

CREATION, THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS, AND GOOD EDUCATION

by John D. Morris, Ph.D.

Good education for American school children has always been of primary importance to all. President Bush has placed education reform at the top of his political agenda. Charter schools, private schools, parental choice, vouchers, local control, home schools—all controversial positions. Maybe I am biased, but it seems to me like evolution and the evolutionary worldview are the crux of the issue. They always come up in the discussion, but are seldom dealt with honestly, and thus the problem continues.

The Kansas State Board of Education (KBE) addressed the issue in August of 1999 when they removed evolution from its unwarranted position as a “unifying principle” in science as proposed in new curriculum guidelines. The new guidelines mirrored those produced by an elitist group of ideologies on the national level and are similar to those proposed in nearly every state in the Union. They aggressively pursue the evolutionary worldview in the name of science.

The science guidelines as adopted by



the KBE began by carefully defining the terms *microevolution* and *macroevolution*, then limited the study to the observable evidence for microevolution such as mutation, genetic recombination, extinction, adaptation, etc., which are all observable phenomena. They avoided the philosophy of macroevolution—that these small observable changes add up to hypothetical big changes, eventually producing school children, their morals, society, etc., from animals and animal behavior. This elicited rousing denunciation from evolutionists who risked losing total control of education and having their philosophy of naturalism exposed as a religion masquerading as science. Money poured into Kansas from evolutionary sources worldwide, and in the elections of 2000, the Board majority tilted back

to evolution. The gains are now being systematically dismantled.

The 1999 tack taken by the KBE was the proper one (given the current political climate and judicial bias), and several states are moving in a similar fashion. Unfortunately, concerned creationists in other states are trying to mandate teaching Biblical creation in the public schools through legislation or legal force. However proper and logical these ideas are, they are doomed to failure, and will only result in another legal precedent against good education.

Meanwhile, textbooks are bulking up on evolutionary concepts, often unfounded and frequently known to be wrong. For instance, the concept of embryonic recapitulation frequently appears, as do the peppered moths, Neanderthal “ape man,” etc., all concepts known by scientists to be wrong. Their actions do not make sense until we remember that they are pushing a worldview and a basis for relative morality, not good science.

Here’s my recommendation. Brand evolution as a religious doctrine, as done in the February 2001 Impact article, and demand that religion be removed from our public schools. Demand that science class time be restricted to scientific concepts and observable scientific data, not philosophical speculations about the unobserved past. Furthermore, we can insist that the evidence which doesn’t favor evolution no longer be censored and that no teacher can be punished for including it. Do not try to introduce creation. This is a “religious” concept and unacceptable to the nation’s courts. But do insist that the evolutionary fixation on animal behavior as normative for human behavior not continue as the basis for the moral code of schools, leading to promiscuity, violence, low value of life, and no responsibility for actions.

We can’t do what we would like, or even all that is legal, but maybe we can make these practical strides. 🧩



The First Baptist Church of Universal City, Texas (David Lindow, pastor), was the site of an informative creation seminar January 7. ICR zoologist and speaker, Frank Sherwin, presented both the “Case for Creation” and the creation view of dinosaurs to a receptive audience of about 500. Evidence in the first half was presented including the uniqueness of our Earth and the Universe. An atheist from the University of Vienna stated recently that the Earth seemed to be “tailor made.” Sherwin emphasized that open-minded scientists, secular or sacred, should pursue this evidence—wherever it leads.

The second topic presented was dinosaurs and the Flood. Young people enjoyed hearing a Biblically based explanation for the origin and demise of these unique creatures. Scripture clearly teaches that dinosaurs were created on Day 6. Genesis describes a world-covering Flood in Genesis, chapters 6–9, that lasted a year. In 1985 three evolutionary biologists stated that modern techniques in geology “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.” Clearly, these are exciting times to be a Bible-believing Christian! 🧩

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This month concludes “The Evolution of Compromise” series. The entire series is now available for purchase. These audio versions include additional material not aired on the regular broadcasts. The four audiocassettes include all eight programs on the following topics: “Materialistic Evolution,” “Punctuated Equilibrium,” “Pantheistic Evolution,” “Theistic Evolution,” “Progressive Creation,” “Gap Creation,” “Day-Age Creation,” and “Young-Earth Creation.” The series sells for \$16.95; order it through the ICR Customer Service Department at: 800-628-7640 or on-line at www.icr.org.

