

# ACTS & FACTS

INSTITUTE FOR  
CREATION RESEARCH

ICR.org

APRIL 2020

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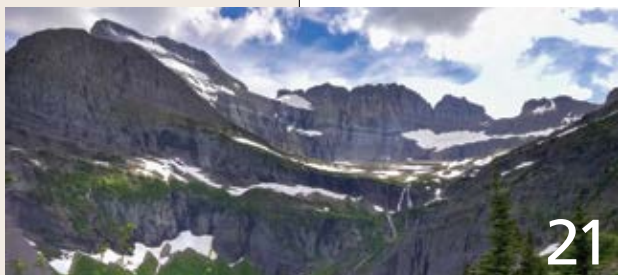
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# Lasting Influence

Through its 50 years of ministry, the Institute for Creation Research has been blessed by the faithful influence, wise perspectives, and generous support of many friends and colleagues. We've recently said goodbye to two faithful partners who greatly impacted our ministry in its earliest years and beyond. ICR editor Christy Hardy spoke with several current and former ICR staff members who knew them, and they shared with her how these men influenced creation ministry both at ICR and elsewhere with the gifts God gave them, making a lasting impact on generations of people.

Former ICR Board member Dr. Bob Armstrong went to be with the Lord on December 20, 2019. His enthusiasm for missions and evangelism spurred him to use creation truth to point others to Christ. Dr. Armstrong was a skilled orthopedic surgeon, and as ICR's ministry was beginning its outreach in the 1970s, he moved his medical practice to California so he could be available to help our founder, Dr. Henry M. Morris. He served on ICR's Board of Trustees, was an advocate for ICR's graduate school, and encouraged research into radiometric dating, which helped ICR launch

the Radioisotopes and the Age of the Earth (RATE) project. Dr. Armstrong was a faithful and generous source of support in the early days of our ministry—and over many years—and we remember his contributions with great appreciation.

You're probably aware that Dr. John Whitcomb co-authored *The Genesis Flood* with Dr. Morris. Dr. Whitcomb's homegoing was February 5, 2020, and you can learn more about his dedication to Scripture and passion for creation ministry in Christy's article "Dr. John Whitcomb: A Life Well Lived" (pages 17-19). As ICR president emeritus Dr. John Morris reflected on Dr. Whitcomb's passing, he said, "To me, the creation movement as a whole needs an elder statesman who loves the Word of God as Whitcomb did. Who will replace him?" Dr. Whitcomb leaves a legacy of faithfulness to God's Word and an enduring influence in creation ministry.

In our feature, Dr. Henry M. Morris III shares how ICR is beginning the search for its next president ("Biblical Succession," pages 5-7). Our Board is working to find Dr. Morris' replacement as leader of this vital organization—a tough task, to be sure! As

the current CEO, Dr. Morris recognizes this is the time to pass the torch to another who will faithfully continue ICR's mission to carry the creation message to a world that desperately needs to hear how science affirms the truth of Scripture. He says, "The role of ICR's president must assure the long-term alignment of the entire organization with ICR's Principles of Scientific Creationism and Biblical Creationism ([ICR.org/tenets](http://ICR.org/tenets)) that have served as the operational criteria for all ICR mission and ministry throughout the 50-year history."

For five decades, ICR has proclaimed the reliability of Scripture and honored Christ as both Creator and Savior—and that will not change! We are committed to equipping Christian believers with compelling evidence that affirms the Bible from Ph.D. scientists who love the Lord. This has been our ministry signature, and we will continue in that ministry with God's help. Please pray with us as we anticipate God's goodness in bringing just the right person to lead the way.

*Jayne Durant*

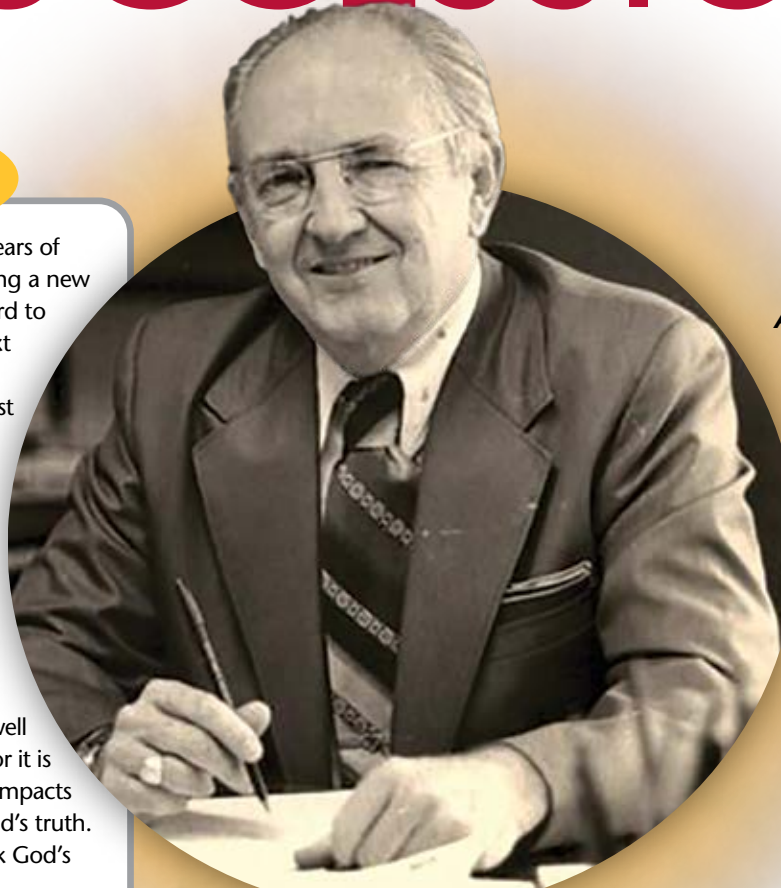
**Jayne Durant**  
EXECUTIVE EDITOR



# BIBLICAL SUCCESSION

## article highlights

- As ICR celebrates 50 years of ministry, we are entering a new season and look forward to God providing our next faithful leader.
- Our next president must adhere to ICR's tenets of faith and have a strict commitment to the inspiration and accuracy of the Word of God.
- The new president will be a proven Christian leader who is "like-minded" with us and well aware of the high honor it is to lead a ministry that impacts countless lives with God's truth.
- Pray with us as we seek God's will in this matter.



ICR founder Dr. Henry M. Morris

*And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.*

(2 Timothy 2:2)

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

This year, the Institute for Creation Research celebrates its 50th anniversary. God has shown Himself faithful over and over again, always providing sufficient resources and answering our repeated prayers for wisdom as He has led from our early days with Christian Heritage College. ICR founder Dr. Henry M. Morris served from inception until the leadership was turned over to his son, Dr. John Morris, who later retired. In January 2007 I was asked to assume the role of CEO, move the organization to Dallas, and hire a new generation of scientists and support staff who could form the core of the ministry for the foreseeable future.

As the Lord directed, supplied, and encouraged us, ICR grew rapidly in Dallas, and it wasn't long before we were able to purchase

a small campus and acquire adjacent property. The years seemed to rush by during our first decade in Dallas, and the vision for a museum began to materialize. By that time I was in my early 70s, and the Board of Trustees and I began to discuss when and how to provide for a smooth succession to a new leader for ICR. But with the start of the capital project that has resulted in the ICR Discovery Center for Science & Earth History, all of us felt it would be best if that effort were completed before I passed the torch to new leadership.

Our gracious Lord has enabled me to oversee the ministry during these very intense years, and with the help of ICR directors, the careful and meticulous contributions from the scientists, and the constant encouragement of the staff, we were able to accomplish that





Image credit: Joseph Haubert

major project, opening on September 2, 2019. Once the Discovery Center was operational and beginning to prove its viability, the decision was made to begin a formal search for a new president. The Board wanted to conduct the search while I am still working full-time so the decision won't be rushed. In this way, the Board can ensure that the vision, passion, and commitment to the Scriptures remain at ICR's core as it has since its beginning.

The role of ICR's president must assure the long-term alignment of the entire organization with ICR's Principles of Scientific Creationism and Biblical Creationism ([ICR.org/tenets](http://ICR.org/tenets)) that have served as the operational criteria for all ICR mission and ministry throughout its 50-year history. During the recent Board meeting that initiated the search, there was unanimous agreement that an absolute and unwavering commitment to the tenets was required from whomever may be identified to lead ICR. Simply put, an absolute commitment to the accuracy and authority of Scripture is non-negotiable. Our research staff does not engage in tasks that are merely scientifically intriguing; instead, their research must be focused on finding empirical facts that demonstrate the authority and accuracy of the Scriptures—particularly the first 11 chapters of the book of Genesis.

For *Acts & Facts* readers who are not familiar with ICR's tenets, the wording on the integrity of Scripture cited in the tenets is given below. All officers and directors of ICR must agree with and sign these tenets annually.

The Bible, consisting of the thirty-nine canonical books of the Old Testament and the twenty-seven canonical books of the New Testament, is the divinely-inspired revelation of the Creator to man. Its unique, plenary, verbal inspiration guarantees that these writings, as originally

and miraculously given, are infallible and completely authoritative on all matters with which they deal, free from error of any sort, scientific and historical as well as moral and theological.

