

ACTS & FACTS

INSTITUTE FOR
CREATION RESEARCH

www.icr.org

AUGUST 2015

VOL. 44 NO. 8



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P. O. Box 59029
Dallas, TX 75229
214.615.8300
www.icr.org

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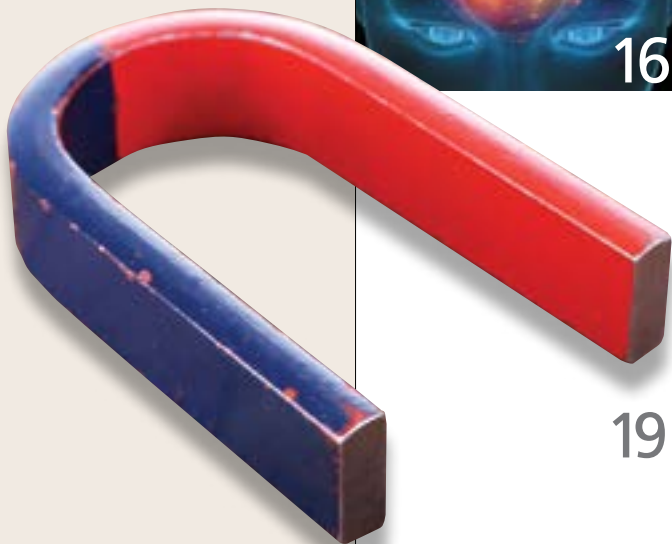
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Words and Music

For more than 20 years, the sounds of music have echoed off the walls of my home. All four of my children began playing piano at young ages, and they began to sing as soon as they could make sounds. *Ma-ma-ma* had its own sweet melody.

I didn't have to be in the room to know who was at the piano. I knew by the music. Certainly, I could tell by selection—my youngest daughter preferred Beethoven and jazz, while my oldest preferred Mozart and worship. My son picked up the latest pop song he heard on the radio. And my special needs daughter played, over and over, halting notes from nursery rhymes. But even if two children were practicing the same composition for an upcoming recital, I could tell who it was by the way they played that particular piece. They each had their own touch—their unique gift of music.

I thought of the music in my home as I read Dr. Henry Morris III's feature article this month about music in the church ("Sounds of Music, Words of Truth," pages 5-7). He says, "Every instrument has a sound, a 'breath,' that can praise the Lord...Those sounds can bring tears of joy or sadness. They can thrill our hearts or chill our souls. The sounds of music, rightly played, sync our hearts, our minds, our souls, and our bodies in a single purpose." How many times have we entered church distracted by the cares of the world only to have the worship music calm our minds and hearts so we could focus on the message God provided that day? Dr. Morris also re-

minds us how worship music can prepare us to hear a message from God's Word: "Godly music sets the stage and prepares the heart for the clear instruction of the Word of God."

My oldest daughter now plays the piano and sings as part of a church worship team, and I love to visit her church. Those who use their gifts in music to lead people in worship—whether it's a choir, praise team, orchestra, organist, or pianist—minister to hearts in a special way. The balance of worshipful music and a message centered on the Word of God refreshes the soul and prepares believers to learn and grow.

I must admit, when my children sat down at the piano in those beginning days, I sometimes slipped into another room and shut the door because the banging sounds and missed notes rattled me a bit. But as their skills grew and they were better able to express their piano and vocal gifts with gracefulness, the music became a balm on hectic days. On many occasions, I settled on the couch next to them, closed my eyes, and welcomed the sweet sounds of music.

Music in the church can serve a similar purpose, soothing our souls, giving us rest, and, as Dr. Morris points out, drawing us to the Word of God. God uses both words of truth and awe-inspiring music to prepare the hearts of believers to persevere in faith and ministry.

Jayme Durant
EXECUTIVE EDITOR



SOUNDS *of* MUSIC, WORDS *of* TRUTH

HENRY M. MORRIS III, D. MIN.

But Jesus answered him, saying, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.’”

(LUKE 4:4)

Many of us have seen the 1965 musical *The Sound of Music* with Julie Andrews (Maria) and Christopher Plummer (Captain von Trapp).¹ This year marks its 50th anniversary. Compared to the raucous musicals of today and the TV programs and movies that are ever-pushing the envelope toward open and gleeful wickedness, the classic is a pleasure to watch.

However, “poetic license” is often taken as the media’s authorization to distort truth, and the story promotes a worldview without

a personal Creator God. The film certainly reflects the accepted view that nature is the ultimate source for truth and that our feelings are the way we can verify what is truth “for us.” Unfortunately, many of our churches have come into sync with Maria’s opening song:

The hills are alive with the sound of music,
With songs they have sung for a thousand years.
The hills fill my heart with the sound of music.
My heart wants to sing every song it hears.



With obvious delight swirling from her dancing and with her heart beating in time with the “hills” message of revelation, Maria continues to sing:

My heart wants to beat like the wings of the birds
That rise from the lake to the trees.
My heart wants to sigh like a chime
That flies from a church on a breeze.

To laugh like a brook when it trips
And falls over stones on its way.
To sing through the night
Like a lark who is learning to pray.

Enraptured with religious feeling and natural beauty, Maria later tells the Abbess, “I can’t seem to stop singing wherever I am. And what’s worse, I can’t seem to stop saying things—anything and everything I think and feel.” Throughout the film, the heart is featured as a trustworthy guide to life’s activities and decisions. During a discussion about Maria, Sister Margaretta suggests that rules often conflict with our heart because “after all, the wool from the black sheep is just as warm.”

The message? “Rules from any source should not govern your life. Your heart is the most trustworthy guide.”

Sadly, much of the evangelical world has shifted from attention to “every word of God” toward a “sound” of Christianity that feels good. For example, far too many churches are more centered on the performance of their worship team than on the words of the songs they sing. Often, the sound and volume of the music override whatever good words are in the song—so much so that many of the words cannot be understood. Yet, the audience will applaud the performance because it sounds and feels good.

It is still true that many churches are trying to strike the right balance between modern expectations and genuine worship. It is also true that most pastors are trying their best to teach and preach God’s Word. Some congregations, however, tend to reward non-controversy over a clear stand on God’s Word. Some are caught up in petty disputes that drive those who are hungering and thirsting after righteousness back into the godless world—or worse yet, harden their hearts against the “living word” that could free them. Perhaps the sounds of the world are drowning out the message of God. Perhaps the “renewing of our mind” is held back from “transforming” our lives (Romans 12:1-2) because the heart is beating too loudly with the “lust of the flesh” (1 John 2:16).

This is not a new problem among the churches. Among the seven churches to whom the Lord Jesus addressed Himself in the early chapters of the book of Revelation, there were only two (Philadelphia and Smyrna) that were not reprimanded for some serious difficulty. Two (Ephesus and Laodicea) were warned that they were even in danger of losing their very “church-ness” (lose its authority as a church, have its lampstand removed). Those seven churches, representative of all churches since our Lord returned to His throne, set the stage—both good and bad—for what we should pay attention to.

Ezekiel faced a similar problem when God commissioned him to challenge the exiled Israelites to pay attention to the *reason* they were in exile and to God’s *promises* of their future restoration. God warned Ezekiel that the message would be difficult to hear and even more challenging to embrace. In several places, God insisted that Ezekiel was to preach the message “whether they hear or whether they refuse” (Ezekiel 2:5, 7; 3:11). Some were openly defiant, but more were generally accepting, encouraging others: “Please come and hear what the word is that comes from the LORD” (Ezekiel 33:30). But they were merely listening to the pleasant “sound” of godly words.

