

# ACTS & FACTS

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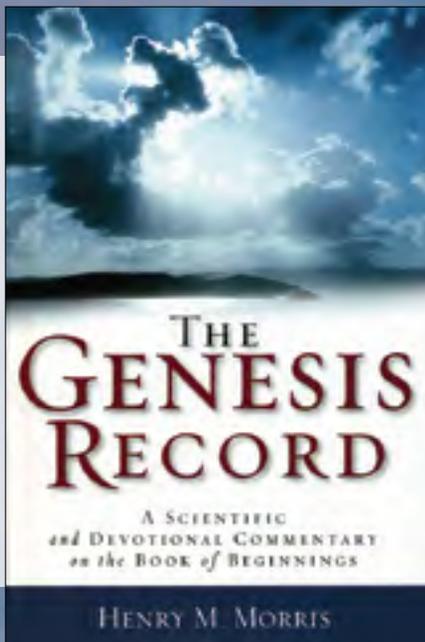
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*Communicating the Wonders of*  
**God's Creation**



*The Genesis Record* is probably the most widely-used complete modern commentary on the foundational book of the Bible. ICR founder Henry M. Morris brought his considerable gifts as writer, researcher, and scientist to bear on a comprehensive scientific and devotional examination of this often-misinterpreted book of beginnings.

With its narrative-type exposition, it is easy to understand, yet has persuasive answers to scientific difficulties and other problems, showing Genesis to be literally and historically accurate throughout. Useful to both the theologically trained and the layperson, this hardcover book—with appendixes, maps, and indexes of subjects and Scripture references—is a “must” for the library of any serious student of the Bible.

**\$38.95**  
*(plus shipping and handling)*



Published in 1983, this hardcover book serves as a sequel to Dr. Morris' *The Genesis Record*, with an in-depth examination of Revelation's prophecies concerning the climactic culmination of human history. Both Jerry Falwell and Tim LaHaye, in their respective forewords, recognize it as the most literal of all commentaries on Revelation, demonstrating its scientific feasibility as well as its relevance to the last days.

This scientific and devotional book is a must-read for those who wish to understand God's revealed Word from beginning to end. Jesus gave signs for His return, charging His disciples to “watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is” (Mark 13:33). In these perilous times, every Christian needs the knowledge and assurance that can only come from God's Word.

**\$24.95**  
*(plus shipping and handling)*



### **Special leather-bound, first-edition *Revelation Record***

In the move to Dallas last year, we discovered a small supply of first-edition, leather-bound copies of *The Revelation Record* by Dr. Henry M. Morris. For \$99.00 (plus shipping and handling), we will send you an individually-numbered, leather-bound copy signed by Drs. John Morris and Henry M. Morris III, sons of the author, and President and CEO of ICR.

*An excellent gift...Quantities are limited,  
so order today!*



## Genesis and Revelation: Bookends of the Bible

In 1977, when Dalta, my sweet wife, and I were first married, we read my father's book *The Genesis Record* (published the year before) for our regular devotional time. It aptly connected Genesis with the rest of the Bible, and showed us that the situations faced in ancient times were the same as those faced today. Reading it aloud together proved an important time of growth for us as a couple. It got our fledgling marriage off to a wonderful start, and even provided my new wife (who came from a decidedly non-Christian extended family) with additional insights into my family. I could not recommend it more highly.

As with all Henry M. Morris' books, it assumes a literal approach to the Bible, an approach sorely needed in these days when Christian leaders are adopting the allegorical Framework Hypothesis and rampantly inserting "billions and billions of years" into Genesis. Adam and the other patriarchs are often not considered to be actual historical figures, wreaking havoc with New Testament doctrine. My father's explanations, non-technical but meaty, put the serious study of Genesis on strong footing, and even provide vivid character sketches along the way. (My favorite part is when Abraham sends his servant back to his ancestral homeland to find a wife for Isaac, revealing his sweet trust in his sovereign God).

When Dalta recently suggested we jointly read my father's 1983 book *The Revelation Record*, I quickly agreed. I've read and referred to it numerous times over the years, but she had never read it. So we started in, reading it in the morning before diving into the activities of the day. God

has promised a special blessing to those who read this final book of the Bible (Revelation 1:3), and this promise is still true.

