

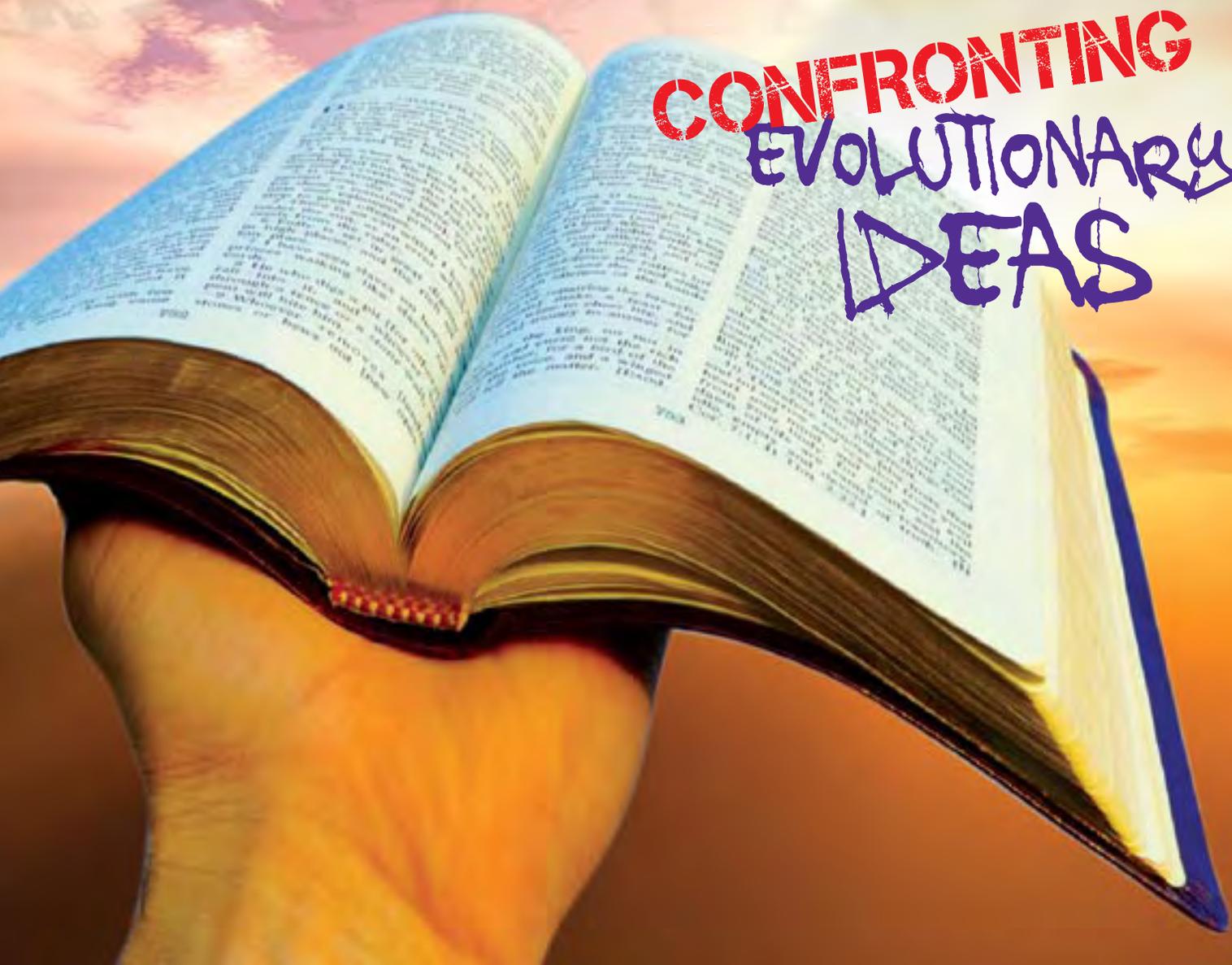
ACTS & FACTS

INSTITUTE FOR
CREATION RESEARCH

www.icr.org

JANUARY 2011

VOL. 40 NO. 1



CONFRONTING EVOLUTIONARY IDEAS

CELEBRATING

40

YEARS OF MINISTRY



MAKER OF HEAVEN AND EARTH: WHY CREATION IS A GOSPEL ISSUE

Founded in 1970 by Dr. Henry Morris, the Institute for Creation Research has led the way in biblically based scientific research, graduate education, and innovative communications, all with the aim to honor our Creator, the Lord Jesus Christ.

The DVD *Maker of Heaven and Earth: Why Creation Is a Gospel Issue* celebrates ICR's four decades of ministry. In this special presen-

tation, hear the keynote address given by Dr. R. Albert Mohler, Jr., president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, at ICR's 40th anniversary banquet in Dallas, Texas. Dr. Mohler is a leading evangelical intellectual in America and is known for his no-nonsense approach to confronting the challenging issues of our culture in light of biblical truth.

Additionally, watch a brand-new his-

torical vignette about our founder, Dr. Henry Morris, and the founding of ICR (with special insights from Dr. John Morris), along with greetings from Ken Ham, Dr. Mac Brunson, and Dr. John MacArthur.

Celebrate God's faithfulness with us! Call **800.337.0375** and ask for the "40th Anniversary DVD" with your donation this month to ICR.



Eternity on Our Hearts

If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. (COLOSSIANS 3:1-4, NKJV)

Scripture makes it clear that since the Fall, our earthly lives are temporal. The sin committed by Adam and Eve set death in motion, both physically and spiritually. How that must have grieved the Creator! And yet, our Lord loved the first couple and their descendants so much that He provided a plan of redemption that would rescue His beloved creation from the ultimate consequences of that sin (John 3:16). Why?

Because eternity is on God's heart. Is it on ours?

January brings with it a feeling of renewal, a sense of starting fresh with new plans, new commitments, and new opportunities. But how much of this newness is focused here on earth? If we are honest, we'd have to admit that most all of the "new" we are considering is deeply rooted in the here and now.

Paul's admonition to the Colossians reminds us that real living is not in the here and now, but in the glory to come, when the temporal becomes eternal. He commands us to set our minds "on things above, not on things on the earth." Why? Because that's where Christ is, and that's our promised destiny. Philippians 3:20 says that our citizenship is in heaven, not on this ball of dirt. So we need to think with eternity on our minds; we need to plan with eternity on our minds; we need to live right now—this year—

with eternity on our minds. Doing so allows us a greater glimpse of the glory to come.

At the Institute for Creation Research, we make plans that affect countless lives in the here and now, but with a focus on impacting men and women, boys and girls, to think and live with eternity on their minds, with the Creator on their minds. For it is in the consideration of the Creator that we see both the Judge and the Redeemer, and come to terms with His offer of salvation. Our earthly labors through research, education, and the communication of His truth are all rightly accomplished with eternity in mind.

Our prayer is that you will uphold us as we continue this eternal work. We need your prayers and your financial support as we make plans for the work God has called us to accomplish. But we also need to hear that you are taking the work of our hands and using it in your own sphere of influence. What joy that brings to our hearts!

So while you're making a list of resolutions for this year, why not put at the top of that list a commitment to influence someone around you with the eternal message of the Creator. It won't be that long before we see the fruit of our labor standing around the throne of God. May God grant you a truly happy New Year!

Lawrence E. Ford
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

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CONFRONTING EVOLUTIONARY IDEAS

L A W R E N C E E . F O R D

In 2009, much of the world celebrated the life and legacy of Charles Darwin, the English naturalist who popularized the notion of evolution through natural selection. Darwinism has been a belief system for the past 150 years, providing a seemingly convenient way for scientists to explain their observations about life on earth without the need to consider a Creator. Darwin's idea of natural selection was a push to substitute God with "nature," something that real scientists throughout history—the fathers of modern science—would never have done.

And yet, most scientists today refuse to

acknowledge God as Creator, or even that the overwhelming evidence of design in the world around us points to any kind of Designer. Admitting that there exists some sort of supernatural intelligence—a Creator—logically leads us to confront a Judge, and most people in the world are reluctant to face the One who will judge the intents of their hearts and punish their bad behavior. Darwinism has thus given a scientifically sounding "out" to those who want to avoid confrontation with the eternal.

The influence of Darwin's "molecules-to-man" philosophy has led to a push of the evolutionary message in education, in government

affairs, and even in the entertainment world. Children are confronted with Darwin's anti-God ideas from the earliest ages and learn the mantra of "millions and billions of years" even as toddlers. And most parents aren't even aware of the harm being perpetrated on their kids.

However, what is most disturbing in our culture today is the way in which the Darwinian belief system—the "religion" of Darwin—has influenced those who name the name of Christ, even those calling themselves "evangelicals." For instance, two or three decades ago there were dozens of private Christian colleges that maintained a biblical doctrine of creation. Today, only a handful have resisted compromise.

