

THE LONG WAR AGAINST GOD VS. GOD'S AGELESS PLAN FOR CREATION

by John D. Morris

This article/prayer was originally written the evening of the terrorist bombing of the World Trade Center Towers and the Pentagon. It echoes the prayer of ICR's President Dr. John Morris. Only a larger perspective makes sense out of senselessness.

Dear Father/God, Creator of Heaven and Earth. We are thankful that we have such a God to whom to pray. We recognize your sovereign wisdom and power, and place ourselves in submission to you and your plans for us, for our nation, and your larger plan for all of your creation.

We further recognize that even though nothing can occur without sifting through your filter, you are even more grieved at these murderous acts than we are. This is not what you intended for your creation. You created it, in the beginning, "very good" (Genesis 1:31) with no pain, no suffering, no death, and no sin. Your handiwork was perfect, compared to a beautiful tapestry or poem in Scripture. Your "image"



in man enjoyed full fellowship with you, experiencing unbridled love and goodness from your hand. Adam and Eve had access to the Tree of Life, and nothing in all of creation need ever have suffered or died.

But they rejected you and rebelled against your plan. You had declared the penalty for such rebellion against your authority to be death, and in your holy justice, all of man's dominion came under the curse of death—the wages of sin. Soon even brother strove with brother and "every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually" (Genesis 6:5). "The earth was filled with violence" (v. 11). Today all of Adam's descendants carry his sin nature, and all

of creation groans (Romans 8:22) under the weight of sin's death penalty. Such rebellion continues to this very day.

As Creator you have complete authority to set sin's penalty. Spiritual death, eternal separation from you, and physical death—everyone dies. Having chosen to follow in Adam's footsteps, we all deserve that death sentence. As the years march on, we observe that sin's dominance increases, and even today our nation reels under its blows.

We are driven to even greater thankfulness when we remember your provision for our deliverance from sin, its penalty and fruit—your only begotten Son, by whom “all things were created” (Colossians 1:16). He was made in “the likeness of men” (Philippians 2:7), “yet without sin” (Hebrews 4:15), thus no death penalty was necessary for Him. Only a sinless man could qualify to die for another, and as a perfect, fully sufficient, substitute, “Christ died for our sins” (I Corinthians 15:3), totally satisfying your holy justice. But all men have sinned and need redemption, and as Creator of men, He qualified to die for all. Then He rose from the dead in victory over sin and death, offering the gift of eternal life to all who believe. Only the eternal Creator of life could return to His body after death.

No doubt, some who died in the World Trade Center Towers, the Pentagon, and in the ongoing aftermath, had tasted your free gift, while others had rejected this offer of forgiveness, salvation, and restoration, passing into eternity forever separated from you. We thank you that in your grace, we have heard and received and believed the good news. Our hearts grieve as we ponder the eternal transactions completed by those incidents. We realize that we have so much work yet to do.

O Lord, give us a true burden, a passion for souls, a burning desire to see many reconciled with the great Creator

and Redeemer on whom they have turned their backs. Empower us as individuals and organizationally here at ICR to use every opportunity to point them to you. Thank you for the clear evidence of creation as a tool to do so. Energize us all to be effective “ambassadors for Christ” (II Corinthians 5:20), for the time is short.

And O Lord, we long for you to come back to Earth to set it right—to return creation to its originally created intent and function. We know that this Earth and these heavens will one day melt away, but there will be a “new heavens and new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness” (II Peter 3:13). The Curse will be removed, (Revelation 22:3) and sin will no longer reign. Consequently, there will be “no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. . . . Behold . . . all things (will become) new” (Revelation 21:4,5).

Until your plan fully comes to fruition, help us to please you in all that we do, to walk in obedience to you and bring you great glory. Help us to be faithful until you come, but “Even so, come, Lord Jesus . . . come quickly” (Revelation 22:20). ☛

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This month we continue our newest series, “Regions of the World,” with Tropical, Desert, Forest, and Coastal. Could all these unique plants and animals be the product of random chance, simply evolving to survive in these very different regions, or were they all a part of the plan of the Master Designer?

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

Weekend of: **Title/Topic:**

- Nov. 3** **“Tropical”**
 The overwhelming abundance of plant and animal life in tropical regions is nothing short of miraculous. Did they evolve? Or were they perfectly designed by our Creator to inhabit this unique part of the world? Tune in to find out!
- Nov. 10** **“Desert”**
 When you think—desert—do you imagine a hot, barren, wasteland? It doesn’t seem like anything could live in such harsh conditions—yet the Creator uniquely designed plants and animals to survive there. Could this design be a product of random chance? Listen and learn!
- Nov. 17** **“Forest”**
 Taking a walk through a forest, we notice not only the trees, but plants, animals, and wildflowers—all perfectly “adapted” from the beginning to live in this uniquely rugged and beautiful environment made by our Creator.
- Nov. 24** **“Coastal”**
 The ocean draws us—almost beckons us to its shores. It somehow stirs, calms, and quiets our souls. Could it be that as we look out at its great expanse—we come face to face with the One who created it? Tune in to find out! 