I remember that when *The Revelation Record* first came out, I had already started reading material on the up and coming New Age Movement, but my father had not. However, he was so familiar with trends in science and society, and his analysis of the end-time prophecies so compelling, that it was easy to put the two seemingly disparate thought systems together. I quickly recognized this was perhaps the very best book on the subject. He astutely recognized current events and saw how prophecies of the last days could be coming true right before our eyes.

As in the case of *The Genesis Record*, I highly recommend you pick up a copy of *The Revelation Record*. It may not be obvious why a creation ministry deals with end-time prophecy, and we don't make this a cornerstone of our work, but the issue of biblical integrity pervades everything we do. The same trend toward allegorical interpretation that has been used to challenge Genesis is also being applied to Revelation, threatening to do great harm to the church.

God blessed ICR with Dr. Henry Morris as its founder. He laid the foundation and set ICR's standards of scientific accuracy and biblical authority for the days ahead. It is such a blessing to be in this position of using science to further the Kingdom, and to have partners in the ministry like you who have the same burden.

*John D. Morris*  
John D. Morris, Ph.D.  
PRESIDENT

## CONTENTS

- 4 Communicating the Wonders of God's Creation  
*Lawrence E. Ford*
- 6 Mitochondrial DNA and a Recent Human Origin  
*Larry Vardiman, Ph.D.*
- 8 Man of Science, Man of God: Isaac Newton  
*Christine Dao*
- 10 Evolution's Evangelists
- 13 Evolution's Biggest Hurdles  
*John D. Morris, Ph.D.*
- 14 Sand Injectites  
*William A. Hoesch, M.S.*
- 15 Messenger from Mercury  
*David F. Coppedge*
- 16 Letters to the Editor  
Radio Log
- 17 Darts, Darkness, and Donors  
*Henry M. Morris IV*
- 19 Book Review:  
*The Genesis Factor*  
*Frank Sherwin, M.A.*

# { “Only through the lens of Scripture

God is the great communicator. The very first chapter of Genesis records no fewer than ten times that “God said...,” revealing the Creator’s heart to the world and its inhabitants. In Genesis 1:22-30, we read of God’s love and care for what He made:

- God pronounced abundant blessings upon His creation.
- God decreed satisfying purposes for His creation.
- God established faithful provisions for His creation.

Throughout the Bible we see myriad instances where God communicates to individuals, to animals, and even to the inanimate objects of the world He made. The Bible itself is a written account of God’s communication to man, revealing His plan for man’s life, redemption, and eternal destiny. Often in the Scriptures, God uses the wonders of creation to demonstrate His power or protection or provision, and to reveal His awesome character. Think of the Flood. The parting of the Red Sea. The manna from heaven. The innumerable stars in the night sky. “The heavens declare the glory of God” (Psalm 19:1).

## Exemplifying Passionate Communication

During the past 50 years, many have stated that ICR’s founder, Dr. Henry Morris, was a superb communicator and a gifted teacher. His knowledgeable and articulate

manner of expressing truth touched millions around the world with the message of creation. And though now departed, he still speaks.

What made Henry Morris so effective in communication? His intellect? Certainly this contributed to his ability to understand and convey the facts of science and the Bible. His gift of teaching? There is no doubt that he possessed a God-given gift of instruction.

But there was something else that made Dr. Morris a gifted teacher: his unashamed passion for extolling the Creator, for communicating the wonders of God’s creation. Henry Morris loved God, and when he first became convinced of the veracity of Scripture, even in the matters of science, he could no longer remain silent.

From his earliest teaching on creation and the flood of Noah, culminating in the seminal work *The Genesis Flood* in 1961, his commitment to lift high the Creator consumed his soul, his life, and his work.

Rather than shrinking in the face of criticism and ridicule from his fellow scientists, who would have preferred he hold his tongue regarding “creation” science, Henry Morris moved forward with compelling evidence and persuasive teaching through books and lectures. When others hid in the shadows, not willing to jeopardize their names and reputations in academia, Henry Morris went public all the more.

And when he founded the Institute for Creation Research in 1970, he intended the

research, education, and communication missions of the organization to remain biblically-founded. That legacy and commitment remain true today.

What does it mean to communicate the wonders of God’s creation? Read what Dr. Henry Morris and others at ICR have said about the privilege of sharing the message of the Creator with the world.