Evangelical seminaries today are filled with professors who have compromised the biblical text and train pastors that it's okay to teach evolutionary ideas—the Big Bang, millions and billions of years, common ancestry, etc.—to their congregations. Leaning on the understanding of men (who happen to wear lab coats and have impressive letters behind their names), these professors and pastors have opted not to lean on the understanding of God, placing science over Scripture when they open the book of Genesis.

The Bible is clear that in the last days we will see a falling away from sound doctrine. Paul's charge to Timothy reveals the seriousness of compromise.

I charge *you* therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge



the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: Preach the word! Be ready in season *and* out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, *because* they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn *their* ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. (2 Timothy 4:1-5, NKJV)

The creation-evolution debate is, in fact, rooting out those so-called evangelicals who have essentially abandoned God's truth for man's lies. Placing man's thoughts above God's thoughts is nothing more than idolatry. And God never took idolatry lightly.

Throughout 2010, the Institute for Creation Research witnessed the aggressive and growing push of evolutionary ideas by those who teach at "evangelical" institutions—such as flagship Nazarene colleges—or who pastor evangelical churches. Abhorrent ideas such as the retroactive effect of Adam and Eve's sin or the outright denial that Adam and Eve ever actually existed are being promulgated by professional thinkers and educators who promote their theories as sophisticated and harmonizing—all in an attempt to bring God and His Word down to the level of man's finite thoughts.

A plain reading of the Genesis record and an honest evaluation of the evidence of science do not lead to the understanding of the Big Bang, millions and billions of years, common ancestry, and other evolutionary ideas. That a majority of the science establishment—most of them atheists—believes these evolutionary ideas does not provide a sound basis for Christian doctrine. And yet, a growing number of Christians are content to allow atheistic, naturalistic ideas and people to govern their view of the Bible, and thus, their view of God our Creator.

Of particular note is the BioLogos Forum, founded by Dr. Francis Collins (President Obama's pick to head the National Institutes of Health), which is aggressively leading the charge into biblical compromise, teaching that the Bible is not completely without error, that the biblical writers just didn't get it right, that

Adam was symbolic and not real, that Genesis does not teach the creation of the material world, and many more aberrant ideas that run counter to sound doctrine. They have had the audacity to publish on their website that if Christians today do not accept the theory of evolution, the Church will die off in the form of an insignificant cult!

Additionally, BioLogos is conducting workshops for Christian school science teachers in order to train them how to teach evolution to their students—to supposedly harmonize the Bible and Darwinian evolution in the classroom. They are also developing evolution-based science curriculum for use in homeschools and Christian schools. One of the BioLogos teachers, Dr. Peter Enns, is even developing a Bible story curriculum for children! Anticipated to release in February, this material is being published by homeschool guru Susan Wise Bauer. Parents, beware! BioLogos is also leading and participating in Christian conferences to influence pastors and other Christian leaders with the message that the Bible and evolution are compatible.

For more than 40 years, ICR has been maintaining its stand on sound doctrine, communicating to Christians in churches and schools, in seminars and conferences, through radio and educational programs that we can have complete confidence in the Bible—there is no need to compromise with Darwinism, with evolution, or with any of evolution's fundamental ideas such as the Big Bang, descent from a common ancestor, and millions and billions of years.

And last year, ICR was not the lone voice in this battle for truth. Dr. John MacArthur and his ministry Grace to You had several months of teaching on the creation-evolution issue, handily demonstrating the error of "theistic evolution" and those who would compromise the Scriptures. Dr. Al Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville and ICR's 40th anniversary banquet keynote speaker, has gone head-to-head with the leaders of BioLogos in order to expose their aberrant theological views. Ken Ham, president of Answers in Genesis, has been warning his followers about the need to maintain sound biblical doctrine. Dr. Carl Wieland, head of Creation

Ministries International in Australia, has been taking on the compromisers at BioLogos and other errant organizations that are pushing the evolution message on Christians.

ICR leaders and scientists have participated in new films and numerous national conferences that tackle the issues of science and the Bible, helping Christians to remain steadfast in their faith. ICR's citywide Demand the Evidence conferences, begun in 2009, continued throughout 2010, offering thousands of Christians the opportunity to study the truths of Scripture that relate to scientific evidence.

In the fall, ICR launched *Science Education Essentials*, a new line of science curriculum supplements that cover topics with a crucial bearing on creation and evolution. Five modules are now available:

- *The Origin of Life*
- *The Structure of Matter*
- *Human Heredity*
- *Genetic Diversity*
- *Geologic Processes*

Each module includes a Teacher Content Book that allows K-12 science teachers to absorb the facts related to the topic, as well as a Resources CD-ROM that contains activity sheets, reproducible lab experiments, and PowerPoint presentations ready for teachers to use in the classroom. Each educational level was pilot tested with real teachers and their students on every science topic, allowing ICR's faculty to fine-tune these materials for maximum impact. Teachers may visit icr.org/essentials to learn more about this exciting new resource.

All of these efforts have sought to come alongside pastors, teachers, and Christians everywhere, providing insights and resources that will help all of us maintain sound doctrine and acquire the apologetic skills necessary to respond to and confront those who would lead the Church into compromise.

But this battle continues, and ICR continues to expand its efforts in biological research, graduate school and professional education, and the publishing of solid Kingdom resources. More than the evolutionist can understand, thinking Christians seek God and know that real truth is revealed in the Word of God. ●

Mr. Ford is Executive Editor.

Looking for Molecular Discontinuity: The Use of Sequence Alignments

NATHANIEL T. JEANSON, PH.D.

The ICR life sciences team has identified several key research questions in the field of origins biology. Our current task is reviewing the literature concerning the evolutionary tree of life,¹ with a focus on papers related to molecular data.^{2,3} Specifically, we are re-examining the raw data and looking for evidence of discontinuity.³

To compare species at the molecular level, the DNA or protein sequences in these species must be obtained. These data are derived from two sources: 1) New lab experiments done by the investigator, and 2) publicly available data from already published experiments. The latter represents a rich resource for comparisons since much published biological sequence data already exist. Together, these two sources comprise the core of the data used for species comparisons.

Once the DNA or protein sequences of various species are obtained, there are many ways to compare these species molecularly. One of the more common ways is based on the gene sequence differences among creatures. Since diverse organisms often share a core set of genes, and since the sequences of these shared genes often differ significantly (depending on the gene), creatures can be distinguished based on their unique gene sequences. Quantifying the differences in sequence among species is a powerful way to compare them.

A variety of methods exists by which gene sequence differences can be measured across species. One method we have been employing is the CLUSTAL W software program, which is freely available online through the European Bioinformatics Institute (EBI). This program aligns a given set of input sequences across the entire length of each sequence and seeks to optimize the alignment based on the input parameters given to the program. When comparing multiple sequences at once, the EBI version of CLUSTAL W first performs pair-wise comparisons (the alignment of all sequences pair by pair, one pair at a time) before building an alignment of all input sequences. After the alignment has been optimized, one of the parameters CLUSTAL W reports is the per-

cent identity between pairs of input sequences. This parameter is a direct report of the sequence differences between two creatures. By performing pair-wise comparisons across multiple species, we can categorize species based on their sequence differences from all other species.

A hypothetical example of the results of a CLUSTAL W alignment is shown below. The numbers in individual boxes depict the individual pair-wise comparisons of the species listed at the beginning of the column and row; these numbers represent percent identity between the gene sequences from the two species compared. In this hypothetical table, each creature shows a hierarchy of percent identity among other creatures. This type of output is useful for classifying and establishing relationships among creatures.

	human	mouse	chicken	fish	frog	fly	plant	yeast	worm
human									
mouse	91								
chicken	87	92							
fish	84	87	89						
frog	82	85	87	95					
fly	76	79	81	85	90				
plant	62	68	71	73	76	83			
yeast	61	63	68	70	72	75	84		
worm	56	58	60	63	69	71	72	76	

In sum, molecular sequence alignments are a very useful way to analyze and categorize differences among diverse creatures, and we anticipate that such comparisons will manifest the gaps in nature that Genesis 1 predicts.

Previous molecular comparisons among creatures have revealed differences between species that Darwin never anticipated. Read about these fascinating results in upcoming issues of *Acts & Facts!* ●

References

1. Jeanson, N. 2010. Literature Review: Simplifying the Research Process. *Acts & Facts*, 39 (11): 6.
2. Jeanson, N. 2010. New Frontiers in Animal Classification. *Acts & Facts*, 39 (5): 6.
3. Jeanson, N. 2010. Literature Review: Molecular Data and the Tree of Life. *Acts & Facts*, 39 (12): 6.

Dr. Jeanson is Research Associate and received his Ph.D. in Cell and Developmental Biology from Harvard University.