Over the Edge (Thrilling Real-life Adventures in Grand Canyon), by Larry Vardiman (Master Books, 2000)

This is a good book to curl up in front of the fire and read on a cold winter night—or any other time. We strongly recommend it for light, but informative, reading. The fascinating drawings add to the enjoyment of the volume, as well as supplementing the chuckles. By the way, the book is educational as well as entertaining.

Biblical Evangelist

Noah’s Ark and the Ararat Adventure, by John D. Morris (Master Books, 1994)

An excellent first introduction to the Flood and the Ark, and the world before and after. Answers all the common questions such as—how could all the animals fit inside the ark? Traces the adventures of the author on Mount Ararat searching for remains of the Ark.

Tabernacle Bookshop (England)

Many Infallible Proofs, by Henry M. Morris (Master Books, 2nd edition, 1996, 396 pp.)

Subtitled “Practical and Useful Evidences for the Christian Faith,” it is exactly that. . . . It is written in the careful scholarly, factual style you have grown accustomed to with books from Dr. Morris’ pen. . . . a blockbuster, worthy of a prominent place on your bookshelf. In fact, we are not surprised that it is used as a text in a number of schools. **We encourage you to obtain your own personal copy at once . . .** (reviewer’s emphasis).

Biblical Evangelist 



From Canada

"I received the *Acts & Facts* this month and was sad to hear about the lack of funds for your ministry. I would like to help, but I am a teenager without a job, so don't have much money. So I wanted to write and say that I will be praying for

you, and God bless. The books, newsletters, and information ICR offers have been a real encouragement. Through ICR I have had the necessary information to intelligently and lovingly point others to the truth. Thanks so much and keep up the good work!"

From southern California

"Just to let you know I'm enjoying (the) *Days of Praise* booklets. . . . I get a blessing from the daily readings. God bless your work in all you do." ☞



One need not cruise the Net very long to encounter a plethora of anti-creation and anti-Christian sites. This is strange in light of society's insistence to be more tolerant and sensitive toward others.

One website attempts to "expose" the Christian faith for what it supposedly is, "unreasonable, aggressive, and intolerant" and Scripture as having "errors, contradictions, and impossibilities."

Such cynical musings certainly don't align with the real world, however. Recently, Brad Stetson reviewed a book by A. J. Schmidt, *Under the Influence: How Christianity Transformed Civilization*. Stetson summarizes Schmidt's book by saying it's a "comprehensive and remarkably thorough investigation into all that Christianity has given human civilization. Foremost among these gifts is respect for [people]. From saving the throwaway babies of the Roman Empire, to opposing abortion, to caring for the sick, elderly and handicapped, it was with the advent of Christianity that the weak were protected and human equality became a reality. Other contributions include the invention of hospitals in the fourth century, as well as orphanages and charitable organizations. Further, the Christian inception of universities gave us the basic concept of higher learning that has contributed so much to human progress."

This is certainly true when it comes to the nature of science. In *The Soul of Science* by Pearcey & Thaxton (1994), the authors quote the writing of evolutionist Loren Eiseley who stated that science "'demands some kind of unique soil in which to flourish' . . . what is that unique soil? Eiseley identifies it, somewhat reluctantly, as the Christian faith. 'In one of those strange permutations of which history yields occasional rare examples,' he says, 'it is the Christian world which finally gave birth in a clear, articulate fashion to the experimental method of science itself.' Eiseley is not alone in observing that the Christian faith in many ways inspired the birth of modern science. Science historians have developed a renewed respect for the Middle Ages, including a renewed respect for the Christian worldview culturally and intellectually dominant during that period. Today a wide range of scholars recognize that Christianity provided both intellectual presuppositions and moral sanction for the development of modern science."

One may wonder aloud why atheists spend so much effort and time to attack the Biblical faith of millions while all but ignoring other beliefs. Could it be that no one wants to waste time discrediting a counterfeiter? ☞

Meeting Highlights

Lakeside, California

ICR founder and President Emeritus, Dr. Henry Morris, was the morning service speaker at the Calvary Chapel in Lakeside, California, on Sunday, August 5 (Bill Bottger, pastor). About 200 in attendance heard Dr. Morris speak on “Christ in Creation,” with emphasis on Jesus Christ as the Creator/Redeemer, including thought provoking—yet practical—comments on the triune relationships in the Godhead and universe.