### Biblical Criteria for a Godly Leader

With the requirement of an absolute commitment to the authority and accuracy of the Scriptures as a foundation, it becomes necessary that the search for a new leader begins with a good understanding of what the Bible describes as a sound leader. Although several such examples offer valid insights, the instructions to Joshua, who succeeded Moses, and the criteria for New Testament leaders serve as exemplary bookends.

When Joshua assumed his role, it was after he had already been trained and identified as the successor by the Lord. "Moses did as the LORD commanded him. He took Joshua and set him before Eleazar the priest and before all the congregation. And he laid his hands on him and inaugurated him, just as the LORD commanded by the hand of Moses" (Numbers 27:22-23). When Moses died, Joshua was well trained and was faithful to carry on the work without faltering.

Moses had begun his leadership with a goal to bring the people into the new land they were promised. He spent his last 40 years trying to prepare a people to advance into the new land, but that first generation refused to trust the Lord. Joshua kept the vision alive during the years of wandering, and when they were finished began immediately to advance into the land (Joshua 1:2-4). Joshua acted on the commitment that he had to follow the Lord early on, and took the leadership with confidence—in spite of those who had thwarted the efforts of Moses to bring about the fulfillment of God's promise.

That is one of the main reasons why the New Testament insists that those choosing a new leader must never select one who is "a novice, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the same condemnation as the devil" (1 Timothy 3:6).

When Joshua stepped into the leadership role, the initial challenge for him was to boldly keep his life and reputation under the demands of Scriptures. God does not prosper one who consciously rejects His Word, nor will He lead one who fails to study His Word.

"Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go. This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success." (Joshua 1:7-8)



Dr. John Morris on a Mt. Ararat expedition



Dr. Henry Morris III signs the finishing beam for the Discovery Center

Image credit: Joseph Haubert



## Biblical Instructions for Leadership

In Paul's second letter to Timothy, he provided an excellent overview of what is expected of a godly leader. Whomever ICR ultimately selects as the president to succeed me, that person must meet the criteria listed in 2 Timothy 2:14-26 above all else.

- » He must constantly remind others not to “strive” about unprofitable words (v. 14).
- » He must study to demonstrate excellence in the Scriptures (v. 15).
- » He must avoid “idle babblings” that develop ungodliness (v. 16).
- » He must identify and warn against false teachers (vv. 17-18).
- » He must embrace the sure foundation of God (v. 19).
- » He must openly separate from iniquity (v. 19).
- » He must be determined to pursue righteousness (v. 22).
- » He must be determined to pursue faith (v. 22).
- » He must be determined to pursue love (v. 22).
- » He must be determined to pursue peace (v. 22).
- » He must also avoid (refuse) that which engenders strife (v. 23).
- » He must instruct those who need to be recovered from Satan's capture (vv. 25-26).

## ICR's Operational Structure

The Institute for Creation Research has structured its operational focus around the Bible passage located in 2 Timothy 2:2: “And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.” From ICR's earliest days, our hiring efforts have been to seek employees around whom we can build on the biblical ideal expressed in Philippians 2:20: Individuals who are “like-minded, who will sincerely care for your state.”

Our science staff and senior leadership have come to ICR after much prayer and heart searching. Our daily devotional time with the entire staff has set the tone for the ministry each morning. Often those who lead the prayer and devotional time remind us how much of a privilege it is for us to serve in a Kingdom ministry, knowing that

our labor is focused on eternal works and not merely on a job that provides an income.

Therefore, it's paramount that the one whom the Lord will bring to ICR be “like-minded” and aware of the high honor granted to lead a ministry of dedicated brothers and sisters that is impacting hundreds of thousands of lives. Please join us in prayer as this search gets underway. The ICR Board members are united in their commitment to install as president one who will build on the vision of the founder and the work of the two Morris leaders who followed him.

Undergirding that commitment is the absolute desire to submit to the Word of God as we search, praying continually that God will unite our minds around His designated successor, and anticipating that the future ministry will enable ICR to “enlarge the place of your tent, and let them stretch out the curtains of your dwellings; do not spare; lengthen your cords, and strengthen your stakes” (Isaiah 54:2). ☞

Note: For a confidential discussion regarding this search, or to nominate a prospective candidate, please write to [james.barnes@indwes.edu](mailto:james.barnes@indwes.edu). Applicants should send only a cover letter and resume/CV to [ICRPresident@rpainc.org](mailto:ICRPresident@rpainc.org).

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



ICR staffers pray over the site of the future Discovery Center



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# Contamination Claims Can't Cancel Radiocarbon Results



article highlights

Radiocarbon (C-14) keeps popping up in the wrong places. Carbon-dating labs have struggled to find ancient samples with zero radiocarbon levels. C-14 has turned up in coal, natural gas, and fossils. Naturalists believe all these specimens are many times older than radiocarbon can theoretically last, which is fewer than 100,000 carbon years.

In contrast, biblical scientists believe Noah's Flood deposited these materials thousands, not millions, of years ago. A colleague and I expected to find radiocarbon in similarly old samples, and we did.<sup>1</sup> Dinosaur and fish bones, wood, shell, and diamonds have detectable C-14.

Each of these measurements poses a dilemma for deep-time defenders. Logically, they must either reject their millions-of-years age assignments or claim that something is wrong with the measurements—for example, modern contamination. Secular experts argued in 2018 that those who report radiocarbon in coal and diamonds—without referencing ICR's RATE results, their obvious target<sup>2</sup>—misunderstand background measurements for the instruments used in car-

bon dating.<sup>3</sup> Dr. Vernon Cupps and I refuted their arguments in a 2019 technical article.<sup>4</sup> Here are some highlights.

Measurements compare unknown samples with background samples. A perfect background sample has every component of the unknown sample except the one being measured—in this case, C-14. Levels of radiocarbon in materials such as diamonds are very close to the low levels found in background samples. The 2018 authors insisted that enough modern radiocarbon lurks in the lab, plus a few other places, to account for the low amounts measured in materials like diamonds.

But did they use lab measurements to back that assertion? No, they used circular reasoning in place of good measurement science. They argued that because background samples are millions of years old, they have no radiocarbon left in them. Therefore, any C-14 detected in an unknown sample of great age had to come from some place other than the sample.

Ironically, their own results refuted this logic. The same experts had measured C-14

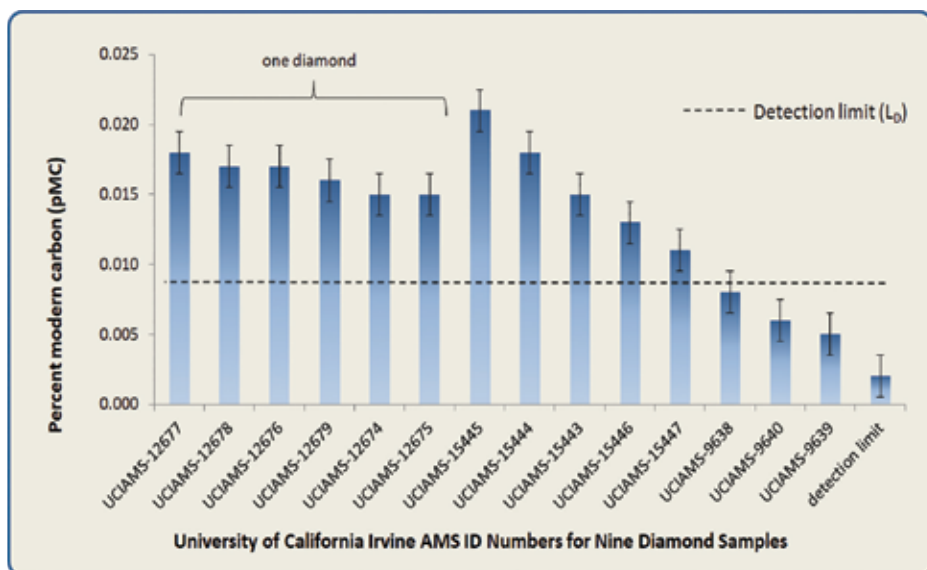
- Fossils, coal, and diamonds contain verifiable radiocarbon.
- Since radiocarbon can't last more than 100,000 years, its presence in these specimens challenges deep-time notions.
- Skeptics' claims of bad measurements and sample contamination don't hold water.
- These materials look only thousands of years old because they are that age.

in their own diamond samples.<sup>5</sup> We compared their results to a standard background C-14 level, shown in the figure. Their 95% confidence error bars show C-14 *above* the background. Instead of reporting 99% confidence that their diamonds had more radiocarbon than the background, they said their C-14 came from lab contamination. Could it?

Background samples already account for lab contamination. Thus, the team bears two burdens of proof: 1) They need to show that in-lab C-14 can elevate levels high enough above the background to match the levels they found in their diamonds. 2) They need to show that lab contamination affects only the unknown samples and not background samples. Meanwhile, the reason Earth materials *look* thousands of years old is because they *are* thousands of years old! 🦋

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Radiocarbon levels in six diamonds exceed the background level, known as the detection limit.<sup>6</sup>

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



# Cosmic Rays, Sunspots, and Climate Change

## P A R T 2

### article highlights

- The sun's magnetic field appears to play a significant role in Earth's weather and climate.
- This field influences the number of cosmic rays that enter Earth's atmosphere, producing charged particles called ions.
- The number of ions in the atmosphere affects clouds, which are a major climate "wild card."
- Research on the sun's influence can help us get a truer picture of the factors affecting weather and climate.