So they come to you as people do, they sit before you as My people, and they hear your words, but they do not do them; for with their mouth they show much love, but their hearts pursue their own gain. Indeed you are to them as a very lovely song of one who has a pleasant voice and can play well on an instrument; for they hear your words, but they do not do them. (Ezekiel 33:31-32)

God’s observation to Ezekiel is surely applicable today. Poll after poll has noted a slippage in the religious fervor in America. Not only has the overall “Christian” percentage slipped a few points, but more and more younger people are moving from identity with a recognized denomination (Baptist, Presbyterian, Catholic, etc.) to what has come to be called the “nones”—those who refuse to be identified with any religious movement. Some might consider themselves “Christian” and would not identify as Islamic or Hindu or another religion but consider themselves to be “spiritual.” One-fifth of the U.S. public—and a third of adults under 30—are religiously unaffiliated today, the highest percentages ever in Pew Research Center polling.²

It has been clear for some time, however, that the “Christian” majority is Christian in name only. That is, they either have a family history of Christianity or they themselves attend some church from time to time. Their religion is mostly an intellectual awareness, a su-

Yet these “sounds” are only the carrier for the message! Musical sounds do not save anyone. In our church assemblies, music can be an effective means by which we give the message of truth, but that truth needs to be clarified by the words of truth.

perfidious affirmation, or a pleasant assurance about their lifestyle or their life after death. They feel good if and when they think about Christianity, but most of their lives do not reflect any kind of commitment to following Christ or His commandments.

Today's churches and the Christians who are among them—like the church in Pergamos who dwelt in the middle of “Satan's throne” and yet remained faithful (Revelation 2:12-14)—are given the grave responsibility to emulate the good characteristics identified among those seven churches in Revelation.

- Detest evil and test for truth while taking the “long view.”
- Remain faithful in the face of tribulation and bold in the face of suffering.
- Maintain a faithful testimony even during the darkest time of error.
- Declare the name of Jesus Christ under all circumstances.
- Be generous in service and in charity and grow more effective over time.
- Be aware of strengths from the Lord and continue guarding the Word of God.

The Lord Jesus also identified several bad characteristics that churches must avoid. They are not to let their love grow cold or permit false teaching to remain. Churches are warned against compromise (the doctrine of Balaam), those who are “Nicolaitans” (people conquerors), or those who are false prophets (Jezebels). Nor should churches become indifferent to growing deadness or confuse worldly success with spiritual success. It is possible for a church to become “unchurched” by Christ and possible for a church to incur His anger, causing Christ Himself to actually “fight against” that church! Woe to the church and its members who become specifically troubled by Christ for their disobedience or are plundered suddenly while unaware of their disarray. They've lost their “ear” for the truth of God's Word.

The sounds of music can motivate as well as dull. Godly music sets the stage and prepares the heart for the clear instruction of the Word of God. Music has always played a strong role in the assembly of God's people, and it is as much a part of worship in eternity as is the activity around the throne (Revelation 5:9; 14:3; 15:3).

The widely variant sounds of music can be used either appropriately or inappropriately in many settings. One would never use the somber laments of respect for the dead to call an army to alert. In fact, “if the trumpet makes an uncertain sound, who will prepare for battle?” (1 Corinthians 14:8). Would Miriam have used a dirge

The sounds of music, rightly played, sync our hearts, our minds, our souls, and our bodies in a single purpose. In the assembly of the saints, the sounds of music should draw all of who and what we are to listen to the words of God.

of sadness to praise the works of God in delivering Israel from Pharaoh (Exodus 15)? Can one imagine David strumming sedately on his harp as he sang Psalm 149 and instructed the nation to “rejoice” and “dance” and “be joyful in glory”?

Yet these “sounds” are only the carrier for the message! Musical sounds do not save anyone. In our church assemblies, music can be an effective means by which we give the message of truth, but that truth needs to be clarified by the words of truth. As wonderful as are the unwritten “speech” and “knowledge” of the creation (Psalm 19:1-2)—and even though the “invisible” nature and power of God are “clearly seen” by the creation (Romans 1:20)—it is by the “word of God” that faith is transmitted to the mind and heart of all humanity (Romans 10:17). The sounds of music are very important! They can uplift us and give expression to our feelings of joy and praise. But if the sounds outweigh or overshadow the *words* of God's Word, then the sounds get in the way of the message. Opposing the truth of God's Word and the sounds of godly music are the unfettered sounds and words of an ungodly world. The cacophony of the “sound and fury” of the Devil as he “walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour,” is horribly powerful (1 Peter 5:8).

Every instrument has a sound, a “breath,” that can praise the Lord (Psalm 150). Those sounds can be orchestrated together in a majestic hymn or carol or chorus. They can bring the walls down around Jericho or call the builders of the Jerusalem wall to war! Those sounds can bring tears of joy or sadness. They can thrill our hearts or chill our souls. The sounds of music, rightly played, sync our hearts, our minds, our souls, and our bodies in a single purpose. In the assembly of the saints, the sounds of music should draw all of who and what we are to listen to the words of God.

And herein lies the challenge for us. The “sounds” of the world are everywhere. The “noise” of evil is a strident screech that threatens to engulf any effort to sing the song of truth. But sing we must!

Oh, sing to the LORD a new song! Sing to the LORD, all the earth. Sing to the LORD, bless His name; Proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day. Declare His glory among the nations, His wonders among all peoples. (Psalm 96:1-3) ●

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



Carbon-Dating Fossils

ICR researchers continue to look for radiocarbon in ancient carbon-containing Earth materials. Archaeologists commonly use carbon-14, or radiocarbon, to estimate ages for organic artifacts. No measurable amounts should exist in samples older than about 100,000 years because radiocarbon atoms would decay into nitrogen-14 before then.¹ However, we keep finding carbon-14 in materials designated as tens or even hundreds of millions of years old.

ICR's RATE initiative (Radioisotopes and the Age of the Earth) revealed radiocarbon in coal samples and deeply buried diamonds deemed hundreds of millions of years old.² Andrew Snelling later reported radiocarbon in supposedly 32 million-year-old wood from a Colorado mine³ and in a supposedly 116 million-year-old ammonite shell.⁴

Secular scientists published dozens of carbon-14 measurements from samples considered much older than 100,000 years long before the RATE scientists found their examples, but so far few efforts have systematically explored radiocarbon in Mesozoic fossils.⁵ I partnered with Canadian creation researcher Vance Nelson and others to report 16 radiocarbon results from wood, seven dinosaur bones, and lizard and fish skeletons removed from sedimentary rock.⁶ Vance acquired most of the fossils and their radiocarbon results. I added more and compared them with already published carbon dates for fossils as well as the RATE team's ten coal samples. If Cenozoic, Mesozoic, and Paleozoic sources were deposited in the single Flood year, we would expect them to contain comparable amounts of radiocarbon. We found exactly that in almost 50 samples taken from throughout the geologic column.⁷



A steel spatula separates matrix accretion from the outer surface of a hadrosaur caudal vertebra from the Hell Creek Formation of North Dakota.

We could only find two published secular radiocarbon dates for fossils found below Ice Age layers. One reported radiocarbon in a supposedly 70 million-year-old mosasaur fossil from Belgium,⁸ and the other reported radiocarbon in a supposedly 505 million-year-old sponge from Canada's famous Burgess Shale.⁹ Their authors both suggested contamination, but neither study presented scientific evidence to support this assertion. Claiming contamination merely offers a hypothetical rescue from radiocarbon's implications for their

These compelling results leave open the hypotheses that some, most, or all of the detected radiocarbon is intrinsic to the fossils. If so, then they were deposited thousands, not millions, of years ago in accord with the biblical Flood model.

long-age assignments. The contamination story holds that chemicals containing modern radiocarbon adhered to or replaced ancient carbon in coal, wood, shell, collagen, or bone. What would be the sources of such contamination?

Contaminated fossils might be found near geographically or stratigraphically localized contamination sources, although there are no known plausible ways to bombard underground nitrogen with the high-energy neutrons required to change it into radiocarbon.¹⁰ Our discoveries of radiocarbon in samples from all over the world and throughout the geologic column refute localized contamination.



The hadrosaur caudal vertebra broken in two reveals porous trabecular bone. We found radiocarbon both in trabecular bone scrapings and a separate sample area taken from the denser, outer cortical bone fragments.