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

Weekend of:	Title/Topic:
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- | | |
|---------|---|
| Mar. 3 | “Theistic Evolution”
To appear more “scientific”—many Christians have let evolutionary theory cloud what the Bible really says—adding millions and even billions of years to the Creation Week in Genesis. What does this do to the reliability of God’s Word? Tune in to find out! |
| Mar. 10 | “Progressive Creation”
The Bible seems to clearly teach against evolution. Yet, the supposed evidence for the evolutionary progression from a single cell to humans intimidates many Christians. Could it be that God created in progressive steps? Listen and learn! |
| Mar. 17 | “Gap Creation”
The Gap Theory postulates a huge “gap” of time between the first and second verses of Genesis 1. What do science and God’s Word have to say? Don’t touch that dial! |

- Mar. 24 **“Day-Age Creation”**
There are Christians who believe that the six days of creation were actually six long ages—each representing millions or billions of years. Where did this idea come from—and can it be supported by Scripture? Tune in for the Biblical perspective.

- Mar. 31 **“Young-Earth Creation”**
Today—more than ever before—scientists are rejecting the concept that the Earth is billions of years old. So why do so many Christians still think they have to believe in evolution and thus compromise Genesis? 🗣️

SPECIAL EVENT IN MAY

The Creation Research Society is offering a special “workshop” on Debating Creation/Evolution featuring Dr. Duane T. Gish (with 300 creation/evolution debates to his credit). Eligible attendees must be voting/sustaining members of the Creation Research Society or members of a creationist organization. Attendance is limited to the first 40 registrants. “Workshop A” will be in Livingston, NJ, Friday, May 18, 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. “Workshop B” will be in Phoenix, AZ, Friday, June 1, 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

To register, please send a check for the registration fee to Dr. David Kaufmann, 3745 NW 7th Avenue, Gainesville, FL 32607–2421. The early registration cost is \$30 if paid by May 1 for NJ, and by May 15 for AZ. The late registration fee is \$40. Please indicate which workshop you plan to attend. For further information, contact Dr. David Kaufmann, 352-378-9112 or e-mail:

kaufmann_d@hotmail.com

The CRS will also be sponsoring debates with Dr. Gish (versus an opponent to be announced) in Livingston, NJ, on Saturday, May 19, and Phoenix, AZ, on Saturday, June 2, 2001. 🗣️



CAN CREATION SCIENCE BE FOUND OUTSIDE AMERICA?

Atheist Stephen J. Gould of Harvard is perhaps the premier anti-creationist in America today. Sadly, in this age of “tolerance” and multi-culturalism, it was Gould who bluntly stated in the pages of *Natural History* that bashing creationists was both “noble” and “necessary.” One can imagine the immediate steps that would be taken by the outraged Harvard administration and students if he had said this about any other minority.

Gould makes a vain effort to marginalize the global interest in creation science. At a gathering of educators at Brown University last year, he endeavored to calm the gathering of college professors and principals by claiming, “As insidious as it [i.e., “creationism”] may seem, at least it’s not a worldwide movement. . . . I hope everyone realizes the extent to which this is a local, indigenous, American bizarrry.”

Evidently Gould has not bothered to investigate the worldwide interest in creation science that goes beyond conservative Protestant circles. Millions of orthodox Jews, and most practicing Muslims, reject evolutionism and are therefore creationists. These other creationists would consider it both offensive and discriminatory to hear that creation science is uniquely and strictly American. Consider these recent contacts with ICR.

France has a creation science group, “Au Commencement . . .” started in 1998. The organization’s leader, Dr. André Eggan, visited ICR in January. André received his Ph.D. at the Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich in 1992 and is currently a research scientist in genomics. In the past year he lectured at more than 15 different locations in both France and Switzerland.

Just two months ago Christians in Hong Kong brought Dr. John Morris over to present the creation model. He spoke to a total of 14,300 people. This was followed by a trip to South Korea that has the largest creation group in the world. The Korean Association for Creation has over 250 Ph.D. members and hundreds more with masters degrees. The Japanese creation group hosted me for a lecture tour last October.