Last month's article described two possible mechanisms by which the sun could affect Earth's weather and climate.<sup>1</sup> Both mechanisms use the fact that the sun's magnetic field greatly influences the number of fast-moving charged particles (mainly protons)

called *galactic cosmic rays* (GCRs) that enter Earth's atmosphere. A shower of charged particles, or *ions*, is produced when these cosmic rays collide with molecules in the atmosphere (Figure 1).

The first mechanism, advocated by Dr. Henrik Svensmark,

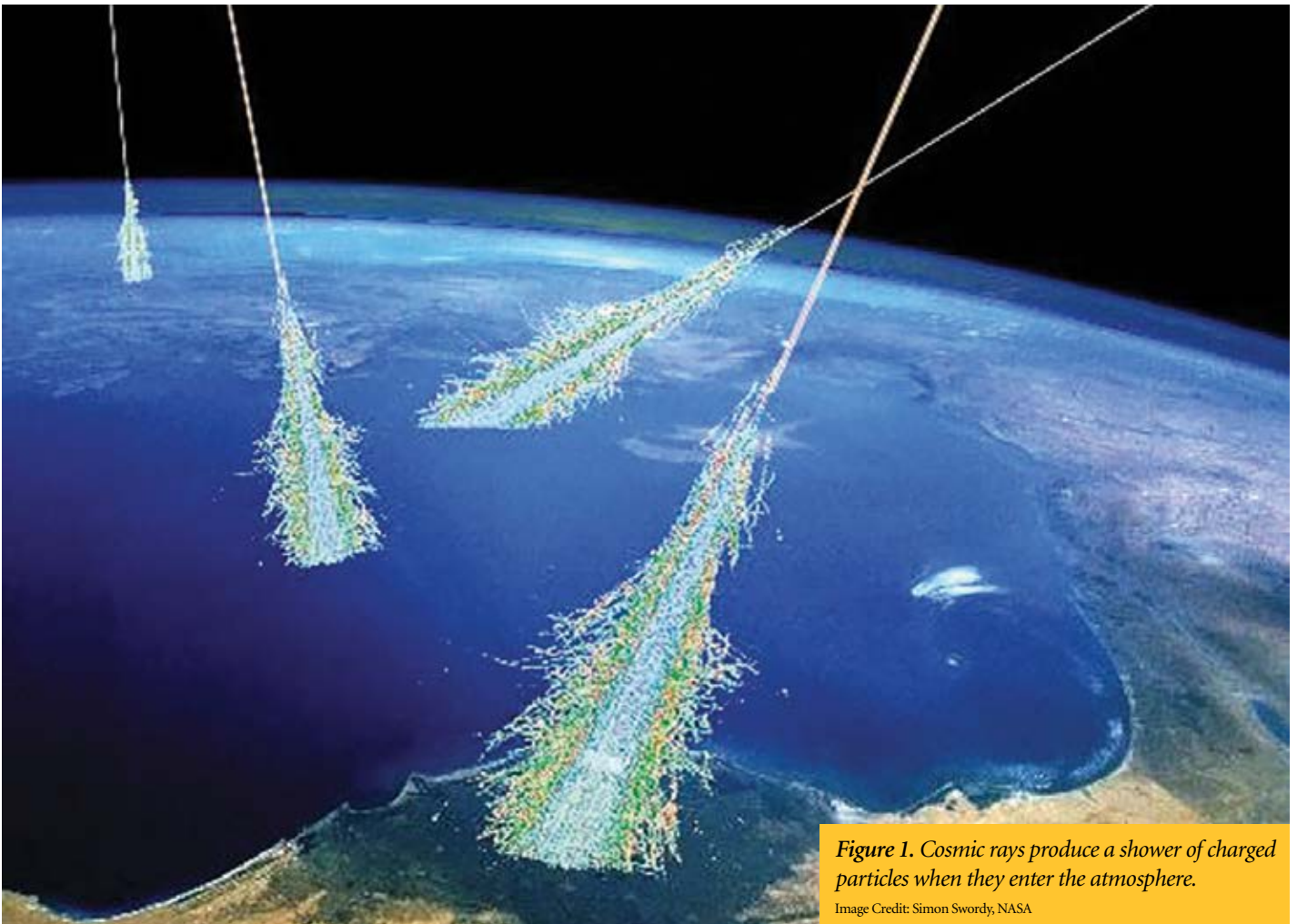


Figure 1. Cosmic rays produce a shower of charged particles when they enter the atmosphere.

Image Credit: Simon Swordy, NASA



holds that the ions resulting from GCRs increase the kinds of aerosols needed to form water droplets in clouds, with more aerosols enabling more clouds to form.<sup>2</sup> The second was formulated by University of Texas Dallas professor emeritus Dr. Brian Tinsley, who was my Ph.D. advisor.<sup>3</sup> In his proposed mechanism, cosmic rays are one of several factors influencing a downward fair-weather current density. This current density affects the rates at which aerosols are scavenged by cloud droplets. This in turn influences the sizes of cloud droplets, which ultimately affect cloud behavior.

Dr. Tinsley’s mechanism is more likely to be the true connection between the sun, cosmic rays, and Earth’s weather and climate. This mechanism explains a wide array of observations not explained by Svensmark’s alternate model.<sup>4</sup>

### An Overview

One layer in Earth’s atmosphere, the *ionosphere*, is a very good conductor of electricity. Earth’s surface is also a good conductor. Thunderstorms in the low latitudes act as “batteries” that continuously deposit positive electrical charge on the ionosphere. Because of this charge, there is a large potential difference, or voltage, between the ionosphere and Earth’s surface. This voltage is about 250,000 volts, although it can be higher or lower depending on the number of thunderstorms going on at any given time.

The atmosphere below the ionosphere is not a good electrical conductor. Ions are present in the lower atmosphere, though not nearly as many as are in the ionosphere. These ions allow the lower atmosphere to conduct electricity, but only weakly.

Because the atmosphere is weakly conducting, this 250,000-volt potential difference drives a downward current of about 1,000 amperes. This electrical current is not lightning. Rather, it’s a “fair weather” electrical current that falls over the entire surface of the earth. The amount of current striking one square meter of ground is very, very tiny, only a few trillionths of an ampere per square meter.

Physicists often use  $J$  to symbolize electrical current density and  $z$  to represent the downward direction. For this reason, they use  $J_z$  to represent this downward fair-weather current density.

### Current Density $J_z$ and Clouds

Clouds are even poorer conductors of electricity than the surrounding air. Physics shows that  $J_z$  passing through a cloud will cause a layer of positive charge to form on the cloud top and a layer of negative charge to form on the cloud bottom. This charge attaches to water droplets in the cloud as well as to tiny particles called *aerosols*. Some of these aerosols, called *cloud condensation nuclei* (CCNs), have the right properties to act as “seeds” for the formation of new cloud droplets.

Computer simulations show that this charge increases the rates at which the cloud droplets scavenge, or “gobble up,” the larger CCNs.

It also decreases the rates at which the smaller CCNs are scavenged.<sup>5</sup> In other words, the presence of this charge influences, or modulates, the rates at which aerosols are scavenged by cloud droplets. For this reason, the effect is called *charge modulation of aerosol scavenging* (CMAS).

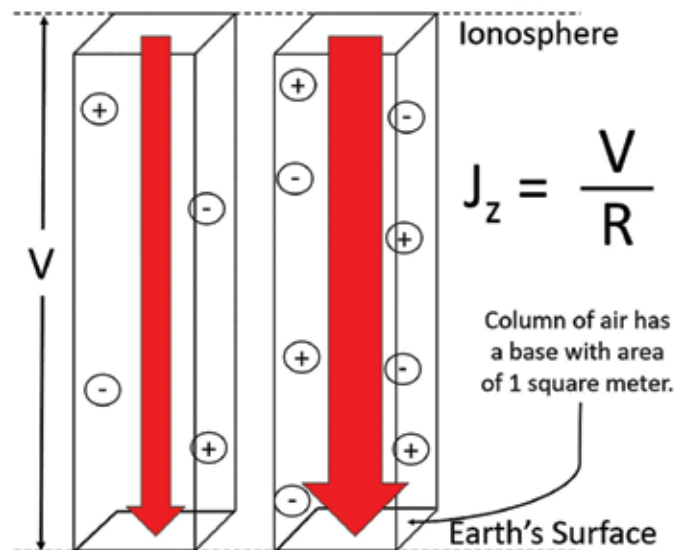
As the previous article explained, this tends to make cloud droplets more uniform in size. This greater uniformity reduces the likelihood of rainfall, which means the cloud will last longer. So, increases in  $J_z$  should increase cloud cover, and decreases in  $J_z$  should decrease cloud cover.

### Factors Affecting $J_z$

You may remember the equation  $V = I \times R$  from physics class. This equation can be rearranged as  $I = V/R$ . In other words, the current  $I$  passing through an object depends on the voltage  $V$  across the object and the object’s electrical resistance  $R$ . So, changes in  $V$  and/or  $R$  can change the current  $I$ .

