

Acts & Facts



INSTITUTE FOR
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Facts
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PROGRESS IN THE ARK SEARCH

by John D. Morris

The search for Noah's Ark continues to occupy the thoughts of many and warrants an update. The search certainly occupied my thoughts for many years, so I fully understand the fascination. My personal involvement has receded to advisor to the groups still active, but their activities are quite significant, certainly worthy of an update in *Acts & Facts*.

In reality, precious little has been accomplished on Ararat for over a decade, primarily due to political instability in nearby Iraq. But in summer of 2001, two American groups attempted to launch scientifically based, high tech expeditions. They each spent enormous amounts of time and resources currying favor within Turkey. Both were able to break through the political roadblocks, each linking with Turkish university scholars. But in the end, delays severely limited productive search time, and results were minimal. Both groups are now seeking extension of their permits into 2002.

Full descriptions of their work can be found on-line. The Ark Imaging Expedition (headed up by Rex Geissler and Ararat veteran B.J. Corbin) can be studied [noahsarksearch.com] and also [arcimaging.org]. The Ark Research Project (ARP) under the leadership of Mr. Jim Hall, former biology professor at Liberty University, can be viewed at [arksearch.com].

Meanwhile, a less ostentatious effort was launched by "bulldog" Ark researcher Mr. Dick Bright. He acquired local climbing permits and investigated numerous areas of great importance.

They had no access to aircraft or high-tech equipment, but backpacked all over the mountain. Their work was assisted by the fact that last summer's glacial melt back was extensive, and by the utilization of several Turkish climbers. Many areas we had always desired to study were completely free of ice and snow and were thus ruled out, but still no Ark.





But that's not all. Mr. Porcher Taylor continued trying to acquire detailed satellite data, especially of the "Ararat Anomaly." Further arrangements have been made for a better, recently launched satellite, to study this area in fine detail next summer.

Mr. Bob Cornuke has focused on another mountain, still within the overall "mountains of Ararat," but situated inside the country of Iran. It seems to me that since the Bible does not specify a location, nor does it predict that the Ark will ever be found, the only reason to look anywhere is that hundreds of people claim to have seen a structure that fits the Biblical description on the Turkish mountain known presently as Mt. Ararat. I'll gladly leave the Iranian mountain to Mr. Cornuke.

On another front, efforts in Hong Kong to build a full-sized replica of Noah's Ark in a Christian theme park are progressing. Ground has been broken for "The Rainbow Paradise," and completion is set for within the year.

For the last several years, the only book available which provided a sober compilation of Ark search details was my book, "Noah's Ark and the Ararat Adventure," written at a junior high level. But now two helpful new books have appeared. Mr. B.J. Corbin utilized his own familiarity with the mountain and friendships with all involved to write *Explorers of Ararat*. It details the personal experiences of all major explorers, each of whom, including myself, wrote a chapter.

Just released is a new book by Dick Bright, entitled *Quest for Discovery*, published by Master Books. All significant work on the mountain is discussed, with his own enormous amount of work highlighted. So many experiences, so many victories, so many disappointments.

All in all, both are fascinating reading. All three can be ordered from ICR. See ad to follow. ☞

The Remarkable Wisdom of Solomon by Henry M. Morris, Master Books, 2001, 240 pp.

In this 240-page paperback book is written a profound commentary on Proverbs, Song of Solomon, and Ecclesiastes. Dr. Morris begins the book with a historic look at the life of Solomon and the questions surrounding it. . . . AN EXCELLENT WORK.

Scripture Truth Books

The Geology Book by John D. Morris, Master Books, 2000, 80 pp.

Here is everything you ever wanted to know about earthquakes, volcanoes, and other earth phenomena. . . . This is an interesting book written by the president of the Institute for Creation Research, a leading authority on the creationist position. In short, he knows what he is talking about.

Biblical Evangelist ☞

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The Bruhaha Over Human Stem Cell Research

by Ken Cumming

A small biotech company in Worcester, Massachusetts, recently announced through a research article submitted to *e-biomed: The Journal of Regenerative Medicine* that they had cloned a human being to the six-celled stage. This caused a flurry of response from religious and political leaders. Some states, including California, have banned human cloning and the President and House are supporting a bill to make human cloning for research illegal across the nation.

Stem cells are the product of the first seven cell divisions of a fertilized human egg or zygote. The interest in these early formed cells is that they have exceptional capacity to form specific cell lines in the developing embryo. They also have unusual capacity to reproduce in tissue culture for the purpose of studying the mechanisms of differentiation. Researchers hope to explore the way in which these unique cells make decisions about unfolding the body's construction during gestation.

Scientists think that they can use such techniques to find therapies for chronic diseases such as diabetes, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, and other degenerative maladies. They also want to be able to create tissue and organ banks for organ replacement surgery. Lastly, such knowledge will permit the production of designer babies and clones of existing humans. No wonder that there is a human outcry over this unilateral private research program.