I C R E V E N T S

■ **JANUARY 9-12**

Andrews, TX – First Baptist Church
(Sherwin) 432.894.1707

■ **January 12**

Dallas, TX – Redeemer Bible Church
(Guliuza) 214.340.3633

■ **January 14-21**

Cave Creek, AZ – Arizona Origin
Science Association
(Sherwin) 480.540.8953

■ **January 16**

Flower Mound, TX – Temple Baptist
Church
(H. Morris III, J. Morris, Guliuza,
Jeanson, Gunther) 972.874.8700

■ **January 18-21**

Miami, FL – Florida Christian School
(Jeanson, Gunther) 305.226.8152

■ **January 19**

Dallas, TX – Redeemer Bible Church
(J. Morris) 214.340.3633

■ **January 26**

Dallas, TX – Redeemer Bible Church
(H. Morris III) 214.340.3633

■ **January 27-28**

Birmingham, AL – Association of
Christian Schools International
Convention
(J. Morris) 719.528.6906

■ **January 27-28**

Galveston, TX – Association of Christian
Schools International Convention
719.528.6906

■ **January 28–February 1**

Jacksonville, FL – Jacksonville Pastors'
Conference
888.827.1825

■ **January 30-31**

Castor Valley, CA – Redwood Chapel
Community Church and High School
(Guliuza) 580.816.4464

■ **January 30–February 4**

Chicago, IL – Moody Founders Week
800.356.6639

For more information on these events or to
schedule an event, please contact the ICR
Events Department at **800.337.0375** or
events@icr.org.

For information on attending ACSI conven-
tions, visit www.acsi.org or call 719.528.6906.

Host an ICR Event

The Institute for Creation Research actively participates in conferences, seminars, and other events around the world, communicating the evidence of science that demonstrates the accuracy and authority of Scripture. ICR also offers creation seminars and events at local churches, Christian schools, universities, and other organizations.

There are numerous ways in which you can host one or more speakers from ICR:

- **Creation Seminar:** One or more speakers scheduled on weekdays or weekends
- **Creation Weekend:** One or more speakers scheduled from Friday through Sunday
- **Creation Conference:** A team of ICR speakers scheduled for a one-day or multi-day themed event

Contact Chas Morse, Director of Events, for details. Or work with an ICR Event Planner to customize your event with one or more ICR speakers in your city. For more information, visit www.icr.org/events, email events@icr.org, or call **800.337.0375**.

BUYER BEWARE!

Don't Swallow Evolutionist Sophistry

JAMES J. S. JOHNSON, J.D., T.H.D.

Evolutionary propaganda is more than just science fiction—it is hyped and sold with slick sophistry. Its proponents routinely offer what appears to be a straightforward choice: To explain origins, you must choose science *or* religion, evolution *or* the Bible.

This challenge, however, is actually an argumentative mix of logical fallacies. Although many more fallacies are used by those who “sell” evolution, this article will examine just three: false dichotomies, begging the question, and bait and switch.

False Dichotomies

A false dichotomy involves the implication that a choice *must* be “either” this “or” that. Evolutionists have a bad habit of bluffing with bogus either-or dilemmas (also called false dilemmas, or bifurcation fallacies). An evolutionist may hoodwink someone into thinking that only two choices exist, then denigrate one of those choices and—*voilà!*—it appears that the argument supporting evolution is proven “true.”

The logical fallacy is the necessary implication that a third alternative cannot exist. Admittedly, some choices in life really are dilemmas—a choice of exactly two options. Believe God or don't believe God.¹ Side with Christ or fail to side with Christ.²

But in most real-world situations, the available options exceed two. Consider the following supposedly either-or choice once posed to the Lord Jesus Christ:

And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind? (John 9:2)



Notice how the Lord Jesus refused to be limited to the disciples' dilemma when He replied:

Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him. (John 9:3)

Of course, Christ knew that He was going to heal the blind man. The real purpose of his blindness was that one day the miraculous healing by Christ would manifest “the works of God” in the blind man's life (which it did).

Christ was not implying that the man had never sinned. Rather, He denied that the man's sins, or those of his parents, were the cause of the blindness.

Either-or fallacies are often used to oppose biblical creation concepts. For example, the so-called “starlight problem” (also called the “light-travel-time” problem) is asserted to contradict the Bible's teaching of a young creation, based on the assumption that starlight *must* have always traveled at the “constant” speed at which it now travels—even during the creation week. In that case, if creation only took six days, how could light from stars billions of light years away be visible to mankind almost immediately?

Yet plants sprouted and matured at supernatural speeds during the creation week, so why couldn't God accelerate starlight travel (or use some other method) so that it could achieve its created purpose for serving mankind?³ To claim that visible starlight *must* negate a young creation presupposes that the speed of light was constant during the creation week.

Photo credit Steve Weibel, used by permission.

Begging the Question

The second false argument employed by evolutionists is “begging the question,” which uses a conclusion as a premise for proving that conclusion. If the evolutionist’s challenge presented in the opening paragraph were analyzed as a syllogism, it would be rephrased as:

Premise 1: To explain origins, you must make a choice: science or religion.

Premise 2: Explaining origins by evolution demonstrates “science,” whereas explaining origins by biblical information and insights demonstrates “religion” (which cannot be considered scientific).

Conclusion: Therefore, if you want a scientific explanation of origins, you must trust the evolutionists’ explanation; you cannot trust the Bible.

Yet notice the following *hidden assumptions* that are built into the necessarily implied (or inferred) rationale of this hypothetical either-or choice.

Hidden Assumption 1: “Science” and “religion” explain origins in mutually exclusive ways, which itself requires that all religious explanations of origins clash with all scientific explanations.

But Hidden Assumption 1 is false. Biblical information and scientific teaching often concur, proving that a biblical explanation and a “scientific” explanation need not be mutually exclusive.⁴

Hidden Assumption 2: For an explanation of origins to be based on real science, it must be based on evolution, whereas an explanation of origins based on the Bible must clash with science. This further involves three sub-assumptions when it comes to explaining origins:

- a. “Science” equals evolution.
- b. “Religion” equals the Bible.
- c. Science/evolution clashes with religion/the Bible.

Hidden Assumption 2 is false because real-world science was founded by Bible-believing scientists.⁵ Its three sub-assumptions are equally false.^{6,7,8}

Therefore, the underlying argument of this either-or choice involves the logical fallacy of begging the question, because its underlying syllogism argument actually means:

Clarified Premise 1: The only scientifically acceptable explanation of origins is evolution (which is not religious), whereas any explanation of origins that is deemed religious (such as the Bible’s explanation) cannot be scientifically acceptable.

Clarified Premise 2: The Bible’s explanation of origins is deemed religious because some people believe it religiously, so it cannot be scientifically acceptable as an explanation of origins.

Clarified Conclusion: The only scientifically acceptable explanation

of origins is evolution (which is not religious), whereas any explanation of origins that is deemed religious (such as the Bible’s explanation) cannot be scientifically acceptable.

Notice that the clarified conclusion is, in effect, only a restatement of what was already assumed in the first premise. That is “begging the question”—assuming the very point of an argument’s conclusion.

Bait and Switch

The third false argument is “bait and switch,” in which ambiguity (or some type of word play) is employed to alter the original meaning of a phrase or word such as “science” (which can have more than one definition).

If the word “science” is used to mean empirical science (i.e., the study of what is observable in the present), *all* origins science explanations—both creationist and evolutionary approaches to explaining the past—are excluded.

The ploy usually used is the idea that if a scientist teaches something, what is taught is “science.” Evolution is deemed to be science because many scientists teach it, yet what about when a creationist scientist teaches something? Inconsistently, the creationist teaching is mislabeled as “not science,” because a switched definition of science is used, one that allows only evolutionary teachings.

