

MOUNT ST. HELENS 25TH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE



Larry Ikenberry, Image West

by Mark Rasche

The May 18, 1980, Mount St. Helens eruption is arguably one of the most significant geological events of the twentieth century, particularly from a creation research perspective. The eruption that day opened up an unprecedented window of opportunity to better understand the great Flood of Noah's day.


On the surface, one might criticize any analogy drawn between these two events since Mount St. Helens was a volcanic event and Noah's Flood was a hydraulic event. However, after closer examination, the evidence reveals that volcanic activity was a common catalyst for hydraulic events at both. The Scriptures indicate that the processes God used to bring about that event were predominantly volcanic and tectonic. We read in Genesis 7:11 that "In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in

the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened."

For the past 25 years, geologists have carefully studied and documented the Mount St. Helens eruption and the many geologic processes and products it generated, including the remarkable rapid recovery in the ensuing years following the catastrophe. The results of this observable event have provided tremendous insight into past processes that were not observed. Through extensive research efforts, Biblical creationists have discovered fascinating similarities between the geologic work that was accomplished by the Mount St. Helens eruption and that which was accomplished by Noah's Flood.

Contrary to what had been taught before, hundreds of feet of sediments were deposited rapidly, erosion of a “mature” canyon occurred in hours, fossilization and incipient coalification occurred in just years—together producing a landscape which “appeared” to have great age.

To commemorate this momentous eruption and summarize the many captivating discoveries and lessons learned from Mount St. Helens, ICR has scheduled a special 25th anniversary conference for May 20–21, at the Cowlitz County Regional Conference Center in Longview, Washington (off Interstate 5, just west of Mount St. Helens). How does our experience with this natural disaster 25 years ago influence our view of God and the way He operates in the world around us? To help answer this and many other questions, we have scheduled a cross-section of leading experts to share their unique perspectives. Featured speakers include geologist Dr. Steve Austin, biologist Dr. Keith Swenson, helicopter pilot and hands-on photographer of the event, Mr. Michael Cairns, and Mr. Ed Osmond, Forest Service Administrator (who coordinated governmental response to the eruption).

Be sure to mark your calendar and attend this one-of-a-kind conference. Come hear why the eruption at Mount St. Helens became a microcosm and analog to better understand the colossal catastrophe of Noah’s Flood. Discover not only what was observed, but what was learned. This conference promises to be educational, encouraging, and faith strengthening, offering more scientific evidence which harmonizes with Scripture so you can “be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear” (I Peter 3:15). To register or get more information about this event, please call 619/448-0900, ext. 6042. 



THE RESURRECTION AND THE ORIGIN OF LIFE

by John D. Morris

At Easter time we focus on the cardinal Christian doctrine of the Resurrection. Without the Resurrection, Christianity is a sham. The truth that Jesus Christ rose from the dead sets Christianity apart from all religious systems.

Many of the world’s religions look back to the martyrdom of their leader/founder. None but Christianity look back to an empty tomb which once contained His body. Only in Christianity has the slain martyr risen from the grave.

Furthermore, in Christianity, Jesus Christ had specifically come to die, to pay the penalty of death which He did not owe. He had predicted His death, submitted to its brutality, and even dismissed His Spirit when all had been done. But He had also predicted His Resurrection, and after three days, replaced His Spirit back into His broken body, and it revived. Now, He ever lives and offers eternal life to those for whom He died.

In today’s secular religion of naturalistic evolution, no resurrection from the dead is possible. Only once, they say, did

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lifeless chemicals spring to life, eventually descending into us all. But even they recognize that the spontaneous generation of life is “impossible,” and has been disproved, yet they still believe it. It takes a Creator to have life.

In Christianity the Creator is identified as Jesus Christ. The very same One who died on the cross created life in the first place. Thus, only He had the power and authority to again take up His life.

The mighty Creator, perfect sacrifice, and risen Lord is recognized in Christianity as the very Son of God. He willingly set aside aspects of His glory, took upon Himself the form of created man, died to pay sinful man’s death penalty, and won total victory over the sin and death which had temporarily twisted His “very good” creation.

Thus the resurrection sets Christianity apart from all non-Christian religions. The fact that the resurrected One is the Creator God Himself, sets Christianity apart from pseudo-Christian cults which deny His deity. ☩

RATE DOCUMENTARY ENTERS POST-PRODUCTION

“Thousands . . . not Billions” is the title of the upcoming “docu-drama” which summarizes the key points from ICR’s extensive eight-year RATE research initiative on radioisotope dating. The film highlights many significant findings that the team of seven scientists discovered in their efforts to study and document the reliability of radioisotope dating methods for determining the age of the earth.

The primary purpose of the documentary is to strengthen the faith of Christians who have been pressured by mainstream scientists to believe that the earth is billions of years old. Countless Bible-believing Christians have reached a critical crisis of belief when “facts” from a science textbook or scientific journal have collided with the truth of Scripture.

