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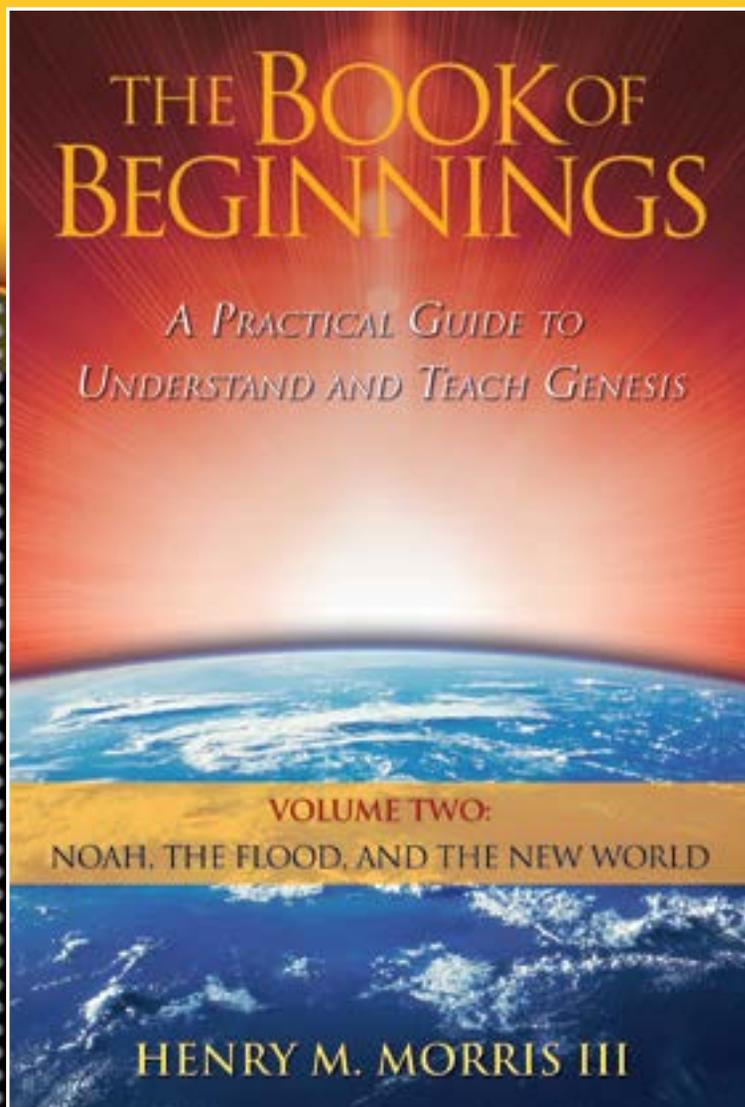
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Love

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EXECUTIVE EDITOR
Jayme Durant

SENIOR EDITOR
Beth Mull

EDITOR
Christine Dao

DESIGNER
Dennis Davidson

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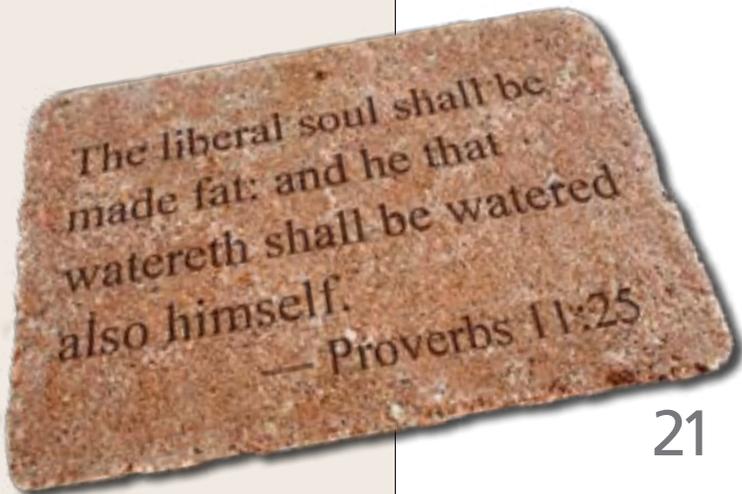
10



12



17



21

FEATURE

5 The Wonder of His Love

HENRY M. MORRIS III, D. MIN.

RESEARCH

9 Chromosome Comparison Shows More Chimp-Human Differences

JEFFREY TOMKINS, PH.D.

APOLOGETICS

10 Lincoln Laments at Gettysburg: Biblical Creation and Civil War Insights

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

IMPACT

12 God's Amazing Invertebrates: The Missing Links Are Still Missing

FRANK SHERWIN, M.A.

BACK TO GENESIS

16 Geologic Changes to the Very Good Earth

JOHN D. MORRIS, PH.D.

17 Design and the Doctrine of God

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

18 Genesis Families

BRIAN THOMAS, M.S.

19 Everlasting Love

JOHN D. MORRIS, PH.D.

CREATION Q & A

20 Doesn't Radioisotope Dating Prove Rocks Are Millions of Years Old?

BRIAN THOMAS AND DR. JOHN MORRIS

STEWARDSHIP

21 Gaining God's Way

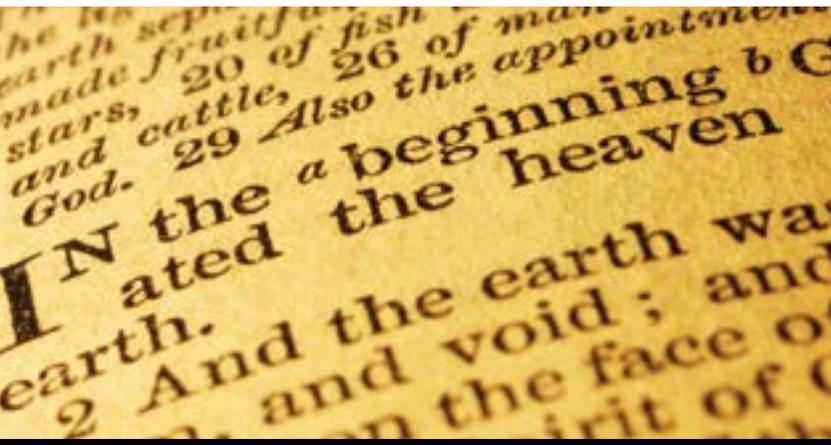
HENRY M. MORRIS IV



A Call for Creation Basics

An ICR staff member recently shared about his conversation with a local youth pastor. This seminary graduate had confessed before his church that he didn't know what to believe about creation, and our staff member astutely saw an opportunity to share what God's Word and science say about creation.

The fact that a seminary graduate, a believer in Christ who has been trained for ministry, felt confused about something as basic as creation underscores the importance of our ministry to unlock the great evidence that God has provided in His creation. It also highlights that the need to provide accurate information endures, even to those who lead the next generation in our churches.



We continue to look for ways to make biblical truth and scientific data accessible for everyone. We are committed to providing this truth in a relevant manner, to impact those who are seeking the truth, and we are dedicated to making some of the most difficult to understand information accessible to every person who asks the simple question, "And what about creation?"

We sense an urgency, a call to provide creation basics to Christians and non-Christians alike, and we don't want to miss the chance to make a difference for this generation and the next. We employ individuals who are skilled at doing research, discerning scientific claims, and communicating relevant issues. We share God's creation truth through conferences, seminars, and presentations at

churches, schools, community groups, private school and homeschool conventions, and other meetings.

We plan to publish more books this year, as well as to provide *Acts & Facts* magazines and *Days of Praise* devotionals as we have done for years. For those who can't attend our events, we offer the creation message via radio, video, and web options. And we are exploring other possibilities—new ways to make critical creation truths available to those who don't use traditional means to search for information.

Dr. Henry Morris III's feature article this month, "The Wonder of His Love," examines the Bible verse that many of us first learned as children—John 3:16. This verse is a Bible "basic," although it's far from simple in meaning. Dr. Morris unfolds the depth of meaning in this one small verse of Scripture, illustrating how every verse of the Bible holds an invaluable treasure. It's so simple, and yet so many miss the profound truths tucked in this one little verse.

At ICR, we often talk about the simplicity of Genesis 1:1—one little verse—"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." It's so simple, and yet those who question the meaning of this verse remain. Our goal is to provide the information that so many seek—to point to Scripture and to emphasize its truths. And, yes, we also study science. We are committed to high standards of academics and research, and our scientists often point out how each area of science provides even more reason to embrace the foundational truths of Scripture. They are pleased to say that science confirms Scripture.

The foundational truths of creation are waiting to be discovered by each generation. We are committed to sharing cutting-edge, current information along with unlocking the enduring foundational truths of Scripture. We value your support through prayer and financial donations to continue this work. Please partner with us as we seek to answer the call to share with this generation the basics of creation.

Jayme Durant
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

THE
Wonder
OF HIS
Love

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

(JOHN 3:16)

This poignant passage has become one of the most well-known of all Bible verses in the English-speaking world. Via national television, the reference routinely appears on placards in demonstrations and banners in stadium bleachers and in the eye-black of famous athletes. But sometimes, as the adage says, “familiarity breeds contempt.” Perhaps a quick focus on this marvelous promise would encourage you and your family.

The key to this verse is the little adverb “so.” The end product—everlasting life—and the means, His only begotten Son, are absolutely important. But it is the quality of God’s love that is stressed. It is *how* God loved us that governs this promise.

Those familiar with the passage will recall that this is part of the conversation between the Lord Jesus and Nicodemus, one of the scholars and leaders of Israel. Nicodemus had just asked about the second “birth” process that made one part of the Kingdom of God. In His explanation, Jesus brought Nicodemus back to the time of Moses when those who had been bitten by deadly serpents were promised life if they looked at a brass serpent lifted up on a pole (Numbers 21:5-9). In the same manner, Jesus said He would become the one “lifted up” so that anyone who “believed” in Him would not die but have life “into the ages.”

