

CREATION'S EASTER MESSAGE

by JOHN D. MORRIS

While many Christians still consider the Creation doctrine a fringe issue, a proper understanding of the Christian message finds creation at its core—a necessary, foundational component of the Christian worldview—without which Christianity flounders around in illogic.

It's helpful to think of creation as the "big picture," which answers the vital questions. Who made us? Who is God? What does He expect of me? What is sin? What is the penalty for sin?

The "big picture" of Christianity looks like this. The Almighty, transcendent Godhead created all things. As a reflection of His character, creation was initially "very good," free from death, pain, violence, and suffering. But mankind, created in God's very "image," rejected the Creator's authority, and all of creation incurred sin's penalty. Now all things—mankind, animals, plants, natural systems, even the basic elements—all suffer helplessly under the "bondage of corruption" (Romans 8:21). The "wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23).

In grace, however, the Creator Himself entered creation as the Man, Christ Jesus, who lived a sinless life for which no sin penalty was owed, they died a sacrificial death, fully atoning for man's sin and satisfying God's holy justice. On the cross, as all was finished, He dismissed His Spirit. Only the Creator could accomplish such a thing!

After three days in the grave, the Creator of life chose to reenter His lifeless body, in victory over sin and death, offering us eternal life if we merely trust Him, believing that His death and resurrection paid the penalty for our sin.

This present, sin-dominated world will one day be replaced by "new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness" (II Peter 3:13). The Creator's full intent for His creation will be delayed no longer. The truth of creation is thus woven all through the Christian message.

But what of evolution's message, or that of evolution's bedfellows, theistic evolution, progressive creation, the framework hypothesis and the gap theory. In each one, death dominated long before Adam sinned,



thus death cannot truly be the penalty for sin. This obviously invalidates the death of Christ on the cross for our sin. The New Earth (Revelation 21–22) will certainly not reinstate the principle of struggle for existence, death of the weak, and survival of the fittest, which supposedly reigned for millions of years before Adam. Any view of Christianity which incorporates long ages of death and suffering before Adam makes a shambles of the cross.

This Easter season, as we remember our salvation made possible by the death of our Lord Jesus Christ on the cross and His triumphant resurrection from the grave, let us understand it within the “big picture” of a “very good” Creation, ruined by our rebellion, but restored by the willing sacrifice of our great Creator/Savior. 🗝️



Our new high-adventure radio drama for kids, “Jonathan Park and the Secret of the Hidden Cave,” debuts Saturday, May 27! It’s designed to build listeners’ faith by showing the scientific evidence for the Creator. To hear a sampling of what will be on the broadcast, go to our website at www.icradventures.org. Click on the Jonathan Park icon, then click on “enter” at the bottom of the storm page, click on “Click Here” between the two cave entrances with burning torches. You can listen to that very same sampling by calling ICR’s special Jonathan Park preview phone line at 619-448-8198.

Do you know if your local radio station will be airing the program? Why not call and find out! If they aren’t presently planning to carry the special, why don’t you encourage them to carry it. We can even send you a demo CD to take to your station manager. E-mail us at radio@icr.org or call 619-448-0900, ext. 6059, to order a copy of the demo CD to give to your local radio program director.

This month on “Science, Scripture, & Salvation”:

Weekend of: **Title/Topic:**

Apr. 1 “Creation Apologetics”

Every aspect of our society is entrenched in evolutionary thought. Finding common ground to discuss our need for God seems impossible. How can we use Creation to plow up the hardness in people’s hearts? Join us!

Apr. 8 “Vain Imaginations”

Many educators are pushing hard for evolution to be taught as fact. They’re claiming that evolution has become a “unifying principle of science.” Is evolution really a fact? Or is it an unproven philosophy? Tune in!

Apr. 15 “Endangered Species”

When it comes to endangered species, all would agree that we should be concerned about near-extinct animals. But did you know that your origins belief affects your perspective on endangered animals? Listen and learn!

Apr. 22 “Easter and the Creator”

The entire gospel rests upon the resurrection of Jesus Christ. If Jesus did not physically rise from the dead, then Christianity is false. Is there true historical evidence for the resurrection of Jesus Christ? A special Easter program.