Obviously, we must be concerned about the ethical issues that have already been raised over these practices. Is it morally right to create humans in such a fashion? Even more important, is it legal or moral or justifiable to kill the embryo

once it has been formed in order to harvest the stem cells that make up part of the developing embryo? *The Wall Street Journal* (11/27/2001, page A4) reports, "The use of embryos to clone is wrong," President Bush told reporters during a rose garden appearance. "We should not, as a society, grow life to destroy it. And that's exactly what's taking place."

Behind the aggressive tactics of biomedical researchers are questions about their motivation for defying the public and government. The real motivation is about intellectual property protections and patent claims. The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office says that patenting human beings is illegal. On the other hand, the prospect of huge revenues from early discoveries in this field will certainly stimulate stockholders to urge their CEO's to push the envelope on this front.

Conversely, adversaries such as Concerned Women for America and the National Right to Life Committee spoke out as reported in the *San Diego Union Tribune* (11/26/2001, page A8), "This corporation is creating human embryos for the sole purpose of killing them and harvesting their cells. . . . Unless Congress acts quickly, this corporation and others will be opening human embryo farms."

Another Pandora's box is being opened up before adequate safeguards are in place to protect the innocent human embryos that will be the victims of this savage research program. One might wonder just what will happen. But, the fact that it's going to happen anyway makes it all the more urgent for public policy to be debated before the country allows any further studies. Senator Sam Brownback (R., Kansas) wants to bring the House bill up as soon as possible and urges a moratorium on cloning and stem cell research until these issues are debated. There is a strong need for supervision regarding these matters, for scientists are not always interested primarily in the public good.

One good outcome from this controversy has been a redefining of when life is attributable to an embryo. It used to be that two weeks was considered the start of life. Now, this brings the issue back to the first few divisions of the human zygote. This will be an important point for those who are pro-life.

Finally, there needs to be a current review of what can and cannot be considered intellectual property. Does a human embryo have rights, and who will defend them? This brave new world can be civilized if the public has a chance to enter the discussion before entrepreneurs shut them out. ICR scientists and adjunct faculty will continue to interact with this issue by publishing articles and conducting interviews. You will be kept aware of major events through these pages. ☞



From Bermuda

I just took a break from sermon preparation and heard your Human Body “Science, Scripture, & Salvation” broadcast. It was an awesome testimony to our God’s incredible splendor and wisdom. It left me praising my God and marveling at how wondrously we are made. Thank you to all the doctors and scientists who research the depths of God’s infinite wisdom with the Holy Spirit’s help—causing believers to wonder and worship—and for witnessing to the lost of our great God’s love.

E-mail from the ICR website

Thank you for this site. I am involved in internet debates trying to show people that evolution is not possible and your website provides the valuable (case-winning!) information I need. Keep up the great work, and God bless everyone at ICR. ☞



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

Weekend of:	Title/Topic:
Feb. 2	<p>“Little Change, Big Change” Evolutionists often point to evidence like the changing finches in the Galapagos Islands or bugs becoming resistant to pesticides as proof for evolution. Do these things prove evolution, or is there a better explanation for these changes? Tune in!</p>
Feb. 9	<p>“The Young Sun” God created the sun, moon, and stars on the fourth day for specific purposes in regard to Planet Earth. Now new research indicates the Sun may be much younger than previously thought. Could the Sun really be young? Listen and learn!</p>
Feb. 16	<p>“Complexity of Parasites” We tend to think of parasites as microscopic creatures that literally suck the life out of their hosts! This is true in many cases—but doesn’t the complexity of parasites also attest to the complexity of our Creator? Find out how!</p>
Feb. 23	<p>“The Complexity of Lichens” How can two individual plants join together to form one plant? Well that’s exactly what lichens do. And they do it perfectly. What could the plant world be demonstrating for us in “living color”? Discover the answer!</p>

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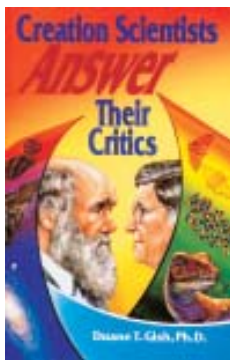
- List of creation scientists
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THE VETERAN DEBATER PASSES THE TORCH

Dr. Duane Gish has participated in at least 350 formal creation/evolution debates on university campuses and other venues against qualified evolution professors. Even his opponents admit he has “won” these encounters, and lately leading evolutionists recommend against debating him.

Merely having the truth on one’s side is not always sufficient. Gish has an amazing intellect and recall of data, but even that is not enough. Throughout each debate, Dr. Gish has conducted himself as a Christian gentleman and has often won as his opponent ranted against him personally or against Christianity and the Bible. Students see through these smoke screens and listen to Gish’s facts.



Dr. Gish has passed his 80th birthday now and desires to pass the torch to others. He has within the last year conducted three debate workshops sponsored by the Creation Research Society and a six-hour session at ICR on January 19.

Feeling that the creation movement needs this material, we have filmed it in its entirety. Our desire is to produce these several hours in a professional

way, augmented by pictures, graphs, and footage as needed. This package would not only be an indispensable teaching tool, but a lasting tribute to one of creation’s greatest warriors.