Jesus explains to Nicodemus, “For”—and here is the connection to the application—“God *so* loved the world, that—” His Son became the payment that made possible what was always in our Creator’s heart to do for us. *Because* God’s love was so fashioned and part of His very nature, He made possible the gift of His “only begotten son” and the priceless grant of eternal life.

This love and the gift that was fulfilled in history was “foreordained before the foundation of the world” (1 Peter 1:20). This was no emotional reaction on God’s part. This was a unilateral love shaped by the character and design of the Triune Godhead. To say that “God is love” is to state the eternal reality of God’s very nature. To say that “God is holy” is to express the unfathomable, unchangeable essence of His character. Exemplified by the gift of the

Lord Jesus, this “love” was “so” demanding that the holy God *must* give the Son in order to exercise His love and maintain His unchangeable righteousness (Romans 3:26).

This love was given and foreordained “while we were yet sinners” (Romans 5:8). You and I are birthed in sin, live lives immersed in sin, and cannot possibly understand the agony of the holy Son of God who prayed in the



IT IS HOW GOD LOVED US THAT GOVERNS THIS PROMISE [IN JOHN 3:16].

garden of Gethsemane, “O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me” (Matthew 26:39). Surely the cruel torture of the cross would have frightened any human heart, but the groaning that Jesus uttered was from the profound understanding of becoming “sin for us” (2 Corinthians 5:21). The atrocities of history, the horrible thoughts and actions of every evil deed were plastered and infused in His sinless body and soul. No wonder Jesus cried out on the cross; “My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me!” (Mark 15:34).

These extreme measures were taken because God “so loved” the world.

We rightly think of God’s love in terms of what He has provided for us through the substitutionary sacrifice of the Lord Jesus.

Concrete confirmation of that love is demonstrated by Jesus’ resurrection on the first day of the week. Were it not for the clear expression through the life and work of Jesus Christ, we would be hard pressed to “see” God’s love. Indeed, “We love him because he first loved us” (1 John 4:19). Yet, there are unique aspects of God’s love expressed to us in salvation.

For those who respond with repentance and belief to the convicting ministry of the Holy Spirit, the immediate act of God’s love is to birth a “new man” who “is created in righteousness and true holiness” (Ephesians 4:24). No emotive feeling of “sweet love” is here. This is the personal act of almighty God that creates “a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new” (2 Corinthians 5:17).

Once implemented, the immutability of God makes it impossible for God’s love to ever change. The new eternal spirit of the twice-born is forever secured.

For I am persuaded, that nei-



ther death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:38-39)

No creature, no circumstance, no contrivance can ever destroy God's love. Yet this is only part of the little "so" that defines the love of God.

God's love comes with the faith to maintain the relationship on our human side (Ephesians 6:23). We have precious assurance that the grace extended in the salvation event is not a "work" that can be accomplished by human effort. It is delivered by "faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God" (Ephesians 2:8). Even this faith to believe is a necessary gift because "No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him" (John 6:44) and because "the natural man receiveth not

the things of the Spirit of God" (1 Corinthians 2:14). Since we are "dead in trespasses and sins" (Ephesians 2:1), it is then absolutely necessary that our great Creator God makes possible the supernatural change from a "dead" unbelieving heart to an eternally living spirit, made alive by the grace of God's love administered through faith in God's gift.

And if saving faith is God's gift at salva-



THERE ARE UNIQUE ASPECTS OF GOD'S LOVE EXPRESSED TO US IN SALVATION.

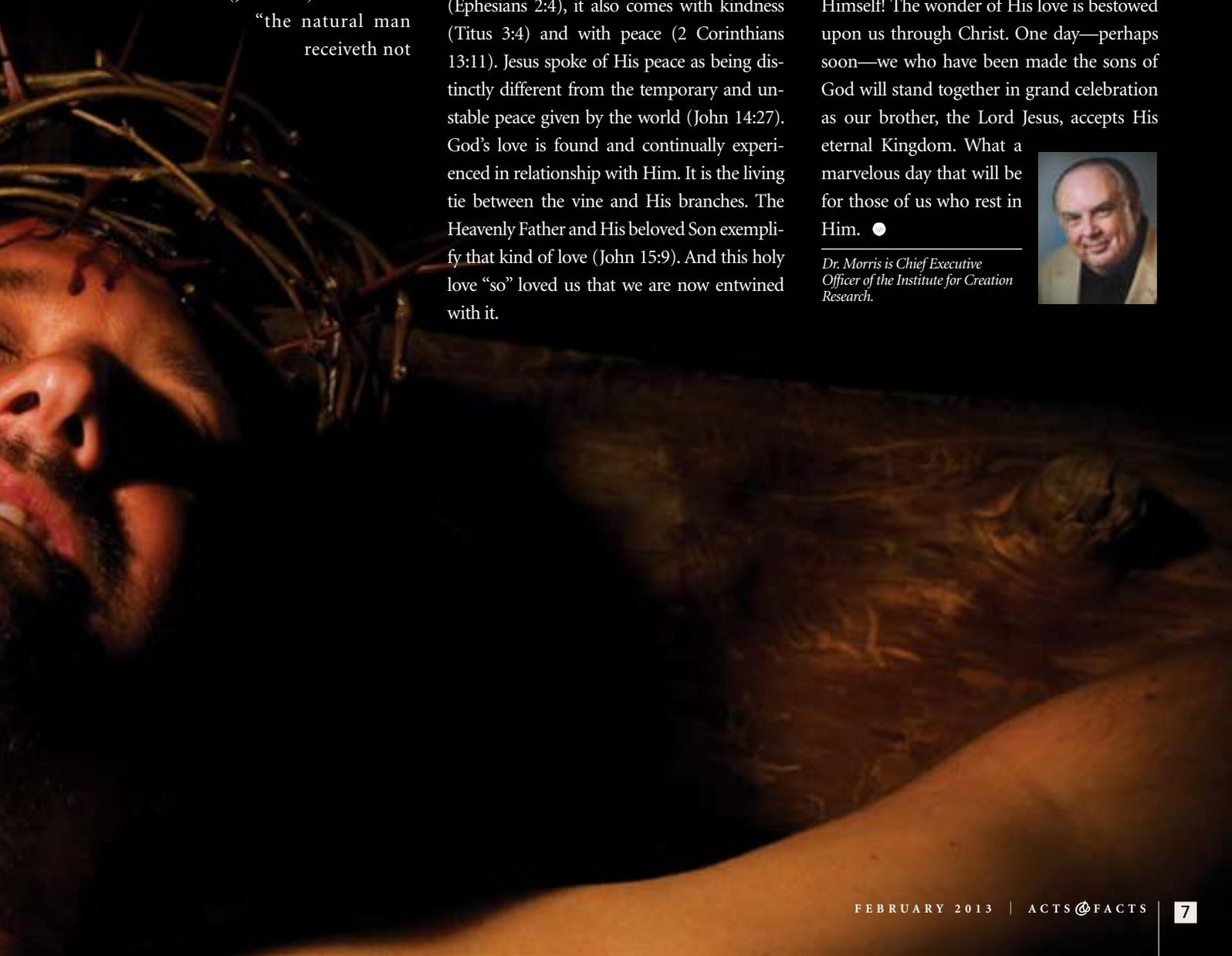
tion, God's kind of love would ensure that our weak human wills would be shored up by an ongoing faith to "endure unto the end" (see Matthew 24:12-13).

Since God's unchanging love is great (Ephesians 2:4), it also comes with kindness (Titus 3:4) and with peace (2 Corinthians 13:11). Jesus spoke of His peace as being distinctly different from the temporary and unstable peace given by the world (John 14:27). God's love is found and continually experienced in relationship with Him. It is the living tie between the vine and His branches. The Heavenly Father and His beloved Son exemplify that kind of love (John 15:9). And this holy love "so" loved us that we are now entwined with it.

Perhaps the sum of all the aspects of God's kind of love is this: "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God" (1 John 3:1). Stunning! Our sin-cursed lives are transformed, and we become sons and daughters of the King of kings and Lord of lords. We who have fallen into the arms of God's love will become "joint heirs" with this King in the "new heavens and a new earth" (2 Peter 3:13).

"Wherefore comfort one another with these words" (1 Thessalonians 4:18). Even before the foundation of the world, God "so" loved us, that while we were dead in our sins, He sent His "only begotten son" at the fullness of time to redeem us from the curse of the law. Payment was finished on the cross and demonstratively accepted by the resurrection. "Whosoever" would believe this gracious love-act would not be destroyed but be made the very holiness of the Creator Himself! The wonder of His love is bestowed upon us through Christ. One day—perhaps soon—we who have been made the sons of God will stand together in grand celebration as our brother, the Lord Jesus, accepts His eternal Kingdom. What a marvelous day that will be for those of us who rest in Him. ●

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



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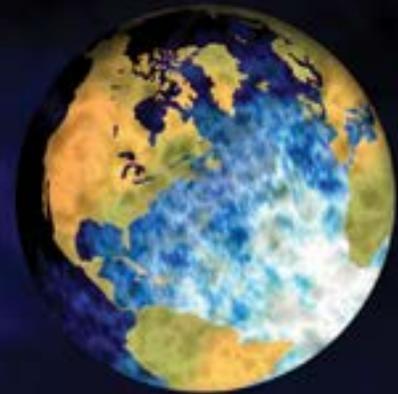
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RANDY GULIUZZA, P.E., M.D.