The situation with the fair-weather current density  $J_z$  is very similar.  $J_z$  is the current through a column of air with a base one square meter in area. At a given location,  $J_z$  depends on the voltage  $V$  between Earth’s surface and the ionosphere, as well as the resistance  $R$  of the air column at that location. At any given time, the voltage  $V$  will be the same at most locations above Earth’s surface.

However,  $V$  varies with time due to changes in worldwide thunderstorm activity. The resistance  $R$  of the air column depends on local air pollution and the local number of ions in the atmosphere.



**Figure 2.** The voltage  $V$  between the ionosphere and Earth’s surface pushes the tiny downward electrical current density  $J_z$ . Increases in  $V$  and decreases in  $R$  make  $J_z$  larger. Decreases in  $V$  and increases in  $R$  make  $J_z$  smaller. Because the number of ions in a column of air varies from place to place,  $R$  also varies. This means that  $J_z$  can vary in two different places even though the same voltage  $V$  is applied at both locations.

Because these factors vary from place to place,  $R$  also varies from place to place. Heavy air pollution can cause a column of air at one location to conduct electricity poorly so that the air column has a higher electrical resistance  $R$ . Likewise, low levels of pollution and a large number of ions can make the resistance  $R$  of the air column lower, allowing the air column to conduct electricity more easily. This causes the size of the current density  $J_z$  to vary from place to place even though the same voltage  $V$  is “pushing” the two current densities (Figure 2).

### CMAS Predictions

If the CMAS mechanism is valid, cloud cover at a particular location will quickly increase when  $J_z$  at that location increases. Likewise, cloud cover will quickly decrease when  $J_z$  decreases.

Local cloud cover will also increase during increases in  $V$  that are large enough to increase  $J_z$  even though  $R$  may be getting a little smaller. Local cloud cover will also increase when the local columnar resistance  $R$  greatly decreases. This would happen when *many* more cosmic rays enter the atmosphere at times of solar minimum (low sunspot activity). During those times, decreases in  $R$  can be so large that  $J_z$  also increases even though  $V$  might decrease somewhat.

### Cyclone Intensification

A *Forbush decrease* is a drop in the number of cosmic rays entering the atmosphere. A Forbush decrease occurs when a blob of plasma from a coronal mass ejection reaches Earth. Winter cyclones in the northern high latitudes become less intense about a day after a moderate or large Forbush decrease.<sup>6</sup>

Tinsley concluded the decreased number of cosmic rays during a Forbush decrease was causing  $J_z$  to become smaller. So, if smaller  $J_z$  values are weakening cyclones, then it seems reasonable that increases in  $J_z$  should strengthen cyclones.

Here’s why. Remember that higher values of  $J_z$  cause larger aerosols to be scavenged more frequently by cloud water droplets. A class of larger aerosols called *ice-forming nuclei* (IFN) form ice when they come into contact with supercool water droplets, such as those found in clouds. So, at times of higher  $J_z$ , more IFNs are scavenged by water droplets, making more ice. Energy in the form of latent heat is given off when ice forms. This heat warms the air, causing it to rise.



*Figure 3. Higher values of  $J_z$  are associated with more intense high-latitude northern winter cyclones. Would additional data confirm these results? And could this effect be connected to the very cold European winters during the Maunder Minimum?*

Image Credit: NASA, Aqua/MODIS satellite

Air from lower elevations then moves inward to replace this upward-moving air. As a greater mass of air moves toward the center of the cyclone, the cyclone spins faster, just as a figure skater spins faster when she pulls in her arms and legs. In this way, higher values of  $J_z$  can make cyclones spin faster and become more intense.

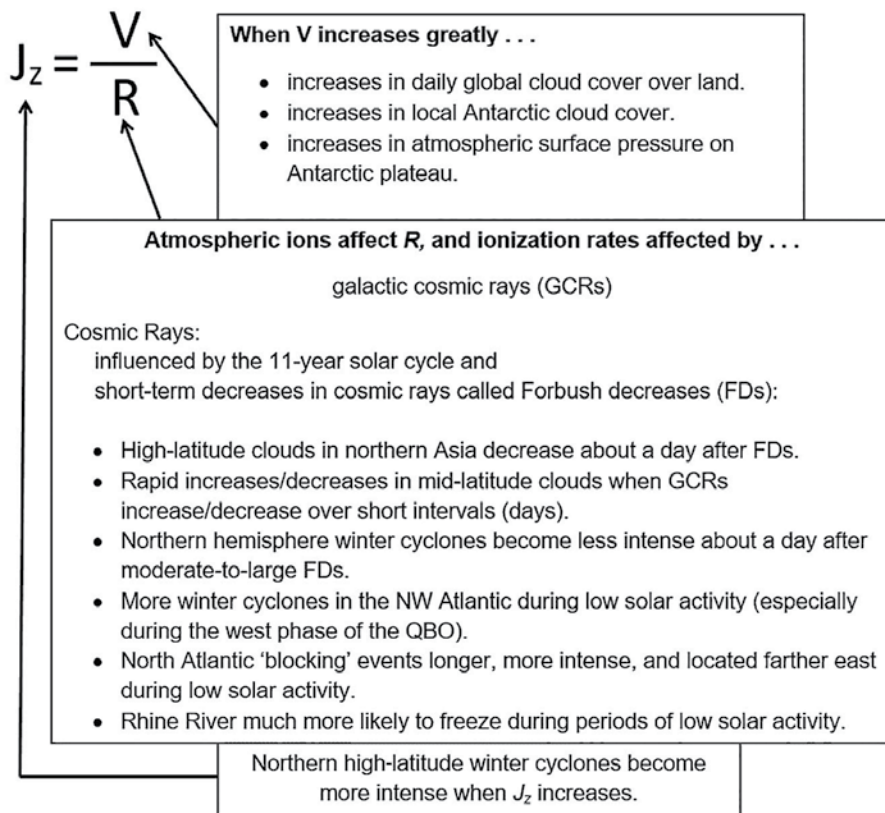
My Ph.D. research used  $J_z$  data measured at Hawaii’s Mauna Loa Observatory from 1960–61 and 1976–84.<sup>7</sup> As Tinsley’s model predicted, I found evidence that higher values of  $J_z$  do indeed cause winter cyclones to become more intense (Figure 3). The effect was subtle, but it showed up in two independent data sets.<sup>8-10</sup>

Direct and indirect evidence for the CMAS mechanism are summarized in Figure 4. There are additional lines of evidence, but they are difficult to explain in a short article.<sup>11-14</sup>

### A Connection to the Little Ice Age?

Cyclones are low-pressure weather systems. An area called the Icelandic Low is a major source of cyclones in the North Atlantic. When cyclones become more intense, high-pressure systems located “downstream” (to the east) of these cyclones also become more intense.<sup>15</sup> These high-pressure systems can block the flow of warm moist air from the Atlantic Ocean onto the European continent. If these blocking events last for significant amounts of time, they can





**Figure 4.** Partial summary of evidence for the CMAS mechanism. Factors that cause higher/lower  $J_z$  values are associated with more/fewer clouds and more/less-intense northern high-latitude winter cyclones.

cause especially cold European winters.

North Atlantic blocking events last longer, are more intense, and are located farther east during periods of low solar activity.<sup>16</sup> Tinsley thinks higher  $J_z$  values during very low solar activity were the ultimate cause of the very cold winters during the Maunder Minimum, the coldest part of the Little Ice Age. During the Maunder Minimum (lasting from around 1645 to 1715), more cosmic rays entered the atmosphere, especially at higher latitudes.<sup>17</sup> This greatly increased the number of ions in the atmosphere, resulting in higher  $J_z$  values that caused North Atlantic winter cyclones to spin faster and become more intense. This was accompanied by longer and more intense blocking events to the east, and these prevented warm, moist Atlantic air from flowing onto Europe, resulting in the very cold European winters of the Maunder Minimum.

Experts expect the current solar minimum to be the weakest of the last 200 years.<sup>18</sup> If Tinsley is right, European winters should be especially severe during that time.<sup>19</sup>

### Implications for Global Warming

The predictions of computer climate models are one of the main arguments for catastrophic global warming. Yet, these computer models are relatively crude. There is much about the weather and

climate that scientists don't yet fully understand.<sup>20</sup> Scientists on both sides of the debate acknowledge that clouds are a major climate "wild card" since they could enhance or impede any potential warming.<sup>21</sup>

It appears the ability of the sun's magnetic field to allow or block cosmic rays is an important factor in Earth's weather and climate. Research like this can help us better understand factors influencing cloud behavior. This has the potential to add more light (and less heat!) to the global warming debate.

If you want to learn more about this subject, the four in-depth technical articles cited in references 11-14 are archived at [ICR.org/jake\\_hebert](http://ICR.org/jake_hebert). ☞

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# Turtles

## Have Always Been Turtles

Turtles (Chelonia) are found in oceans, freshwater ponds, and on land. The Galapagos tortoise is the largest living species of tortoise and, like the sea turtle, is able to live well over a century. A 100% turtle fossil (*Stupendemys geographicus*) recently discovered in South America is the shape and size of a small car.<sup>1</sup> Turtles are a truly unique kind of reptile designed with over 50 bones.