When a slick salesman (or a smug scientist on TV) offers you a bill of goods, beware! An either-or fallacy may be facing you; it might beg its own question; or it might be a bait-and-switch. If you swallow the evolutionists’ sophistry, you will be buying into science fiction! ●

References

1. John 3:16-21.
2. Luke 11:23.
3. See Faulkner, D. 2004. *Universe by Design: An Explanation of Cosmology and Creation*. Green Forest, AR: Master Books, 98-104. (There is no “slam-dunk” simplicity to this topic, so certainly there is no justification for decreeing an either-or solution.)
4. For example, the Laws of Thermodynamics accord with Genesis 1-3 and Romans 8; the hydrologic cycle accords with Isaiah 55:10; the variety of stars accords with 1 Corinthians 15:41; the biological importance of blood accords with Leviticus 17:11; the roundness of the earth accords with Isaiah 40:22; biological principles of biogenesis and biodiversity within genetic boundaries accord with Genesis 1 and 9.
5. For example, Johann Kepler, Conrad Gessner, John Ray, Sir Isaac Newton, Lord Kelvin, Robert Boyle, Matthew Maury, Michael Faraday, Jedidiah Morse, George Washington Carver, among others, and has been extended by Bible-believing scientists such as Drs. Henry Morris, Duane Gish, A. E. Wilder-Smith, Raymond Damadian, Steven Austin, and many more.
6. Hidden assumption 2a is false because evolutionary theory, being a non-empirical theory, is inherently “religious” in substance. Empirical science must be based on observations in the present. Guesses about the past (even educated guesses) are *not* empirical science, although they might be forensic science.
7. Hidden assumption 2b is false because there are dozens of religions that disagree with the Bible, so it is obvious that “religion” does not equal “Bible” (and vice versa).
8. Hidden assumption 2c is wrong because both 2a and 2b are wrong. Also, in some aspects 2c is wrong because sound empirical science concurs with the information provided in the Bible regarding origins. For example, observations of the eruption of Mount St. Helens corroborate catastrophist geology principles that fit the description of the Genesis Flood, so it is false to claim that all modern empirical science clashes with what the Bible teaches about the earth’s catastrophic past.

Dr. Johnson is Associate Professor of Apologetics at the Institute for Creation Research.



Evolutionists have a bad habit of bluffing with bogus either-or dilemmas.



Evaluating Real vs. Apparent Design

RANDY J. GULIUZZA, P.E., M.D.

Everyone has some unhealthy habits and the best way to achieve long-term freedom from them is not to “drop” them but to “replace” them with something better. The freedom-through-replacement reality is also useful during any conversation about evolution’s failure to explain the origin of nature’s design, since, at some point, an evolutionist is likely to ask, “Well, do you propose something better?”

Creationists, in fact, do have a scientifically better explanation to replace the notion that nature’s design is all an illusion that stems from a purposeless process in which evolution’s substitute god, the imaginary “Natural Selector,”¹ chooses the fittest mutations randomly arising in an organism’s DNA. A concise answer could be, “Our claim that nature’s design is produced by a real designer can be tested by observation and is mathematically quantifiable. Furthermore, compared to the legacy of evolutionary thinking, it liberates minds to pursue more rational approaches toward scientific research.”

That answer ought to catch attention and keep discussion on the main question: “What is the best explanation of nature’s design?” The Bible says in Romans 1:18-23 that the Lord’s witness to His reality is “clearly seen” from the “creation” by the things He has “made.” He used the language of design construction, not biology. Everyone can see nature’s design and conclude it was designed—by a cause bigger than nature. Thus, Romans details how everyone’s

accountability to acknowledge God has always been based on the very clear design-designer (i.e., created-creator) connection, demonstrated by all human cultures, and not on detailed biological insight.

So, the biological question “how do organisms adapt to environments?” is not the root issue, which is founded on a basic question corresponding to problem-solving activities of intelligent engineers:

Are features of design evident when the *innate programming* of organisms actively *solves problems* (or exploits opportunities) presented by environments?

Real Design: A Scientifically Superior Explanation

Begin by stating that you have carefully examined the two explanations head-to-head. You find the explanation for real design is more persuasive since the activities of real engineers—which cannot be duplicated by natural processes—are reflected in the living world. Then, enumerate four verifiable *observations* that reflect real design.

Possibly the clearest observation of organisms is that they have multiple intricately arranged parts that fit together for a purpose. Many of these parts show proper alignment, exact dimensions and shape, tight fit, proper balance, and moving parts with precisely synchronized timing. These *complex* patterns are features of design that have been observed to

originate only in intelligently designed items—never by natural forces.

One fact about sections of DNA is that their four letters are precisely arranged as a set of plans and specification detailing the materials and controls to reproduce a new organism. Since DNA 1) selects 2) in advance 3) exact attributes 4) for a purpose, it has the same features of intelligence as any engineer’s specification. Throughout recorded human experience, plans and specifications are always a product of intelligence. In addition, all known natural processes that randomly choose letters one-by-one outside the context of an intelligence to guide the selection—as evolutionists assert—always yield *nonsense* that is totally inconsistent with information held in DNA.

Another certain feature of design is demonstrated when engineers *foresee* aspects of their project that cannot be built by increments. They respond by establishing conditions so all information and materials are 1) available, 2) localized together, 3) at the right time, 4) capable of functioning together 5) for the intended purpose. Only intelligent agents have been observed to set conditions where *all* of the parts must be collected and built together or *none* of a specific function is obtained. Creatures have many examples of this *all-or-nothing* unity, but the best example is reproduction. Evolution is a dead end without operative reproductive abilities. Intelligent foresight best explains why the minimum number of parts necessary for an

organism to reproduce—is the organism itself.

Mathematicians have quantified the probability of the information for the most basic functional proteins developing by natural processes as exceedingly small.² Therefore, it is not a stretch to assert that it is mathematically impossible to obtain by natural processes the information that is needed for the origin of a living, reproducing bacterium. Overcoming infinitesimally small probabilities in a single bound by engaging them—as evolutionists do—with infinite numbers of resources generated by an infinite number of universes falls outside the realm of acceptable scientific explanations.

Intricately arranged parts, information for specifications, all-or-nothing unity, and the impossibly low probabilities of these things happening in living things by chance are *real* observations. Their association to the actions of real designers is visible. Science is based on observation and testing. Real design is the better scientific explanation.

A better scientific explanation supports a better approach to science. Since these features point so clearly toward real design, biological researchers should approach investigations of nature like engineers would study an unknown electronic device. They should expect to discover well-designed, coherent, and incredibly complex systems functioning for a purpose—an expectation forbidden by the rules governing evolution's mental "thought prison."

Escaping the Thought Prison Called "Apparent Design"

Being confined to a tiny cell is the depressing reality that makes prison awful. But even worse is when a mind is so straitjacketed by the atheistic philosophy of naturalism that it eagerly believes explanations that are *resisted* by scientific observations. Claiming that the purpose of an eagle's wing cannot be known and that the synchronized movement of all its precisely fitted parts is only an "illusion of design" is a perception contrary to real external stimuli. How much better could scientists—set

free to conclude design when they see design—approach research when released from misconceptions that flow from invalid, yet firmly held, reasoning constricted by naturalism?

First, researchers would be free to follow data wherever it leads, which allows them to never stop questioning and discovering. This mental state far exceeds the shackled thinking characterized by a candid statement from a Kansas State University professor:

Even if all of the data point to an intelligent designer, such a hypothesis is excluded from science because it is not naturalistic. Of course the scientist, as an individual, is free to embrace a reality that transcends naturalism.³

Second, there is freedom from the sense-dulling obligatory conclusion that intricate designs are "only an illusion"—a

peer-enforced mantra indistinguishable from forced indoctrination. Researchers would not be pressured by popular evolutionary authorities such as Cambridge's Richard Dawkins, who insists that

"biology is the study of complicated things that have the appearance of having been designed for a purpose."⁴ Or by Francis Crick, a co-discoverer of DNA, who cautioned, "Biologists must constantly keep in mind that what they see was not designed, but rather evolved."⁵

Third, it would liberate researchers from a smothering presupposition that *expects* regular mistakes in nature due to millions of years of chaotic evolution. They will escape a blinding mindset inclined to label not-readily-defined findings as "junk," "vestigial," or "bad design." Reacting to observations with ill-informed hasty conclusions such as labeling non-protein coding DNA "junk DNA" or the human appendix a "vestigial organ" is not only poor scientific practice, but this prejudice tends toward neglect in research. Stanford University reported on immunological research on "natural killer" cells that "have largely been ignored by immunologists...[and] thought by some to be an archaic remnant of the primitive mammalian immune system."⁶

Pulling It All Together

In a conversation about the best explanation for the origin of nature's design, first expose the weakness of the assertion that design is "only an illusion." Recount how evolutionists rely on a mindless iterative process to accumulate genetic mistakes "favored" by totally imaginary forces from their stand-in god, natural selection. The impotence of this mechanism always forces them to make conclusions far exceeding what the data support. Consequently, they resort to "counter-intuitive" scenarios that are "mystifying to the uninitiated," full of infinite numbers of self-creating universes where microscopic biological machines "self assemble" by "co-opting" "off the shelf parts," leading to creatures with "ghost lineages" that magically "arise" or "burst onto the scene." So even if the evolutionist doesn't ask "can you offer something better?"...do it anyway.

Creationists can show that nature's design has features associated with those known *only* to be derived from real designers. Support is based on *actual* observations of living things' intricately arranged parts, plans and specifications reflected in DNA's information, and many examples of all-or-nothing unity. This truth frees researchers to expect that nature is a product of a rational, coherent design, a path that will lead to research that is once again open to fresh insights into nature. In biology, discovering purposes is better than forcing the absurdity that purpose is unknowable. Real design is the better scientific explanation, and free minds are better than imprisoned minds. ●

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*A NEW CREATIONIST COSMOLOGY:***IN NO TIME AT ALL**

PART 2

LARRY VARDIMAN, P.H.D., &
D. RUSSELL HUMPHREYS, P.H.D.

