we have a wealth of up-close observations, evidence for youth is both straightforward and strong. Coincidence? Or a hint that creationists have an

article highlights

- Within our solar system, evidence of youth is very strong.
- Deep-space objects seem to present a stronger case for an old universe, but interpreting deep-space data is heavily dependent on unproven assumptions.
- Even so, many deep-space objects (such as spiral galaxies, globular clusters, and some exoplanets) appear much younger than secular astronomers expect.
- Although some mysteries remain, Christians have strong biblical and scientific reasons to affirm a 6,000-year-old universe.

edge when interpreting astronomical data?

Although mysteries remain, Christians have strong reasons, both biblical and scientific, to affirm that the Lord Jesus Christ created the entire universe just a few thousand years ago. ✍

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



Eating Bugs Isn't Always So Simple

The Lord Jesus Christ deserves glory for *why* He made Earth's diverse creatures, and He also deserves glory for the complicated details of *how* they live.

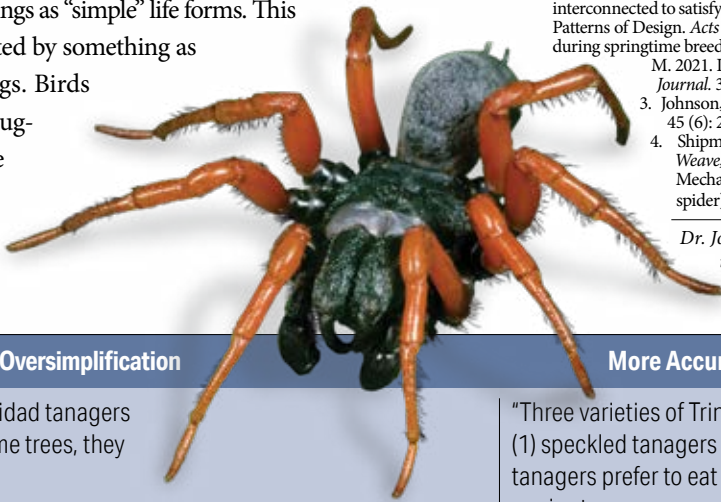
Although we cannot learn all of creation's astounding details, the Lord enabled us to learn much of what He has done. The secret (literally "hidden") things belong to the Lord our God, but those things which *are* revealed belong to us and to our children forever.¹

God wants us to learn His revealed wonders beyond measure, but we must take the time necessary to see amazing details. Many of these details are exceptions to general trends.

The more details we learn about how animals live, the easier it is to recognize oversimplification fallacies—and overgeneralizations—that pervade evolutionist descriptions of animal life.

As Dr. Randy Guliuzza has documented, oversimplified descriptions misleadingly omit important details.²

So, how do animals actually live in the real world? Animal body systems and behaviors are always more complicated than they appear. There are no such things as "simple" life forms. This point can be illustrated by something as simple as eating bugs. Birds and spiders have bug-eating habits that are not as "simple" as you might expect.



article highlights

- Christ Jesus deserves credit for engineering the detailed intricacies of His creation.
- Animals and their behavior are always more complicated than they appear.
- Various Trinidad tanagers feed on insects found in different places on the same trees—contradicting evolutionary competition expectations.
- How various spiders use their webs doesn't fit one "simple" generalization

Many more examples could be given, if space permitted. Don't believe it when an evolutionist talks about "simple" life forms—life is always much more complicated than it appears.¹ ✂

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



Misleading Due To Oversimplification	More Accurate Due To More Details
When different Trinidad tanagers eat bugs on the same trees, they compete for food.	"Three varieties of Trinidad tanagers share bugs on the same trees... (1) speckled tanagers pick off bugs from tree leaves, (2) bay-headed tanagers prefer to eat bugs from under large branches, and (3) turquoise tanagers snap up bugs from twigs." ³
When insects get stuck in spiderwebs, the spiders pounce upon those erring insects before the insects can fly or crawl away.	Not all spiders use webs to catch their prey. "The trapdoor spider lurks just behind the door to its [underground] burrow, then leaps upon unwary insects [crawling nearby]. After the spider draws its prey back into its burrow, the 'trapdoor' swings shut firmly on its own, sealing and camouflaging the spider's underground lair." ⁴
Spiders build above-ground webs to capture hapless bugs that fly into or crawl onto those sticky silk webs.	"The [purse-web] spider hunts by waiting deep inside her [underground] burrow for signs of prey. When an insect moves over the [above-ground portion of the] purse web, sending vibrations into the burrow, she quietly crawls through the underground tunnel and up into the aerial web....[Then she] quickly stabs her fangs into the insect through the wall of the web. She then cuts through the [web] tube, pulls the insect inside the purse web, and mends and re-camouflages the [rip] in the silk wall." ⁴