Like all other animal kinds, turtles have always been turtles, and “the relationship of turtles to other reptiles is controversial.”<sup>2</sup> Clack reports that “which group forms [the turtles’] closest relatives is controversial,” and “some molecular studies have suggested that they could be highly modified diapsids [term given to a type of skull with two openings on each side], although a study based on embryology placed them as basal to diapsids [e.g., lizards, snakes, crocodiles].”<sup>3</sup> Hickman et al stated, “Most recent genetic evidence indicates a close relationship with archosaurs [a crocodylian-like dinosaur].”<sup>4</sup>

Evolutionist Ann Campbell Burke spoke of turtle evolution as an “evolutionary conundrum” and a “puzzle,” saying, “It is already clear, however, that a strong consensus of turtle roots will not ‘solve’ all the riddles of their morphological [form or appearance] evolution,”<sup>5</sup> and a more recent study stated, “The early evolution of turtles continues to be a contentious issue in vertebrate palaeontology.”<sup>6</sup>

Just as there is quite an array of different dog breeds from the Chihuahua to the Great Dane, we’re not surprised to find a variety of turtles since they were and are designed to move in and fill diverse ecological niches.

A fossilized turtle discovered in southwestern China fills an evolutionary hole in how the reptiles developed features such as a beak and shell, researchers report on 22 August in *Nature*. Although the specimen can help scientists to pin down when modern turtles developed such characteristics, it’s also muddied the waters when it comes to illuminating the group’s origins.<sup>7</sup>

### article highlights

- Turtles are reptiles that live in deserts, jungles, and even oceans.
- Secular scientists struggle to connect turtle evolution to that of other reptiles.
- One evolutionary mystery is the origin of turtles’ unique shells.
- God made turtles as turtles in the beginning.

When it comes to the origin of the turtle’s unique shell, an evolutionist recently reported, “How the turtle shell evolved has puzzled scientists for years.”<sup>8</sup> Some secular scientists suggest the turtle *Hox* genes [homeotic genes involved in the basic developmental body plan] may be the reason for the remarkable transformation of a tetrapod (amniote) into turtles, but there’s no compelling scientific evidence for this.

God created a large number of animal kinds with amazing designs, the turtles among them. They were, and are, small and large. They have various features (horned shells, different beaks, flippers, claws, etc.), but they’re all turtles. Always were, always will be. ☞

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# Ancient Sahara Was Wetter Than Expected

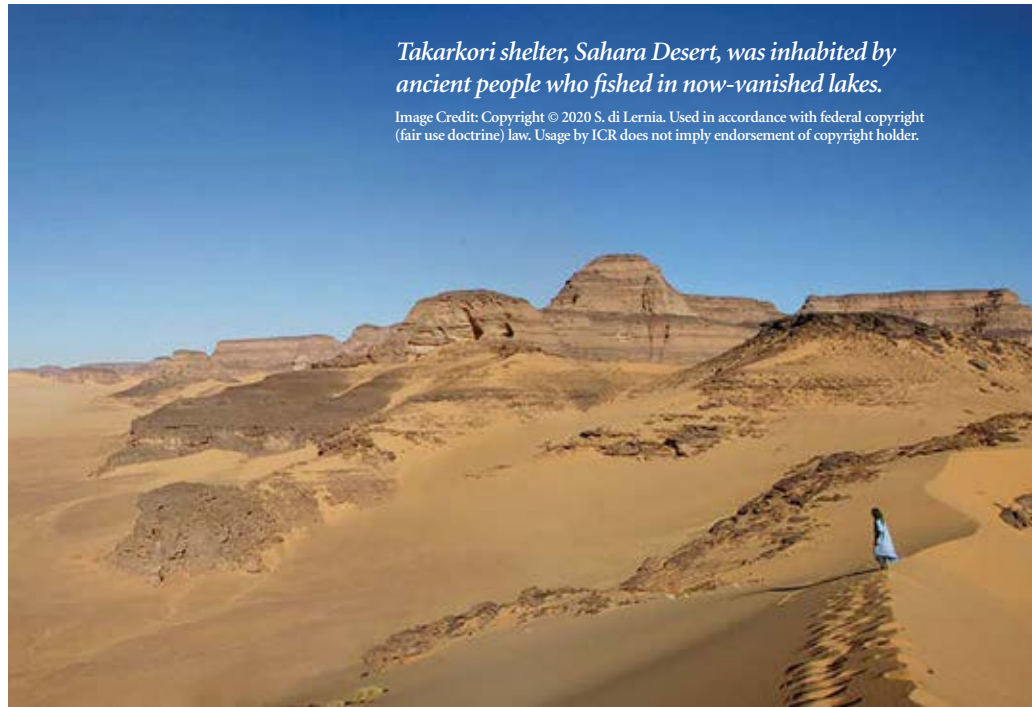
New research has again confirmed the predictions of creation scientists. The Sahara Desert wasn't always a dry, desolate place. Right after the Ice Age, the Sahara was filled with lakes and swamps.<sup>1</sup>

Wim Van Neer of the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences and his colleagues recently catalogued numerous fossilized aquatic animals found in today's Sahara Desert. The excavations were from the Takarkori rock shelter in southwest Libya in sediment layers claimed to be 4,650 to 10,200 years old. Many of the animal bones showed clear evidence of cut marks from human activity.<sup>2</sup>

Publishing in the online journal *PLoS ONE*, the scientists found several species of fish, including tilapia and catfish.<sup>1</sup> They further discovered that the fish bones were most abundant in the deepest (earliest) layers of the cave and decreased upward in younger layers. This suggests the climate slowly transitioned to a more arid environment over many centuries. Study co-author Savino di Lernia explained:

During this period [soon after the Ice Age], the central Sahara was much more humid than it is today. It was a savannah-like environment and it supported large animals like elephants, hippos and rhinos.<sup>1</sup>

Creation scientists disagree with the secular dating of these fossils but do agree that these fish and other aquatic animals lived in the immediate centuries after the Ice Age, possibly 3,000 to 4,000 years ago. This interpretation is supported by the post-Ice Age climate calculations of creation scientist Mike Oard.<sup>3</sup>



*Takarkori shelter, Sahara Desert, was inhabited by ancient people who fished in now-vanished lakes.*

Image Credit: Copyright © 2020 S. di Lernia. Used in accordance with federal copyright (fair use doctrine) law. Usage by ICR does not imply endorsement of copyright holder.

## article highlights

- New evidence shows the Sahara Desert was much wetter just several thousand years ago.
- This matches the Bible's account and the creation scientists' model that the post-Ice Age climate was quite different from today's.
- The evidence demonstrates that as the Ice Age faded, Earth's climate slowly settled into what we now experience.

ICR founder Dr. Henry Morris pointed out there are more references to snow and ice in the book of Job than in any other book of the Bible.<sup>4</sup> There is strong evidence it was written in the time of the Patriarchs, about 2000 BC. Although the massive Ice Age glaciers didn't extend to where Job lived, they did have a strong effect on the climate of the Middle East and North Africa. This would have caused cooler temperatures and more rain and even snow than witnessed there today.<sup>4</sup>

This wetter and cooler climate likely lasted for many centuries after the Ice Age.

The Egyptians didn't establish their civilization in the desert we find there today. At the time of the Patriarchs, this area would have still been affected by the Ice Age, with a wetter and more humid climate. This also explains the presence of freshwater fish fossils found in abundance in the Sahara. It wasn't until many centuries later, as the desertification process took hold and Earth's climate found a new equilibrium, that the Egyptians began to increasingly rely on the Nile as a water source.

The discovery of post-Ice Age humans consuming freshwater fish in a Saharan cave should come as no surprise. It's no fish story. Accepting the truth of a global flood and its profound aftereffects explains the ancient aquatic fauna we find—even in a modern desert climate. ✨

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# Dragon Encounters at the ICR Discovery Center

Some of the most eye-opening evidence you'll find at the ICR Discovery Center for Science & Earth History is located in the Dragon Encounters exhibit. The word "dinosaur" didn't come into use until 1842, when British scientist Richard Owen coined the term. What did humans call these "terrible reptiles" before then? You guessed it—dragons!



Our ancestors documented dragon sightings in different ways all over the world for millennia. Legends of dragon-like creatures have been found from the Americas to Europe, Asia, and the Middle East.

Genesis 9:2 tells us God instilled fear of humans into animals right after they left the Ark. This likely caused dinosaurs and other creatures to migrate all over the globe after the Flood. Sea levels dropped hundreds of feet during the Ice Age, exposing land bridges that provided passage from continent to continent. As people scattered across the earth, they would've encountered now-extinct creatures—like dinosaurs—that had already migrated to those places. This likely spurred the many dragon legends that persist today. People memorialized their encounters with these fearsome beasts in writings, art, and oral traditions that were passed down through time.

Here are just a few of the examples you'll find in the Dragon Encounters exhibit.



- A cylinder seal from the ancient Mesopotamian Uruk civilization reveals sauropod look-alikes in a fighting posture.
- This Egyptian artifact—the Narmer Palette—shows handlers subduing two dinosaur-like creatures. The animals on the



plaque have legs that extend straight down from their bodies and serpentine necks, two features found in sauropods.

- This bas relief from the Cambodian Ta Prohm temple shows a creature similar to *Stegosaurus*. This carving dates back to the 1100s AD. Ancient Asians carved it nearly 800 years before scientists discovered *Stegosaurus* fossils!