Editor's Note:

Hebrews 11:3 says that “through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.” In other words, God created the universe with powers and processes of which man knows so little. What we see around us gives us clues, but the mysteries of how God created everything—apart from what He has revealed in His Word—remain just that: mysteries. As Drs. Vardiman and Humphreys demonstrate in their series of articles on cosmological issues, there is much to consider when examining the scientific data, and much which remains in the form of speculative models. ICR appreciates their contribution to the ongoing discussion.

— Lawrence Ford, Executive Editor

Introduction

The November 2010 issue of *Acts & Facts* presented Dr. Russell Humphreys' solution to the question of how stars can be seen many millions of light years away if only a few thousand years of time have passed since they were created.¹ We introduced his cosmology and a discussion of the likely events on the first two days of creation. Here we continue our discussion.

The Second Day of Creation

The gravitational effect of the shell of waters above the *raqia* expanding on the second day of creation can be simulated on the trampoline discussed in part 1 of this series. Remove the heavy metal ball we introduced and replace it with a pebble (representing the small ball of water that is the future earth) within a ring of metal having the same weight as the metal ball. Now there is a nearly-flat area within the ring except for a small dent made by the pebble at the center.

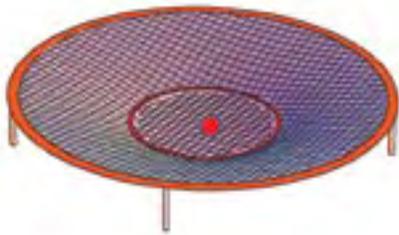


Figure 1. Trampoline with small ball and ring representing earth within an expanding shell.

Now, let the metal ring become larger in diameter, but thinner, so that its weight stays the same. The nearly-flat area is larger, but it is also shallower. The depth of the dent caused by the ring is less than before because the ring's weight is spread over a larger region. Thus, as God expanded the waters above the *raqia*, the dent in the fabric of space became shallower. This had important relativistic effects on time and space.

God called the *raqia* "heaven" (Genesis 1:8). At this point, the only created matter within the shell of waters above the heavens was an earth-sized ball of water. According to clues from physics, the expansion of the shell and the *raqia* is still happening today.² Perhaps it was because of this unfinished state of the *raqia* that God did not call His creation "good" at the end

of the second day, something He said at the end of each of the other five days of creation.

The Remaining Days of Creation

On the third day, God formed the waters below the firmament into the seas and dry land of planet earth, and then He made plants on the dry land. The only light source was apparently God Himself, as Psalm 104:2 suggests: "Who coverest thyself with light as with a garment." Note that He said "light," not "sunlight." Contrary to the impression some people have, God's definition of "day" in Genesis 1:5 does not require that the light source be the sun. So throughout the third day, the firmament was devoid of sun, moon, planets,³ and stars.

The new metric (solution of Einstein's gravity equations) Humphreys developed to describe the relationship among mass, space, and time says that the distribution of mass controls the fabric of space, the fabric of space controls the speed of light, and the speed of light controls time.⁴ Time is speeded up or slowed down throughout space according to the distribution of mass. Figure 2 shows the relative speed of clocks as a function of gravitational potential energy and distance from the center of the cosmos where the initial mass was created. Notice that potential energy is always negative except at an infinite distance from the center of the cosmos. Also, notice that time slows down at lower potential energy until a critical value is reached. This value called the critical depth is the level below which *time itself stops*. This condition without time is called the *achronous* (no time) region.

Consider the trampoline in Figure 1 again. At the end of the third day, the pebble (the earth, too tiny to be seen on this scale) and the nearly-flat part of the fabric inside the red

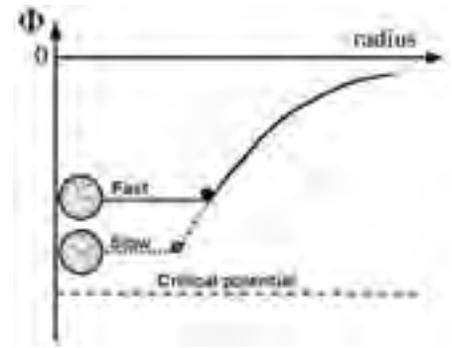


Figure 2. Time dilation depends on the depth of the gravitational potential energy.

ring were just above the critical depth. Imagine that events prior to Day Four have expanded space and moved the shell of "waters above the heavens" out to a radius of, say, one billion light years.⁵ This would have left the earth and the nearly-flat fabric of space within the ring just above the critical potential.

Now imagine that during the fourth day, God created star masses in a way that would form a linearly-dented perturbation in the otherwise flat potential of the fabric of space, as shown in Figure 3. There appear to be several ways to make such a shape. The linear shape shown here is not essential. It only makes illustrating the processes simpler.

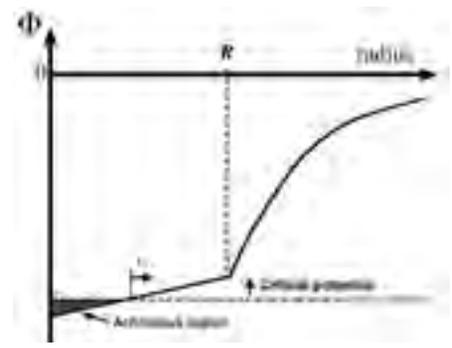


Figure 3. Rising critical potential level (or descending fabric of space) which, in turn, makes the achronous region expand with velocity v_t .

The horizontal dashed line in Figure 3 represents the critical potential. As soon as God created the galaxy masses, the fabric of space began sinking slowly and the central

IMMEDIATELY THE LIGHT THAT HAD BEEN FOLLOWING THE SPHERE REACHED EARTH, EVEN LIGHT THAT STARTED BILLIONS OF LIGHT YEARS AWAY.

part—containing the earth—dropped below the critical potential. An observer in ordinary space a bit farther from the center would have seen a black sphere appear at the center of the cosmos and begin growing in size. The entire interior of the sphere was an achronous region. For slow-moving objects in that region, time would have stopped. The critical potential depends on the speed of light, which in turn depends on the tension in the fabric of space. If, as God stretched or contracted the fabric of space (Isaiah 40:22), He changed the tension simultaneously everywhere, the speed of light changed and the position of the critical potential with respect to the fabric also changed. The critical potential line in Figure 3 could have moved up or down quite rapidly.

A Light Transit-time Scenario on Day Four

Let's suppose the tension in the fabric of space suddenly decreased enough to make the critical potential move upward rapidly. Then, the sphere of timelessness would have expanded faster than otherwise. The speed v_t of its expansion (or later, contraction) depended on three factors: the inverse of the radial slope of the potential for the fabric of space, the rate of the potential's descent or rise, and the rate of rise or descent of the critical potential level. Other scenarios are possible, so the reader should take this as only an example of the possibilities that achronicity opens up.

For general potential shapes, let's say that God designed or adjusted these three factors so that the expansion speed v_t of the timeless zone surface was exactly at the speed of light. (Because the surface of the achronous zone is not a material object, its speed is not limited by the speed of light.) If the slope of the potential energy is constant with radius, the other two factors can be made constant in time to get a

constant speed of expansion v_t . For v_t equal to the speed of light, the timeless zone will follow closely behind the wave of galaxy creation,

proceeding outward at the speed of light. As the zone reaches and engulfs each new galaxy, time stops for that galaxy.

Suppose when the wave of new creation stopped, say at the location of the waters above, represented by the ring, God now increased the tension and the critical potential line moved downward. As it did so, the radius of the sphere of timelessness decreased. Again, let's imagine that God set the values of the three factors to give a contraction speed at the speed of light, but this time inward instead of outward. As each galaxy emerged from the receding timeless region, it resumed emitting light. Some of the emitted light would have gone inward toward the center. Because the timeless sphere was moving inward at the speed of light, the inbound light would follow right behind the sphere as it shrank (see Figure 4). When the sphere of timelessness reached zero radius and disappeared, the earth emerged, and immediately the light that had been following the sphere reached earth, even light that started billions of light years away. The stretching of the fabric of space had been occurring continuously all along the light trajectory, thus red-shifting the light wavelengths.

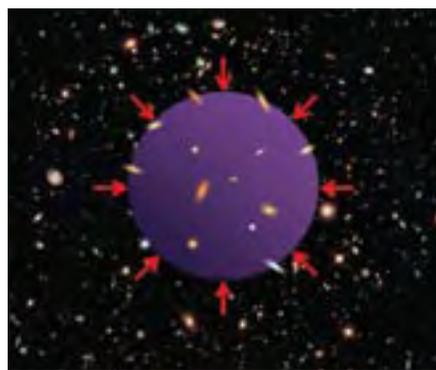


Figure 4. Shrinking sphere of timelessness surrounded by newly emerged galaxies, some of whose light follows the sphere inwards at the same speed.