A Battle for Hearts

Since the ICR Discovery Center for Science & Earth History opened in fall of 2019, tens of thousands of people have walked through our doors. They come from many different places, backgrounds, cultures, and life situations. But as varied as our guests are, they have one thing in common: by the time they leave here, they have heard that Jesus Christ is the Creator of everything, the Savior of all who will repent and believe, and the coming King who will one day take His children home and judge all others.

As someone who works in the Discovery Center, it's interesting to watch people's reactions to the truths they interact with during their time here. For most of our guests, it is a faith-building reminder of the steadfast truths they already hold dear. For some, they laugh it off as fairy tales that have no place in academic discussion—after all, “the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing” (1 Corinthians 1:18).

For others, perhaps they've heard some of the truths about creation and salvation in the past, but this time it's different. Suddenly those truths plunge deeply into their hearts in a new way. They realize that the Bible is true and the evolutionary “science” they've been clinging to is empty and unfounded. They recognize they are sinners in need of a Savior and that Jesus' blood is their only hope for salvation from the punishment they justly deserve. They realize that because of who Christ is and everything He has done, He deserves to be worshiped above all others.

That is the crux of ICR's mission across our entire ministry—from our research, to our resources, to our events in various places, to the Discovery Center, and everything else that we do. That is why creation science matters. It is not just a matter of “being right.” No, it's



article highlights

- Above all else, the Institute for Creation Research seeks to honor Christ Jesus as Creator and Redeemer.
- All those who visit the Discovery Center receive this clear message.
- Pray for us, support us, and consider becoming an ICR Discovery Center volunteer.

a battle for individual hearts to give Christ the glory He deserves as all-powerful Creator, gracious Savior, and sovereign King.

But as Paul reminds us in Romans 10:14-15:

How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent?

That's where you come in. So many of you are already helping to “send” ICR in three key ways.

1. By praying for us. We fully recognize our dependence on the Lord. “Unless the LORD builds the house, they labor in vain who build it” (Psalm 127:1). In order to accomplish anything for Christ, we need His help!
2. By volunteering with us. ICR volunteers play a huge role in sharing God's truth with our guests in the ICR Discovery Center.
3. By sharing your financial resources with us. Everything ICR has done and continues to do is made possible as God uses your generous gifts.

To the many of you who enable ICR's ministry in any or all of these ways, thank you! ICR lives and thrives because of your love, prayers, and generosity.

If you are not yet involved in ICR's ministry but wish to contribute in any of those three ways, here's how.

- ◆ Please pray for us!
- ◆ If you live near Dallas, Texas, and want to volunteer at the ICR Discovery Center, you can check out some more information and apply at ICR.org/volunteer or email volunteer@ICR.org
- ◆ Please consider financially supporting us as you're able and willing. There are several different ways to donate; you can read more at ICR.org/donate

Thank you so much for partnering with us for the glory of Jesus Christ—our Creator, Savior, and King. ✨

Ms. Pennington is Volunteer Coordinator at the Institute for Creation Research.



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Read with great joy the article “Why Won’t the Gospel Die?” [August 2021 *Act & Facts*]... Please express my gratitude to Dr. [Brian] Thomas for his insight and strong words expressed in the article he penned so well. I will meet him someday here or up there and be able to truly show my appreciation for his stand. Praise to the heavenly Father for his witness and testimony.

— D.



The *Days of Praise* devotional booklets have become my best devotional, which I use every morning in my quiet time with the Lord God. They have become quite valuable to me to direct me to the Word of God, comparing Scripture with Scripture! As I read the daily devotional, I circle the Scripture references. Then I go back over the verses, looking them up...I make a short comment about the verse and refer to the next verse, continuing to the last verse on the day’s devotional and refer that one to the first verse. It is so neat to compare verses with the same thoughts/words. This has really blessed me as I know God is speaking to me through His Word and the writer’s comments.

— M. H. Q.



As a subscriber to *Act & Facts* for many years, I continue to treasure the truths expressed in this important publication. This recent August 2021 edition included an article by Dr. Randy Guliuzza entitled “The Tyranny of Consensus Thinking.” Excellent! This article will be an invaluable resource to share with others who also question the validity of information by self-appointed authorities threatening our personal freedoms. I am so grateful for ICR and its dedicated staff and supporters for proclaiming a biblical truth supporting its research.