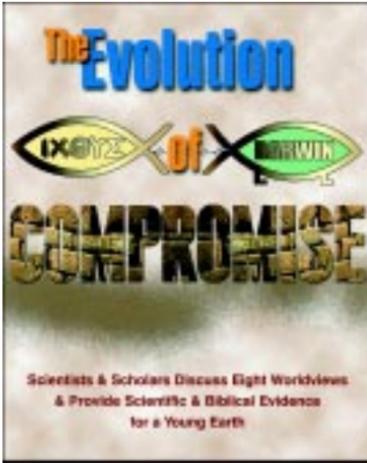
In late fall, Dr. Duane Gish spoke to over 7,000 people in Brazil and Argentina, home of active creation groups, as is also true in Bolivia and Mexico. Our Australian friends at AIG head a large creation group and has been very active in ensuring that creation science has also flourished there. *Acts & Facts* recently published an interesting overview of the creation science movement in India. Russia and Romania welcome the creation model after enduring decades of nihilistic evolutionism (*Impact* #288) and have invited ICR speakers to visit.

England, birthplace of Darwin, still has a healthy number of scientists and laymen who refuse to bend the knee at the altar of naturalism. ICR is regularly in touch with them and is planning a joint study tour there next year.

Furthermore, ICR has mailings that go to people in Nigeria, Moldova, Poland, Jamaica, Philippines, Belarus, South Africa, Turkey, Germany, Sweden, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates, and many others. And we must not omit the scores of other creation science ministries in America with their connections in other countries.

Contrary to Gould’s hopeful, but unfounded musings, we thank God our Creator (Hebrews 11:3) that “this . . . local, indigenous, American bizarrry” is truly international and is changing the world! 🌐

“THE EVOLUTION OF COMPROMISE” SERIES



“Evolution is a religion. It’s the religion that stands in direct opposition to the Christian way of thinking,” says Dr. John Morris, President of ICR, in the newest radio series, “The Evolution of Compromise.”

Expanded versions of these recently aired “Science, Scripture, & Salvation” programs are now available on audiocassette. Scientists and scholars discuss eight worldviews regarding origins, and give both scientific and Biblical evidence for a recent creation of all things by the God of the Bible.

“You know these are interesting days to be a Bible-believing Christian because evolution is in the process of self-destructing,” Dr. John concludes. “I mean, every time they look down a microscope, every time they look at the complexities of a cell or the symbiosis between organisms, they are just finding that evolutionary explanations do not fit the evidence. The evidence fits creation.”

These tapes are perfect for study in the car or home. Selling for \$16.95, the tapes can be ordered from the ICR Customer Service Department at: 800-628-7640. 📞

DR. GISH REACHES EIGHT-OH!

Still going strong after some 300 or more debates plus who-knows-how-many lectures and messages on creation science, ICR’s Dr. Duane Tolbert Gish recently passed a great milestone in a unique career—his eightieth birthday!

Widely reputed today as the world’s most feared (by evolutionists) creationist debater, Dr. Gish first spent many years as a successful research biochemist before coming to ICR almost 30 years ago. Born in White City, Kansas, on February 17, 1921, he was—with his twin brother—the youngest of nine children, seven boys and two girls.

Dr. Gish first received a B.S. in Chemistry from UCLA, then a Ph.D. in Biochemistry from the University of California at Berkeley. He was Assistant Professor of Biochemistry at Cornell University Medical College, then held a research appointment at U. C. Berkeley before joining the Upjohn Company in Michigan, where he did research from 1960 to 1971, publishing over 25 articles in refereed science journals dealing with his biochemical research.

Since coming to ICR, he has published ten important books on scientific creationism, while lecturing in literally every state and in about forty other countries, and is still going strong as he reaches age 80.

Dr. Gish is also a dedicated Christian (Baptist) and family man. He married his wife, Lolly, after completing active service as an army officer in the South Pacific during World War II, and now has four children and nine grandchildren.

The ICR faculty and staff are thankful to have Dr. Gish as an esteemed colleague and to wish him many happy returns on this great milestone.

Thanks also to his wife Lolly, who has been his faithful and loving companion for almost 55 years. 📞



RATE RECEIVES GENEROUS DONATIONS FOR 2001

The RATE project (Radioisotopes and the Age of the Earth) began the first year of a five-year research phase in January and received over \$100,000 in donations by the end of 2000. The project is designed to explore young-earth explanations rather than the conventional explanation of billions of years of time for large quantities of daughter products produced from the radioactive decay of elements like uranium, thorium, rubidium, and other unstable isotopes.