On earth, it was still only the fourth day. An observer on the night side of the earth would have seen a black sky one instant, and a sky filled with stars the next. With a telescope he would also be able to see distant galaxies with suitably red-shifted spectra. From Day Four until now, about 6,000 years later, an observer on earth would have been able to see stars billions of light years away.

Implications and Elaborations

Although we have presented the basics of Humphreys' new cosmology in these first two articles, it has been in an abbreviated form without equations and elaborate illustrations. In a third article, we will conclude this discussion by describing the implications of Humphreys' cosmology in more detail using a composite figure to illustrate the effects of *stretching the heavens* on earth time, cosmic time, and location in space. We will also discuss a possible second time-dilation episode associated with the Genesis Flood and some cosmic evidence for the Humphreys model. ●

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THE CREATION WORLDVIEW *and the* SCOPES TRIAL

JOHN D. MORRIS, P.H.D.

In these pages we often identify evolution as the scientific justification for an anti-Christian mentality. This long war against God was on full display at the famous Scopes Monkey Trial in 1925, where humanistic forces gathered to strike a blow against God and the necessity of submitting to Him in life's choices.

The whole affair was the inaugural case of the newly founded American Civil Liberties Union, which decided to use this opportunity to begin its long campaign against Christianity's influence in America. It openly advertised for any teacher who would be willing to be arrested for violating the Tennessee injunction against teaching human evolution. John Scopes was not a science teacher, but agreed to discuss evolution with one student in a staged meeting. The case brought national attention. Famous lawyers lined up on both sides. The verdict actually came down in favor of the creationists, but was later overturned on a technicality.

Well-known scientists prepared to bring evidence for evolution, but the law had obviously been broken and the judge refused to turn the case into a scientific debate. In a bizarre and unprecedented turn of events, the lawyer defending the creation law agreed to be a witness. He was tricked by the ACLU lawyer into defending creation and the entire Bible on the witness stand. Unfortunately, he himself had already compromised with long ages and local flood concepts, and couldn't give a consistent defense of either creation or biblical inerrancy. Through it all, biblical doctrine and Bible believers were mercilessly ridiculed in the press, an assault which continues today.

The end result? Christianity largely retreated underground and withdrew from the public arena.

Interestingly, all the scientific evidences



Clarence Darrow defends John Scopes.

supposedly supporting evolution that were slated for use in the trial, and which were picked up in the surrounding media blitz, have been thoroughly discredited today. Even evolutionists no longer use them. Consider, among others:

1. Neanderthal Man—a fully human people group, with art, music, agriculture, weapons, etc.
2. Piltdown Man—an embarrassing scientific forgery; an ape's jaw coupled with a human skull-cap
3. Nebraska Man—touted as an ape-man, but represented by nothing more than a fossilized pig's tooth
4. Embryonic recapitulation—forged drawings of embryos that supposedly show humans related to the animals
5. Peppered moth—mere color shifts in a population that have now shifted back
6. Vestigial organs—thought to be evolutionary leftovers, but now known to be functional¹

These discredited evidences are still repeated in school textbooks today. When con-

fronted, evolutionists admit the faulty claims, but insist they still be used since there are no better claims that are so effective in teaching evolution. And so millions of American schoolchildren each year are indoctrinated in a false worldview.

Nevertheless, truth will win out. Christians are attempting to regain lost ground in the political, educational, and religious arenas. Interest in creation still flourishes today, spawning thousands of creation scientists, hundreds of creationist organizations, and millions of creation believers. Polls taken in America consistently show a majority of people hold to some form of creation, especially young-earth creation.

Things are not what they should be, but neither are they as bad as before. What a wonderful time to be a Bible-believing Christian/creationist recruit in the Lord's army. ●

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Dr. Morris is President of the Institute for Creation Research.



DESIGN OF MAN:

No Evolutionary Evidences

FRANK SHERWIN, M.A.

Man has either slowly evolved from a primal slime billions of years ago—or he has been created in God’s image. The list of evidences that were supposed to validate man’s evolutionary ascent from “lower” life forms has been expunged by decades of good scientific research. From teeth to toes, the edifice of “human evolution” has clearly been disintegrating.

For instance, dentists with a Darwinian philosophy may suggest removing wisdom teeth because of the “evolution” of the human jaw. Although some molars may indeed need extraction, it demonstrably has nothing to do with evolution.¹

Many evolutionists point to chronic back problems as evidence that humans recently stood upright from tetrapod ancestors. But not only does the human spinal column appear designed for an upright posture, back troubles most directly correlate to bad habits, injury, or other abuses. Evolution has exactly nothing to do with back pain.²

Evolutionists continue to maintain that embryonic development in the womb mirrors an evolutionary past when humans had gill slits like a fish or a yolk sac like a chicken. Such unscientific suggestions are the result of the infamous “biogenetic law” of German zoologist Ernst Haeckel. Evolutionists have allowed this poor science to fester, even though the “recapitulation theory” has long since been thoroughly discredited.³

Many secular schools still teach the unscientific concept that structures such as tonsils, adenoids, and the appendix are useless vestiges of an evolutionary past.⁴ But in 2010, four evolutionists called the adenoids and tonsils “large collections of immunologically active lymphoid tissue.”⁵ They are dynamic parts of immune systems! In 2009, an evolutionary immunologist stated:

If Darwin had been aware of the species that have an appendix at-

tached to a large cecum, and if he had known about the widespread nature of the appendix, he probably would not have thought of the appendix as a vestige of evolution.⁶

There is no fossil evidence that man evolved from some subhuman creature. As one science writer put it, “The last common ancestor of chimpanzees and humans remains a holy grail in science,”⁷ employing a metaphor that implies a vain search for an elusive treasure, or anything of great value—with essentially no chance of it being found. Discoveries of supposed evolutionary evidences inevitably result in confusion. A *Newsweek* subtitle is typical: “Discovery of the fossil of an unknown human ancestor shakes up ideas of human evolution.”⁸

Recently discovered footprints look surprisingly human and creation scientists suggest the unthinkable—perhaps they were actually made by humans.⁹ Other writers dance around the truth:

Created around 1.5 million years ago, these are the oldest footprints that look like those made by modern humans. A team of scientists... discovered these precious fossilized prints in dried mud in 2009....By the looks of it, the fossilized foot impressions seem identical to the ones we make when walking across the sand.¹⁰

Evolutionists cannot accept that people made these prints and instead—with no scientific reason—believe the footprints were made by a subhuman ancestor, *Homo erectus*.

Scripture clearly teaches in Genesis 1 that plants and animals were created by God “after their kind”—as was man, uniquely made in God’s image (Genesis 1:27). ●

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Mr. Sherwin is Senior Science Lecturer.



The Stones Cry Out

What Rocks and Fossils Say about the Age of the Earth

The Christian Research Institute (CRI) states on its website that “we cannot easily dismiss the fact that an overwhelming majority of authorities in the fields of geology [rocks], paleontology [fossils], biology, etc., are convinced that there is abundant evidence to substantiate a very old earth.”¹

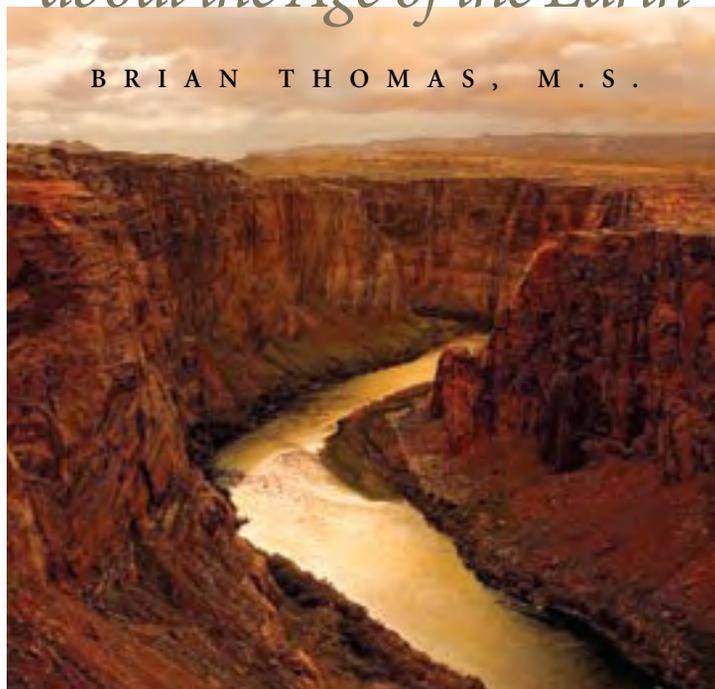
In 1974, respected Christian apologist William Craig wrote that “the beautifully layered sediments evidence a slow process of formation,” and “the conclusion seems clear that all the geologic strata could not be the result of a single flood, no matter how immense!”² As demonstrated in a recent interview, Craig still rejects the idea that fossils and rocks resulted from Noah’s Flood.³

Is this accurate? Do the rocks and fossils testify to millions of years, so that the thousands-of-years history of the Bible must be rejected?⁴

The answer is no, and here is why. First, each sedimentary rock layer containing fossils had to have formed rapidly because that’s the only way the fossils would have been preserved. Second, upper layers formed soon after the lower ones were deposited, since there is no sign of erosion in the razor-sharp contacts between them. Therefore, whole sections of the rock column were deposited in rapid succession, as would be expected in a widespread watery cataclysm. Genesis describes the year-long process of Flood waters increasing, prevailing, and then assuaging, eventually snuffing out all land vertebrates not protected on the Ark.