Dragon sightings were also reported by Alexander the Great (356–323 BC) and Marco Polo (1254–1324 AD). During his travels to the Far East, Polo recorded seeing huge "serpents" that had short legs, claws, and large jaws with sharp teeth.

The ancient historians Josephus (37–100 AD) and Herodotus (400s BC) mentioned winged serpents. And petroglyphs (carvings in stone) and pictographs (paintings on stone) created by native tribes in the Americas occasionally show creatures that resemble extinct reptiles.

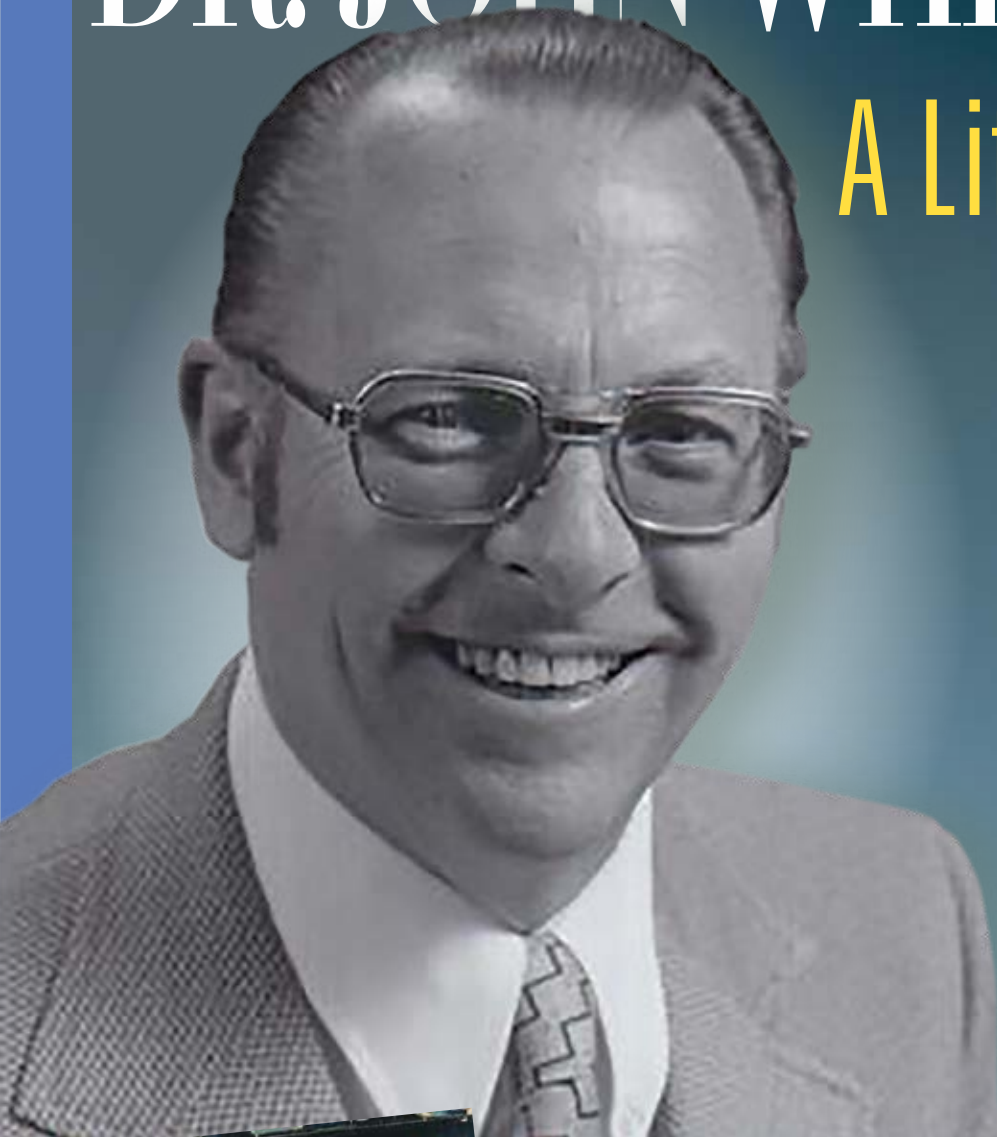
The Dragon Encounters exhibit takes Discovery Center visitors on a compelling journey around the world and through time. Come learn the difference between ancient art that shows fictionalized giant monsters and art that shows exact fossil look-alikes. In the end, you'll discover how dragon history confirms the Genesis historical accounts. Visit [ICRdiscoverycenter.org](http://ICRdiscoverycenter.org) to plan your visit today. ✨





# DR. JOHN WHITCOMB:

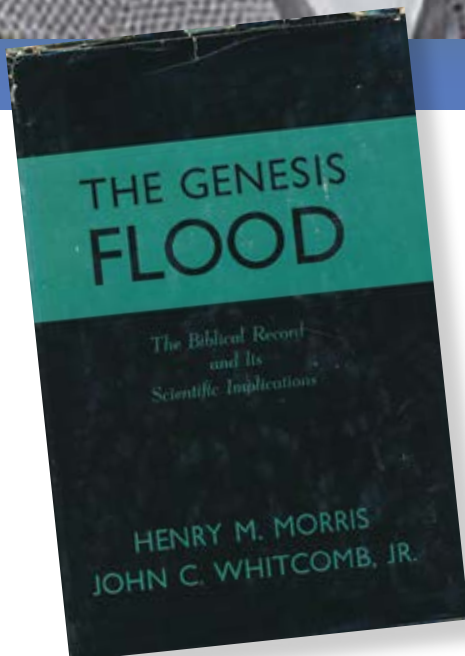
## A Life Well Lived



### article highlights

- Theologian Dr. John Whitcomb went home to glory earlier this year.
- He was a pioneer in biblical creation and teamed with Dr. Henry Morris to write *The Genesis Flood*, a groundbreaking book demonstrating that science and the Bible are compatible.
- Educated at Princeton and Grace Theological Seminary, he served as a professor at Grace Seminary for nearly 40 years.
- God used Dr. Whitcomb's work in the lives of many, and his influence will continue to be felt.

C H R I S T Y   H A R D Y



The Institute for Creation Research was saddened to hear of Dr. John Whitcomb's passing on February 5, 2020. It's been 60 years since he co-authored *The Genesis Flood* with ICR founder Dr. Henry M. Morris. The two men combined their expertise in theology and science for this groundbreaking publication, and many believe it was the catalyst for the modern creation movement.

Dr. Whitcomb grew up in a military family, so his childhood was spent in China, Kansas, Washington, and Georgia. As a young man, he attended McCallie Military

Academy in Chattanooga, Tennessee, and was later accepted into Princeton University, with plans to become an ambassador. But after he accepted Christ as his Savior during his time at Princeton, he decided to become a missionary instead.

During World War II, he was drafted into the Army and fought in the Battle of the Bulge. After the war, he returned to finish his education at Princeton and went on to attend Grace Theological Seminary in Winona Lake, Indiana, to get equipped for missionary service in China. But the door to China closed, and he was offered a faculty

position at Grace Seminary.

Dr. Whitcomb served as professor and director of post-graduate studies at Grace for nearly 40 years. In addition to *The Genesis Flood*, he published over 20 books on the Bible and science, including *The Early Earth: An Introduction to Biblical Creationism*, *The World that Perished: An Introduction to Biblical Catastrophism*, *The Bible and Astronomy*, and *Jesus Christ: Our Intelligent Designer*. He also wrote commentaries on multiple books of the Bible, eschatology, and numerous technical articles, and created a series of chronological Bible history charts that are still in use.



Dr. John Whitcomb, Dr. John Morris, and Dr. Henry Morris

Dr. Whitcomb was not only an influential author, theologian, seminary professor, and creation advocate, but he was also a close friend of the Morris family. Dr. Henry Morris III, the eldest son of ICR's founder and current ICR CEO, said:

John became a good friend as well as a co-laborer with many of us over the years. His legacy lives on in the lives of the many students he taught while on the faculty of Grace Seminary at Winona Lake, as well as the thousands that benefited from his many seminars, books, articles, and newsletters.

The founder's youngest daughter, Rebecca Morris Barber, has served in creation ministry for many years and has fond memories of Dr. Whitcomb. She said:

Throughout my whole life Dr. Whitcomb has stood as a standard to look up to in wisdom, doctrine, and dignity. But



The Whitcomb family circa 1960

my favorite memories of him were the visits he made to the Morris household. As a child I was mesmerized by Dad's dear friend as he entertained us, playing classical tunes by blowing through his cupped hands. This great servant was a blessing to our family in so many ways.

Dr. John Morris, second son of the founder and president emeritus of ICR, remembers his father emphasizing what a joint effort *The Genesis Flood* was between him and Dr. Whitcomb. Dr. John Morris said, "They truly shared their thoughts and writings throughout the process and cooperated on both the science and theology. It was a shared process throughout, and they always appreciated one another for that."

Dr. John Morris also remembers the Morris and Whitcomb families picnicking together by a lake around that time. The children splashed and played while Drs. Morris and Whitcomb sat in lawn chairs and discussed the typed, unpublished *Genesis Flood* manuscript they had with them. Suddenly, the wind picked up and scattered the pages all over the shore. Dr. John Morris said, "It must have been quite a sight to see all those kids scrambling to keep the pages out of the lake!"