RATE just completed publishing a 700-page book entitled, *Radioisotopes and the Age of the Earth: A Young-Earth Creationist Research Initiative*. This book completes three years of literature research and planning for the five-year research phase. It discusses many of the problems with traditional radioisotope dating and outlines the research hypotheses and plans for the RATE project. The new book, released in December, may be purchased for \$49.95 through the ICR website at www.ICR.org or by calling the ICR Customer Service Department at 800-628-7640. In 2005 a second book is planned for publication on the results of this effort.

The executive committee of RATE recently allocated the donations received during 2000 to research to be accomplished during 2001, as shown in the following table. A total of \$116,000 was received with \$16,000 going to overhead for travel and meeting costs associated with RATE.

Description	Principal Investigator	Funds Allocated
Overhead	Vardiman	\$16,000
Isochron Discordance	Austin	10,000
Mineral Testing	Snelling/Baumgardner	10,000
Helium Diffusion	Humphreys	10,000
Radiohalos	Snelling	10,000
Fission Tracks	T.B.D.	5,000
Nuclear Decay Theory	Chaffin	5,000
Publishing of RATE Book	Vardiman	20,000
Isotope Studies	Snelling	20,000
Allende Meteorite	DeYoung	4,000
OKLO Natural Reactor	Chaffin	4,000
Bible Word Studies	T.B.D.	2,000

The RATE group wishes to express its appreciation to all those who contributed to this effort. The funds made available for this year should allow the research to proceed at a good pace. The RATE group will continue to report its progress in this column from time to time, as well as additional funding needs for the next four years of research. We solicit your prayers to the Lord that He will also provide the wisdom and insight needed to unravel the radioisotope question. 🙏

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GOD'S DESIRE—OR OURS?

“ . . . He gave them their own desire” Psalm 78:29.

This account of God dealing with His people has much to say to the twenty-first century church, and is found in both Numbers 11:4-34 and Psalm 78:28-41. Although I have quoted only a small portion, I commend it all to you—it's rich!

The Subject: LUST. In context, yearning for something other than the Lord's provision.

The Setting: Israel in the desert—miraculously freed from Egyptian bondage.

The Scene: Complaining.

The Source: Ungratefulness for God's provision. Manna had become monotonous. They wanted meat to eat—and they wanted it now!

The Summation: Fulfilled desire and death.

Let's take a look at Numbers 11:31,33,34:

Verse 31 *“And there went forth a wind from the LORD, and brought quails from the sea, and let them fall by the camp, as it were a day's journey on this side, and as it were a day's journey on the other side, round about the camp, and as it were two cubits high upon the face of the earth.”*

God's people gathered quail for 36 hours without stopping. The least aggressive collected 110 bushels.

Verse 33 *“And while the flesh was yet between their teeth, ere it was chewed, the wrath of the LORD was kindled against the people, and the LORD smote the people with a very great plague.”*

Verse 34 *“And He called the name of that place Kibroth-hattaavah: because there they buried the people that lusted.”*

Have you ever felt that we are being buried in “things”? That the need to have—for example, more clothes or a newer car, or a better house—is becoming our preoccupation, even in the church? We often blame Madison Avenue for this condition. Could it be, instead, that God is giving us our own desire—that He is cursing us through abundance?

Complaining that warrants this type of judgment does not have to take the form of open rebellion. We can express our dissatisfaction with what God has provided by trying to obtain “more” through:

- working too many hours
- having multiple family members entering the work force
- simply using our credit card (frequently the predecessor of the others).

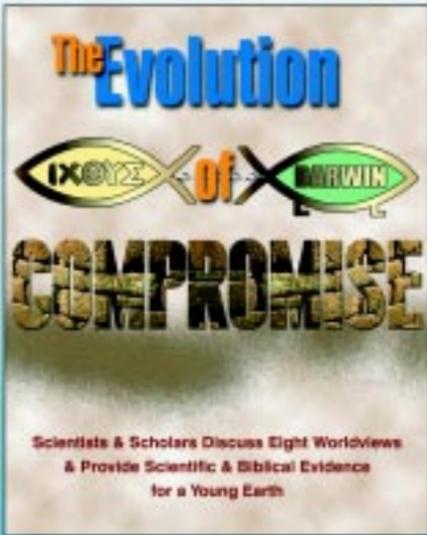
Each of us must constantly be on guard lest we, too, become ungrateful for that which we have, and desire more.

Solution: Matthew 6:33: *“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”*

Taking our spending to the Lord before making a purchase is one way of seeking Him first.

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