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We also compared radiocarbon results acquired at five different laboratories, ruling out lab-induced contamination.¹¹

Furthermore, lab procedures are excellent at removing contaminating carbon, unless it has replaced the original carbon in a process called *isotope exchange*. There is at present no direct test for whether or not isotope exchange took place while a fossil was underground, but we plan to look for fossil clues that could indirectly test it. For example, preliminary analyses of fossil bones reveal carbon-13 to carbon-12 ratios very similar to ratios found in modern bones, despite the fact that carbon-13 is very rare. What are the odds that contaminating processes from different locations would coincidentally produce the precise carbon-13 to carbon-12 ratios that mimic fresh bones? These compelling results leave open the hypotheses that some, most, or all of the detected radiocarbon is intrinsic to the fossils. If so, then they were deposited thousands, not millions, of years ago in accord with the biblical Flood model.

Two years ago, Dr. Jake Hebert stated, “We are confident that additional testing will only strengthen the case for a biblically consistent age of the earth.”¹² Our new results so far show he was right.



The Hell Creek Formation from which this fossil was collected is supposedly at least 67 million years old, but multiple dinosaur bone samples from this and nearby rocks reveal measurable radiocarbon that refutes this age assignment.

However, more hypotheses await testing, and more possible sources of contamination need to be explored, so we will continue analyzing suitable fossils and their radiocarbon results as the Lord permits. ●

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



The author collects original biomaterial from a mounted paddlefish fossil from the Green River Formation of Wyoming. Paddlefish, or *Polyodon spathula*, have cartilaginous skeletons that look just like this fossil despite a supposed 50 million-year span. We instructed the radiocarbon lab to remove any preservatives from the sample with solvent washes before the standard acid and combustion procedures. The radiocarbon in this fossil should not have lasted beyond 100,000 years, let alone 50 million.



More DNA Evidence Against Human Chromosome Fusion

One of the most common arguments evolutionists use to promote the theory that humans evolved from an apelike ancestor is the idea of a “chromosome 2 fusion.” This story proposes that in a common ancestor shared by humans and chimps, two small chromosomes somehow fused end to end to produce human chromosome 2 (Figure 1).¹ This supposedly explains the difference in chromosome numbers between humans and great apes—humans have 46 chromosomes, while great apes such as chimps, gorillas, and orangutans have 48.

To understand the concept

associated with an end-to-end fusion model, it is important to know what the ends of chromosomes, *telomeres*, look like. Telomeres are made up of special chromosomal end sequences of the six-base DNA sequence TTAGGG that are repeated over and over again in perfect tandem.

In fact, typical human telomeres are quite large, between 5,000 to 15,000 bases long.²

In 1991, scientists reported finding alleged evidence of a telomere-telomere fusion event on human chromosome 2, but it was not quite what they were expecting.³ First, the sequence was only about 800 bases long—not the 10,000 bases or more you would expect if two 5,000-base

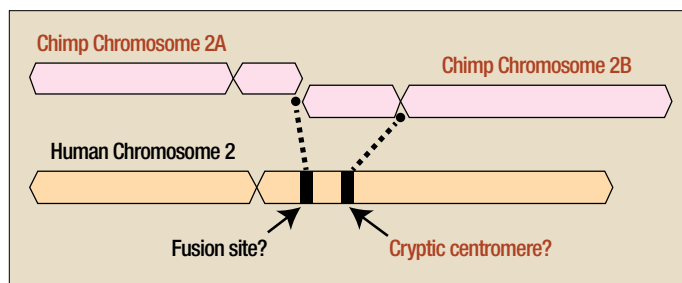


Figure 1. Depiction of the mythical fusion event drawn to actual comparative scale. Note that the fusion site and cryptic centromere site don't even line up. Also note that approximately 24 million bases of chimp chr2B are missing (~10%).

(or larger) telomeres fused together.

Second, the fusion-like sequence was very degenerate and only 70% similar to what one would expect of a pristine fusion sequence of the same size. Even if you assume an evolutionary timeline of up to six million years since the fusion event occurred, the data do not match up with known mutation rates or the variability found in human DNA.

A third major problem is the fusion site contains no type of sequence called satellite DNA (satDNA). In chromosome fusion events that occur in nature in living mammals—a very rare event—the DNA signature always involves satDNA producing a DNA signature that occurs as either satDNA-satDNA or satDNA-teloDNA sequence.^{4,5,6} Thus, the alleged fusion event should contain satDNA—a problem the fusion site discoverers openly acknowledged in their initial 1991 paper. When teloDNA-teloDNA fusions do occur in humans, they involve tissues and cell lines associated with cancerous tumors.^{7,8,9}

A fourth major problem for the alleged fusion signature on chromosome 2 is that it occurs in a region of the genome that is full of genes. Telomeres do not contain genes, yet the fusion site is in the midst of a hotbed of genetic activity. The gene neighborhood surrounding the alleged fusion lacks overall synteny (similar gene order) to the chimp genome and does not support a fusion scenario in any way. This was first noticed in 2002 by secular researchers, although the chimp genome had not been well sequenced at that time.^{10,11} This author has recently verified that an overall lack of synteny supporting fusion still holds true for over 2.7 million bases surrounding the fusion site based on the most recent version of the chimpanzee genome compared to human (Tomkins, unpublished data).

Despite all of these serious difficulties, the greatest problem that evolutionists now have is the fact that the alleged fusion sequence is located in the middle of a functional gene.¹² It is not a fossil remnant of a chromosomal accident at all but an important DNA regulatory feature called a *promoter* (genetic switch) inside a highly expressed gene.

More specifically, the purported fusion site is located inside a crucial RNA helicase gene called DDX11L2 that produces long non-coding RNAs. This gene is expressed in at least 255 different tissue and cell types in humans and is highly coregulated with many other important genes in the cell.¹² So not only is the gene highly active throughout the human body, it is tightly networked with many other genes, including those that are involved in the development of blood cells.

But the evolutionary fusion story gets worse. The fusion-like sequence itself has an important functional purpose based on recent data available at the UCSC Genome Browser (genome.ucsc.edu) genomic database. Specifically, the fusion site sequence binds to at least 11 different transcription factors, including RNA polymerase II, the key enzyme that transcribes genes. Transcription factors are specialized proteins that turn genes off and on. The fact that these proteins specifically bind to the alleged fusion site sequence indicates that it is a promoter located inside the gene (Figure 2). It is common for hu-

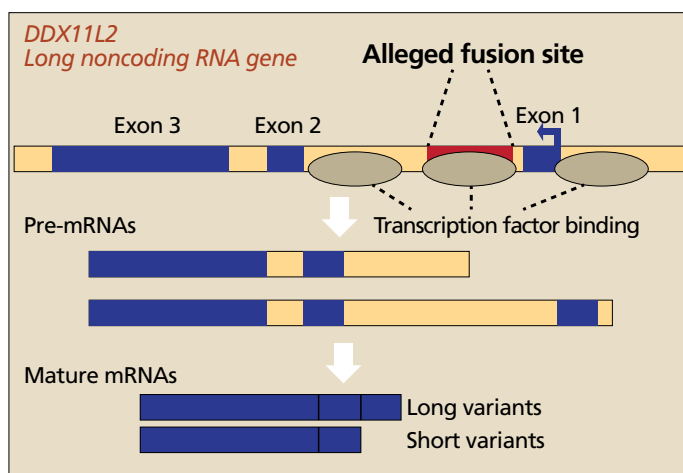


Figure 2. The fusion site inside the DDX11L2 gene and the two different types of RNAs produced by the gene. The short RNAs are produced by the fusion site.

man genes to have these promoter regions located both in front of the main body of the gene and inside them.

In the case of the fusion-like sequence, its designed function is as a second promoter inside the DDX11L2 gene. As mentioned above, RNA polymerase II also binds to the fusion sequence. Along with the binding of RNA polymerase is the fact that transcription has also been shown to start inside the fusion-like sequence, further validating it as a functional genetic element inside an important gene, not some random accident of fusion. This data can be found in the Functional Annotation of the Mammalian Genome (fantom.gsc.riken.jp/5) database and will be described in more detail in a future technical report by this author.

So, what is the ultimate designed purpose of this supposed fusion-like sequence? First, it is important to note that DNA is a double-stranded molecule and genes are located on both of its strands, running in opposite directions from each other. The two DNA strands are typically designated the plus and minus strands. The DDX11L2 gene and the fusion-like sequence inside it are actually encoded on the minus strand and oriented in the reverse complement of what is typically depicted as the fusion sequence. Second, the DDX11L2 gene actually encodes RNA transcripts of two different lengths—short variants (~1,700 bases long) and long variants (~2,200 bases long). In this respect, the fusion site itself appears to be the functional start site for the shorter transcript variants (Figure 2).