That blustery day wasn't the only obstacle Drs. Whitcomb and Morris had to overcome. Several publishers hesitated to accept the *The Genesis Flood* because they knew it would stir up controversy. And they were right. Once the book was published, it didn't take long before book reviews appeared in newspapers, magazines, and journals. *The Genesis Flood* received either high praise or harsh critique—nothing in between. According to this excerpt from *Henry M. Morris: Father of Modern Creationism*:

The great majority of reviews were favorable. The fortuitous combination of a faithful theologian and a godly professional scientist sparked a sense of urgency in many Christians—they began to recognize the reliability of the Bible in matters of science.

Many scientists, preachers, and people of all walks of life enthusiastically endorsed the book, and the modern creationist revival began to take shape. Some even reported that they were led to follow Christ after reading it. Many were thrilled at the suggestion that Christians need not be intimidated by uniformitarian dogma. A reawakening to the reliability of the Bible unfolded for thousands of Christians.<sup>1</sup>

Dr. Whitcomb's writing and teaching impacted many people over the years, and his loss will be keenly felt. Dr. John Morris said, "To me, the creation movement as a whole needs an elder statesman who loves the Word of God as Whitcomb did. Who will replace him?"

ICR Research Associate Dr. Brian Thomas also recognizes Dr. Whitcomb's valuable contribution to the creation science movement. He said:

Dr. Whitcomb helped construct the first modern comprehensive defense of early Genesis as history. Until he came along, those who understood from Scripture that creation took six days and the Flood covered the whole world had few theologians to champion their view. Now, because of this great pioneer, generations of believers have full confidence that God meant exactly what He said, even in the first chapters of the book of beginnings.

ICR staff and friends continue to reflect on Dr. Whitcomb's life well lived in service to his Creator. As Dr. Henry Morris III reminds us, "Although we will miss Dr. Whitcomb here on Earth, we rejoice that he is now present with the Lord." ❧

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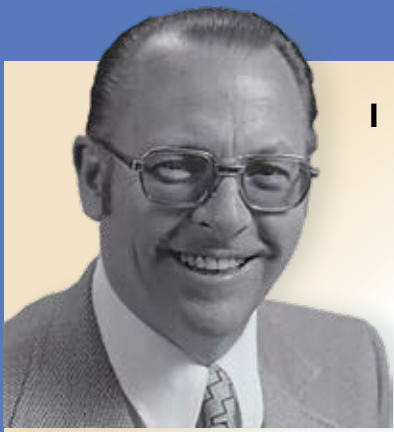
Ms. Hardy is an editor at the Institute for Creation Research.







## ICR's Facebook Page Comments



I met him several times. I saw him at the Indianapolis Airport a couple of years ago. Do you know what he was doing? He was speaking Chinese and telling a Chinese family about Christ before his flight to Maryland. I helped him with his bags and coat in the terminal before we said goodbye.

— M.-L. F.

YEC has lost a great man. We owe a debt to him and Dr. Henry Morris.

— D. R. W.

He will be missed. God bless the family in your time of sorrow.

— M. L.

May God comfort his loved ones. Thankful for this man's legacy.

— M. F.

Read all his books. Rest in peace, brother. You answered questions that brought me back [to] the Word of God.

— M. A.

Met him in Newton, Kansas. A "faithful

man" about the Lord's business. Thanks for your teaching.

— G. D.

So thankful for the life work of Dr. John Whitcomb, as well as Dr. Henry Morris. They paved the way for believers to defend their faith in the Word of God through science. Rejoicing for his graduation to his heavenly home. Praying for his family and their temporary separation.

— S. R.

Thank you, John. I'll see you at the throne.

— D. J.

Most influential book I ever read was *The Genesis Flood*. Much of the scientific parts of it were over my head, but the Lord gave me understanding to trust fully in the historical account of Genesis.

— D. E. W.

A great Bible teacher and defender of the faith. I will keep his family in prayer.

— S. C.

He leaves behind a fine earthly legacy, one that will carry into eternity.

— A. S.

I had the pleasure of speaking to him at a church where he was giving a lecture on the creation. What a wonderful, kind, thoughtful, and gracious man he was....

Dr. Whitcomb, enjoy the presence of the King.

— J. J. B.

I purchased his original *The Genesis Flood* book 30 years ago...and still have it. What a great loss.

— P. E.

What fond memories I have of sitting under this giant of the faith in the late '80s at Grace Theological Seminary! Like a schoolboy trying to drink out of a fire hydrant, I imbibed all that I could from this man of enormous learning and conviction. ...Though [he was] a biblical scholar of immense proportions, what I may remember most is the kind servant who was humble enough to pray with me in the prayer tower above the seminary for my seriously ill father and unsaved family members. How wonderful of our Lord to give us faithful, uncompromising men like these to shepherd future leaders of His church. 2 Tim. 4:7-8.

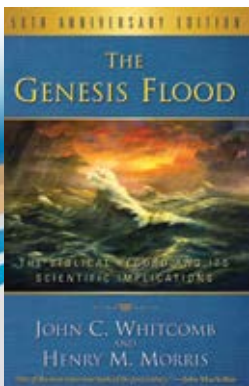
— M. T.

I like listening to his understanding of Scripture. Prayers for family.

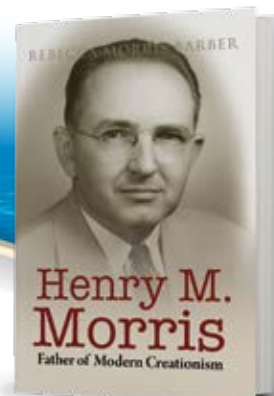
— M. B.

Well, I'm sad myself, he was a gifted theologian and teacher. I have several of his books and will treasure using them.

— J. R.



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# Q: Why Don't They Believe in Creation?

**A**fter an ICR scientist presents convincing evidence for biblical creation, listeners often ask, “If all you just said is true, then why don’t most scientists believe it?”

We may discuss Y chromosomes that contain only a few thousand years’ worth of mutations, as expected from Noah.<sup>1</sup> We may talk about a sedimentary rock layer deposited by a mud pulse that blanketed a whole continent at once, as expected from Noah’s Flood.<sup>2</sup> Hundreds of similar superb science examples support Scripture. How do nature-only scientists treat these observations?

For the most part, they won’t even look at them.

A human behavioral trend called the *bandwagon effect* might play a role in this avoidance. The American Psychological Association’s online dictionary defines it as:

The tendency for people in social and sometimes political situations to align themselves with the majority opinion and do or believe things because many other people appear to be doing or believing the same.<sup>3</sup>

When we ask “why don’t they believe in creation?” we assume that secular scientists use more pure logic than people typically do. Perhaps some robot mind would unerringly follow every data trend to its logical conclusion regardless of consequence, but not scientists. Humans may well refuse to see a conclusion that contradicts what everyone around them believes about origins.

In other words, one reason why they don’t believe in creation is that if they did, they would have to admit that almost everyone they respect is wrong about nature making us without one miracle. They would have to jump off the world-size bandwagon that refuses the divine.

## article highlights

- Biblical scientists offer strong evidence for the Genesis account.
- Why do most naturalist scientists dismiss the case for creation without studying it at all?
- The bandwagon effect reinforces their secular worldview as group-think pressures them to conform to naturalism only.
- Many who now believe in creation once believed in evolution and deep time until they studied the case for creation.



A prior commitment to naturalism—the philosophy that nature is all—trumps evidence that points to the miracles of creation and the Flood.<sup>4</sup> Can any evidence weaken their confidence in nature as the substitute creator? I suspect that depends on various factors, alongside the Holy Spirit’s work in a person’s heart.

Naturalists who bail from their bandwagon face ostracism. Do they have the emotional strength to stand against their peers? If “they loved the praise of men more

than the praise of God” (John 12:43), then they let peer pressure trump good science.

Then there are spiritual implications. If a committed naturalist examines, say, the Y chromosome mutation rate or global sedimentary rock coverages that lead straight to Noah and his Flood, then where else does that lead? It would mean that the Bible has correct history and thus a correct assessment of personal sin. “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; Who can know it?” (Jeremiah 17:9). Many who refuse to admit to sin likewise refuse to hear evidence that implies it.

That’s what happened with the Pharisees in the New Testament. The Lord Jesus made the lame walk, the blind see, and raised people from the dead right in front of them. Talk about convincing evidence!

He proved to be the One to “bear our iniquities and...the sin of many” (Isaiah 53:11-12). Those religionists rode a bandwagon of belief in Christ as a king and not an offering.

But some of them believed when they saw the evidence in Jesus Himself. Even some naturalists overcome peer pressure and begin to track with truth. I was one of them! I needed to see lives of peace renewed in Christ, and I needed to see that the Bible aligns with reality. God was kind enough to oblige.

We can cast seeds of truth with words of grace. The people we encounter might believe after all. ✉

### References

1. Tomkins, J. P. Y-Chromosome Study Confirms Genesis Flood Timeline. *Creation Science Update*. Posted on ICR.org December 17, 2019, accessed January 6, 2020.
2. Clarey, T. 2019. European Stratigraphy Supports a Global Flood. *Acts & Facts*. 48 (12): 10-12.
3. Bandwagon effect. APA Dictionary of Psychology online. Posted on dictionary.apa.org, accessed March 2, 2020.
4. Peter foretold exactly this, writing, “For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water” (2 Peter 3:5-6).