JASON LISLE, Ph.D.



Chromosome Comparison Shows More Chimp-Human Differences

J E F F R E Y T O M K I N S , P H . D .

Since the original 2005 chimpanzee genome report, researchers obtained and made available for public use additional chimpanzee DNA sequences, courtesy of federal tax dollars.¹ However, this new chimpanzee DNA sequence is somewhat flawed—it is not represented on its own merit because researchers assembled the chimp genome's sequence fragments based on the human genome framework.^{2,3}

Using the most recent version of the chimp genome, a sequential comparison to the human genome on an individual chromosome basis was performed at ICR.² The chimp chromosomes were digitally sliced into individual files of varying DNA sequence lengths. Depending on the chromosome, optimal slice size was about 300 to 500 DNA bases long. Each slice was then compared to its human chromosome counterpart using previously optimized algorithm parameters.⁴ Using this approach, comparisons were optimized for each chromosome irrespective of gene or DNA feature regarding its linear order and position on the chimp chromosome.

This ICR research project defined the

similarity for each chromosome as the percentage of chimp DNA that aligned (matched) to human DNA. This definition was somewhat conservative because it did not include the amount of human DNA that was absent from chimp DNA, nor did it include the chimp DNA that was not even similar enough to align to the human genome assembly.

For the primary chimp chromosomes (autosomes), the amount of optimally aligned DNA sequence provided similarities between 66 and 76 percent, depending on the chromosome. In general, the smaller and more gene-dense chromosomes showed higher DNA sequence similarity—although there were several notable exceptions. Only 69 percent of the chimpanzee X chromosome (female sex chromosome) and only 43 percent of the Y chromosome was similar to human DNA. Genome-wide, only 70 percent of the chimpanzee genome assembly was similar to human DNA under the most optimal sequence-slice conditions. These results actually confirm previous research where omitted data was included to produce much lower estimates of DNA similarity between humans and chimps

for previously published secular reports.^{5,6}

While chimpanzees and humans share many localized protein-coding regions of high DNA similarity, the overall extreme discontinuity between the two genomes defies evolutionary time-scales and dogmatic presuppositions about a common ancestor. These results illustrate the genetic and biblical fact that humans are not just another primate, but they are uniquely created in the image of God. ●

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Dr. Tomkins is Research Associate at the Institute for Creation Research and received his Ph.D. in Genetics from Clemson University.



Lincoln Laments at Gettysburg: Biblical Creation and Civil War Insights

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

These words spoken by Abraham Lincoln 150 years ago allude to America’s Declaration of Independence. In that foundational document, the colonial declarants proclaimed a creation-based view of human liberty:

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.²

Why is Lincoln’s 1863 cemetery dedication important to us today? And why did a nation that professed creation-based liberty principles in 1776 suffer such a devastating civil war less than a century later, fighting over the practices of racist slavery?

Although the majority of the 1787 U.S. Constitution’s provisions are admirable, and many are much better than their 18th century counterparts, the Constitution’s treatment of slaves is clearly unbiblical. For example, notice how it bars runaway slaves from being legally emancipated if they escape to a free state:

No person [slave or servant] held to Service or Labour in one State, under the Laws thereof, escaping into another, shall, in Consequence of any Law or Regulation therein, be discharged [emancipated] from such Service of Labour, but shall be delivered up [involuntarily returned] on Claim of the Party [slave-owner or master] to whom such Service or Labour may be due.³

Compare how the preceding constitutional mandate for the return of runaway slaves blatantly contradicts Deuteronomy 23:15-16:

Thou shalt not deliver unto his master the servant which is escaped from his master unto thee; he shall dwell with thee, even among

you, in that place which he shall choose in one of thy gates, where it liketh him best; thou shalt not oppress him.

In light of the creationist liberty tenet in America’s Declaration of Independence, why did our predominantly Christian forefathers put an opposite mandate into the Constitution? Could it be that America’s slavery policies are evil fruit from the same corrupt tree that produced evolutionary science?⁴ If so, what is that corrupt tree, and why does it produce such evil fruit?

Are Evolution and American Slavery Related?

There is a logical correlation between American slavery and evolutionary theory: Both are *effects produced by the same cause*, namely, disregarding the Bible when it applies to secular topics such as politics and science. But some might protest that American slavery preceded Charles Darwin’s influence—so how can evolution and slavery be related?

American slavery practices were constitutionally formalized in 1787. Darwin’s natural selection theory was not published until 1859, over seven decades later. Darwin is not to blame for American slavery practices.⁵ However, Darwin does share the blame for promoting racist attitudes and abuses after America’s Civil War.^{6,7} Darwin’s own words proposed a theory that all men were *not* equal, and Darwinism’s promoters used preexisting racist attitudes to help sell Darwin’s natural selection theory, teaching that darker-skinned humans were less evolved than lighter-skinned humans:

No rational man, cognizant of the facts, believes that the average Negro is the equal, still less the superior, of the white man.⁸

As shown by this quote from evolutionist hero Thomas Huxley, “Darwin’s bulldog,” ethnic racism clearly predates the influence of Darwin’s natural selection theory.⁵ Yet Darwin’s theory and American slavery practices can both be traced to the same kind of humanistic thinking—closed-Bible thinking about secular topics—called “rationalism” or “free-thinking.” Led by leaders of the deism movement, rationalism experienced a popular revival in the 1700s and early 1800s. Deists were closed-Bible creationists, precursors of the Intelligent Design Movement.⁹ Deists actively and passively rejected the biblical creation teachings of Genesis, including teachings on human origins, ethnic origins, and geologic history.

Deism-dominated science concepts—taught since the late 1700s—sowed tragic misinformation and destruction.¹⁰ Those ideas influenced America’s slavery policies and the pseudo-sciences of natural selection and social Darwinism.^{10, 11}

Applying the lessons of Genesis, including its teaching that all humans are created equal in God’s sight, would have spared America two agonizing tragedies: race-based slavery and the human slaughter of its civil war. But to have a biblical view of human dignity, one must appreciate how Adam’s race (the only race recognized in the Bible) was uniquely created in God’s image on Day Six and understand that every human born after the Flood descended from the solitary surviving family that disembarked the Ark.⁸

Deists such as James Hutton (a medical doctor who promoted old-earth ideas as early as 1788) and Sir Charles Lyell (a barrister who popularized Hutton’s uniformitarian old-earth ideas as early as 1833) scoffed at Genesis’ history, including its detailed record of a global Flood. In order to accept the geologic theories of Hutton and Lyell, their contemporaries (including other Deists and even many Christians) ignored or dismissed Genesis’ explicit record of the earth’s geologic and human history.^{10, 12}

In deism-grounded science, the earth was imagined to be millions of years old (or older). Similarly, deists rejected the family history of Adam’s race recorded in Genesis, teaching that the words of the Bible were a prescientific Semitic myth (unfit for the enlightened minds of reason-ruled intellectuals). Thus, this mindset that rejected Genesis history was already becoming popular, thanks to Dr. Hutton and his ilk, *long before* the U.S. Constitution was ratified!

Just like many popular “intellectuals” of today, many leaders of the “Enlightenment” (in the late 1700s) exalted the powers of human reason over the authority and reliability of the holy Bible. They closed their Bibles and chose to study nature (including human nature) without the benefit of Genesis’ data.^{10, 12} Freeing themselves from the framework of biblical revelation, these free-thinkers relied only upon human reason as they strove to analyze and understand their world—including geologic beginnings and human and ethnic origins.

As the American experiment with slavery tragically proved, a closed-Bible approach to human relationships will never prove satisfactory. In fact, America’s most costly war (in human lives) was

fought to abolish that shameful experiment.

Why, then, did the American slavery practice produce such a curse in America, with generations of turmoil and tragedy following its official abolition?

Because the unbiblical practice was founded upon two fatal flaws: 1) *wrong beliefs* about the origin and history of the human race, including how and why humanity was ethnically divided at Babel; and 2) *wrong practices* toward some of Adam’s descendants, based on ethnic differences that flowed from linguistic differences created at Babel.^{8, 11, 12}

The practical question, then, for any society is this: When people assertively reject the truth and morals God has provided in Scripture, why should they expect God’s providential blessings, rather than tragic and cursed outcomes?

How a society treats its own people will determine whether that society invites or rejects God’s blessing. Rejecting Deuteronomy 23:15-16 led to the cause of America’s tragic Civil War, including the bloodshed at

Gettysburg, and the loss of more than half a million American lives.

Likewise, how a society teaches and practices origins science will determine whether it invites or rejects God’s blessing on its origins science. If we settle for closed-Bible deism (often

referred to as the Intelligent Design Movement), do we have a right to expect God’s blessing on our origins science?

Only the truth—biblical truth—truly emancipates the human mind: “And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free” (John 8:32). ●

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3. U.S. Constitution, Article IV, § 2 (3).
4. Bad trees produce bad fruit. “But a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit” (see Matthew 7:17-19, Luke 6:43-44).
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Dr. Johnson is Associate Professor of Apologetics and Chief Academic Officer at the Institute for Creation Research.



God's Amazing Invertebrates:



The Missing Links Are Still Missing



F R A N K S H E R W I N , M . A .

In their 2010 zoology text, evolutionists Stephen Miller and John Harley present a clear summary of the current state of animal classification. They maintain, “There is little disagreement among zoologists about the taxonomic classification of animals”¹, p. 156. Creation biologists agree. We’re hardly opposed to “the taxonomic classification of animals” and find such grouping and ordering extremely helpful as we study God’s creation. We would hasten to add that the modern era of taxonomy was introduced by Swedish botanist and creationist Carl Linnaeus (1707-1778), who gave us the Linnaean system of naming plant and animal species.