Another very interesting fact about this sequence is that it is not entirely unique to the purported fusion site. Portions of it contain significant levels of similarity to other areas throughout the human genome, including many internal regions that are not near telomeres.^{13,14} These internally located telomere-like sequences in the middle of chromosomes are quite common in the human genome and are believed to serve various functional purposes, including the regulation of gene expression.^{15,16}

While evolutionists typically point to the presence of an alleged fusion site as the main evidence of fusion, they also claim that a cryptic centromere exists as well. However, the evidence for this is considered to be much weaker. The general idea is based on the fact that if a fusion of two smaller chromosomes actually occurred in the distant past, you would have two centromeres in the newly formed chimeric chromosome—one from each of the two parent chromosomes (Figure 1). Centromeres are specialized sections of DNA located inside chromosomes that help cells control the DNA during cell division. In the case of a fusion event, this would instantly create an unstable situation leading to the destruction of the cell. According to the evolutionary fusion model, one of the two centromeres in the newly fused chromosome was somehow “silenced” and then degenerated over time.

Centromeres are composed of a type of DNA sequence called alphoid DNA, a clearly recognizable DNA sequence pattern about 171 bases in length. Alphoid DNA is actually found all over the human genome, but it is important to understand that there are different types (variants) of alphoid DNA sequence, each with different functions in the genome.

Research has shown that the alphoid DNA alleged to be a cryptic centromere is not the same type as that found at actual functional human centromeres.¹⁷ The alphoid sequences at the supposed cryptic centromere site are quite diverse and form three separate subgroups.¹³ In fact, the overall patterns of the alphoid sequence sub-members are not even similar to the patterns found in functional human centromeres. In addition, the location of the alleged cryptic centromere site does not match where it should be if a fusion actually occurred (Figure 1).

Complicating matters further is the fact that alphoid sequences differ markedly between humans and apes.^{18,19} In fact, when the human alphoid DNA sequence at the supposed ancient centromere site is compared to the chimp genome, not a single similar positive match is obtained.¹³ Thus,

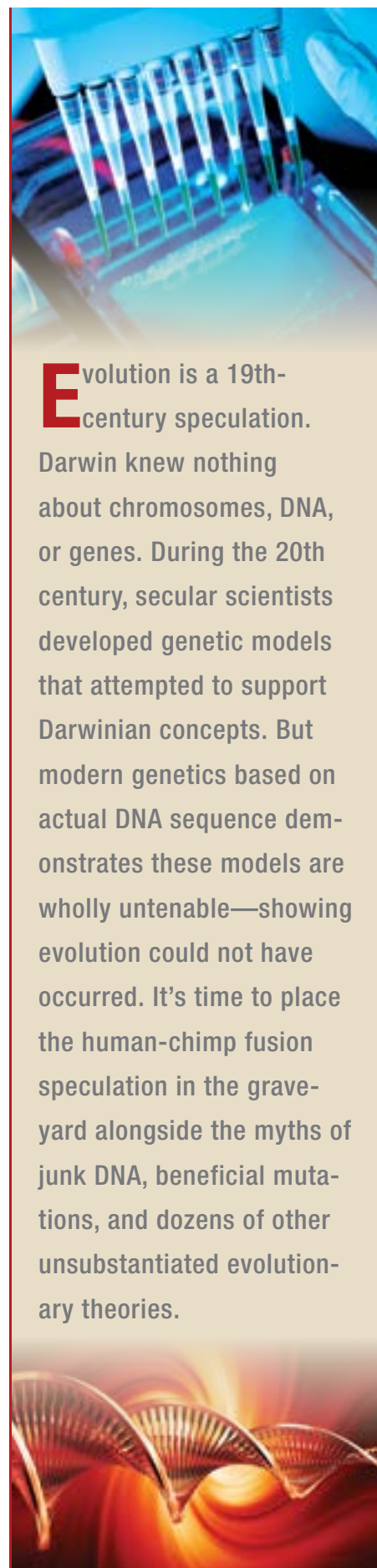
not only is the so-called fossil centromere sequence dissimilar to functional human centromeres, it has no sequence correspondence to the chimp genome either.

In short, the overwhelming lack of evidence for a chromosome 2 fusion does not support the evolutionary story in any feasible way. Clearly, the so-called fusion sequence is an important functional feature called a promoter inside a highly expressed gene, not an accident of evolution. ●

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Evolution is a 19th-century speculation. Darwin knew nothing about chromosomes, DNA, or genes. During the 20th century, secular scientists developed genetic models that attempted to support Darwinian concepts. But modern genetics based on actual DNA sequence demonstrates these models are wholly untenable—showing evolution could not have occurred. It’s time to place the human-chimp fusion speculation in the graveyard alongside the myths of junk DNA, beneficial mutations, and dozens of other unsubstantiated evolutionary theories.

Belief in an old earth creates enormous theological problems for Christians. There is an obvious tension with a straightforward reading of Genesis, as well as the problem of animal death and suffering before Adam's sin. Nevertheless, Christians who advocate an old earth might argue that these difficulties, though serious, are tolerable as long as one affirms that human death, at least, began with Adam (Romans 5:12-21). This is because logically Christ's death on the cross can only pay for our sins if human death really is the penalty for sin. And since a just God would not impose the penalty for sin before a sin had actually been committed, human death could not have occurred before Adam's fall. This may seem obvious since one would naturally conclude this from Genesis, but it is a logical necessity for the Christian faith to be true.

Thus, human death as the penalty for sin is a nonnegotiable Christian doctrine. If human death did not originate with Adam, then the gospel itself is logically undermined because the doctrine of blood atonement for sin makes no sense apart from death as a consequence of Adam's fall (Genesis 2:15-17). This is such an obvious point that even old-earth Christian organizations sometimes take great pains to affirm that Adam was indeed the first true man.¹

Old-earth Christians who acknowledge Adam as a real person may think their compromise position leaves the doctrine of atonement unaffected since they affirm that human death began with Adam. But in reality they have, theologically and logically, already "given away the store." This is because in order to affirm Adam as the first man, they must also deny the humanity of any "hominids" assumed to predate Adam and Eve, such as Neandertals.

However, the evidence for the true humanity of these ancient people is very strong. Even evolutionists have conceded that Neandertals could speak, deliberately buried their dead, used tools, and even interbred with so-called "modern" humans.^{2,3} Of course, if they

A Historical Adam Is Not Enough



Evolutionist reconstruction of a Neanderthal man.

interbred with humans, then by definition they too must have been human.⁴ Likewise, Neandertals lived in cold climates that would have necessitated the wearing of clothing, which was given to man to cover his nakedness after the Fall (Genesis 3:21). Therefore, it is implausible to claim that Neandertals, which even some evolutionists classify as a "subspecies" of *Homo sapiens*, were not genuine members of the human family.

But since old-earth Christians have already accepted the premise that Neandertals existed before Adam, this would imply that human death did *not* begin with Adam, even if he were a real person. Thus, the only thing preventing old-earth Christians from reaching this disastrous theological conclusion is their untenable denial of Neandertals' humanity. And untenable positions cannot be maintained for very long. In this light, it is not surprising that some professing old-earth Christians have begun to openly claim that Adam never existed.⁵

But if Neandertals were actually post-Babel descendants of Noah, then this theological conundrum is instantly resolved. And it is only secular old-earth interpretations imposed on the data that lead to the conclusions that Earth is old and Neandertals predated Adam. Despite the claims of secular scientists, the evidence strongly favors a young world, a young human race, and the reality of the global Flood of Noah. Therefore, taking Scripture at face value provides an intellectually satisfying way of interpreting both the theological and scientific data. ●

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No Bones About It!