It appears that instead of giving the biblical record of the Flood a fair hearing, many Christian apologists simply cite old-earth Christian geologists. But if those geologists have chosen to ignore what the Bible plainly states about the Flood, then the blind are leading the blind.

The fossil record is replete with evidence of soft parts, such as worm or clam bodies and burrows, as well as original soft tissues! Creatures with soft bodies or tissues would need to be fossilized within a shorter timeframe than it would take for them to decay. These fossils and other rock features have convinced mainstream geologists to reduce the amount of



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

time involved when interpreting a single rock layer.

Many now recognize that each layer was borne of a high-energy watery event. During a geology field trip a number of years ago, one student asked the instructor, “If each of these layers formed rapidly, then where do the millions of years fit in?” The professor pointed to the contact line between an upper and lower layer and suggested that millions of years’ worth of sedimentary deposits must have accumulated...and then eroded away!

The earth’s surface today contains ruts, soil horizons, worm burrows, and plant roots.

But the contacts between strata often look “razor sharp,”⁵ are very flat, and extend for many square miles. They show no evidence of long time periods between deposition. Despite William Craig’s assertion, in one day in 1980 Mount St. Helens deposited hundreds of feet of “beautifully layered sediments,” demonstrating conclusively that brief but violent catastrophes can produce multiple flat layers.

If each fossil-filled layer formed rapidly, and if there is very little time between each layer, then rocks and fossils developed within a relatively short timeframe. Christians should be encouraged to look at the rocks and fossils themselves and compare them with the biblical record, instead of relying on “a majority of authorities” who write their own world history apart from that given by *the highest* ranking authority. ●

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Mr. Thomas is Science Writer.



ICR Science Curriculum Debuts at Education Conferences

The Institute for Creation Research unveiled its new *Science Education Essentials* curriculum at Christian school and homeschool conventions across the United States this past fall. ICR participates in numerous education events, both through keynote and seminar presentations and with innovative new resources like its new line of curriculum supplements.

For 40 years, the Institute for Creation Research has equipped teachers with evidence of the accuracy and authority of Scripture. In keeping with this mission, ICR developed *Science Education Essentials*, a series of science teaching supplements that exemplifies what ICR does best—providing solid answers for the tough questions teachers face about science and origins.

This series promotes a biblical worldview by presenting conceptual knowledge and comprehension of the science that supports creation. The supplements help teachers approach the content and Bible with ease and with the authority needed to help their students build a defense for Genesis 1-11.

Each teaching module has been pilot tested with Christian school and homeschool teachers and students working with ICR's science and education faculty. Modules include:

- *Origin of Life*
- *Structure of Matter*
- *Human Heredity*
- *Genetic Diversity*
- *Geologic Processes*

Each supplement includes a teacher's manual and a CD-ROM packed with K-12

reproducible classroom activities designed to work within your school's existing science curriculum, with an uncompromising foundation of creation-based science instruction.

Science Education Essentials has been presented to thousands of teachers, administrators, and homeschool families in Sacramento, Anaheim, Washington DC, Orlando, Raleigh, and Dallas, with more conventions scheduled this year.

If you work in a Christian school or homeschool your children, visit www.icr.org/essentials for more information about obtaining these Bible-based science curriculum supplements for your school. ●



ICR's Modern-Day Noah

C H R I S T I N E D A O

Ernie Carrasco is building an ark.

Actually, in addition to working in the Institute for Creation Research's Internet Ministries department, Carrasco is a student in ICR's School of Biblical Apologetics (SOBA). And constructing a scale model of Noah's Ark will fulfill some of his course requirements.

"I'm attempting a Master of Christian Education in Biblical Education and Apologetics, with minors in Genesis Studies, Creation Research, Christian School Teaching, and Sacred Humanities," he said in a recent interview. "Part of the requirements for each minor is a practicum that will demonstrate mastery of the coursework."

Minors are not required to obtain the joint biblical education and apologetics major. However, since Carrasco decided to attempt four of them, finding a practicum to satisfy all four posed a challenge.

"Then one Sunday in February, in the wee hours of the morning, God woke me up and put the idea of building a scale model of the Ark on my mind," he said. "In my 'night vision,' He gave me details on how to go about building it, and how it would satisfy the requirements for all of my minors."

He used the Bible as his primary research tool before starting the construction of the 1/60th scale model. "Dr. Henry M. Morris included some excellent notes in *The New Defender's Study Bible* that offer great insight," he said. Other valuable resources included *The Genesis Flood* by Drs. John Whitcomb and Morris, as well as *Noah's Ark: A Feasibility Study* by John Woodmorappe.

The interior of the model Carrasco started constructing in March 2010 measures approximately 7.5 feet long, 15 inches wide, and over nine



inches tall. He said he plans to leave one wall open so viewers can see interior details such as stairwells and animal pens.

Dr. Jim Johnson, Carrasco's faculty advisor, said the Ark model also helps with his joint major. "He can use it to help teach people about the Ark and its importance, so that's the biblical education major," he said. "And then, of course,

there are apologetic aspects in the context of the Genesis Flood—understanding how important the Genesis Flood is to understanding biblical history in general, how science fits in with the Bible, and why the earth looks the way it does."

Carrasco had originally planned to have the Ark model finished in one year to coincide with the completion of his classroom work in spring 2011, after which he'll work on his thesis. However, he said it's taking him a little longer.



"Well, Noah took 120 years to build his. And it is a 1/60th scale model, so that means two years," he laughed. "I think I have some time."

When asked how SOBA has helped him with his project, he said:

I would say that the main focus of SOBA is to equip students to carry out the exhortation of 1 Peter 3:15, which begins with sanctifying the Lord in our own hearts. Without that priority, we "become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal" (1 Corinthians 13:1). With that in mind, my effort in this Ark project is first of all to glorify God with the work of my hands. Secondly, my desire is to provide a visual apologetic, so that viewers will take the Genesis Flood seriously and be strengthened in their faith in all of God's Word.

For information about SOBA, visit www.icr.org/soba. ●

Ms. Dao is Assistant Editor.



Photos by Ernie Carrasco

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I just had the privilege of holding my own in a friendly discussion regarding the six-day creation and the young earth. I give ICR the credit. Without the benefit of your intelligent teaching over the years, I would have had less ability to confirm God's Word.

— E.N.

I've been meaning to write to you for some time and so am taking a little quiet time (very precious in our household with five children six and under!) to tell you how much I appreciate your work. Your magazine *Acts & Facts* is one of my favorite things to see in my mailbox. To hear about fresh tissue in fossils and the complexity of the human body is delightful. I especially enjoyed the "Survival of the Fitted" article [in the October issue]. Why didn't I think of such a simple and obvious rebuttal of evolution?

— C.F.

Thanks so much for the edifying devotionals in *Days of Praise*. Each one is full of "meaty" thoughts for our souls. I have especially been blessed by Dr. John Morris' devotionals using hymns. Thanks to each of you for carrying on in the tradition of your founder, Dr. Henry Morris.

— G.D.

I've been a contributor to ICR and a receiver of *Acts & Facts* for several years. The new format of A&F is wonderful. The October issue is exceptionally good....I have an M.S. in chemistry, but appreciate that the topics are explained in understandable language without loss of scientific content. I teach classes in creation science at my church and use such excellent explanations in my classes. Even short articles such as "Presuppositional Research" help me to frame a lecture. The article on Similar Features was also excellent....I am blessed to be able to contribute to such quality work and will definitely continue supporting ICR.

— T.R.

Your *Days of Praise* is such a blessing to me. I am a Navy SEAL, in a fairly tough environment both literally, environmentally, spiritually, emotionally...in many, many ways. My walk with God is not perfect, but I do strive to follow Him and build my life upon Him. Your sharing of the Word and insight do SO much for me it is impossible to relate in a short email. Please know and please pass on to your entire staff just how much of a blessing your entire ministry is to me.