Miller and Harley go on to say exactly what creationists have been pointing out ever since Darwin: “Great disagreement exists, however, about how the animal phyla are related to one another.”¹, p. 156. The reason for this ongoing “great disagreement” is that the animal phyla are not related to one another in any Darwinian sense! In other words, what we see in the fossil record is great discontinuity among plant and animal groups—as predicted by the creation model—rather than the continuity evolution assumes.

Not only is there a healthy disparity among the proposed evolutionary interrela-

tionships of animal groups, but common ancestors, the missing links, are still unknown over 150 years after the publication of Darwin’s infamous book.

Occasionally, evolutionists protest that it would be extremely rare to find any soft-bodied creatures that would link groups together. But in recent years, more soft tissues in fossils are being unearthed.² Impressions of soft tissues in sedimentary rock continue to be discovered and indicate that 1) soft tissue can be fossilized,³ 2) the process of fossilization must be quite rapid (as in a flood!), and 3) these creatures have always been the same throughout supposed “geologic history” (with the possibility of extinction).

This article will address some of the more popular invertebrates (animals without backbones). Sometimes beautiful, sometimes deadly, they are creatures designed with exceeding complexity. They appear in sedimentary rocks complete and fully formed, and there is no sign that they have evolved from ancient ancestors.

Phylum Arthropoda

Arthropods—insects, spiders, and crustaceans—are members of the largest animal

phylum, the Arthropoda. These creatures make up almost 85 percent of living animals and represent the majority of the fossil record.⁴, p. 168. God designed arthropods with jointed, paired appendages and an external skeleton (exoskeleton) composed of a unique compound called chitin. No evolutionist would expect chitin to survive in “primordial” fossils due to its chemical degradation, and yet “evidence of vestigial chitin” was recently found in a fossil scorpion and a fossil eurypterid.⁵ This is hardly amazing if these sediments, supposedly deposited “millions of years ago,” were actually laid down by the Genesis Flood 4,500 or so years ago.

Evolutionists dismiss creation and maintain that arthropods evolved from a non-arthropod ancestor sometime before the Cambrian period in the distant past. But because arthropods were created as arthropods just thousands of years ago, the evolutionary community must resort to “a highly speculative interpretation of arthropod phylogeny [evolution].”¹, p. 268. In 2009, evolutionists Larry Roberts and John Janovy wrote:

As might be expected from arthropods’ long evolutionary history and extreme diversity, establishment of evolutionary relationships, especially among the more inclusive taxa, is a challenge that has oc-



cupied many scientists ever since Darwin's time.^{6, p. 529}

The "arthropod phylogeny problem" continues unabated. Gonzalo Giribet and Gregory Edgecombe state, "The exact sister group relationship of arthropods is, however, still debated."^{4, p. 171} A current biology textbook acknowledges that "arthropod evolution and classification are controversial."^{7, p. 662}

The authors of another textbook state only that arthropods "may have evolved" from an extinct group called the lobopods.^{8, p. 684} God designed the Lobopodian as a complex multicellular animal with bilateral symmetry, a gut, and coordinated legs. There is no indication that anything evolved from it. A fossil Lobopodian displays no evolution for the supposed "200 million years" of its existence, and four evolutionists recently wrote, "The morphology has not changed in any significant aspect."⁹ If the tardigrades (the water bear addressed below) and velvet worms of today are allegedly counterparts of Lobopodia, then where is the evidence of evolution? There has been no change from the lower Cambrian onward.

Darwinists have put increasing faith in novel molecular approaches and techniques to answer the vexing problem of arthropod origin and evolution. But such research often exposes as many mysteries as it supposedly solves, not only with the arthropods, but throughout the living world.

Here are just a few representative arthropods God has created.

Phylum Tardigrada



The plump, short water bear (tardigrade) looks positively amusing with its four pairs of stubby legs attached to a cylindrical body. These segmented, water-dwelling animals are less than a millimeter long and are often found lumbering on moist mosses and lichens. The hundreds of species of tardigrades were designed by the Creator to undergo a fascinating process called cryptobiosis (suspended animation), extending their lifespan up to 65 years.

Where did the water bear come from? In their zoology text, Cleveland Hickman and his fellow authors are diffident, stating, "Evolutionary relationships among ecdysozoans [e.g.,

Phylum Tardigrada and Arthropoda] are not well understood."^{10, p. 402} Claus Nielsen states that Tardigrada "relationships to other groups has been debated."^{11, p. 267} It would seem that tardigrades have always been tardigrades, with "fossils from the Middle Cambrian [that] strongly resemble living tardigrades."^{11, p. 265} As predicted by creation scientists, there is nothing simple regarding these curious creatures. Nielsen writes that they are "complicated," "complex," and have "extraordinary abilities."^{11, p. 265}

Trilobites



The strange trilobite (so-named because its oval body is divided into three regions) is the creationist's friend, undergoing variation in size and pygidial rib number but stubbornly refusing to evolve into anything else. Complex from the start, these creatures had amazing visual capabilities.¹²

Not only is there a healthy disparity among the proposed evolutionary interrelationships of animal groups, but common ancestors, the missing links, are still unknown over 150 years after the publication of Darwin's infamous book.

There are at least 56 families of trilobites composed of about 3,900 species, "about 70% of the known Cambrian species of metazoans."^{13, p. 278} Their size normally ranges from one to four inches, but some fossils are as much as 39 inches long. But small or large, they suddenly appear as 100 percent trilobites with no indication of gradual evolution. For example, eight fossils recently found in Ordovician sediments are all trilobites. Evolutionists had hoped a fossil creature called *Parvancorina* found in the Ediacaran (the topmost portion of the Precambrian) would be the much-sought-after missing link to the trilobite. This turned out not to be the case, as the growth form of *Parvancorina* is uncommon for an arthropod¹⁴ and its seeming way of life points away from an arthropodan affinity.¹⁵

Is there an indication of how these hearty invertebrates became extinct? Fossil evidence points to a water-borne disaster. In

2011, a University of Cincinnati news release described mass kills of trilobites in such widespread locations as Oklahoma, Morocco, and Poland: "A smothering death by tons of hurricane-generated storm sediment was so rapid that the trilobites are preserved in life position."¹⁶ A catastrophic flood such as Genesis describes would seem to be a reasonable agent.

Crustaceans



The crustaceans include the delicious shrimp, crab, and lobster. What is the origin of these succulent arthropods? The first fossil representatives found in Cambrian rocks (such as the abundant *Marrella* of the Burgess Shale) are 100 percent crustacean, with no indication they evolved from a non-crustacean ancestor—although evolutionists claim that the "modern crustacean lineages probably arose at various times."^{11, p. 268}

What scientists find today are crustaceans of enormous complexity. Consider the shrimp:

The eye of the peacock mantis shrimp has led an international team of researchers to develop a two-part waveplate that could improve CD, DVD, blu-ray and holographic technology, creating even higher definition and larger storage density. Peacock mantis shrimp are one of only a few animal species that can see circularly polarized light—like the light used to create 3-D movies. Some researchers believe the mantis shrimp's eyes are better over the entire visual spectrum than any artificial waveplates.¹⁷

A waveplate—or retarder plate—is a transparent optical unit that changes or manipulates the polarization state of a light beam travelling through it. It hardly seems likely that such amazing visual ability could be the result of chance, time, and natural processes. Instead, it shows purpose, plan, and special creation (Romans 1:20).

The following invertebrates also display remarkable evidence of the Creator's design.

Phylum Platyhelminthes

The Platyhelminthes, or flatworms, are soft, unsegmented animals and include some of the most beautiful invertebrates in the world—the turbellarians. Snorkelers and div-



ers delight in watching the lazy, colorful undulations of the three-inch divided flatworm (*Pseudoceros*) that lives in coral reefs.

Flatworms are anything but simple, and they do amazing things. For example, fission is a type of asexual reproduction undertaken by some planarians. The worm constricts in the middle, separating into a tail end and a head end, and then each end regenerates the missing parts (epimorphic regeneration). Zoologists find this ability extraordinary.

A fossil Lobopodian displays no evolution for the supposed “200 million years” of its existence, and four evolutionists recently wrote, “The morphology has not changed in any significant aspect.”

There are also the flukes (trematodes), one of which causes the devastating parasitic disease known as schistosomiasis. People become infected with this blood fluke when they wade or swim in fresh water containing a certain species of snail that serves as the intermediate host of this parasite. The tiny infective stage (cercaria) leaves the snail and actively swims to the vertebrate host—a human. It penetrates the skin by way of a hair follicle and then enters the bloodstream, where male and female worms develop and attach to the inside of the person’s circulatory system. The large numbers of eggs produced by the female and the host’s potent immune response cause this pathological condition.

Zoologists appreciate the enormous complexity of this parasite, beginning with the tiny cercaria that can rapidly alter its metabolism. It moves from the snail’s body, a complex internal milieu, and enters cold fresh water. From the water, it enters a much warmer environment (the human bloodstream) with a higher concentration of sodium and a sophisticated immune system with which it must successfully contend. In each of these new environments, biochemical changes to its physiology must be made within seconds!

Other flatworms include the dog and pork tapeworms—both potentially fatal to the human—and the more benign fish tapeworm.

Each has a unique life cycle.