There's No Evidence Humans Evolved

*But from the beginning of the creation,
God made them male and female.
(Mark 10:6)*

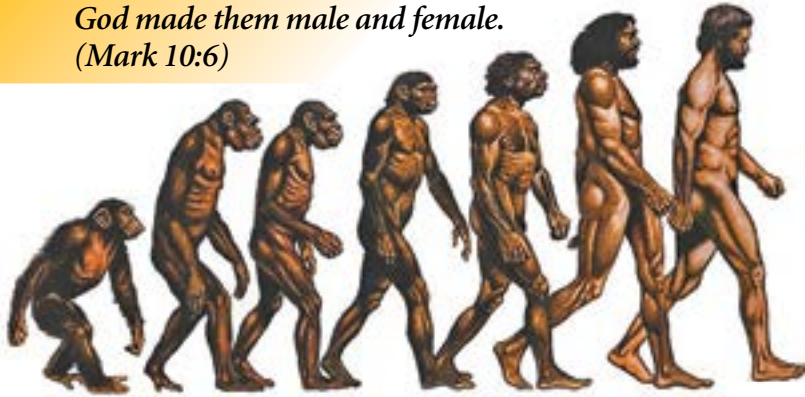


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Most of us have been exposed to the illustration depicting the ascent of man from an apelike ancestor to a modern human. This concept has been taught to generations of young people as scientific fact and is now so integrated into Western culture that not only the vast majority of people but also the vast majority of scientists simply accept it as fact without bothering to investigate the actual observational evidence that supports or refutes it.

In the early 19th century the opposite was true—i.e., most people believed that God created man and woman on the sixth day of creation. So what happened in the last century and a half to change that? Charles Darwin published his landmark book *The Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection* in 1859. The secular humanists, who were searching for a hypothesis of human origins that eliminated the need for God, seized the opportunity and quickly integrated the evolutionary principle into their philosophical foundation. They proceeded to identify their philosophy with science itself and systematically persuaded several generations to believe that macroevolution, naturalism, and uniformitarianism were all scientific facts.^{1,2,3}

However, most people are unaware that Charles Darwin questioned his own hypothesis of origins: “Why, if species have descended from other species by insensibly fine gradations, do we not everywhere see innumerable transitional forms?”⁴ The natural consequence of this philosophical approach to science—meshing philosophy and science together and insisting everyone swallow the mixture as a single proven concept—has been the demotion of man to the same level as animals, which is a very destructive idea.

Until the 20th century, the real facts of science were the thoughtful observations and results of reproducible experiments. Obviously, we cannot go back in time and observe where man actually came from, so we are relegated to analyzing the observational data and forming an opinion about whether it supports or refutes a particular

hypothesis of origins. Those data are the fossils and records ancient man left behind. Only one eyewitnessed history actually records the origin of man—the Bible, which obviously supports creation. Other historical records of ancient man cut off rather abruptly around 5,000 years ago,⁵ which, though not conclusive, is consistent with the biblical timescale; we do not find historical documents that go back further than Genesis. So, that leaves us with the fossil record.

The fossil record, in its entirety, clearly shows:⁶

- (1) Fossils that are indistinguishable from modern humans are found in strata that secularists believe to be around 4.5 million years old. Yet, the fossils of creatures that evolutionists believe to be our apelike progenitors are estimated to be more recent.⁷ How can man predate his own supposed ancestor?
- (2) A supposed transitional form for humans called *Homo erectus* demonstrates morphological consistency throughout its entire alleged two-million-year history with no evidence of *H. erectus* evolving from or into something else.
- (3) Anatomically modern *Homo sapiens* (us), Neandertal, archaic *Homo sapiens*, and *Homo erectus* all lived as contemporaries at one time or another. These were all people as we define modern people today, 100% human, with only subtle “ethnic” differences in their anatomy.
- (4) *Homo habilis* fossils are contemporary with *Homo erectus* fossils. Therefore, *H. habilis* could not have evolved into *H. erectus*. Plus, some evolutionary paleoanthropologists regard this “species” as possessing an invalid name since the fossils are so sparse and of circuitous origin.
- (5) There are no fossils of *Australopithecus* or any other primate stock in the proper alleged time frame to serve as evolutionary ancestors to humans.

In summary, the fossil record and ancient history effectively falsify the hypothesis of the macroevolution of humans. Man first appeared on the scene as fully formed man just as the Bible unequivocally states. Creation is the best scientific explanation of the fossil record. ●

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Tyrannosaurus rex Was No Birdbrain

Evolutionists insist that dinosaurs evolved into birds, despite the strong evidence against it.¹ One of the portrayed misconceptions concerns the brains of large predatory dinosaurs like *Tyrannosaurus rex* that have been depicted as similar to the brains of their bird “descendants.” However, CT scans of *T. rex* skulls give scientists additional details of its brain cavity, demonstrating its large olfactory lobe (for smell) and an overall shape that is much more similar to modern alligators than birds.

Bird brains have a completely different shape from those of dinosaurs and reptiles, with a larger section for processing data. Birds have to do more than sense a food source; they have to be able to discern one food source from another. Alligators merely smell something and snap at it without thinking. Not only is a bird’s brain shaped differently, but pound for pound relative to body weight, the typical bird brain is much larger than a typical reptile brain by nearly an order of magnitude (or ten times).

To examine this issue more closely, I obtained a full-scale model of a *T. rex* brain cast, called an *endocast* (Figure 1). The



Figure 1. Photograph of an adult *Tyrannosaurus rex* brain endocast.

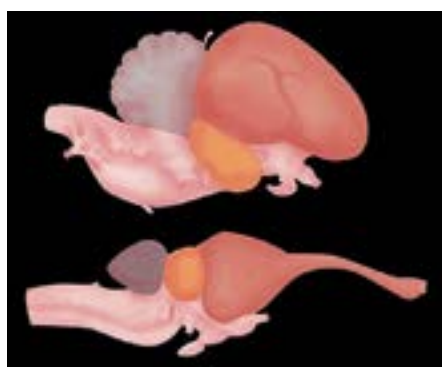


Figure 3. A comparison of bird (top) and reptile brains illustrating that the shape of the reptile brain more closely matches the *T. rex* endocast.

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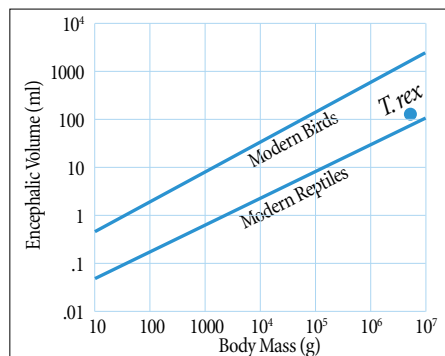


Figure 2. Log-log graph of adult brain volume vs. adult body mass showing the straight-line patterns for modern birds and reptiles. An adult *T. rex* is assumed to weigh about five metric tons.³

brain cast was eight inches in length. The encephalic volume (brain size) of the adult *T. rex* was estimated by submerging the cast in water. I determined the volume of water displaced, and therefore the brain volume, to be 158 cc. By comparing this to the expected value for a typical reptile scaled up to the size of a *T. rex*, I found this volume fell very close to the expected value for a typical reptile, showing again that the *T. rex* was not bird-like in brain size (Figure 2). For comparison, the average human adult male brain has a volume of around 1,273 cc, giving *T. rex* a brain nearly an order of magnitude smaller than the human brain, even with its immense difference in body size.

Unfortunately, movies often depict

dinosaurs inaccurately. They were not birds or even bird-like. Their brains were shaped and sized more like today’s reptiles (Figure 3). All data on brain size and shape indicate their intelligence, thought processing, and senses were probably very similar to alligators. Some dinosaurs may have been able to smell really well, but they could not perform a complex task like opening doors.

Brain endocasts may not be able to give us a true measure

of intelligence, but we do see that many dinosaurs had different brain sizes relative to body size. Stegosaurs and sauropods had the smallest brain-to-body ratios, whereas theropods like *T. rex* had much larger brain-to-body ratios. Apparently, the stegosaurs and sauropods were designed with smaller brains because that is all they needed to locate their food, function, and reproduce. Theropods had to see, smell, and hunt their food sources, so they were designed with more extensive sensory powers that required a larger brain.