Apr. 29 “What Does It Matter?”

For many Christians, creation is a side issue. Even many Christian leaders refuse to take a stand. They all say that we need to focus on the gospel alone. But is this true? Tune in and find out! 🗝️

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CREATION RESEARCH IN FRANCE

Each January, ICR colleague Dr. Andre Eggen of the agricultural research agency in France comes to San Diego for the plant and animal genome meeting at the Town and Country Hotel. Over 1300 scientists gather to present the latest findings in plant and animal genetics. Andre's work involves the development of molecular tools for identifying specific genes in cattle that are of economic value to breeders and husbandry farmers. He heads a group that is looking for genes that control milk production as well as genetic disorders.

Andre works at the *Institute Nationale de la Agronomie* of France near Paris. It is a government agency much like our U.S. Department of Agriculture. Three big projects occupy most of Andre's research efforts now. The first is describing the genes which control milk production. The impact of adjusting the ratio of less fat to more protein is very important to the cheese industry. The second project has been to find the genes that regulate the presence or absence of horns in cattle. Absence of horns changes the aggressiveness of cattle. That is a safety factor that reduces injuries to the cattle and breeders. These animals are less nervous and fight less, and are much easier to handle.

The third study is to find the genes that are responsible for achondroplasia in Holstein cattle. A high-ranking bull used extensively for breeding was found to be a carrier for this lethal genetic disorder. The group that owns the bull came to Andre to find out what could be done to salvage the progeny of this sire; many offspring were born dead or severely crippled. The owners wanted a marker that would allow them to screen for affected animals or even identify the responsible

gene and the causal mutation. This research required a nine-month solution. In January, the team identified the chromosome and region of the chromosome where the defective gene is. A test based on genetic markers is now available to the breeder's community. Andre and his team are examining several genes that could be the source of this serious disease.

Genetic research is creation thinking in action. Here in the amazingly complex DNA code we find the unmistakable signature of an intelligent Creator and are privileged to "think God's thoughts after Him."

When Andre comes to the U.S., he sets aside a few days to visit the ICR staff because he is also a creationist. He likes to have contact with other creation scientists to keep up with the latest discoveries and to exchange the results of his work. About one and one half years ago, he started a creationist organization in France called "Au Commencement" which means "In the Beginning." All education, public and private, in France is strictly from an evolutionary point of view. So, there is much to do to inform the citizens of the alternative of creationism. His group has started with the church; he travels back and forth across France giving lectures and holding conferences in public places. Four leaders of the organization (Andre, his father, his brother-in-law, and a full-time minister) meet with 10–12 members for local meetings and speak to hundreds at their conferences.

Being a creationist in France has its difficulties because of the entrenchment of evolution. He cited an article by the French Economics Nobel Prize winner a year ago who said that certain theories in science were like religion—you can't touch them. Evolution is one of those untouchables. ICR knows what it is like to be scorned for promoting an unpopular alternative to the ruling paradigm. ❄️

DR. GISH DEBATES AGAIN AT PACIFIC LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY

He's baaack! That was the reaction of an audience member regarding Dr. Duane Gish's return to Pacific Lutheran University (PLU) for a lively debate on February 24.

Dr. Gish last spoke at PLU on April 14, 1998. According to David Urban, director of the school's Christian Relations Department, a chief reason why Dr. Gish was asked to speak again was because students felt that his previous opponents were "poorly prepared." In fact, he was so well received last time, that he drew a standing ovation from the standing-room-only audience.

The Associated Students of PLU likewise sponsored this year's event. It was organized and moderated by Mr. Urban, who commented that it was difficult to find opposing speakers for Dr. Gish (Ph.D. Biochemistry, UC/Berkeley). Nevertheless, PLU biology professor, Dr. Richard McGinnis (Ph.D. biology, USC) agreed to again face him. Joining Dr. McGinnis at the last moment was PLU's philosophy department chairman, Dr. Keith Cooper (MTS Theology, Gordon-Conwell Ph.D., philosophy, U/WI).

Although PLU is affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Churches of America, less than one fourth of its 3600 member student body is actually Lutheran. As for origins, the predominant viewpoint is theistic evolution; and, sadly, God is not even mentioned in the school's motto, mission statement, or profile sheet.