For decades, evolutionists thought these flatworms were only a primitive stage of bilaterians (animals with distinct back and front ends). But Hickman and his colleagues state, “Features of the most recent common ancestor of all bilaterian animals have been much debated,”^{10, p. 307} and can only suggest what the alleged ancestor of the flatworms may have been:

This ancestral form would have had a simple body with a blind gut, perhaps much like the body of an acelomorph flatworm.^{10, p. 308}

Michael Allaby adds, “The phylum lacks a definite fossil record,”^{18, p. 492} and Neilsen states, “The fossil records are dubious.”^{11, p. 166}

But if God looked at His finished creation and said it was good, from where did these parasitic worms come? Like evolutionists, creation scientists must offer a theoretical explanation regarding parasite origin. We suggest that before the Fall, these parasitic animals were nonthreatening, in keeping with God’s very good creation. They were what is termed free-living (non-parasitic) in the environment and had a full complement of body systems. Then, after the Fall, God cursed the earth and they became parasitic—dependent upon a host for survival. Support for this idea comes from an unlikely source: the evolutionary community. Various authors state that “parasitic species have retained some morphological resemblance with their free-living counterparts,”^{19, p. 13} and “in fact, free-living species could become parasitic without substantial anatomical or physiological changes.”^{21, p. 226}

Parasitologists Roberts and Janovy state, “The tiny worms in suborder Tylenchina appear to bridge a gap between free-living and parasitic modes of life, because several species alternate between free-living and parasitic generations.”^{26, p. 413} Or could God have adjusted the design of the flatworms and protozoa at the time of the Curse so that they now have organs specifically designed to allow them to feed off people and other creatures? He made an adjustment with thistles and thorns, causing pain. Perhaps parasites also fall into this category of design modification. Providing such potential explanations is one focus of research at the Institute for Creation Research.

Phylum Echinodermata

The beautiful sea stars (starfish) are one of the most easily identifiable marine invertebrates, with their characteristic radiating arms and stony skin of calcium carbonate. The sea star’s water vascular system is one of the more amazing arrangements in the animal world. Each of the five arms has a radial canal in a groove running down its length. In each of these canals are found hundreds of muscular, hollow, fluid-filled tube feet. The Creator designed these tiny tube feet with a foot (podium) and bulb (ampulla) attached to it. Adhesive chemicals secreted at the ends of the foot allow the animal to pull itself over the ocean floor or firmly attach to its favorite food, the clam. To disengage the foot, a specially designed organic solvent is secreted and the podium is hydraulically shortened. What is left behind is an adhesive signature “smudge.” The brittle stars and basket stars comprise the largest group of echinoderms.

What is the evolutionary origin of complex creatures such as the sea stars?

The evolutionary relationships among the echinoderms are not clear. Numerous fossils date into the Cambrian period, but no interpretation of the evolutionary relationships among living and extinct echinoderms is definitive.^{1, p. 281}

Evolutionists can only speculate that echinoderms possibly evolved from an unknown bilaterally symmetrical ancestor sometime in the early Cambrian—or even the Precambrian in the case of *Tribrachidium* discovered in Australia. Miller and Harley state:

Most zoologists believe that echinoderms evolved from bilaterally symmetrical ancestors. Radial symmetry probably evolved during the transition from active to more sedentary lifestyles; however, the oldest echinoderm fossils, about 600 million years old, give little direct evidence of how this transition occurred.^{1, p. 281}

But who were the bilaterian ancestors? The late Neil Campbell and his fellow authors state:

While the sequence of bilaterian evolution is a subject of active investigation, most researchers think that the most recent common ancestor of living bilaterians probably existed in the late Pro-



terozoic eon (about 575 million years ago).^{8, p. 674}

“Believe” and “probably” should not be associated with the alleged scientific fact of evolution. Hickman et al tell us, “Despite [echinoderm] fossil record, numerous con- testing hypotheses on their [evolutionary relationships] have been proposed.”^{10, p. 492} James Valentine was succinct, stating, “Despite this easy identification of echinoderm skeletons, most of the nominal classes are rather distinctive, appear abruptly, and are separated from one another by morphological gaps at their first appearance.”^{12, p. 393} Recently, a core from the North Sea revealed fossils of echinoderms with an assigned date of “114 million years”— much earlier than previously supposed by evolutionists, but they were still plain old echi- noderms.²⁰

An interesting trend has been going on for decades, a development secular paleontol- ogists would rather ignore (like soft dinosaur tissue). Every major animal body plan is found entombed in Cambrian sediments. (The main body axes are established in the early embryo.) The ongoing discoveries cause trouble for the secular paleontologist because each complex body plan is found earlier and earlier and shows no evolution. For example, with regard to the echinoderms, one study states, “Be- cause many of these taxa appear close to the beginning of the middle Cambrian, it seems likely that their origins must be placed in the early Cambrian.”²¹ Evolutionists keep having to rework their evolutionary timelines, but such abrupt appearances of sophisticated body plans would be expected if they were created fully formed.

Phylum Annelida



A discussion of the invertebrates would not be complete without a nod to every biol- ogy student’s friend, the earthworm! Although it looks to be “just a worm,” it is, in fact, a highly intricate creature. Like the echinoderm, annelids have been created with sophisticated systems and structures. Creation scientist Gary Parker states:

Most people think of segmented worms as fish bait, but to a biologist, they are marvelously complex. The “lowly” earth-

worm, for example, has five “hearts,” a two-hemisphere brain, and a multi-or- gan digestive system.²²

Evolutionist Allaby says, “Anatomically they are more complex than the Platyhelmin- thes. They have vascular, respiratory, and ner- vous systems which are well developed.”^{18, p. 33}

The characteristic segments of the anne- lids are an enigma to Darwinists: “No truly sat- isfactory explanation has yet been given for the origins of segmentation and the coelom, al- though the subject has stimulated much spec- ulation and debate.”^{10, 383} We have all watched the wriggling movements of the earthworm. God designed each segment with circular and longitudinal muscles designed to work against the hydrostatic (body cavity fluid held under pressure) skeleton.

But small or large, they [trilo- bites] suddenly appear as 100 percent trilobites with no indi- cation of gradual evolution.

Is there any evidence for their supposed evolution? “Annelid evolution is still poorly understood,” states Nielsen.^{11, p. 114} Valentine discusses “annelid ancestry” in his book, but it is speculative and hypothetical.¹² Miller and Harley write, “Unfortunately, little evidence documents the evolutionary pathways that re- sulted in the first annelids.”^{21, p. 197}

Truly, annelids have always been anne- lids, as shown by the fossil record. “Their fossils are found in rocks dating from the Cambrian, and possible fossil annelid worms are known from Precambrian sediments in southern Aus- tralia.”^{18, p. 33} The Ediacaran beds of South Aus- tralia contain jellyfish as well as annelids—but not their supposed ancestors. These Precam- brian fossils powerfully support the creation model.

Summary

Looking at these popular invertebrates, we see they are amazingly sophisticated and, as predicted by creationists, complete wherever they are found in the fossil record.²³ There is clearly variation within these separate groups, as in, for example, the large number of trilobite

families. But these designed creatures remain within their basic kinds and display a disconti- nuity of both form and function.

Over 150 years have passed since the publication of Darwin’s *Origin of Species*, and yet the secular community of scientists is un- able to provide a compelling evolutionary se- quence for any of the various kinds of inver- tebrates. The missing links are still missing. As Paul tells us in Romans 1:20, our all-wise Cre- ator designed our amazing invertebrates with a complexity that is “clearly seen.” ●

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Mr. Sherwin is Research Associ-
ate, Senior Lecturer, and Science
Writer at the Institute for Creation
Research.



Geologic Changes to the Very Good Earth

J O H N D . M O R R I S , P H . D .

The Flood cataclysm dramatically morphed the early earth into the earth we know today. Its original “very good” state was pleasant and stable (Genesis 1:31), but today things are not so quiescent. Earth’s crustal plates move relative to one another. If they collide, they either crumple up into mountains or plunge one beneath the other, producing volcanoes, earthquakes, and tsunamis.

In the original earth, most continents may have been connected as one great stationary supercontinent, but we can’t be sure. Creationists generally agree with plate tectonic theory, but they propose that the movements were much more rapid than what the uniformitarians teach. Whether or not the continents were connected at creation, it appears that all the land masses were together sometime during the Flood because rock strata traits match and continental boundaries fit together like puzzle pieces. Creationist geophysicists consider it likely that continents were indeed together at the height of the Flood and then violently separated.

The rapid raising of the continents out of the ocean on Day Three of creation week required forces of unthinkable magnitude. Once creation was completed, however, forces no longer acted in a fashion powerful enough to rend plates asunder and move them from their original locations.

Fossils of trees living before the Flood seldom give evidence that they grew at high altitudes. Present mountain chains were forced upward by the Flood. There must have been some difference in elevation before the Flood because rivers fed by the “fountains of the great deep” flowed by gravity to lower elevations (Genesis 7:11). Rivers of today are fed by snow and rain, but pre-Flood rivers were supplied by underground water sources and a nightly heavy mist.

In Genesis 7:11, the Flood began with the breaking open of “all the fountains of the great deep.” Those on the ocean bottom caused a series of devastating reactions that fully altered the planet. Giant energy waves—tsunamis—rippled out from the quaking fountains, forcing water inland. Earthquakes and tectonic convulsions rattled the continents. Upwelling, molten magma evaporated seawater, spraying vapor into the atmosphere, continually resupplying “the windows of heaven,” and inundating earth with an unparalleled downpour and the resulting erosion. There was a special intensity for the first “forty days and forty nights,” but the tumultuous rain didn’t stop for five months (see Genesis 7:11-12, 8:3). Shock waves reverberated throughout the ocean, bringing unimaginable devastation to sea life. Waves of water and loose sediments carrying sea creatures were repeatedly pushed inland.

