

Dr. Henry Morris “Man of the Century”

ICR’s Founder and long-time President, Dr. Henry Morris, who passed into eternity earlier this year, posthumously received a prestigious award in July. He was recognized as “Man of the Century” by Vision Forum and its President, Doug Phillips. His voluminous writings were credited as catalyzing not only the modern creation movement, but also fueling the Biblical inerrancy movement, the Christian school movement, and the home school movement.

His fertile pen defending the accuracy of Genesis encouraged Christians to take the entire Bible seriously, even those difficult parts which provide scientific and historical detail. Up until that time, Christians had somewhat withdrawn from the public arena, mistakenly thinking that evolution and millions of years had been

proved. Those who still believed in Genesis held to the Gap Theory or some other compromise position. Once Christians realized that evolution was wrong and that it appeared to provide scientific credibility to an anti-Christian worldview taught through the public education system, many opted to enroll their children in Christian or home schools, using creation as the foundation. And, of course, the creation movement flourishes today as a result of his able leadership.

The main book which started it all was the seminal work, *The Genesis Flood*, co-authored with Dr. John Whitcomb. Both Dr. Whitcomb and current ICR President Dr. John Morris were present for the award in Hampton, Virginia, at Vision Forum’s “History of the World Mega-Conference.” The award consisted of a mighty, soaring eagle, and reads:

Man of the Century

In the Defense of the Faith

Dr. Henry Morris

(1918–2006)

Husband, Father, Scientist,

Author, Educator,

Churchman, Apologist, Visionary

He raised an uncompromising standard and set the terms of

debate for the defining apologetic battle of the twentieth century.





by John D. Morris

Has Noah's Ark Been Found in Iran?

Vision Forum has been a valued partner of ICR's ministry for several years. Its director, Doug Phillips, has often been a main speaker at our Back to Genesis Conferences. An energetic and captivating orator, he has motivated attendees to believe and apply that which has been taught. Vision Forum primarily ministers to home school families, encouraging both parents and children on to spiritual maturity. ICR expresses great appreciation to Vision Forum for their thoughtfulness and partnership in the work of creation evangelism.

The conference recognized God's sovereign control over history and the affairs of nations. The impressive roster of invited speakers addressed issues related to this. Drs. Whitcomb and Morris covered creation, the Flood, the search for the Ark, the dispersion at Babel, and the age of the earth. The others acknowledged God's hand of providence in major events in history, our nation's founding, and the outcome of major battles. God's hand of judgment was likewise noted in nations who had rejected His ways, continuing the worldview of Babel in their new civilization. Those in attendance were buttressed in their confidence in and knowledge of God's Word.

Information on how to obtain video or audio recordings from the "History of the World Mega-Conference" can be found by visiting www.visionforum.com or calling their Customer Service Department at 800/440-0022. 

The Bible specifies that Noah's Ark came to rest on "the mountains of Ararat" and that as the waters continued to drain, other mountain tops could be seen. No particular mountain is indicated, for "Ararat" (or *Urartu*) was the name of an ancient country. The phrase "the mountains of Ararat" would be equivalent to saying "the mountains of Spain," for instance. There is one prominent peak in this region, however, and it today goes by the name *Mt. Ararat*, at least in western circles. The Turks have another name for it, as do the Armenians, who live nearby and claim it as their ancestral homeland. It is a volcanic mountain, having erupted several times since the Flood, the last major eruption being in 1840.

Evidence has been gathered which seems to indicate the Ark's remains may have survived to this day, and have been seen by hundreds of "eyewitnesses" over the years. None of these testimonies are very detailed, and much disagreement



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exists among researchers as to which location is indicated. In my opinion, the accounts better fit the current Mt. Ararat than any other possible site, and it is this mountain which has drawn the attention of explorers. The Bible contains no mention of the Ark's preservation after the Flood, nor any prophecy that it would be found in the future. Indeed, it is only these eyewitnesses which keep attention focused on the search at all.