## DR. HENRY M. MORRIS, FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT EMERITUS

We have been urging people to get back to Genesis as the foundation of their Christian faith and life ever since we started... ICR way back in 1970.

In fact, long before that! My first book, written almost fifty years ago, stressed the wonderful truth of creation and the harmful fallacy of evolution in much the same way that ICR speakers and writers are doing today. This is a timeless message, needed increasingly as time goes on.

...Many writers have attributed the beginnings of the modern revival of scientific Biblical creationism to the catalytic effects of our book, *The Genesis Flood*, published in 1961. If this is true, I believe the reason for the book’s effectiveness was our frank acceptance of the Genesis record...as absolutely and literally true, showing that Genesis also provided a better basis for understanding the scientific data concerning primeval history than any evolutionary model could ever do.<sup>1</sup>

# Communicating the Wonders God’s

can we fully appreciate what we see.” }  
}

DR. DUANE GISH,  
SR. VICE PRESIDENT EMERITUS

In Romans 1:20 we read, “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.” Thus as I lectured throughout the United States and many other countries, often debating leading evolutionists, I knew that I was communicating the magnificent wonders of God’s creation to those who had ears to hear. The rest—those who refused to believe—are simply left “without excuse.”

DR. HENRY M. MORRIS III,  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

The everlasting gospel itself is focused to “worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters” (Revelation 14:7). Therefore, it is not possible to separate the doctrine of creation from the doctrine of salvation. Only the omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent Creator could accomplish the work of redemption on Calvary, executed in created time and space, implementing an eternal reconciliation of all things to the immutable will and purpose of the Creator-Redeemer.

The written Word reveals that the creation provides evidence for the nature of the Creator (Psalm 19:1-4; Romans 1:18-20). Therefore, it necessarily follows that the inextricably-bound attributes of the Father, Son, and Spirit cannot be in conflict with the message of the created things. Nor can the message of the Gos-

pel be conflicted with or by the message in the creation.

We then who have been given the high privilege of being “ambassadors for Christ” (2 Corinthians 5:20) must surely be careful that our teachings about the Creation, the Dominion Mandate, the Fall of Man, and the Plan of Redemption be as accurate as our human minds can portray, guided by and submitted to the revealed words of our Creator.

DR. JOHN D. MORRIS,  
PRESIDENT

As a trained scientist, I love to study and teach about the world around us. It contains so many extraordinary things, it is a joy to teach and instill in others the same sense of awe and wonder. But as a Christian and creationist, there is so much more to be realized. Only through the lens of Scripture can we fully appreciate what we see. Recognizing that God has displayed His creative handiwork in creation, especially in living things, we can better grasp biological truth and interact with His majesty. Likewise, when we come to grips with the fact that God has judged the world for its rebellion, we can finally understand geology, and see the impact of the great Flood of Noah’s day.

As a Christian trained in science, it gives me the greatest joy to demonstrate how the truth of God’s Word is evident in His creation. I love to champion His Word and lead others to the certain knowledge that His message to us is fully trustworthy. A different but equal joy is seeing God overcome obstacles to salvation in

the heart of an honest seeker through the teaching of creation, and seeing their doubts melt away.

This month, as you consider the wonders of God’s creation, take time to ask yourself: How can God use me to communicate this message to those around me? Communication takes many forms, but all start with a passionate commitment to extol God our Creator. Make that your prayer and your service.

In upcoming issues of *Acts & Facts*, look for specific information on how you can become a Creation Advocate, a doer of the Word and not just a hearer. Becoming an advocate for the Creator is a personal ministry of service and worship on behalf of God. Perhaps you can teach a class at church on Genesis 1 or a group of homeschoolers about the awesome evidence of God’s power as seen in the flood of Noah. Why not check out your child’s biology textbook? Does it teach that evolution is an indisputable fact? Can you supply your child’s teacher with appropriate creation science literature?

In this issue of *Acts & Facts*, we are providing our Spring Resource Guide. Feel free to pull that out and use it to aid you in your own quest to study, teach, and communicate the wonders of God’s creation. ●

**Reference**

1. Morris, H. 1994. Beginning at Genesis. *Acts & Facts*. 23 (2).

*Mr. Ford is Executive Editor.*



# of Creation

LAWRENCE E. FORD

## Mitochondrial DNA and a Recent Human Origin

LARRY VARDIMAN, P.H.D.