These actions led to the fossilization of

trillions of marine organisms. First to be affected were dwellers of the ocean depths, directly impacted as the “fountains” burst open. Next, those in the continental shelf regions were devastated, followed by the coastline inhabitants, then those in low-lying areas, and, finally, the upland denizens. (This series mirrors the general sequence on the uniformitarian’s Geologic Column.) The waters continued rising in waves until the pre-Flood mountains were submerged. An abnormally high but fluctuating sea level was maintained throughout the Flood as complex interaction between tectonic and hydrodynamic forces caused the water to come and go in surges. Finally, during the next seven months, the waters drained off into newly deepened and widened ocean basins, exposing dry land and ending the Flood episode.

The pre-Flood world—existing in wonderful equilibrium since creation—literally ruptured. The unleashed forces continued for some time, until the relative balance we now experience was re-established. The once “very good” earth was ruined by man’s sinful rebellion. ●

Adapted from Dr. John Morris’ *The Global Flood: Unlocking Earth’s Geologic History*. 2012. Dallas, TX: Institute for Creation Research.

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



“I built that.”

“No, you didn’t build that.”

These words echo a political argument in America about who gets credit for building business-sustaining infrastructure. No matter where one stands on who actually “built that,” everyone knows that it did not build itself. Yet, when it comes to the origination of life’s extraordinarily complex design, evolutionists insist people should believe that it somehow built itself. Why?

The intricacies of life’s design clearly look intelligently crafted and prompt many to seek an explanation for its cause. Who is life’s creator? The Bible says the creator is God.

When creationists teach the reasons that the Genesis creation account is relevant to Christians, they invariably focus on abortion, family break-up, violence, pornography, racism, or homosexual behavior. While these are important issues, they don’t come close to capturing the monumental importance of creation to the Christian faith.

Adam’s original sin explains why humanity needs a Savior, and even that fact is not the central reason for the creation account God has given us. The link of the creation event to the reality of a creator-God is the supreme reason why the Bible begins: “In the beginning *God created* the heaven and the earth” (Genesis 1:1, emphasis added).

The Doctrine of God Is Based on Creation

“What is God like?” is a significant question. However, “*Who is God?*” is the more important question. Christians assert that God is the creator, but a more accurate statement is that the creator of everything is God. The principal way God chose to identify Himself was as the cause of all things—“In the beginning God created.”

The very name “God” designates a position of rank or status of one who surpasses everything. We conceive of the highest being by reckoning that He is the ultimate source, or cause, of everything. He has always existed, and all things owe their very existence to Him. The creation of

the ultimate “effect,” the universe itself, is fundamentally necessary to establish the ultimate cause—the reality of God.

The Deity of Christ Is Based on Him as Creator

The creator of everything is God. So, the Lord Jesus Christ is Himself God, since the Bible identifies Him as the creator:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. (John 1:1-3)

Scripture also recognizes the creating and sustaining power of Jesus Christ:

For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. (Colossians 1:16-17)

That is why Colossians 2:9 encapsulates Jesus as the incarnation of God, saying, “For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.”

For Christians, the reason why the creator of all things is God should be implicitly relevant: they are theists. Astute atheists know this. While they cannot disprove God, they can create a social climate that

intimidates some Christians—those who fear others’ opinions—into disowning “In the beginning God created.” In terms of the doctrine of creation, for Christians to abandon, ignore, minimize, fail to defend, or subjugate its relevance to social issues is tantamount to plunging a knife into their spiritual abdomens. It is spiritual suicide for theists to forsake the doctrine of creation because it is the basis for the very doctrine of *who* God is—the Creator of everything. ●

Dr. Guliuzza is ICR’s National Representative.



DESIGN AND THE DOCTRINE OF GOD

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



GENESIS Families

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

Does social research support biblical ideals for family life? Evolutionary thinking has no explanation for the tradition of one woman marrying one man for life. This comes from Genesis 2:24: “Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave [join or adhere] unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.” Bible believers can rely on Genesis as a foundation for families for at least two reasons.

First, the results of behavioral experiments make more sense when the Genesis account of familial organization is taken at face value. Genesis is clear that the husband-wife relationship forms the core of the family. Experimental psychologist Abigail Millings’ report “Good Partner, Good Parent” says “romantic relationships between parents might be associated with what kind of parents they are,” showing that husbands and wives who are “tuned in to what the other person needs” typically avoid the negative parenting extremes of either being overbearing or cavalier when exercising parental authority.¹

These extremes in parenting often cause children to “avoid committed romantic relationships” later in life, according to another study.² If the Bible is correct that the married couple forms the core of a family, then one would expect that married couples who fail to nurture one another would also fail to nurture their children. “If the parent is unresponsive or overly intrusive, the child learns to avoid their caregiver,” which leads to resisting committed relationships like marriage.²

The results of a recent study on substance abuse prevention also reflect God’s design for families. Sociologist Toby Parcel wrote, “School programs that address alcohol and marijuana use are definitely valuable, but the bonds parents form with their children are more important.”³ It is as though children were built to respond to loving parents.

An array of studies proffer that the best situation for children is a home with both parents together.⁴ Of course, the Lord can be a father to the fatherless, giving hope to those in broken homes. But relying strictly on research results, one would conclude that above any other institution, families form the character of people.

The second reason Genesis is the foundation for families is that other biblical passages point to Genesis history as the basis for family life. Marriages that accurately portray the relationship between Christ and His

bride—where a covenant of commitment mysteriously builds a bond stronger than blood-relationships—are the most likely to foster healthy parenting and peaceful homes.⁵ The apostle Paul reiterates Genesis 2:24 as the foundation for families, where wives submit to their husbands and husbands sacrifice of themselves for their wives (see Ephesians 5).

Genesis teaches that families depend on a relationship in which the husband cleaves to his wife. Research verifies that when the primary relationship fails, the family can falter for generations. God invented marriage, just as He said in Genesis. So according to both the social sciences and Scripture, Genesis is the foundation for a marriage that can build the next generation. ●

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Mr. Thomas is Science Writer at the Institute for Creation Research.



Everlasting Love

JOHN D. MORRIS, PH.D.

Perhaps no doctrine in Scripture is as clearly stated as that expressed in Jeremiah 31:3 and in many other passages. God loves us! His love is an “everlasting love” that compels Him to act strongly and lovingly on our behalf. “Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins” (1 John 4:10). This theme finds glorious expression in the grand hymn of the last century titled “I Am His, and He Is Mine.”

Loved with everlasting love, Led by grace that love to know;
Spirit, breathing from above, Thou hast taught me it is so!
O this full and perfect peace, O this transport all divine!
In a love which cannot cease, I am His and He is mine.

Jesus prayed, “I in them, and thou in me...that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me. Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am” (John 17:23-24). The Father will never allow

us to part from Him or our Savior.

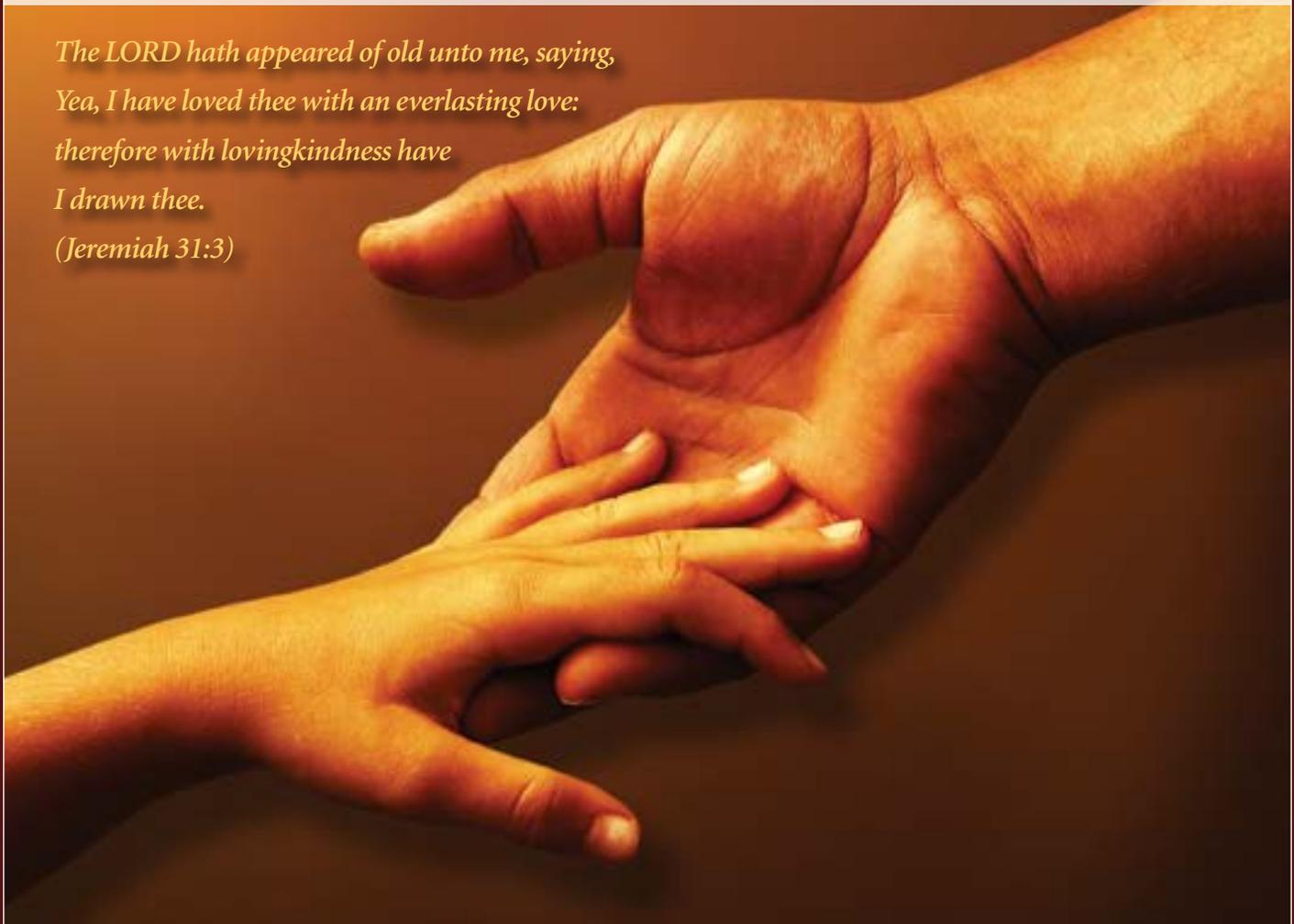
These precious facts are taught to us by the “inspired” (literally “God-breathed”) Scriptures (2 Timothy 3:16), and “the Comforter...the Spirit of truth [who] will guide you into all truth” (John 16:7, 13). He drew us to Himself “in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself” (Ephesians 1:4-5). “Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God” (1 John 3:1). In His grace, we come to Him, experiencing sweet forgiveness and everlasting love.