Since about 1960 many expeditions have been launched attempting to find it. Most of the search has centered on modern day Mt. Ararat in eastern Turkey, and while many "hints" have been found, none have been successful in discovering proof of the Ark's existence. The lack of discovery has influenced some to consider other possible sites.

One such site has been much in the news lately. Under the leadership of Christian "explorer" Bob Cornuke, several Americans journeyed to mountains north of Tehran, Iran, to study an "Ark shaped" formation there. Cornuke had discovered the shape in 2005, following clues in Scripture which he felt favored this area over the traditional site. The site vaguely fits one of the most important eyewitness descriptions, and is worth investigation.

I had met Cornuke on Turkey's Mount Ararat when we both were there in the late 1980s. We forged a friendship then, and have maintained contact ever since, sometimes speaking at the same events. Upon returning from his first trip to Iran, Cornuke sent me and the other geologists at ICR several clear photographs of his discovery and asked for our evaluation. Unfortunately, he had no samples to show us, and thus it was not possible to be certain of its identity.

In our unanimous opinion, the formation was of geologic interest only. It is unusual, and worthy of further study, but it seemed to be of sedimentary rock, although some features appeared metamorphic. The

layered look is evidently due to sedimentary deposition by water processes, or possibly directional stress due to metamorphism. Most likely the rock material is thinly bedded silicified sandstone which has been mistaken for wood grain. Regional fracturing has produced the superficial look of thick beams. Without careful geologic field work, it would be impossible to determine its geologic history, but we saw little to indicate an archaeological origin. We cautioned Cornuke against any dogmatic claim that it was the Ark. Such an important find necessitates firm proof, and this is questionable at best.

Cornuke again journeyed to the site earlier this year with several well known Christian scholars, again returning with high quality photos. The explorers have appeared on radio and television shows, leaving the definite impression the Ark has finally been located. I have noticed that Cornuke is careful to insist he does not claim the Ark has been found, but the viewer or listener often comes away with that impression anyway. Unfortunately, some of his other his colleagues do not exhibit the same restraint, and boldly claim they have made a great discovery.

The claim is made that the material is petrified wood, and it may be. But petrified wood is found in thousands of places around the world. Finding it here means nothing. Perhaps the Ark is petrified, but this would necessitate conditions and a sequence of events which hardly seem likely here. Wood is best petrified when buried in volcanic ash, but they have asserted this is not a volcanic region. Without precise maps and study, it would be impossible to know. Abundant marine fossils are reported nearby, only partially lithified, testifying to a sedimentary origin with little subsequent metamorphism. One piece of "wood" is reported to have a marine fossil imbedded in it. While the fossil (as well as the rock) is probably from the Flood, certainly it was not on

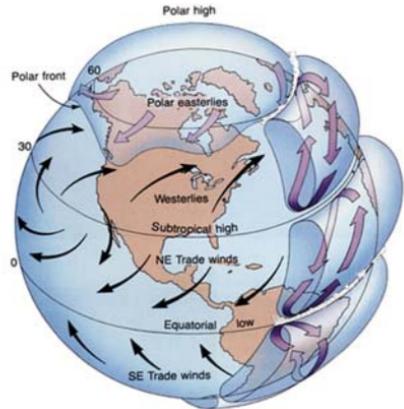
(Continued on page 6.)

Vardiman Returns to Climate Research

After four years in almost full-time administrative positions with ICR, Dr. Larry Vardiman will be returning to research and writing in the Fall of 2006. Dr. Vardiman served for eight years as Program Manager and Senior Editor for the just completed RATE project and for almost two years as the Chief Operating Officer (COO) for ICR. He had little time to conduct any personal research during this period. With the first phase of the RATE project completed December 31, 2005, he stepped down as COO on June 24, 2006. He plans to resume several studies in climate modeling he suspended in 2002.