— M.O.

I just re-read "The Double Mindedness of Evolutionary Compromise" by Willard A. Ramsey in the May 2010 issue of *Acts & Facts* and it brought back memories of my own struggles in my youth. I walked onto the [university] campus...on a fall morning in 1952, age 17, scared but excited. I loved my classes, especially in the sciences. These teachers were brilliant. But I soon came face to face with teaching that flatly denied any possibility that God had created all the wonders of the world of living things around us. My parents had warned me not to believe evolution, but now I saw that my parents weren't educated in science, so how could they know? I was bowled over by evolution. My professors seemed so honest, as if they were willing to go wherever the facts led....

My turmoil continued for months. I knew God was real and that He had brought me out of darkness into His marvelous light when He saved me, that Christ had borne my sin and guilt on the cross. But then how could the biblical account of creation not be true? I didn't want to compartmentalize my mind, thinking scientifically during the week and then turning that off and being religious on Sunday. I knew all truth had to come together somehow.

Then spring came. One morning I walked on campus and looked up and saw the dogwood in bloom. It was so beautiful that it stopped me in my tracks. It came clearly into my mind that beauty was a reality that science had no room for. It was such a clear touch from God in my soul.

But I still didn't have the answers that I needed. Years later, in the early '60s, I found Dr. Henry M. Morris' book *The Genesis Flood*, and at last I had my answers. I will be forever grateful to him and to all of you at the Institute for Creation Research for bringing the light of the truth of creation.

— B.K.

Have a comment? Email us at editor@icr.org.

Or write to Editor,
P. O. Box 59029,
Dallas, Texas 75229.

Circumspect Resolutions

H E N R Y M . M O R R I S I V

The turn of the calendar naturally provides the occasion to reflect on the past year and plan for the future, and people of almost every nation observe some kind of New Year holiday. Sadly, New Year celebrations have generally degenerated into a time of revelry and relaxed morals, followed by seemingly superficial repentance of the past with good intentions for better behavior in the future.

The Christian focus is much different, however, since we know we are nothing outside of our Lord's saving grace. Each New Year brings an opportunity for believers to stop and count their blessings. If we do this honestly and fully, no matter what our troubles may be, we will have to confess that God's blessings far outweigh our burdens.

Apart from considering God's abundant blessings on our lives, we as Christians are called to do much more. Consider Psalm 90, the majestic prayer written by Moses toward the end of his life, and its beautiful summary of God's power and provision for Israel throughout the ages. The overwhelming theme of the brevity of life promotes a natural urgency to

finish the work the Lord has given us. Moses wrote that "we spend our years as a tale that is told [literally, a brief sigh]" (v. 9). And because life is so short, Moses asks the Lord to "teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom" (v. 12).

The Hebrew verb translated "teach" in this verse literally means to acknowledge or recognize. Assuming a normal lifespan of 70 to 80 years (v. 10), each Christian would be well advised to "number the days" that we may still have before the Lord returns or death overtakes us. We should not only count our days, but make our days count—and count for Him!

Writing some 1,500 years later, the apostle Paul similarly counseled the believers at Ephesus to "walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil" (Ephesians 5:15-16). Note that the phrase "walk circumspectly" denotes a state of diligent awareness of potential consequences, requiring a firm understanding of biblical truths to distinguish wisdom from foolishness. Furthermore, the word "redeeming" as used in this context literally means to rescue from loss. Thus, by walking diligently with our Lord in

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wisdom, we are to "rescue from loss" the time He has allotted to each of us. Lost money or earthly possessions can often be regained, and poor health can sometimes be corrected. But time wasted is lost forever!

As we begin another New Year, we at the Institute for Creation Research acknowledge the brevity of our days and have circumspectly resolved to use our time effectively in the Lord's service. We are committed to knowing, following, and teaching the truth of our Creator as expressed in His perfect Word, and have filled our agenda with new and exciting initiatives that will bring much honor and glory to Him. But we need your help to see them to fruition. Please prayerfully consider how you can "redeem the time" with us, and join us through prayer and financial support. ●

Mr. Morris is Director of Donor Relations.



THUS SAITH THE LORD THE MAKER THEREOF, THE LORD THAT FORMED IT, TO ESTABLISH IT; THE LORD IS HIS NAME; CALL UNTO ME, AND I WILL ANSWER THEE, AND SHOW THEE GREAT AND MIGHTY THINGS, WHICH THOU KNOWEST NOT. (JEREMIAH 33: 2-3)

One of the frequent challenges Christians face is the problem of time. Human perspective is usually limited to the understanding we gain during our lifetimes, with an occasional increased awareness from the study of history. Our confidence rests in the fact that the Lord is “Alpha and Omega” and that He knows the end from the beginning, but our prayers and our faith are sorely tested when the answers to the “desires of our heart” are delayed.

Jeremiah is often referred to as “the weeping prophet,” primarily because he composed the epic poem Lamentations found in the Old Testament. Jeremiah had been called by God to prophesy to a king and to a nation the fact that God was about to punish them severely for their apostasy—and as far as we can tell, no one in authority ever listened to him.

In fact, King Zedekiah of Judah had thrown Jeremiah into prison and chained him up because the king did not like (or believe) the prophecy that the Lord had directly dictated to Jeremiah about the coming war with and subsequent captivity by Nebuchadnezzar.

But the Lord had future plans for Judah. So, God told Jeremiah (while he was still in prison) to purchase a piece of land there from his uncle’s son, Hanameel, because God was going to restore Judah (Jeremiah 32:6-12). Hanameel got all the paperwork together, brought the “evidences” to the prison along with the necessary witnesses, and the deal was struck.

Jeremiah, knowing full well that Judah was going to be sacked and

burned by a ruthless army, nonetheless believed the Lord’s promise and spent his own money for a piece of property that “everybody” would have said was foolish to buy under the obvious circumstances that the nation was about to go under.

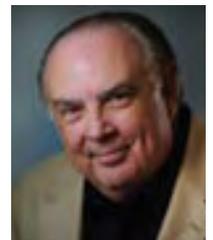
Those were the conditions under which Jeremiah understood the promise of God: “Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.” Had Jeremiah been like most of us, he would have begged for freedom from prison, or the healing of his nation, or the salvation of his jailers. But God had given him the promise that Judah would be punished and God would restore the nation—go buy some property for the future!

It is really easy for us to miss God’s “long view.” We get depressed by economic recessions or caught up in the political unbelief of the world’s behavior, and then we miss out on the opportunities of God’s direction and plans for the future.

Our Heavenly Father has plans for you and for me, for our churches—and yes, for the Institute for Creation Research. The general orders are to “occupy” until the Lord returns (Luke 19:13). All of us need to take the “long view.” That surely means trying to prepare for the next generation. That surely means to “seek the kingdom” above all other priorities. That surely means that our time, our energy, our plans, and, yes, our resources need to be focused on eternal values rather than the short-term circumstances of a short life on a dying earth.

May God give us the vision of the “things which are not seen” (2 Corinthians 4:18). ●

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



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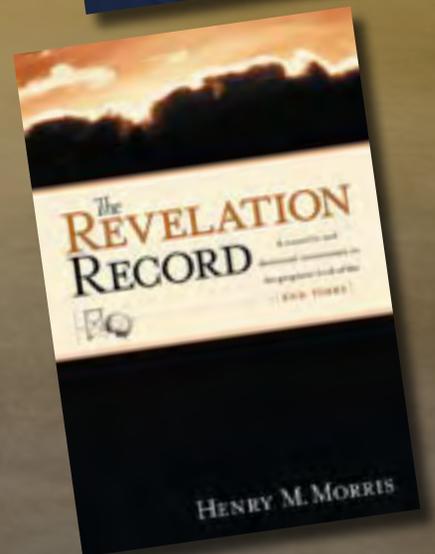
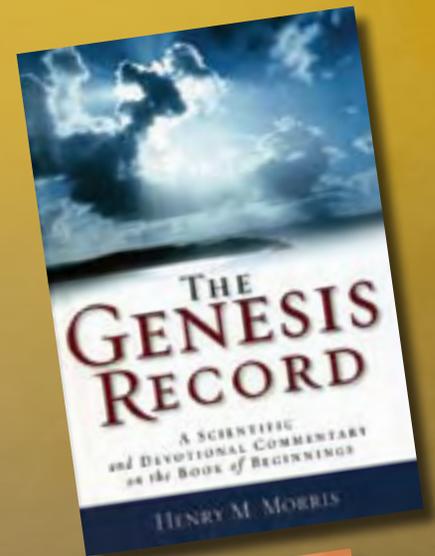
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