A team of scientists that includes Dr. Daniel Criswell of ICR has recently completed a study of mitochondrial DNA and will be presenting its work at this summer's International Conference on Creationism. A mitochondrion is a cellular power plant that generates most of the chemical energy the cell needs to support its functions. Although most of a cell's DNA is contained in the nucleus, the mitochondrion has its own small DNA molecule and this DNA is passed down from mother to child. The study has revealed an unexpected lack of diversity within worldwide human mitochondrial lineages, despite high mutation rates, and this supports the idea that humanity is only a few thousand years old.

Mitochondrial DNA has been used to develop several models of human origins. The Recent African Origins hypothesis (RAO) is currently the most popular model for human evolution. Although the RAO model has a number of significant technical problems and makes some assumptions that conflict with a biblical perspective, it contains several interesting tenets: 1) there was a single dispersal of mankind with three main mitochondrial lineages interspersed within clans; 2) the dispersion was centered in

the Middle East in the recent past; 3) the dispersion was essentially tribal in nature, with small groups pushing into previously uninhabited territory; and 4) genetic evidence indicates that male lineages are much more geographically specific than female lineages, with female migration rates up to eight times greater than males. This latter tenet is an expression of the Babel account in Genesis, where the initial, well-mixed population split up and migrated according to paternal lineage. The biblical model fits very well with data collected in these evolutionary studies.

The ICR team began an exploration of changes in mitochondrial DNA by collecting and culling publicly-available human DNA records to create a set of 827 high-quality sequences. From this, they constructed a *consensus sequence* called Eve 1.0. They continued their analysis by modeling human mitochondrial genetic history using Mendel's Accountant, a numerical program developed at ICR that can be used to mimic the accumulation of mutations in a population over time.

After analyzing the differences found among the sequences in their dataset, they discovered that more than 83 percent of the mitochondrial genome had not changed in all of

human history, and in over 99 percent of the locations where a change has occurred, only a small minority of people carried that specific change. In other words, most changes that have occurred are minor and rare. On average, human mitochondrial DNA differs from the original Eve consensus sequence by only 21.6 nucleotides (a nucleotide is a "letter" in the DNA alphabet). This is a small number when one considers that there are more than 16,500 nucleotide letters in the human mitochondrial genome.

The authors claim, therefore, that the consensus sequence, Eve 1.0, is nearly identical to the original mitochondrial sequence—that of Eve, the first woman and the mother of every person who has ever lived. And because the mitochondrial genome is subject to high mutation rates, the lack of significant worldwide variation is evidence for a young mitochondrial genome. The complete paper, *The "Eve" Mitochondrial Consensus Sequence*, will be presented at the 6th International Conference on Creationism in Pittsburgh, PA, in August 2008. ●

*Dr. Vardiman is Director of Research.*



## Meeting Highlight

When it comes to new opportunities to share the creationist message, doors can open in unusual ways.

Frank Sherwin, ICR Science Editor, was invited to speak last year at Pensacola Christian College in Florida. While there, someone mistook him for another speaker, Pastor Richard Wallace of Flower Mound's Temple Baptist Church. At the same time, Pastor Wallace was taken for "the creationist speaker from Flower Mound." Wondering who could also be there from the same small Texas town, the two men finally met.

From that meeting came an invitation to present the scientific case for creation at Temple Baptist. Since January, Mr. Sherwin has spoken there several times concerning the

marvelous work of our Creator, and particularly how science supports the authority and accuracy of the Bible.

In one talk, Mr. Sherwin highlighted a case cited by D. Keith Mano in his article "The Bethesda miracle" (*National Review*, April 21, 1997) concerning Virgil, a man who was blind since childhood. After successful eye surgery, he could "see," but his brain had trouble processing the visual details into objects he could recognize. His wife noted, "Virgil finally put a tree together—he now knows that the trunk and leaves go together to form a complete unit."

In Mark 8, Jesus placed His hands on a blind man and then asked him what he saw. "I see men as trees, walking," was the reply. Then

Jesus put His hands on the man's eyes again, and after that the man saw clearly. This miracle reflects an aspect of sight that was not understood until recently. Eyes may see, but the brain must also have the ability to assemble the visual images into something meaningful. How would the writer have known that a person with newly-restored sight would see "men as trees, walking"? Given the medical knowledge of the day, this interim step could not have been faked.