This conundrum often culminates in a climactic clash where the Christian is forced to choose between re-interpreting



RATE production team editing documentary.

Genesis (based on man’s current interpretation of science), or re-examining proclamations of mainstream scientists (based on the plain teaching of Genesis).

There is perhaps no greater threat to the veracity of Scripture than the modern-day conventional science claims that the earth is billions of years old. Once a Christian caves into this notion, it forces him or her to radically transform the plain narrative of the Creation Week into esoteric poetry, myth, or fiction. The “slide down the slippery slope” is then set in motion as “profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called” (I Timothy 6:20) pull the Christian from faith in God’s inerrant Word to a sole reliance on man’s latest interpretation of science. In too many cases, it leads to a tragic abandonment of the Christian faith.

ICR remains unabashedly committed to revering Scripture as the final authority for truth. To the extent that God allows us to continue discovering scientific evidence that lines up with His Word, we will endeavor to provide faith-strengthening resources to equip God’s saints and bring glory to His name!

Please pray for our production crew as they finish the production of this unprecedented documentary. And mark your calendar to attend the RATE Conference at Shadow Mountain Community Church on November 5, 2005! ☩



FUNDS RECEIVED TO COMPLETE RATE

Through the generosity of hundreds of donors the RATE (Radioisotopes and the Age of The Earth) research project has received the remaining \$150,000 needed to complete all research, writing, and video production. 2005 will be the final year of the eight-year project and all financial needs have been met. Praise the Lord! Over one million dollars were donated to the project during its lifetime.


The peer review for the final technical book has been completed and final editing is expected by the end of the summer. The lay version of the RATE book is planned for review in the spring and the video documentary is in post production. All three products are expected to be available for purchase at a RATE conference on November 5, 2005, at Shadow Mountain Community Church in El Cajon, CA. More information will be provided about the conference this summer.

As RATE comes to an end, plans are being developed for organizing and funding several other research efforts. For many years ICR has been conducting research on other topics such as geological studies in Grand Canyon, genetic studies on rats, and computer simulations of paleoclimates. However, most of these efforts have been underfunded and many new research opportunities have become evident in the past few years. Other research projects will be described in future issues.

In December, 2004, a new Research Council was established to help coordinate future research at ICR, develop funding, and facilitate reporting of the results. Dr. Larry Vardiman, the former manager of RATE, has been appointed as ICR Research Coordinator. All research faculty at ICR are members of the Council and

Drs. Dan Criswell and John Baumgardner will serve as members of the executive committee. Any residual funds remaining at the end of RATE will be transferred and managed by this new Council. Several of the projects being considered by the Council will be follow-up research from RATE.

One of the first large projects to be considered by the Council will be the acquisition of a 32-node parallel processor to be used at ICR for numerical simulations. Dr. John Baumgardner, a new employee of ICR and recently a research scientist at the Los Alamos National Laboratory, has designed a new computer similar to one he used at Los Alamos to be called *Epiphany*. The computer will be used by Dr. Baumgardner and several other scientists at ICR to investigate such things as catastrophic earth movements during and following the Genesis Flood, major changes in climate and weather caused by the Flood, and mutation rates and genetic change. Researchers who have experience in the use of large, high-speed parallel processing programs will be encouraged to use the new ICR computer for other creationist research. Dr. Baumgardner will be the ICR Computer Center Director and will coordinate the use of this new resource.

Epiphany is expected to cost about \$80,000 including installation and special facilities. ICR has already received \$30,000 toward its cost. If you wish to consider donating toward this project or others being organized, please contact Dr. Larry Vardiman at 619/448-0900 or Lvardiman@icr.edu. 

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ORIGIN OF THE OCEANS

Secular scientists are unclear as to the origin of anything: the universe, our solar system, the earth, the oceans, or the creatures that inhabit the oceans.

Where did the oceans come from according to evolutionists? Baby boomers may remember this “just-so story” described in the popular Time-Life book series (that includes a veiled swipe at the Biblical explanation while bowing to naturalism).


Finally the day came when the falling raindrops did not hiss away in steam, but stayed to start filling the crevices and corners of the naked planet. Then it rained, and the accumulation of the seas began. The accumulation did not take place (in the opinion of modern geologists) through “the greatest deluge of all time” that has so often been described. *So far as anyone can tell, it may merely have rained as it rains today. Nature has plenty of time. It probably took a billion years to fill the oceans [emphasis added].*¹

Do secular scientists have any better ideas today? “The origin of the water in the oceans is unclear” states the University of New South Wales School of Environmental Sciences.²

For decades many planetary scientists believed that the ocean’s water may have come from a rain of comets (so to speak) laden with water. But a 1999 Caltech study by a cosmochemist and his team threw a wet blanket on this theory when they measured significant amounts of “heavy water” (HDO) from the Hale-Bopp comet.³ This type of water contains deuterium, a heavier isotope of hydrogen having one neutron and one proton in the nucleus. If the “oceans-from-comets” theory is correct, our oceans should be deuterium-rich. They are not.