Cradled in the security of His undying love, we have peace. “Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee” (Isaiah 26:3).

Adapted from Dr. Morris’ article “Everlasting Love” in the spring 2010 edition of *Days of Praise*. ●

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

*The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying,
Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love:
therefore with lovingkindness have
I drawn thee.
(Jeremiah 31:3)*



Q: Doesn't radioisotope dating prove rocks are millions of years old?

BRIAN THOMAS AND DR. JOHN MORRIS

A: Geologists do not directly measure the age of a rock. They choose rocks containing radioactive “parent” isotopes that emit particles and radiation to become a different “daughter” element and measure ratios of elements to their isotopes. Attempts to transform these ratios into dates are where this becomes problematic. Assigning a date requires that the rate at which the parent decays into the daughter element has been the same throughout the rock’s history. It is similar to assuming that the constriction in an hourglass has always been the same diameter, and the same number of sand grains passes every minute.

Radioisotope decay rates are renowned for constancy under normal conditions, so this assumption appears reasonable. But two observations and two clues omitted from physics textbook discussions of radiodating show that these radioisotope “clocks” are broken.

First, scientists have observed that radioactive isotope (radioisotope) decay rates do fluctuate, including Th-228, Rn-22, and Si-32. Although these particular isotopes are not used to date rocks, they illustrate that radioisotope decay (radiodecay) is not always constant.¹

Second, rocks observed to form on a particular date often show radioisotope age estimates far exceeding their actual ages. For example, when the fresh lava dome at Mount St. Helens was only ten years old, it showed a radioisotope age estimate of 340,000 years!² Many such examples cast doubt on the entire dating method.³

Results like these prompted a team of seven creation researchers to investigate the causes of incorrect radioisotope age estimates. They found two clues in granite rock that are best explained by radioisotopes that decayed much faster in the past than they do today. One clue was abundant helium trapped in tiny zircon crystals inside granite.⁴ Decaying uranium atoms emit alpha particles, which are equivalent to helium nuclei. Helium escapes the crystals at a measurable rate. If granites are billions of years old, helium levels inside the crystals should have long since depleted. But crystals from supposedly billion-year-old granites are

packed with helium. The best explanation for this is that radioactive decay that would normally take billions of years actually occurred very quickly.

The presence of abundant microscopic radiohalos in granite—darkened scars on certain minerals within granite—provided the second clue. Radioactive polonium-210 emits particles to quickly become lead-206. Also, as hot liquid magma cools to form solid granite, it can only capture the short-lived polonium radiohalos at a specific temperature range—allowing a time window of just days. Researchers found many short-lived polonium radiohalos right beside uranium radiohalos, which would not be expected. The best explanation for slow-cooling granite and quick-forming radiohalos is accelerated decay. Billions of years’ worth of uranium decay (at today’s rates) must have occurred within polonium’s lifetime of hundreds of days. This could only occur if radiodecay was once much faster.⁴

What could have caused the acceleration? Scientists have discovered a few conditions, such as ionization⁵ and fluid transport of daughter products,⁶ but nobody yet knows the exact cause of the acceleration.

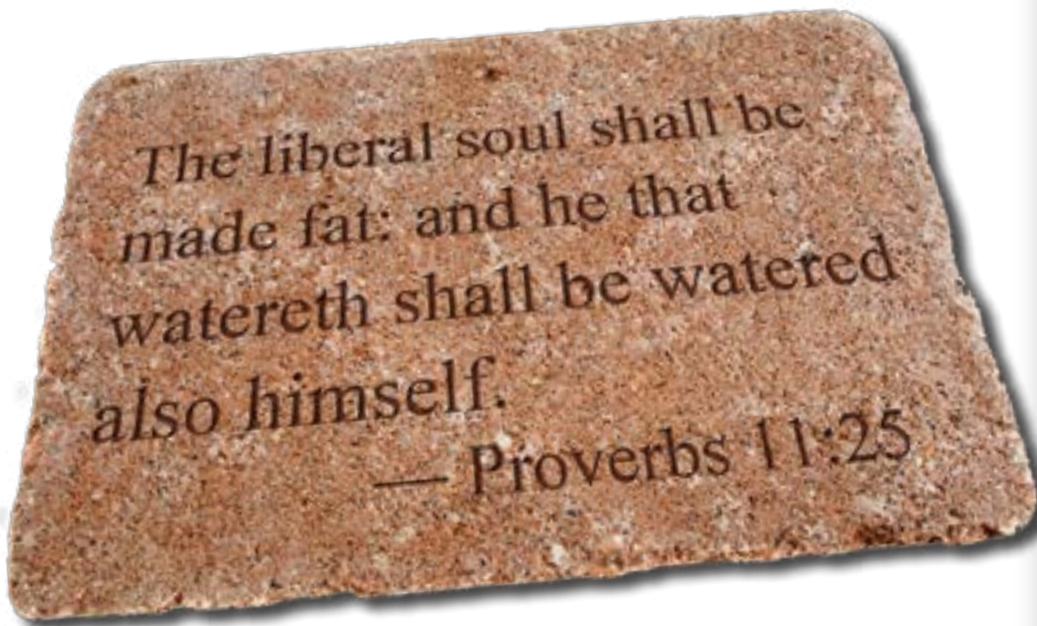
Trapped helium and short-lived polonium radiohalos present in granite suggest that radiodecay rates were once much higher than they are today. Plus, significantly older radiodates for rocks of a known age show that radiometric dating is not reliable. Although radioisotope methods may have some use in estimating *relative* ages of rocks, radioisotope methods give inflated age estimates, often because they falsely assume a constant decay rate.⁷ ●

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Mr. Thomas is Science Writer at the Institute for Creation Research, and Dr. Morris is President of the Institute for Creation Research.





GAINING GOD'S WAY

HENRY M. MORRIS IV

Hurrying to my son's baseball practice one windy winter day, I stumbled across a path of stepping stones leading to the field. Unless they fail to keep your feet dry, there's usually nothing remarkable about stepping stones—but these were unique. Though rather faded by the Texas sun, each stone was inscribed with a verse or two from Scripture. Most of them were taken from the Psalms or Proverbs and offered youngsters fitting words of encouragement to heed instruction or work diligently on the field of play.

But one stone seemed so out of place from the theme of the rest. On a stone near the drinking fountain were the words from Proverbs 11:25:

The liberal soul shall be made fat: and he that watereth shall be watered also himself.

It seemed that this particular verse may have been used in playful reference to the stone's proximity to the water fountain, but on deeper reflection, I realized this powerful verse had little to do with water at all.

I first found the phrase "liberal soul" rather troublesome, especially with the re-

cent political season fresh on my mind. The modern meaning typically defines those who seek to steer society away from its traditional (conservative) practices and beliefs. Could this really be from Scripture? After some study, I discovered that this unique reference to the "liberal soul"—the only occurrence in Scripture—applies to the *original* meaning of "liberal," that is, "liberating" or "generous." And in its biblical context, it refers to a person who is generous with his resources to help others.

Similarly, the following promise that those who are generous "shall be made fat" is not a biblical endorsement of a certain physical condition. Rather, it is a beautiful guarantee from the Great Provider Himself that He will always amply provide for those who are first generous.

The concept of water is used in the second part of this verse to convey a theme of blessing commonly found throughout Scripture. The phrase "he that watereth" literally means someone who refreshes, and in turn, they are promised that they "shall be watered also" with similar refreshment. What a marvelous promise of continued renewal to those who first seek to refresh others!

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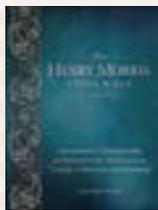
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Outside the fence of a simple baseball park on the blustery plains of Texas, I was shown a great lesson: In order to get, we must first give; in order to accumulate, we must first scatter; and in order to become refreshed, we must first seek to refresh others. The world's way to prosperity calls for guarding and hoarding our earthly riches, but this is not the Lord's way. God's way of gaining is by giving.

We at the Institute for Creation Research earnestly seek to glorify our Creator in all that we do, and we liberally give of our ministry to all who ask. ICR's work is supported by similar "liberal souls" who share our vision to communicate the wonders of God's magnificent creation to a lost and dying world. We can do so much more, but not without God's provision through His people. Please prayerfully consider how you can partner with us. ●

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





My wife bought Dr. Henry Morris' Bible for my Christmas present. I have a collection of Bibles, various versions [with] commentary, etc. But I have never come across such a comprehensive, lucid, and enlightening work. Genesis 1 is going to take a long time to work through; verse 1 alone is a study of its own. I am looking forward to many years of digesting this monumental work. He is no more here...but the blessing of his life's work remains as a source of motivation for us who remain.