Science continues to shed new light on the biblical account. To schedule a creation speaker or event (workshop, seminar, presentation) in your area, call 800.337.0375, visit [www.icr.org/events](http://www.icr.org/events), or email [events@icr.org](mailto:events@icr.org). ●

THE PREMIER CONFERENCE  
on  
YOUNG-EARTH SCIENCE

Coming in August 2008

On August 3-7, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, will host the 2008 International Conference on Creationism. Co-sponsored by ICR, this premier scientific conference will feature academic scholars from around the world presenting technical, peer-reviewed papers in the following areas:

- Foundations of Science
- Life Sciences
- Stellar and Planetary Sciences
- Earth Sciences
- Social Sciences and the Humanities

Paper abstracts that have been accepted include "The 'Eve' Mitochondrial Consensus Sequence," "Electrodynamic Origin of the Force of Gravity," "Big Bang: Fact or Fiction?," and "Radiohalos and Diamonds: Are Diamonds Really Forever?" Occurring every four to five years, the ICC is the only peer-reviewed conference where such young-earth papers are presented—several of which will come from ICR's own scientists.

For more details or to register, visit [www.icc08.org](http://www.icc08.org).



*Man of Science, Man of God:*

# Isaac Newton

CHRISTINE DAO

Sir Isaac Newton, perhaps the most influential scientist of all time, came from very humble beginnings. The Julian calendar places his birthday on Christmas 1642, before which his father, John Newton, died at the age of 36. He was born premature and possibly had Asperger syndrome, a form of autism, which could explain his later ability to intensely focus on specific subject matters.

His mother remarried and sent him at age three to live with his maternal grandmother. At 12 he was sent to The King's School, an educational institution for boys in Grantham, Lincolnshire. Biographer N.W. Chittenden recounts that the young Newton was not a good student at first. However, after losing in a fight

against the student ranked just above him, he applied himself to his studies until not only did he outrank his offender, but everyone else in his class.

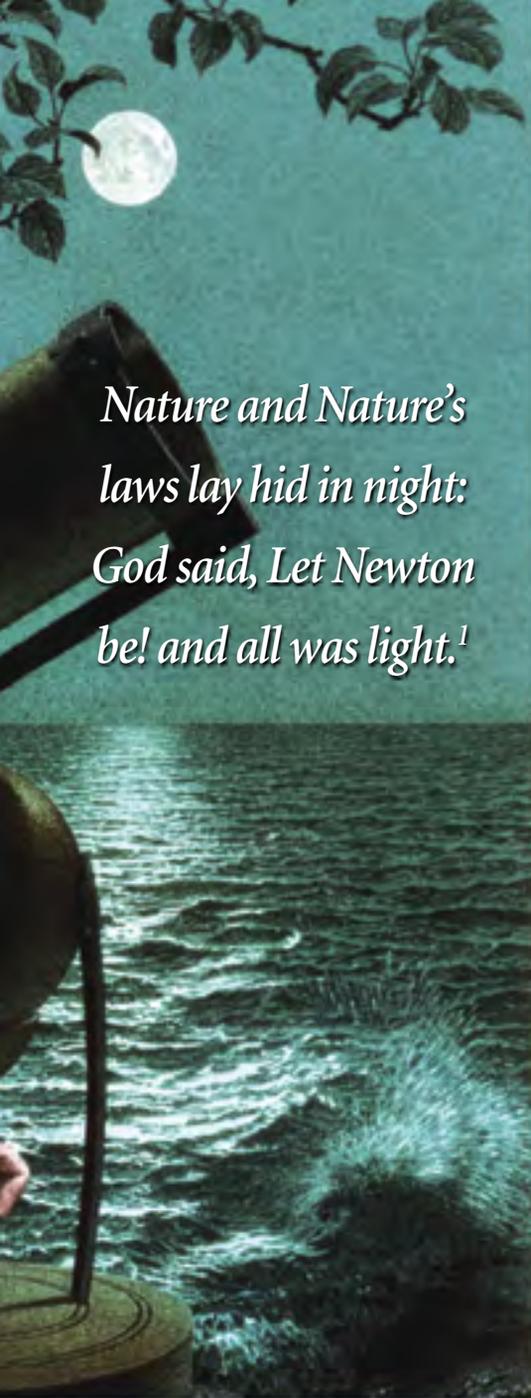
When he was 15, his mother was widowed again and for financial purposes removed him from school to manage a farm. He disliked the work and often neglected his duties, taking advantage of market trips into Grantham to read and study. His mother was persuaded to send him back to school to complete his education.