Cost of filming and editing will, no doubt, far exceed sales. But there is no tool like it anywhere, and its information is vital.

Can you help? If you have appreciated Duane’s long ministry, tirelessly championing creation truth, would you consider helping underwrite its cost? We estimate that the four-hour package will cost about \$25,000 to produce, funds not readily available in ICR’s lean budget, unless specific gifts are received. But it’s a project that must be done for creation ministry and to honor Dr. Gish. ☞



Texas and Oklahoma

Dr. Randy Guliuzza received an enthusiastic welcome from each of the sixteen churches on the ICR Creation Presentation tour and was able to speak to over 1600 people. Each community had made an effort to invite public school teachers, scouting groups, their youth groups, or other churches in the area to attend. Those who came shared that their faith and understanding were encouraged by hearing “The Importance of the Doctrine of Creation” and the scientific evidence for creation presented in “The Design of the Human Visual System” and “Mt. St. Helens: Explosive Evidence for Design.” The audiences responded appreciably to both the Scriptural studies and the scientific material that gave them insight and a desire to share this information with others. It was also a blessing to them to have ICR resources available at the book table. Each group would bid farewell with “We hope ICR will be able to come our way next time.” ☞

ICR Graduate School

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2002 SUMMER SCHEDULE

Tentative 1

The schedule below gives the list of courses to be offered by the ICR Graduate School this summer. Interested students should write as soon as possible for further information and application forms.

Department	Course #	Course Name	Instructor
MODULE A 06/17-07/05			
Biology	507/510 (4)	Advanced Paleontology/Field Studies	Parker
Biology	504 (4)	Advanced Comparative Anatomy/Lab	Franks
Geology	502 (3)	Advanced Sedimentary Geology	Austin
Physics	501 (3)	Classical Mechanics	Chaffin
Sci. Ed.	502 (3)	Advanced Educational Psychology	Stark
Sci. Ed.	504 (3)	Applied Science Education Research	Deckard
Supp. Crs.	505 (3)	Philosophy of Science	White
MODULE B 07/08-07/26			
Biology	501/509 (4)	Molecular Biology of Cell/Lab Studies	DeWitt
Biology	572/510 (4)	Advanced Comparative Physiology/Demonstrations	Mastropaolo
Geology	513 (3)	Igneous Petrology	Snelling
Physics	506 (3)	Intro to Theoretical Meteorology	Vardiman
Physics	509 (3)	Introduction to Astronomy	DeYoung
Sci. Ed.	501 (3)	Applied Statistics for Scientists	Deckard
Sci. Ed.	505 (3)	Curriculum Design in Science	Nason
MODULE C 07/29-08/16			
Biology	513 (4)	Developmental Biology/Lab	Anderson
Biology	506 (3)	Advanced Ecology	Parker
Geology	503 (3)	Stratigraphic Analysis	Austin
Physics	504 (3)	Quantum Mechanics	Humphreys
Sci. Ed.	503 (3)	Advanced Methods/Lab	Nason
Sci. Ed.	506 (3)	Curriculum Implementation	Deckard
MODULE D (TBD)			
Biology	505 (3)	Biological Concepts	Cumming
Biology	510 (1)	Field Studies in Biology	Cumming
Geology	506 (1)	Field Studies in Geology	Austin
Suppl. Crs.	502 (3)	Advanced Studies in Creationism	Cumming

Stewardship & Trust Services

WORSHIP OR TAX CONSIDERATIONS?

Having just come through the time of year when, more than ever, we have received a barrage of information on how to give more and have it cost us less, we could do well to review what the Scriptures teach on the topic.

Giving, we will remember, is the responsible privilege of all who acknowledge Christ as Savior. Scripture indicates that giving is to be:

- A demonstration of who/what has our heart (Luke 12:22–34).
- In gratitude and love (II Corinthians 8:1–8).
- In proportion to what we have received (II Corinthians 8:11–12).
- Done cheerfully (II Corinthians 9:7).

An exciting account of these principles has been preserved for us in II Corinthians 8:1–5. Note, first, in verse 5 that the believers in Macedonia “. . . first gave their own selves to the Lord . . .”; then (v.2) “from their . . . great trial of affliction, the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality.” Paul goes on to tell us that they gave “beyond their power” being first “willing of themselves.” This resulted in a gift so far beyond what could humanly have been given that they (the believers in Macedonia) had to (v.4) plead with Paul to take it—Paul believing that this amount was too great a sacrifice.

The foregoing Scripture unmistakably teaches that the source of God-honoring giving comes from a willing and overflowing heart—not from tax considerations. However, let us not be hasty to condemn tax-wise giving lest we miss a significant stewardship opportunity. Giving from such a heart, then using available tax deductions to maximize one’s giving is, I believe, one of the responsibilities/opportunities entrusted to a steward and one for which he or she can expect to hear “well done.”

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donations can be made on-line at www.icr.org/contribute.html