What do creationists say regarding the origin of the oceans? We look to the Biblical model and find that our planet began cool and covered with water (see Genesis 1:2) as opposed to the secular model stating it was molten rock with no water! On the third day of creation, the waters under the heaven were gathered into one place which God called Seas (see Genesis 1:9–10). Centuries later, at the Flood, He again covered the land with water, until the fountains of the deep were closed and the water receded steadily from the earth. As the fountains closed, the ocean floor sank, forming new and much deeper ocean basins (such as the 36,163 foot deep Mariana Trench), permitting the continents to drain and emerge from the waters.

Today’s oceans eloquently testify to God’s creative power, His judgement at the Flood, and His provision today.

1. Engel, L. *The Sea*, Time-Life Books, 1969, p. 38.
2. <http://www.irbs.com/bowditch/pdf/chapt31.pdf>
3. <http://neo.jpl.nasa.gov/news/news008.html> 

Meeting Highlights

San Diego, California

Several ICR speakers spoke at Calvary Chapel of San Diego last fall. The audience consisted of 22 pastors and leaders who are all young-earth creationists enrolled in a one-year series on apologetics. It was a wonderful opportunity and an honor to build into the ministries of pastors and leaders who want to learn the truth regarding creation. ☞



NEW TRACT COMBINATION FOR EASTER

A special set of two tracts, both explaining how to be sure of one's salvation and eternal life, has been prepared by Dr. Henry Morris just in time for Easter.

One of the tracts, *God's Way of Salvation According to Scripture*, consists almost entirely of Bible verses specially selected to show how to be saved; also various common objections are answered Biblically. The other tract is, *Reason and the Christian Hope*, taking a logical approach and showing the reasonableness of the Gospel even without the use of Scripture.

These two have been updated from tracts published originally during and shortly after World War II, when Dr. Morris was teaching at Rice University and the University of Minnesota respectively. These tracts were used effectively to reach students and others for Christ during those years. He believes they still can be relevant today for the same purpose. ☞

Radio Log

This month on "Science, Scripture, & Salvation":

Weekend of: Title/Topic:

March 5 Horses

The horse is an amazing animal specifically designed by God for power and speed. Although evolutionists think otherwise, this majestic animal testifies of God's creation. How does He do it?

March 12 What Really Happened to the Dinosaurs?

The creatures of yesteryear that have intrigued scientists the most are the dinosaurs. Although they may be gone, the debate about how they vanished lives on. So, what really happened to the dinosaurs? Tune in!

March 19 Black Holes

God's created universe is so vast and mysterious that it's hard to comprehend even the little bit we know about it. One of the mysteries of space is black holes. What are they; where are they; and do they really exist in the first place?

March 26 The Power of His Resurrection

As Christians, we often reflect on the infinite power of God, and the fact that He can do anything. At Easter time, we especially focus on the power of Christ's resurrection and how He defeated sin and death. Stay tuned! ☞

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SELECTIVE TRUTHS

Among the more subtle errors in evangelical intellectual debates today are the varied approaches to Biblical Inspiration. An effort is underway among some theological circles to treat the Bible first and foremost as a literary work, thereby selecting the “grid” through which a given passage or book is interpreted. Although often couched in such technical language that only scholars can adequately follow the logic, the effect is to deem technical or philosophical jargon more reliable than the clear words of Scripture. Words cannot be read from the text without first subjecting them to a filter of some sort. Thus, truth can only be gleaned from a correct reading of the words.

FOUNDATIONAL ERROR

Theologians recognize the doctrinal significance of Genesis 1 through 11, yet a raging debate continues about the applicability of the *words* of those critical chapters. Dr. Hugh Ross insists that the “facts” of science force informed Bible scholars to interpret the creation account in the light of the long ages of naturalistic science.

One conservative theologian (who insists that he believes in inspiration) has written a paper that concludes:

Science contributes in answering the questions of how and when, questions that are relevant to our culture, and the Bible answers the more important questions of Who and why. . . . Each discipline has a contribution to make to truth in its own sphere of intent and competence. . . . An ancient Near Eastern cosmogony . . . is out of place in teaching the physical science and misleads the student into thinking the Bible is a scientific cosmogony, when it is not.

Such language *equates* so-called facts of science with the *language* of Scripture. That foundational error is the antithesis of II Timothy 3:16–17.

WORLDVIEWS AT STAKE

Naturalistic science (and its necessary component of evolutionary religion) is atheistic. The *use* of data depends almost entirely on one’s belief system—submission to an evolutionary approach to the creation account will ultimately demand distortion of other passages of Scripture and undermine the necessity for the substitutionary death of Jesus Christ.

Please stand with ICR in this critical battle for *the* Truth (John 14:6).



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