Another standing-room-only crowd of 500 people attended this debate. One sponsor exclaimed, "We were really surprised at how many people showed up. We were maxed to the limit. It was very successful!"

The evening's resolution was "The Theory of Evolution is Superior to the Theory of Special Creation as an Expla-

nation for the Scientific Evidence Related to Origins."

Dr. Gish spoke first, for sixty minutes. Using slides and humor, he extensively challenged his opponents to explain how the universe—especially life—could have arisen naturally, instead of supernaturally. He presented examples of design and purpose, such as the metamorphosis of the Monarch butterfly, and the complexity of the trilobite's eyes. In addition, he attacked alleged evolutionary evidences, including embryonic recapitulation, vestigial organs, comparative morphology, and the fossil record. He furthermore covered the fallacy of the Big Bang theory, and explained how thermodynamics and probability were impossible for evolution to overcome.

Dr. McGinnis, using transparencies, spoke next for forty minutes. He mainly emphasized how the philosophy of science was at odds with creationism. He also stressed natural variation among Darwin's finches and Hawaiian fruitflies, as well as the genetic commonality of all life.

Reading from an actual manuscript, Dr. Cooper then eloquently launched a twenty-minute diatribe against having such a debate at all. Although he primarily—and pointedly—lambasted creationism, he advocated some sort of middle ground between creation and evolution.

After a ten-minute break, Drs. McGinnis and Gish returned for their fifteen-minute rebuttals. The former reiterated his advocacy of "true" science, and the latter stressed additional shortcomings in evolutionary theory. Five-minute closing arguments concluded the debate. Dr. McGinnis encouraged the audience to "be skeptical," and Dr. Gish emphasized that there was no middle ground between their conflicting views.

The audience was very attentive, usually civil, and seemed to favor Dr. Gish. Most stayed for a half-hour of questions and answers, which ended this productive evening at about 10:25. 🍷



Meeting Highlights

Honolulu, Hawaii

A delightful series of meetings on the islands of Hawaii awaited Dr. John Morris and colleague Roger Oakland from February 17–24. Arranged jointly by radio station KLHT and Calvary Chapel of Honolulu, they included radio interviews, a youth rally at a local high school, services and a seminar at Calvary Chapel, Honolulu, Sunday morning services at Calvary Chapel Molokai, and a seminar at the Koloa Assembly of God Church, jointly sponsored by several other churches. The Creation message was gladly received by many who had heard only general stories about creation. Even the pastoral staffs were helped as Dr. Morris explained where the Hawaiian islands fit into the Biblical creation/flood picture.

Dr. Morris was joined by his wife, Dalta, for a much needed vacation, but this wasn't spent relaxing. As might be expected, Dr. Morris spent time studying the active Kilauea volcano and in researching post-flood migrations of people to these islands.

Dallas, Texas

Dr. Henry Morris served as one of the 25 selected speakers delineating *The Fundamentals for the Twenty-First Century* at the "Issues 2000" Conference, held at the Sheraton Central Hotel on February 25 and 26. All the messages had been assembled and published with this title in book form and in a beautiful format by the Kregel Polishing Company of Grand Rapids, Michigan. The "fundamental" on which Dr. Morris was asked to speak, "The Fall, the Curse, and a Groaning World," was given to an overflow crowd and was very well received.

While in the Dallas area, Dr. Morris also spoke at the evening service at Faith

Bible Church at Duncanville (a Dallas suburb) on February 27. The founding pastor of this church had been Dr. Richard Seume who, coincidentally, had been pastor of Houston's Berachah Church in the mid-1940s and had been a close friend of Dr. Morris, later writing the Foreword to the updated edition of his 1946 book, *That You Might Believe*.

On Monday, February 28, Dr. Morris spoke to about 100 students and visitors at a class on ancient history at the new Graduate Institute of Applied Linguistics, taught by his daughter, Dr. Kathleen Bruce. This school is affiliated with Wycliffe Bible Translators. The class continued later with a 1-1/2 hour question/answer luncheon session. 🌿



Books in Review

The Defender's Study Bible Edited by Henry M. Morris (World Publishing, 1995).