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



# Signs of the Times: Glacier Meltdown

article highlights

- Signs in Glacier National Park predicted that its glaciers would be gone by 2020 due to global warming.
- This melt didn't happen, but that didn't stop the alarmists' predictions—they simply updated the signs.
- Unlike human predictions, God's prophecies always come true.

What if meteorologists only got paid if their weather predictions proved to be correct? If so, predicting the weather would be a risky business, like gambling at a casino table. In ancient Israel, however, the stakes of making incorrect prophetic predictions were higher than forecasting weather.

“But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in My name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die.’ And if you say in your heart, ‘How shall we know the word which the LORD has not spoken?’—when a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the thing does not happen or come to pass, that is the thing which the Lord has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him.” (Deuteronomy 18:20-22)

A prophet whose prediction failed could be executed. Thankfully, modern-day meteorologists aren't stoned for incorrect forecasts. Likewise, neither are modern-day alarmist climatologists who predicted a manmade global warming crisis punished for being wrong.

However, if you're an expert, being disproven is embarrassing. This is exhibited by changing “climate change” signage in Glacier National Park, Montana, near the triple watershed divide of North America, a unique area that drains precipitated waters toward the Pacific, Atlantic, and Arctic Oceans.

During September 2017, not that long ago, the National Park Service featured a sign inside Glacier National Park lamenting the results of global warming.

But there is a reality problem with that dire prediction: 2020 is now here, yet Glacier National Park still has magnificent glaciers. Some are shrinking, while others are growing.

Realizing their prediction would be disproven, the National Park Service quietly changed the sign.<sup>1</sup> By summer 2019, the revised sign dialed back that glacier-meltdown alarmism, yet the Park Service never admitted the previous prediction was wrong.

### GOODBYE TO THE GLACIERS

The small alpine glaciers present today started forming about 7,000 years ago and reached their maximum size and number around 1850, at the end of the Little Ice Age. Currently, they are rapidly shrinking due to *human-accelerated climate change*. *When they will completely disappear, however, depends on how and when we act.* [emphasis added]

Meanwhile, evolutionists teach uniformitarian geology non-stop, an ongoing fulfillment of Peter's prophecy of Bible-ignoring scoffers who pretend Earth's geologic history has been uniform from its beginning (2 Peter 3:3-6). Worldwide geological and paleontological proofs that show God once judged Earth with a global flood remain unrefuted. That Flood was unique, and God promised there will never be another one like it.

“Thus I establish My covenant with you: Never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood; never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” (Genesis 9:11)

So, unlike the changing signage in Glacier National Park, God's prophetic promises in His unchanging Word need no changing. The Flood once covered the entire globe, but it will not be repeated. Thankfully, God governs all climate and weather cycles with reliable regularity, permitting vacillating variety within predictable limits.<sup>2</sup>

#### References

1. Delingpole, J. The telling tale of Glacier National Park's 'gone by 2020' signs. *New York Post*. Posted on nypost.com January 10, 2020, accessed February 5, 2020.
2. Genesis 8:21-22. See also Johnson, J. J. S. 2016. Christ Predicted Climate Patterns. *Acts & Facts*. 45 (5): 21.

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



### GOODBYE TO THE GLACIERS

The small alpine glaciers present today started forming about 7,000 years ago and reached their maximum in size and number around 1850, at the end of the Little Ice Age. They are now rapidly shrinking due to *human-caused climate change*. *Computer models indicate the glaciers will all be gone by the year 2020.* [emphasis added]

article highlights

- Christ Jesus was with God the Father in the beginning and was the agent of all creation.
- Jesus was the Creator before He was the Redeemer.
- To preach the full gospel, we need to preach His creation, His cross, and His return.

# The Gospel We Are Called to Preach

A visitor to the ICR Discovery Center for Science & Earth History asked me, “Why can’t ICR avoid all this controversy about creation and just preach Christ?” Such a statement was surprising since it ignores clear declarations in Scripture that Christ is our Creator. John 1:1-3 stands out as one of the most emphatic, identifying the Word (Jesus Christ) as being present in the beginning, that He was both with God and was God, and that “all things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.”

The doctrine of creation as it relates to Christ is not a minor biblical principle of superficial importance. To ignore it is dangerous and is analogous to preaching “another Jesus” (2 Corinthians 11:4) when we neglect to present Christ as He truly is, along with His complete work.

But what exactly is Christ’s complete work? The apostle Paul masterfully outlined this in his letter to the believers in Colosse:

*For by Him [Jesus Christ] all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth....And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist....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 1:16-20, emphasis added)*

Paul reveals that the full extent of Christ’s work includes His past work of creation, His current work of conservation (“consist” in the Greek literally means “to hold together”), and His future work of reconciliation when He will banish death, sorrow, and pain and “make all things new” (Revelation 21:4-5). The dreadful price of reconciliation demanded “the blood of His cross” to cleanse us from our horrible offenses against Him—offenses that surely include rejecting His Word and denying that He is our Creator.

Thus, to truly preach Christ in all His fullness requires that we recognize Him as the almighty Creator who spoke the universe into existence (see Psalm 33:6-9) and walked with Adam and Eve in the cool of the day (Genesis 3:8). It wasn’t long before they sinfully rejected the Creator’s rightful authority, and their separation from Him ushered in the current world of death and decay. We can, thank God, be reconciled to Him again, but it is only meaningful to preach of Christ’s love and great gift of salvation when we acknowledge Him first as the offended Creator.

Jesus Christ was our Creator long before He became our Savior and coming Reconciler, and the full gospel must include all three components. ICR founder Dr. Henry Morris eloquently made this point in one of his final public speaking engagements:

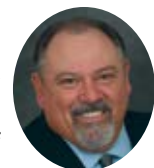
A gospel without the creation has no foundation. A gospel without the consummation has no hope. And a gospel without the cross and empty tomb has no power. But...if you have the *whole* thing...then you have a sure foundation, a blessed hope, and all power in heaven and in earth—and *that’s* the gospel we are called to preach!<sup>1</sup>

This is the essence of ICR’s work. It is not enough to “just preach Christ” if we fail to present Him in all His fullness as our Creator and coming King. We are committed to the complete veracity of Scripture—including the truth of special and recent creation as recorded in Genesis and affirmed through scientific research. We are grateful to those who cheerfully “sow bountifully” with us in ministry through their prayers and gifts (2 Corinthians 9:6-7). ✉

Reference

1. Passing the Torch of Creation conference, Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa, May 2002.

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



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Image credit: Joseph Haubert



★★★★★ There is tons of great information [at the ICR Discovery Center for Science & Earth History]. The kiosk-style stations are where you get the most information. They have about 10 minutes of reading each, and there are six or more in each room with 13 rooms, which makes it almost impossible to do everything in one day. **My wife and I plan on going back a few times to see and read everything.** We highly recommend it, and it's worth the cost.

— S. P.

★★★★★ Very courteous and knowledgeable volunteers and staff. **I brought a group of about 40 people, and everyone had a great time.** I'll have to come back another time when I'm not showing my two-year-old around so I can actually read the exhibits.

— J. V.

Very interesting place, the mix of science and religion is great. This place is great for young kids who can read and understand the concepts that are explained through the exhibition. Staff is really helpful and friendly. Always ready to help and explain things around the exhibition.

— G. F.

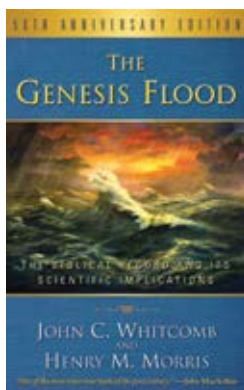
Such an interesting spot. If you are on the fence about going [to the ICR Discovery Center], I would recommend spending some time on this group's website [ICRdiscoverycenter.org] to get a feel for what they believe. They are kind, devout people who are very committed to creationism. I really did enjoy my visit here and learned a lot about various developments in the world of creationist thought. **I agree with ICR that science and faith in God are not at all opposites.** In the words of Paul Tillich, one seeks to explain [the] how of life while the other seeks to understand [the] why.

— M. G.



Your [February 2020 *Acts & Facts*] article by Henry M. Morris, Ph.D., “Reason and the Christian Hope,” presents the apologetics of our Lord and Savior with uncommon brevity and clarity. Thank you for this succinct summary. May it be a most useful guide for the uninitiated in my circle. Thank God for Dr. Morris’ vision and for ICR.

— B. B.



In 1976 when my husband was in graduate school in the Chicago area, we went to the Moody bookstore. The book that intrigued us was *The Genesis Flood*. The book had Henry Morris’ signature inside. **We took it home and read it to each other, and it was the clue to the whole Bible for us.** We have lived a creationist life.

— M. L.



Congratulations on 50 years! **I've only known about you for two years. Wish I had known sooner!** Really impacted my faith! Doing my best to pass along your ministry and resources!

— C. E.



50 years of helping to change the thinking of so many of us who didn't know what we believed much less understood what the Bible says regarding the creation. **It's one thing to read the words but another to realize science itself confirms God's Word.**

— C. C.



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