In 1661 at the age of 18, he entered Trinity College at the University of Cambridge. Newton took an interest in mathematics, overlooking the prominent study of the Greek philosopher Euclid and instead focusing on the relatively

modern works of minds such as René Descartes, Galileo Galilei, John Wallis, and Johann Kepler.

In 1665, the young scientist invented the generalized binomial theorem and began developing the mathematical theory that would later become calculus. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree later that year, shortly after which the university was closed as a precaution against the Great Plague. Newton returned to his home in Woolsthorpe to continue his work in calculus, optics, and the law of gravitation, as well as dabbling in some alchemy in the spirit of Robert Boyle's *The Sceptical Chymist*.

He returned to Cambridge in 1668 and earned Master of Arts recognition and the Lucasian Professor of Mathematics position a year



*Nature and Nature's  
laws lay hid in night:  
God said, Let Newton  
be! and all was light.<sup>1</sup>*

Photo by Jean-Léon Huens/National Geographic/Getty Images

later. The Royal Society took interest in his optics works, particularly his investigations into the refraction of light, as well as the reflecting telescope he invented (today known as a Newtonian telescope). Though his work received initial opposition, it paved the way for Newton's membership into the Royal Society in 1671, sparking the rapid rise of his reputation.

Newton hesitated to publicize his mathematical studies for fear of more opposition. But in 1687, he published the first edition of his *Philosophiæ Naturalis Principia Mathematica* (later translated in 1825 as *The Mathematical Principles of Natural Philosophy*), considered today to be the single greatest work in the history of science. In it, he described universal gravita-

**Who: Isaac Newton**

**What: Father of Universal Gravitation**

**When: January 4, 1643 – March 31, 1727**

**Where: Woolsthorpe, a hamlet of Lincolnshire, England**

tion and the three laws of motion, derived from Kepler's Laws.

Though he was and still is renowned for his scientific pursuits, Newton was a serious student of the Bible and published several theological works. Even in his famed *Principia*, Newton exhibited his dedication to God.

This most beautiful system of the sun, planets, and comets, could only proceed from the counsel and dominion of an intelligent and powerful Being... This Being governs all things, not as the soul of the world, but as Lord over all; and on account of his dominion he is wont to be called *Lord God παντοκρατωρ*, or *Universal Ruler*...<sup>2</sup>

Scientific inquiry, which then existed as Natural Philosophy, could not exist apart from "the Maker," according to Newton. In fact, science was the perfect realm in which to discuss God.

Since every particle of space is *always*, and every indivisible moment of duration is *every where*, certainly the Maker and Lord of all things cannot be *never* and *no where*... God is the same God, always and every where. He is omnipresent not *virtually* only, but also *substantially*; for virtue cannot subsist without substance.... It is allowed by all that the Supreme God exists necessarily; and by the same necessity he exists *always* and *every where*... And thus much concerning God; to discourse of whom from the appearance of things, does certainly belong to Natural Philosophy.<sup>3</sup>

Though he lived before Darwin, Newton was not unacquainted with the atheistic evolutionary theory on origins. He was convinced against it and wrote:

Blind metaphysical necessity, which is certainly the same always and every where, could produce no variety of things. All that diversity of natural things which we find suited to different times and places could arise from nothing but the ideas and will of a Being, necessarily existing.<sup>4</sup>

In the winter of 1692, Newton suffered the loss of a scientific manuscript 20 years in

the making, which triggered a nervous breakdown that lasted almost two years. When he emerged from it, his scholastic work attracted royal attention, and he was appointed as warden and later master of the Royal Mint. Although the appointments were sinecures, he took his work seriously, eventually retiring from his professorship at Cambridge in order to focus on the Mint. He made significant contributions to currency reform and the convictions of counterfeiters and clippers (who clipped the edges of coins, devaluing the currency), crimes considered high treason. His work at the Royal Mint, rather than his scientific achievements, earned him knighthood from Queen Anne in 1705.