You cannot go wrong investing in this study Bible. . . . (it) doesn't deserve a place on your book shelf. It deserves a place on your desk!

Biblical Evangelist 🌿

A WONDERFUL EASTER GIFT!

DOES YOUR AREA NEED A "BACK TO GENESIS" SEMINAR?

Will you prayerfully consider partnering with ICR and other local volunteers to bring an area-wide creation seminar to your community? Dates are now available for you to host an **ICR "Back to Genesis" seminar**. For available dates, speakers, and tour locations, please call Connie Kotch, 619-596-6040.



These are indeed exciting times to be a Bible-believing Christian! Recent secular scientific research has concluded drastically shorter time spans for geological and biological processes that traditionally had been “proven” to take “millions of years.” In some cases, time spans have been in total agreement with Biblical timeline. Take, for example, the time given for the dinosaur demise.

*Modern stratigraphic techniques, however, seem to indicate that [the dinosaurs] extinction was truly sudden; **some feel that a time span of a year or less cannot be ruled out** . . . this has led to a modern revival of catastrophism, at least where the dinosaurs are concerned. [My emphasis.]*

Villee, Solomon, & Davis
Biology
Saunders College Publishing
1985, p. 1040.

Evolutionist Trevor Palmer states in the quote below that it is impossible to distinguish between extinctions happening at the same time and happening up to a half-million years apart.

[William] Clemens still considered it impossible to say whether these extinctions [in Montana, New Mexico & Gubbio, Italy] has occurred “precisely at the same time or were discordant by as much as 10,000, 100,000, or 500,000 years.

Controversy: Catastrophism & Evolution
Kluwer Academic Publishers
1999, p. 161.

The time of humans on earth has also been reduced by some.

We are finding that humans have very, very shallow genetic roots which go back very recently to one ancestor . . .

Michael Hammer
University of Arizona
US News & WR, 12/4/95.

. . . regardless of the cause, evolutionists are most concerned about the effect of a faster mutation rate. For example, researchers have calculated that “mitochondrial Eve” . . . the woman whose mtDNA was ancestral to that in all living people . . . lived 100,000 to 200,000 years ago in Africa. Using the new clock, she would be a mere 6000 years old. No one thinks that’s the case. . . .

Ann Gibbons
“Calibrating the Mitochondrial Clock”
Science, v. 279, pp. 28,29
January 2, 1998.

STEWARDSHIP & TRUST SERVICES

Help, LORD; for the godly man ceaseth; for the faithful fail from among the children of men. They speak vanity every one with his neighbor: with flattering lips and with a double heart do they speak.

The LORD shall cut off all flattering lips, and the tongue that speaketh proud things: Who have said, With our tongue will we prevail; our lips are our own: who is lord over us?

Psalms 12:1–4

I have had this passage highlighted in my Bible for years as a reminder of the responsibility I have to communicate honestly in this column—without “vanity” (smooth words) that “flatter . . . with a double heart” and, in so doing, manipulate toward gaining a financial advantage for ICR with regard to your assets. The Bible role, and the one I have attempted to maintain, is one of being among the “faithful” of verse 1, that is, to be one who builds up and supports your commitment to love and serve the Lord.

I am grateful that ICR’s position is so very solid on this point! We try hard to communicate consistently and not manipulate—to let you know what the Lord is doing in such a way that your response is to consider your participation prayerfully rather than feel compelled by our emotional words. The world knows (and teaches Christians) that the road into a person’s pocketbook is via his/her emotions. The Bible knows nothing of this. Unfortunately, many today, in the name of Christ, do as the Judaizers did in Galatians 4:17:

They zealously affect [court] you, but not well [not for good]; yea, they would exclude you, that ye might affect [be zealous for] them.

In this regard, it is sobering to remember that the Lord, through Jude, lumps all who adopt the tactic of gaining an advantage through manipulative words with those deceivers who have crept into the Church and for whom we are to be on guard. He sees them as being “Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame . . .” (v.13), and (v.16) as men:

. . . walking after their own lusts; and their mouth speaketh great swelling words, having men’s persons in admiration because of advantage. [Men who “. . . mouth great swelling words, flattering people to gain advantage.” (NKJV)]

Please pray that we will continue to be faithful and, please, let us know if you see us straying!

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