Dr. Henry Morris, President Emeritus, ICR.

On Sunday, September 8, another large crowd attended the “Mock Debate” at the same church. ICR staff, Lalo Gunther of Calvary Chapel Lakeside and Pat Roy of Hill Country Community Church, coordinated the combined church event. The “Mock Debate” was the first evening of a four-part series on the creation and evolution worldviews. Dave Phillipps played the part of the creationist and graciously debated “Dr. Stephen Jay Dawkins” played by ICR’s Frank Sherwin. (We were unable to locate an evolutionist to participate, although

there was at least one vocal dissenter in the audience who refused to ask questions or discuss with either Phillipps or Sherwin after the “debate.”)



L to R: Dave Phillipps; Pat Roy; Frank Sherwin

Each participant had 30 minutes for their opening statement, 15 minutes for rebuttals, and the evening concluded with 30 minutes of questions and answers. It was, as Pat Roy noted, “a faith-building night” helping attendees understand major tenets of both worldviews. “We have an apologetic for the hope that lies within us,” Lalo Gunther stated in closing the meeting. The event helped equip the attendees with tools to defend their faith as they observed in the arguments that science lines up with the Scriptures. 🙏

Institute for Creation Research's
Museum of Creation and Earth History

**If you are in the San Diego area,
come visit us at:**

10946 Woodside Avenue North • Santee, CA 92071
Monday–Saturday 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

A photograph showing the exterior of the Museum of Creation and Earth History building, a modern structure with large windows and a covered entrance.

VIRTUAL FIELD TRIP

One of the enjoyable places to visit in San Diego is Torrey Pines State Reserve. It is a 1,700-acre wildlife sanctuary situated between Del Mar and La Jolla on the coastline that attracts more than a million visitors each year. Here, over 400 native plants and 200 species of birds can be seen in their seasons. Its most notable resident is the Torrey Pine (*Pinus torreyana*), which is said to be the rarest pine in the United States.



Dr. Austin in discussing Poway Clasts.

ICR staff, graduate students, professors, and local creationists have spent many hours climbing over the four geological formations (Linda Vista, Bay Point, Del Mar, and Torrey Sandstone). The surfaces of this eroded braid delta, are the present home of the coastal sage and chaparral plant communities. Because there are only ten inches of rainfall in this semi-arid climate, many leaf, stem, and flower adaptations are very visible. Animals on the other hand are frequently only represented by footprints and tracks.

Old earth thinking places these geological layers at 45 million years, but the facts of geologic deposition, tectonics, and species distribution point to a different interpretation. The sandstone, debris flows, and large-scale, water-caused



Beach Trail Finale.

erosion along with tectonic shifts and uplifts tell a better story of short duration. Even the geographic distribution of the remarkably resilient Torrey Pine begs the question of relict displacement with little to no “evolutionary” transformation.

How can we tell our story? We thought that we would reexamine the facts, picture the evidence, and write a creationist perspective for field trips to Torrey Pines State Reserve. Several of the students, professors, docents, and amateur naturalists have expressed interest in a study group and attending tours in the reserve. 🇺🇸

GRADUATE SCHOOL

The January 2001 *Acts & Facts* article that announced the graduate school online course in Advanced Creationism has generated 120 requests expressing interest in the program. It is now time to prepare for the summer 2002 session of the ICR Graduate School. Classes will begin June 17 and continue through August 16. For more information on the Graduate Studies program, contact the Registrar of Graduate Studies, Dr. Jack Kriege at jkriege@icr.org or call the Registrars Office at 619/448-0900. 🇺🇸

Correction to *Acts & Facts* 10/01 BTG, page 4: Chart should read, “Was the rainbow mentioned? 7%” (not 75%).

Stewardship & Trust Services

FOR LACK OF THANKSGIVING

For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: Because that, when they knew God, they glorified Him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, And their foolish heart was darkened.

Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image Made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.

Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonor their own bodies between themselves:

Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever.

Amen. (Romans 1:20–25)

As we at the Institute hold forth the “invisible things of God,” we praise and thank Him for raising you up to equip us for battle, through your prayers and your gifts.

At this time of personal and national testing, we are aware, as at few other times, just how wonderfully dependent we are on our loving Lord. We join you in thanking Him for His sovereignty, His abiding love for and protection of us—a compassionate protection that may even result in our “promotion,” and our ability to rest in the certainty that the events of these days are but the dying gasps of a defeated foe.

We join you, too, in praying for our President and all who must work together to effect his decisions. We rejoice in the fact that the heart of the “king” is in the hand of the Lord!!!

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