God created dinosaurs on Day Six of the creation week (Genesis 1:25). God designed dinosaur brains that were perfectly suited for their lifestyles. Their brains were in proportion to their reptilian bodies and only as large as they had to be to function. There is no support for dinosaur-to-bird evolution. ●

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MADE IN HIS IMAGE:

DESIGNED CONTROL SYSTEMS

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

Some people like the thrill of driving or flying. For them, all the talk about fully automated cars and planes—which would relegate drivers and pilots to passenger status—is dreadful. For others, though, that day cannot get here soon enough. Since cars and planes already exist, the great engineering challenge of automating them is to design control systems fully capable of *self control* while the vehicles traverse various conditions.

Designing today's control systems is hard work. Engineers who develop automated cars and planes will need to install multiple sophisticated systems. Conceivably, these could all be completely different types of systems, though areas of integration and overlap are likely. For example, an automated passenger jet would need to control the engines, wings, rudder, and landing gear quite rapidly. Passengers would enjoy systems that not only can control gradual adjustments to cabin temperature and pressure but can also make rapid adjustments if urgently needed. Amazingly, our bodies already have many design features conferring fully automated control that have eclipsed human-engineered systems by millennia. When we reverse-engineer the human body by taking it apart to study it, we find the familiar fast neurological system and a relatively slower, less familiar endocrine or hormonal system. Let's become more acquainted with our endocrine system.

Almost everyone has heard of growth hormones, estrogen, testosterone, and adrenaline, and most people are familiar with the exciting effects these hormones have on influencing the way we look or perform. So when talking about the endocrine system, it's tempting to jump to a discussion of a hormone and its mechanism of action. However, our bodies need some process for slow and steady maintenance and growth. When we approach it as a fascinating display of

how vital control systems are designed, then investigating the way the endocrine system generally exerts its type of steady, long-term guidance over growth, development, and daily homeostasis is also exciting.

Endocrine control happens through molecules called *hormones*. Tissues that produce hormones build them from a cholesterol or lipid (a fat molecule) framework, or link amino acids into proteins. Because hormones work to regulate specific target organs or tissues, it only takes tiny amounts of a given hormone to produce very large effects, though a few types of hormones are released in large quantities. Most hormones, therefore, circulate in the bloodstream in extremely small concentrations. Fittingly, the tissues that produce them are quite small when compared to the body as a whole or even to a single organ. In fact, if all of the endocrine-producing tissue from an adult were collected, it would weigh only about one-quarter of a pound.

Endocrine systems exquisitely exhibit classic elements of human-designed control systems. To self-adjust, three actions must flow together:

1. Changes in external conditions are determined from input data,
2. A logic “if-then” determination is made from the data,
3. And then a prompt adjustment is sent as an output.

Automated system diagrams conventionally show a feedback signal sent from the output/external condition side of the process back to the input, forming a closed-communication, self-regulating loop (see Figure 1). Note that sometimes a measurable signal is sent back to the logic center. More often, the output simply changes the external conditions, which are continuously monitored by detectors, and the logic center self-adjusts the entity accordingly—i.e., the feedback step.

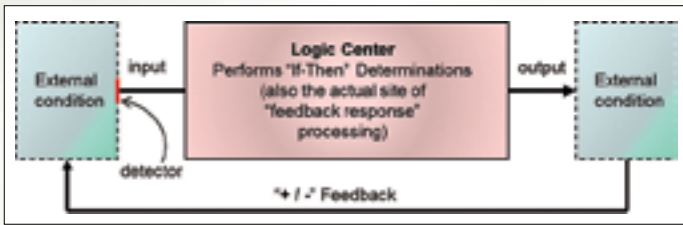


Figure 1. Automated system self-regulating loop. A simple control loop for either man-made or organic systems. The detector is an active surveillance device designed to be sensitive to conditions specified as stimuli. (Note: An external element may be transported or diffuse through a membrane and be detected internally.) The presence of any stimuli signals a change in external conditions, which is sent to the logic center as input data. The logic center makes an “if stimuli–then response” determination and prompts a preprogrammed adjustment as output. Feedback diagrams conventionally show a feedback signal sent from the output/external condition side back to the input, forming a closed communication.

In living things, the identifiable parts are the detectors (called *receptors* in biology) associated with cells to sense the presence of a specified stimuli (i.e., the hormone), an information-based logic center within the cell, and output “controllers” (like an enzyme) to make the determined changes. The big picture of endocrine control illustrates how these regulatory elements work together.

Central nervous and endocrine systems integrate together to control the whole body. But independent systems do not just happen to work together. The activity of both is bridged by another designed system—a utility system called an *interface* that coordinates functions from both the central nervous and endocrine systems. Therefore, from a design standpoint, researchers should expect to find many types of interfacing elements within our human body. These nec-

essary elements are indeed found in abundance, and the dominant interface structure linking the nervous and endocrine systems is the *hypothalamus*. This is a small, specialized extended segment of brain located in the mid-central region. All designed interfaces must possess at least one feature of both linked entities in order to function, and the hypothalamus has neurological tissue *and* produces hormones.

On the endocrine side, some hypothalamic hormones regulate an important gland called the *pituitary*. Anatomically, a short, slender stalk connects the pituitary below the hypothalamus. The hypothalamus may store its own hormones in a portion of the pituitary gland for release, or stimulate the pituitary to release its own repertoire of hormones into circulation. Numerous target organs or tissues detect hormones from either source. These targeted areas include bones, muscle, breasts, gonads, or the adrenal and thyroid glands (see Figure 2). Finally, the automated loop of the control system is closed when hormones produced by these tissues enter circulation and are detected by the pituitary and hypothalamus, which then self-modify their regulatory activities.

The origin of any regulatory or interface system is, without exception, the product of an intelligent mind. It makes no scientific sense to explain the origination of any regulatory system as due to the “selective” powers evolutionists project onto nature. In fact, the mind behind the design of these systems must possess a thorough understanding of how every tissue functions and works together in perfect orchestration...equating to an astounding understanding. That mind is found in the Lord Jesus Christ, our infinite Creator. Our normal response to His marvelous creation should be the awe-inspired praise, “O LORD, how great are Your works! Your thoughts are very deep” (Psalm 92:5). ●



Dr. Guliuzza is ICR's National Representative.

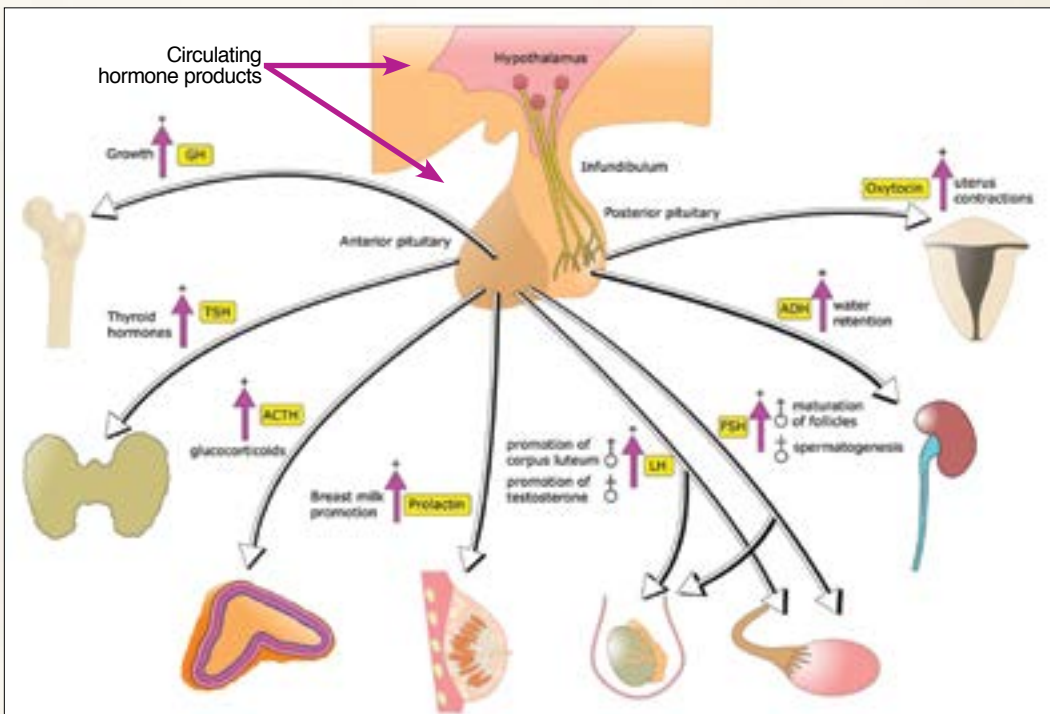


Figure 2. Hypothalamic-pituitary-target organ self-regulating loop. The pituitary is connected by a slender stalk to the hypothalamus. The hypothalamus stores its own hormones in the posterior portion of the pituitary for release. Some hypothalamic hormones stimulate the pituitary gland to release its own repertoire of hormones into circulation. Numerous target organs or tissues detect the hormones and perform a preprogrammed response. Products produced by these tissues enter circulation and travel back to the pituitary or hypothalamus. The hypothalamus or pituitary detects these products, and they then self-modify their regulatory activities, thereby closing the automated loop of the control system.