— M. L. R. W.



What perfect timing for another article on consensus science. Our culture and the world have been bombarded this week with ever-changing politically motivated directives cloaked in “science.” Your 2009 article [“Consensus Science: The Rise of a Scientific Elite,” May 2009 *Act & Facts*] has been mulling through my mind, and now you present an update. Thank you for investing the time to remind us what “consensus” is and is not. Someone opined publicly this week, “How can science change so fast within a week?” Opinions created from a materialistic viewpoint with no moral biblical basis can change any time the speaker chooses.

— Y. H.



It’s difficult to put into words how refreshing it is to have a museum [the ICR Discovery Center for Science & Earth History] in your own city that’s based on creation history/science to take your kids to. Loved the planetarium show and everything about it that affirms God’s truth through science.

— W. M.



You guys are great! Love your website [ICR.org]. Truth is powerful, and it makes sense to listen to. I have always felt this about your material you present. And it is easy to discuss with others. Thank you!

— J. B.



Have a comment? Email Editor@ICR.org or write to Editor, P. O. Box 59029, Dallas, TX 75229. Unfortunately, ICR is unable to respond to all correspondence or accept unsolicited manuscripts, books, email attachments, or other materials.

THE EXCEPTION(S)



Written by Tracy Dowling. Illustrated by Lori Fausch.

Did you know that fossils almost never form today? Dead plants and animals usually decay or get eaten. They only turn into fossils if they are buried quickly in mud. You might have heard that fossils formed over millions of years. But actually fossils can form in a very short time under the right conditions. Find more fascinating fossil facts below!

- ✓ The worldwide Flood described in the Bible (Genesis 7–8) formed most of the fossils we see today.
- ✓ The Flood happened only thousands of years ago. It covered the whole earth with water and deep layers of mud.
- ✓ Sharks, clams, oysters, and even plesiosaurs were buried together with dinosaurs! Only a flood with enormous waves could move ocean animals across continents and mix them with land animals.
- ✓ Since the global Flood had big waves and lots of mud, it's no surprise that millions of fossils have been found on every continent—even Antarctica!

Name each fossil using the list below.

- Edmontosaurus
- Tyrannosaurus rex
- Mosasaurus
- Squid

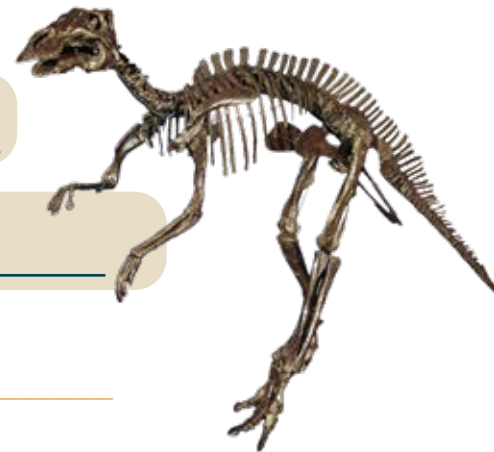


1. _____



2. _____

3. _____



4. _____

Unscramble the letters to form words found on this page.

BALGOL ODLOF _____ VEWAS _____

TRAWE _____ SIOSLFS _____

YLEARS FO UDM _____ RDIEBU CQILUKY _____

Fossil Craft Supplies: flour, salt, water, bowl, and baking sheet / optional: brown paint, paintbrushes



Mix 2 cups flour, 1 cup salt, and 1 cup water.



Knead the dough for 2 minutes.



Shape your own dinosaur bones. With your parent's help, bake at 325° for 30 minutes per inch of thickness.



Let the fossils cool completely. Paint if desired. Add to a sandbox to have your own dinosaur dig!

Word Scramble Answers: Global Flood, Water, Layers of Mud, Waves, Fossils, Buried Quickly
Fossil Matching Answers: 1. Tyrannosaurus rex 2. Mosasaurus 3. Squid 4. Edmontosaurus

NEW!