Dr. Vardiman published the results of several climate studies in 1998 and 2000 on heavy precipitation in limited locations immediately following the Genesis Flood. He found that a warm ocean which likely followed the Flood would have moistened and energized the atmosphere (compared to today) and produced heavy snowfalls in polar regions and on mountains. The snowfall rates would have been sufficient to explain the accumulation of ice sheets and glaciers during the Ice Age in less than 500 years. In addition, simulations using warm ocean conditions in the Mesoscale Meteorology Model (MM5) would have formed hypercanes (extreme hurricanes) and produced severe damage near subtropical coastlines and contributed to the snowfall in northern latitudes.

The modeling studies conducted by Dr. Vardiman and his students were done using conventional software adapted to run on PCs. The original global precipitation simulations used the



Earth's Global Circulation.

Community Climate Model (CCM1). This model has been updated since the early runs at ICR and is now available for PCs without additional adaptation. It also has significant upgrades which include several major physical processes not considered in the original version. The first priority for additional climate research will be to rerun some of the simulations on the latest available Community Atmosphere Model (CAM 3.0) and confirm the earlier results. Better simulations of ocean, land, and ice are now included.

A second climate modeling effort will apply the MM5 model to regional topographies like Yellowstone National Park, Yosemite National Park, and Everglades National Park. The precipitation and wind patterns over these areas during warm ocean conditions are expected to result in heavy snowfall in the mountains and strong erosion and deposition of sand near sea level. Dr. Vardiman hopes to report the results of these simulations at the Sixth International Conference on Creationism to be held in San Diego during 2008. For a prospectus on this research please write to Dr. Larry Vardiman at LVardiman@icr.edu or PO Box 2667, El Cajon, CA 92021. 

Museum Day at ICR Saturday, September 30!

For the second year ICR will hold a Museum Day in conjunction with the nationwide Smithsonian Museum Day sponsored by *Smithsonian* magazine. Along with those who love the Creation and Earth History Museum, we hope people who are not familiar with creationism will visit us when they see our name in the list of participating museums in *Smithsonian*.

This year has been a very interesting one for creationism. Sunday, February 12, 2006, was heralded as “Evolution Sunday,” as the clergy of hundreds of churches told their congregations that evolution and Christianity could be reconciled. In Dover, Pennsylvania, in a highly publicized court case, the Dover School District’s attempt to teach Intelligent Design was declared unconstitutional by a federal judge. Closer to home the University of California system refused to accept certain high school credits from a Christian school. The high school said this was a discrimination against the Christian worldview and not the academic content.

The good news is that students across the nation are becoming bolder in the expression of their scientific and religious beliefs. Many science educators don’t have answers for the probing questions of their students. Science educators educated in public schools have been indoctrinated with evolutionary beliefs, but they often don’t know the scientific facts. Christian students equipped with the scientific facts are able to challenge the public school science because the facts overwhelmingly support creation.

This has become so much of a “problem” that the American Association for the Advancement of Science has started holding seminars for teachers to “give them tools to respond when students, parents or local officials pressure them to avoid teaching evolution or to introduce the faith-based concepts of intelligent design or creation-



Museum visitors in the new genome room.

ism in the classroom.”¹ Some museums now hold training sessions for their docents who are struggling “to contend with challenges to the theory of evolution that they say are growing common. . . .”²

This is an exciting change in our country. It means that the ICR and other creation ministries are succeeding at educating believers in the scientific basis for creation! Even with all the pressure from public schools and evolution advocates, a majority of the American people believe creation should be taught alongside evolution and that there should be academic freedom in the science classroom.³

At the Museum of Creation and Earth History we equip people to intelligently speak about their faith and the scientific facts that support creation. Museum Day, September 30, will be a great day to visit the Museum. We will be open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and have many special events planned. Our scientists will be on site giving presentations and answering questions, and there will be special sales, refreshments, and free giveaways. Please join us if you are in the area!

Endnotes

1. “St. Louis Educators Pack Evolution Seminar,” May/June 2006. As seen in the News and Trends section of *American Teacher*.
2. “Museums Prepare Answers to Creationists’ Challenges,” Sunday, September 25, 2005. *New York Times*, p. 24A.
3. Lester, W., August 31, 2005. “Poll: Public Divided on Evolution.” See: usatoday.com. 