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Q: Does Genesis Matter to the Gospel?

A: A man once told me he was a “New Testament Christian,” meaning he did not believe in Genesis as history, but he did believe in Jesus. I asked him if he could think of any New Testament teaching not based in Genesis. He couldn’t. Can you? Tight historical links show that the core ideas of the gospel hinge on Genesis.

The Romans Road to Salvation highlights four verses from Romans that summarize what a condemned sinner needs to know and do to be saved from judgment. Each stop along the road reveals an essential link that securely anchors the gospel to Genesis.

At the first stop, we learn that “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”¹ But what is sin? It means breaking God’s holy law. God gave the first law to Adam and Eve in the Garden, saying, “But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat.”²

The second stop on the Romans Road says, “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”³ Death refers to separation, including body from soul or a person from God. Of course, Genesis 3 records the origin of death. When the real Adam and Eve disobeyed God, His justice demanded the death penalty. According to evolutionary history, man did not descend from Adam and Eve but evolved from animal ancestors that had been living and dying for billions of years. Those who believe this man-made version of history see no Adam in their past, so they struggle to understand the last Adam, Jesus.

Now for some good news. “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”⁴ This says that although our crimes against God earn death, God the Father sentenced His own Son in our place. Genesis 3:15 promised help through a descendant of Eve, and that help came with Christ’s birth. His life, death, and resurrection provided a way to escape everlasting death, just as the Lord long ago provided an ark as the escape from dying in Noah’s Flood.⁵ Only eight people believed God’s message of coming judgment and entered the Ark to be saved.⁶ Matthew, Luke,

Hebrews, 1 Peter, and 2 Peter all refer to Noah as a real person.⁷ Plus, Jesus descended from Adam through Noah, according to Luke 3:23-38. If Jesus did not descend from Adam as a historical person, then how could Christ’s payment apply to any of Adam’s descendants?

He paid our death penalty and defeated death with His resurrection, so even though our sins have earned eternal separation from God, the Lord Jesus can now save all those who trust in Him.

That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.⁸

Where do we first learn the benefit of believing God? Of course, it’s in Genesis, when Abraham “believed in the LORD; and He accounted it to him for righteousness.”⁹

So, God’s glory, God’s law, man’s sin, a death penalty, a way of escape, and believing God’s Word all tightly link the gospel to Genesis history. I can think of no reason why the “New Testament Christian” I met shouldn’t just become a “whole Bible Christian.” ●

References

1. Romans 3:23. In addition to providing its historical anchors, Genesis also tightly links to the gospel because the power and beauty of His magnificent work in the creation week reflects “the glory of God” of which we fall short. How can we sinners draw near to this Creator? By following the Roman Road.
2. Genesis 2:17.
3. Romans 6:23.
4. Romans 5:8.
5. The Flood showed that God takes sin seriously, and continent-spanning rock layers containing fossils of mostly sea creatures show that God really flooded the whole world.
6. “[God] did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly” (2 Peter 2:5).
7. Matthew 24:37-38; Luke 17:26-27; Hebrews 11:7; 1 Peter 3:20; 2 Peter 2:5.
8. Romans 10:9-10.
9. Genesis 15:6.

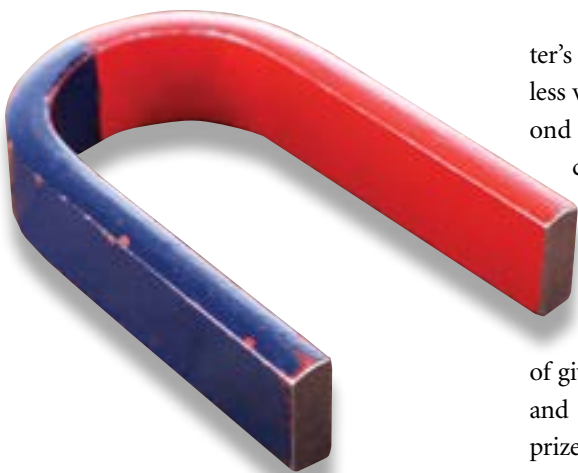
Mr. Thomas is Science Writer at the Institute for Creation Research.

BUT *God*
DEMONSTRATES HIS OWN LOVE FOR US,
IN THAT
Christ WHILE WE WERE STILL SINNERS
DIED FOR US.

— ROMANS 5:8

Attracted to Genesis by Magnets and a Bird Book

God used magnets, a bird book, and some precious Christian teachers to draw me to appreciate and rely upon the origins history taught in Genesis. My journey of learning about creation and my Creator budded and blossomed in my teen years,¹ but providential seed-planting and germination came earlier—in kindergarten, with magnets, and in second grade, when I received my first bird book.



Magnets in Kindergarten

As a small child, my parents taught me that God made everything, including me. However, in kindergarten I learned that some people disagreed about God being the Creator. There was no public kindergarten where I lived, so my parents enrolled me in a private kindergarten that Mrs. Wheeler taught in her home. She always prayed reverently when we had snacks, and she taught us that the Bible was God’s Word.

One day Mrs. Wheeler taught us to experiment with magnets. Her college-attending daughter was home on break helping her mother. As I listened, the daughter asked something like, “Why are you teaching them about magnets? Science is way over their heads.” I will never forget Mrs. Wheeler’s

reply: “Soon these kids will be taught that science, without God, explains life, and they will wonder if intelligent people believe in God and the Bible. I want them to remember, from kindergarten, that the first person to teach them any science was someone who believed in Jesus and the Bible, and who prayed with them.” Wow! That astounded me! When I went to “big school,” I would be taught more science but with no Bible—nothing about God!

So Mrs. Wheeler, with her daughter’s help, had just warned me that a godless version of science awaited me. In second grade I would learn more about this controversy.

Bird Book in Second Grade

Mrs. Thelma Bumgardner, my second-grade teacher, had the habit of giving two identical prizes—to one boy and one girl—at year-end. That year the prize was a bird book,² and I was the privileged boy!

She told me that with the book’s pictures and information, I could learn about the beautiful birds God made. Turning to pages 12-13, which included an official-looking evolutionary chart, she noted this sentence: “Birds developed from reptile ancestors millions of years ago, as internal structures and scaly legs still show.”² That was not true! The sentence and chart were “all just a lie,” she warned me, invented “so [people] won’t have to think about who God is.”

Mrs. Bumgardner smiled. “But don’t worry about the false ideas on those two pages—just enjoy the rest of the book, because the rest of the book teaches a lot of true facts about God’s birds.” Wow! Again I was surprised—who could guess that someone would imagine and put lies into a book



so they could try to forget who God is?

That prize bird book I shall never forget—I still have it and treasure it.

Mrs. Bumgardner prayed for us, in class, and taught us about John 3:16, which I would rely upon, personally, three and a half years later. During sixth grade I confirmed my personal belief in the Lord Jesus as my Savior.

Ever since second grade, I have enjoyed my bird book and many more that I have acquired, knowing how God cares for those marvelous and multifarious birds. Yet God cares so much more for me, as both Matthew 6:26 and John 3:16 prove.