— J.C.



Thank you so much for the excellent article on the accumulation of human genetic defects ["Human Mutation Clock Confirms Creation," November 2012 *Acts & Facts*]. It also provides a logical explanation for the decreasing lifespans described in the Bible.

— W.H.

Thanks for your communication of the truth as it pertains to creation. [ICR's presentation] was a great introduction to the subjects presented. Our people have been buzzing about the various topics. I overheard many of them discussing the presentations amongst themselves. This is excellent! The people have been equipped with information to defend their faith and given a desire to learn more. Your ministry is a very important organization that more churches should partner with. We were very pleased with the outcome of the month of seminars and hope to do it again sometime in the near future. Thank you for your professionalism and for your exegetical and scientific concern for the truth!

— K.W.

I am a subscriber to *Acts & Facts* as well as *Days of Praise*. I really appreciate all the information you make available to counter the lies of evolution and other lies bombarding the world as

well as the church...You open the eyes of so many that have been forced to memorize and accept the propaganda of the world. Your work always provides so much accurate information to assist others in sorting out inaccuracies. It is very difficult to point out a single article or effort, but a recent article by Dr. Jason Lisle, "Evolutionary Math?" (December 2012 *Acts & Facts*) is a wonderful example of how truth teaches us "how to think" instead of "what to think."

— W.E.



I have just read the December 2012 *Acts & Facts* cover to cover. It was amazing! We have been receiving *Acts & Facts* for a number of years.

My wife and I have supported the ministry of ICR over the years. She is a midwife and nurse educator. I have a Masters in Nursing Education and within the next year [will] add a Masters in Instructional Technology...I think [Dr. Jake Hebert's] call [in his article, "Wanted: Young Creation Scientists"] could also go out to older students and retired faculty or researchers in the sciences. All are...thought-provoking articles. I really liked Dr. Jason Lisle's piece on numbers ["Evolutionary Math?"]. The whole issue was full of great material.

— S.M.

Your website www.youroriginsmatter.com is great. Keep up your work! [Editor's note: This website is a ministry of ICR, in addition to our home website www.icr.org.]

— M.M.

[Dr. James Johnson's] article entitled "Christmas, Vikings, and the Providence of God" [*Acts & Facts*, December 2012] is stupendous and stupefying. His knowledge of relevant genealogy is amazing. I have never read such an incredible historical article in my life, and I have been studying the biblical basis of western civilization for over 40 years.

— L.B.

My wife and I have received your newsletters for about thirty years since we first heard [one of your speakers] on a Houston radio station back in about 1981. We had not known about ICR previously, but, [this speaker] spoke in a manner and confidence that encouraged both of us in our biblical understanding and in our "young earth" beliefs. This month, when I received *Acts & Facts*, I read it from cover to cover at one sitting. My wife is on the couch reading it from front to back with the same sense of enjoyment and encouragement. Dr. Jason Lisle's article, "Evolutionary Math?" and Dr. James Johnson's "Christmas, Vikings and the Providence of God" and Frank Sherwin's treatise on "Christmas Island Zoology" are simply EXCELLENT. Dr. Lisle took an abstract and made it so understandable that I had to laugh at the ease of his style in teaching. Outstanding! Then, Dr. Johnson told us details of our American forbears that I had never heard. Wonderful! And, Mr. Sherwin's "zoology" teaching made us both laugh at the wonder of our Father's creation on Christmas Island. Thanks for a wonderful ministry and a superb magazine. We always look forward to hearing more about your work.

— B.T.

I really enjoy your [Jayme Durant's] magazine editorials. You write with heart and your subjects are relative to the important meaning of life. It is easy to forget what life is really about when we are distracted by all the strange (but necessary) happenings these days. Thank you for sharing yourself as you direct readers toward fellowship with Jesus in your uncluttered and inspired way.

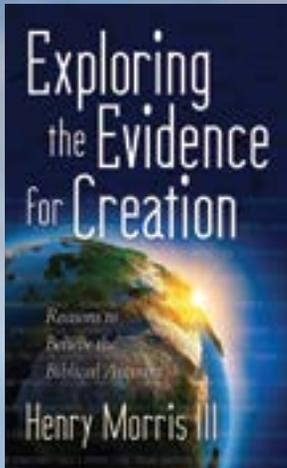
— D.H.

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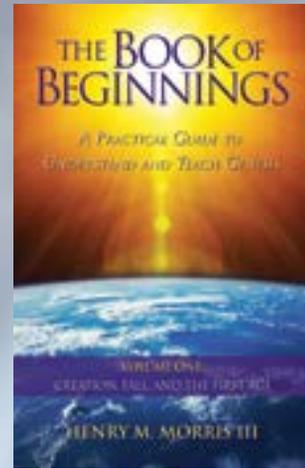
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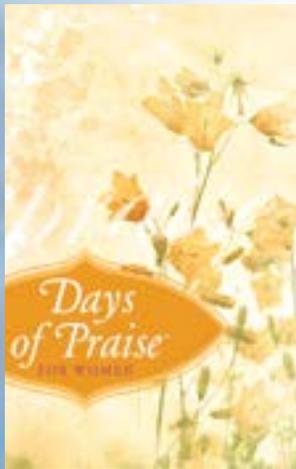
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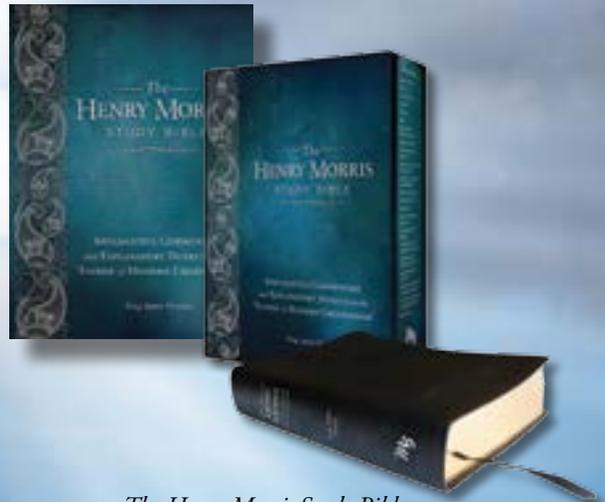
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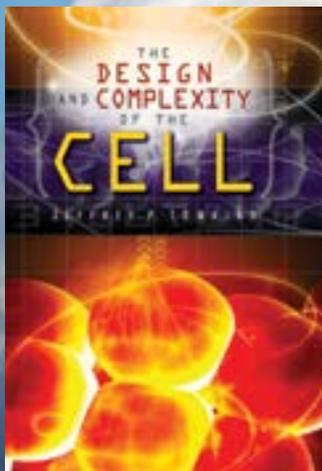
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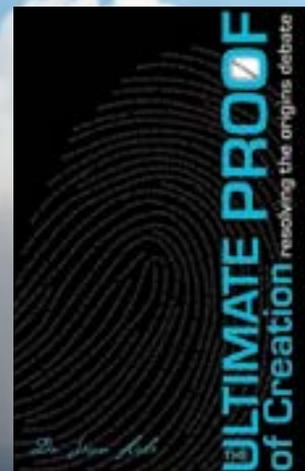
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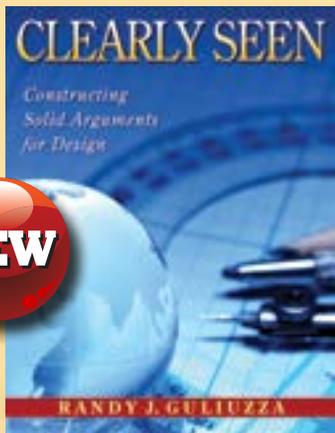
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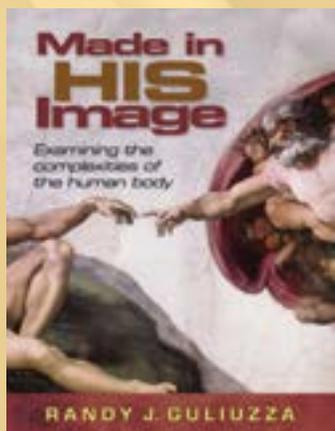
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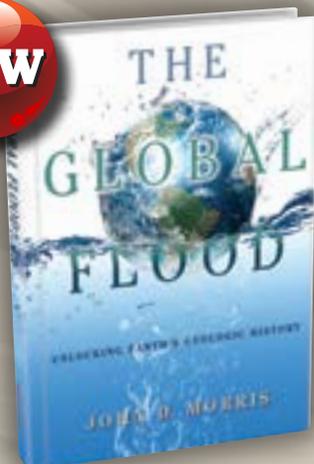
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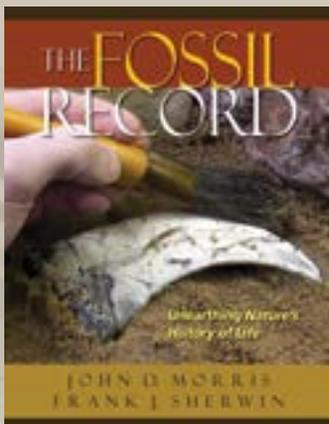
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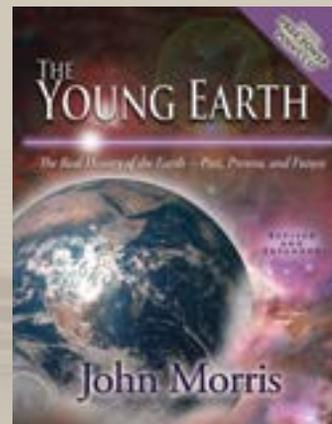
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