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

Weekend of: _____ **Title/Topic:** _____

Sept. 2 The Hues of Humanity

There are many diverse nationalities and people groups throughout the world. But, if we’re all descendants of Adam and Eve, why are we so different? Tune in to hear the surprising answer to this question!

Sept. 9 In Six Days

Scripture records that God created everything within a six-day time period. But some Christians say those days represent long ages. Was creation completed in six literal days, and does the length of time God used to create really matter? Join us for this vital discussion!

Sept. 16 Progressive Creation

Young Earth creationists continue to combat the false teaching that the earth is billions of years old. However, some that *call* themselves creationists adhere to the evolutionary teaching of an *old* Earth. Can one believe in both evolution and the Bible? Please listen in as we address this question!

Sept. 23 Flight Patterns of Migrating Birds

Every fall we look up in the sky in wonder as migrating birds, including geese in their familiar “V” formation, fly by. What’s significant about this flight pattern, and how do these birds know when and where to go? Tune in to this fascinating discussion!

Sept. 30 Amazing Animal Actions

Although most untamed animals aren’t accustomed to playing “rescue hero” for human beings, wild animals have done some remarkable things to save human life. But, how are these beasts capable of such deeds? Join us for this intriguing discussion! 

Noah’s Ark (Continued from page 3.)

the Ark. The Ark would have landed on the mountain while the area was draining, after the fossiliferous sediments had been deposited, and it would have never been underwater since that time. Determining if the material is wood or not can best be accomplished by examining a thin section under a microscope. If specimens were taken, they need to be studied for remaining wood cells.

There are several questions regarding the site which could be easily answered. Is the formation hollow as a ship would be? Is there evidence that it was a structure even if it has been subsequently filled in? Is there evidence of human carpentry? What are its overall dimensions? What type of rock surrounded it and what is the precise chemical and microscopic nature of the material now?

Based on my partial information I suspect that this formation is not the Ark of Noah. The information I do have does not favorably point to a human origin, but toward a geologic source. I have been involved in the search for the Ark for over 30 years, and as much as I believe in Noah’s Ark and would love to report that it has been found, I can not at this time do so. 

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A Creationist Worldview

“For of Him, and through Him, and to Him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen” (Romans 11:36).

There is much talk today about developing a “Christian Worldview.” Several well-known books and organizations offer a variety of intellectual challenges, motivational seminars, and leadership institutes intended to promote a resurgence of “Christian” thinking.

However, some groups merely emphasize conservative ethics and morals, while others focus solely on evangelism. Very few embrace a creationist perspective, and these, often embrace differing, compromise positions. Is it logical or even possible to hold a “Christian” worldview which doesn’t include creation?

Creationist Worldview Contrasts

Hybrid Creationist Views	Biblical Creationist View
Progressive, naturalistic “creation”	Recent, <i>ex nihilo</i> creation
Allegorical or symbolic text	Historical and precise text
Science “assists” text interpretation	Text “focuses” scientific research
Physical death is a “normal” process and mechanism for advancement	Physical death is a “punishment” on all life and is the “enemy”
Noah’s Flood was local or regional	Noah’s Flood was global
Current processes are stable and are sufficient to evaluate events of the unrecorded past—such as Creation and the Flood.	Current processes are both “conservative” and “covenantal” and cannot account for the “catastrophic” events of creation and the Flood.
The Genesis Mandate empowers humanity to “grow” in knowledge and authority, thus “enlightening” humanity toward progressive success.	The Genesis Mandate empowers humanity as rulers under the authority of the Creator. Humanity functions as “steward” or “manager” rather than “owner.”

Training and motivating Christians to serve as *stewards* of the Creator’s world is a vital part of our mission at ICR. We thank God for your sustaining gifts that provide us the practical strength to continue this life-changing work.



Dr. Henry Morris III, ICR Executive Vice President

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