Someday I will thank both Mrs. Wheeler and Mrs. Bumgardner for caring enough to creatively teach me the truth about my Creator God. ●

References

1. It was Bob Webel, my youth pastor, who comprehensively explained biblical creation truth to me, and the importance of Romans 5:12-21, when I was 18 (see Johnson, J. J. S. 2013. *Avoiding Identity Fraud. Acts & Facts*. 42 (7): 18-19). Also I recall my mother protesting the tonsillectomy fad because God purposefully designed our human anatomy (see Johnson, J. J. S. 2012. *Tonsils, Forensic Science, and the Recent Fabrication Rule. Acts & Facts*. 41 (6): 8-9).
2. Zim H. S. and I. N. Gabrielson. 1964. *Birds: A Guide to the Most Familiar American Birds*. New York: Golden Press.

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



It's a joy to think back over God's many blessings on ICR's ministry. From humble beginnings in 1970 to a ministry of worldwide influence today, it seems God called ICR "to the kingdom for such a time as this" (Esther 4:14). And judging by the numerous testimonies of thanksgiving received over the years, it's clear we've reached many people for the Lord and His Word. These notes are a treasure to all of us and one of our greatest blessings. It's my privilege to share some recent favorites.

Here's an encouraging note from a pastor in Alaska: "Your ministry has greatly aided mine for many years. Don't ever let anyone discourage you or try to convince you that ICR doesn't matter—your work and your encouragement of many is having eternal results. Kudos and many thanks!"

Then there's this note from a long-time subscriber in Maine: "I found a copy of *Days of Praise* while visiting another church years ago and have thoroughly enjoyed the daily reading. What an absolute treasure! I greatly appreciate your organization, what it represents and stands for. It's very rare these days to find someone that teaches truth as it is written in the most important book ever written."

A family from North Carolina sent this gracious email after visiting our campus last fall: "Thank you so much for taking the time to show us around the ICR campus. We were extremely impressed and encouraged by the outstanding work of the staff...I told my sister (missionary in China) last night that I

Notes of Joy and Gratitude

felt as though I was walking among 'rock stars'!...I'll soon be placing my order for the *Unlocking the Mysteries [of Genesis DVD]* series. My sister asked if it was in Chinese, and I was able to tell her that "it's in the works." (*Unlocking the Mysteries of Genesis*—now in its second edition—contains language subtitles in English, Chinese, Korean, and Spanish, as will the upcoming *Made in His Image* DVD series expected this fall.)

A geologist emailed me all the way from Austria: "This is to thank you and the ICR organization for the book gift *Noah's Ark: Adventures on Ararat*...This topic has always been highly fascinating for me. I myself have a...doctorate in geology...and I suspect that I am the only creationist geologist living in Austria. It was through reading your [grand]father's book *The Genesis Flood* that I decided to study geology [to] better understand the mechanisms of the flood

and its impact on the earth."

Closer to home came this note from a supporter in Texas: "Thanks for the copy of *Guide to Dinosaurs*. The 'Time Life' format is an excellent way to reach and catch people! After we read it, we will be offering it for a loan to family and friends."

And finally, I was recently handed this uplifting note from a donor in Maryland: "Just a note to let Henry Morris IV know that I have enjoyed his articles in your magazine *Acts & Facts* over the years. He approaches stewardship from a holistic perspective and integrates it with our overall devotion to God. I am inspired to give my talents and resources not [out of] guilt, but out of joy and gratitude."

These testimonies are a tremendous blessing to ICR, but this last note was particularly encouraging to me. Not only am I thrilled to know my articles are helpful, I am especially blessed to know the balance I try to strike is recognized and appreciated. After all, God owns everything, and it's our privilege as sons and daughters of the King to steward a portion of His resources toward His work here on Earth. It is my hope that many more readers will be similarly inspired to give in joy and gratitude to help ICR reach the next generation with the truth of our Creator, the Lord Jesus Christ. ●

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



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I want to tell you how wonderful the *Unlocking the Mysteries of Genesis* series was. My husband and I used it for a 12-week adult Sunday school class. Our adult Sunday school class averaged about 40 over the 12 weeks. This was a much higher number than we have had in a long time. The fact that each video was 22 minutes left time for class discussion, which made this series perfect for Sunday school. We are looking forward to the new series, *Made in His Image*.

— C.S.

Yesterday I came across an article on Yahoo.com titled “5 completely insane things Christian fundamentalists are teaching their kids.” The author seems to be adamantly opposed to the creationist view. He openly mocks Christians in his article. I believe that dinosaurs and man walked the earth at the same time. I’ve attended a conference where evidence is presented to back that belief. It’s just disheartening that a faith can be openly mocked. Anyways, I thank you for the work you guys are doing in support of God’s kingdom. Continue to run the race.

— J.O.



Your *That's a Fact* videos are great. My wife and I conduct a home group viewing *Unlocking the Mysteries of Genesis*. Fridays we meet at our home for an enjoyable 90 minutes of discussion, viewing, and visiting. On Tuesdays, I email a reminder of next Friday’s topic along with a link to one of the *That's a Fact* videos related to the new episode to help get them ready. I’m anxiously waiting for your coming series on the human body.

— D.L.

I have been wondering about Dr. John Morris’ health. I read a note in one *Acts & Facts* that he had a stroke. How is he doing? Could we get an update? John Morris was a real encouragement to me way back in the early 1990s, when I first heard about ICR, since here was a real geologist who believed the Bible and the creation account in Genesis. I

enjoy every part of science but especially geology and have accumulated a collection of rocks, minerals, and fossils which I have been able to use while teaching creation in my church, and using what I have learned through ICR. I am so thankful for your ministry and especially the encouragement through John Morris in his videos and books. I continue to pray for him.

— S.M.

Editor’s note: We appreciate your partnership with ICR through the years. Thank you for your concern for Dr. Morris. He is doing well with his recovery. He comes into the office as his health allows and continues to contribute his expertise to the ministry of ICR. I know he appreciates your prayers for him.

Just a note to say your 12-part *Unlocking the Mysteries of Genesis* series is a great blessing! Last Sunday we used episode five, “Flood or Fiction,” with the message, “As the days of Noah were...” Everyone clapped...loved it! Can’t say enough about it. The quality, the content, the scenery, locations, and the host—he is excellent! Followed you for years, your best yet, prize-winning! God bless you all.

— Pastor R.M.



The recent article by Dr. Lisle, [“How Could Eve Know?”] May 2015 *Acts & Facts*, was another reminder of God’s grace, mercy, and love for all us sinners. The clear, well-written, and simple truth ended with the statement: “Remember, it is not our minds that ultimately judge God’s Word; rather, it is God’s Word that will judge our minds” (Hebrews 4:12). This whole chapter of Hebrews is just one of God’s great truths that should be memorized and used to witness to God’s control and love, compared to our finite, sin-filled thinking and conclusions. God bless you all with your faithful work in “letting the whole world know.”

— A.F.

As soon as I heard about the [*Made in His Image* DVD series] project, I knew I wanted to help financially. Being a homeschool mom and a former RN BSN, it thrilled me to be able to contribute to a project of this caliber. Having seen the *Unlocking the Mysteries of Genesis* series, I have no doubt that the quality and scientific prowess will drip from this new series. May God multiply this gift and use it for His purposes.

— T.T.

Have a comment? Email us at editor@icr.org or write to Editor, P. O. Box 59029, Dallas, Texas 75229.

Note: Unfortunately, ICR is not able to respond to all correspondence.

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Brian Thomas – Reg. \$9.99 – DDAMFCTDO
ICR's Brian Thomas provides five clues that point to the recent creation and co-existence of dinosaurs and man (about 60 minutes).

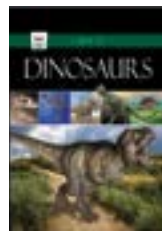


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Dr. Jason Lisle - Reg. \$9.99 – DARC

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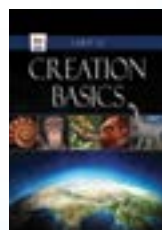
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— GENESIS 1:27 —

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