ICR IN-DEPTH SCIENCE

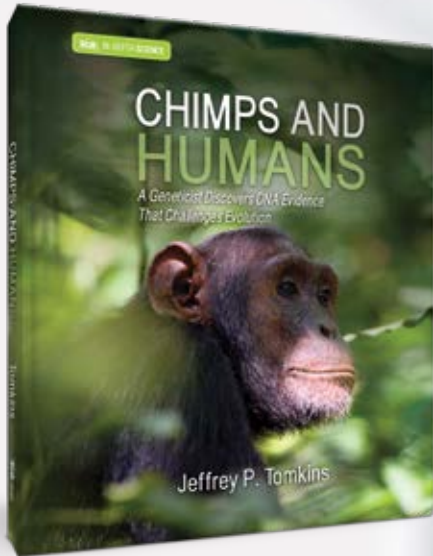


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CHIMPS AND HUMANS

A Geneticist Discovers DNA Evidence That Challenges Evolution

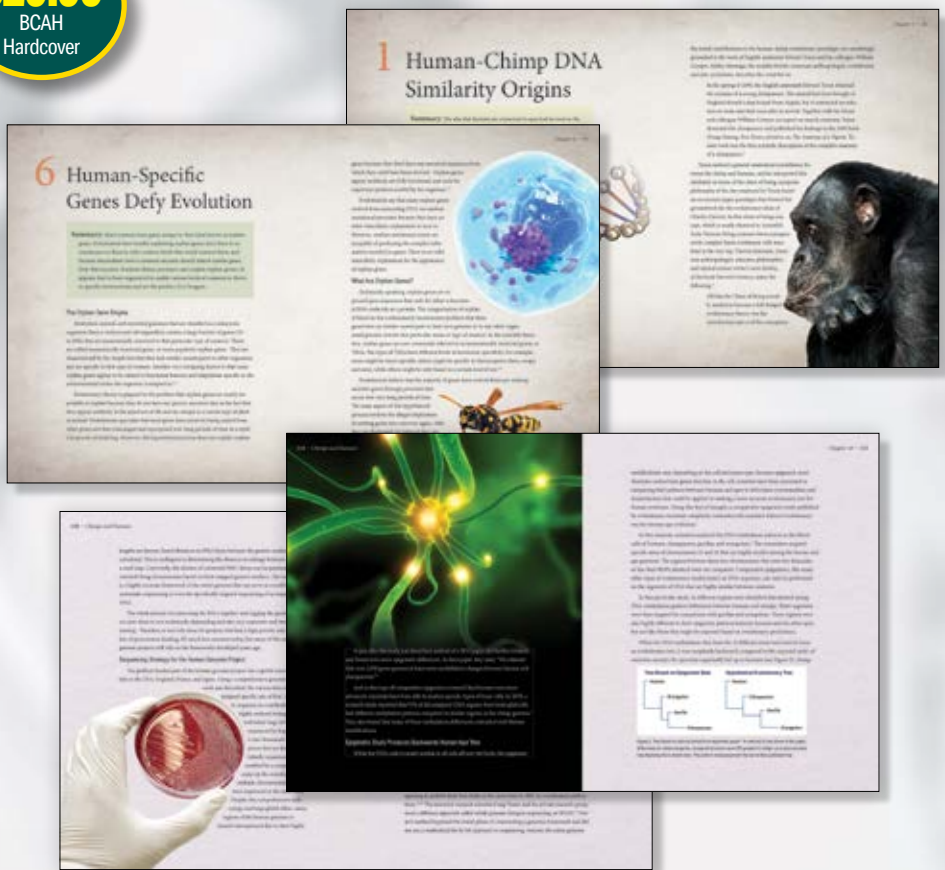
Dr. Jeffrey P. Tomkins



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Evolutionists claim human DNA and chimp DNA are over 98% similar. Based on known mutation rates, anything significantly less than a 98% similarity would destroy the entire theory of human evolution. With a background in genetics, Dr. Jeffrey Tomkins analyzes the data and discovers that secular scientists consistently tailor their research to fit evolution. From his own research, he demonstrates that human-chimp genome matches are about 84%—results that secular scientists are beginning to echo.

In *Chimps and Humans*, Dr. Tomkins dismantles evolutionary assertions of a close human-chimp relationship and shows they are too far apart to make a common evolutionary ancestor even remotely plausible. Christians have every reason to believe God created humans in His own image around 6,000 years ago.



“Dr. Tomkins has carefully investigated all of the various arguments supporting ape-to-man evolution. On every level, he has discovered that the supposedly compelling evolutionary arguments for ape-to-man evolution do not withstand careful scrutiny....In every case, whenever Dr. Tomkins has dug deep he has been able to overthrow the claims of the evolutionists.”

— Dr. John C. Sanford, author of *Genetic Entropy & the Mystery of the Genome*

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