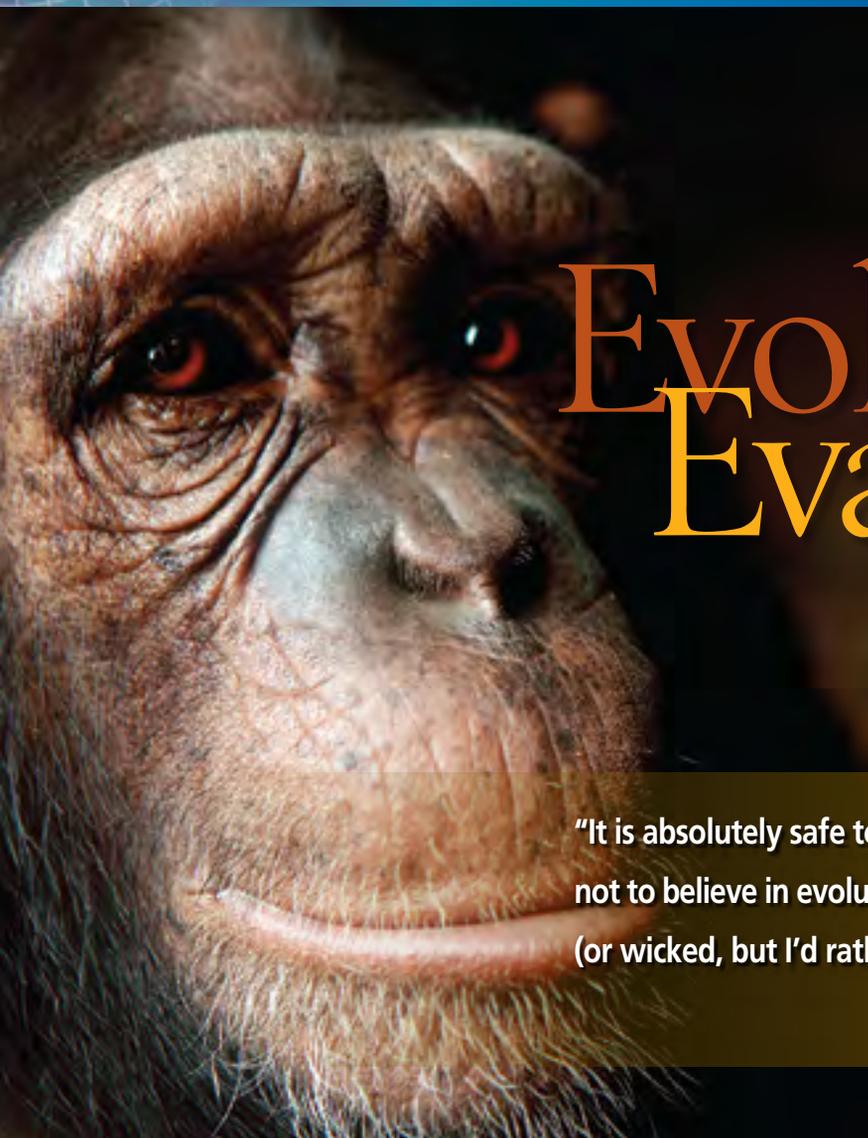
Other honors included being elected a member of the French Académie des Sciences in 1699, and becoming President of the Royal Society in 1703. He never married, and though he died without a will, he had already given much of his estate to his nieces and nephews. He also endowed a professorship at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland, and biographers noted that he gave liberally to the poor throughout his life.

Newton died in March 1727 and was interred at Westminster Abbey in London. Although in the popular imagination he is most closely associated with an apple and the law of gravity, Newton himself is quoted as saying, "Gravity explains the motions of the planets, but it cannot explain who set the planets in motion. God governs all things and knows all that is or can be done."<sup>5</sup> ●

**References**

1. Epitaph for Newton's grave, composed by English poet Alexander Pope.
2. Newton, I. General Scholium. Translated by Motte, A. 1825. *Newton's Principia: The Mathematical Principles of Natural Philosophy*. New York: Daniel Adee, 501. The Greek word *pantokrator* is most often translated as "Almighty" in the King James Version.
3. *Ibid*, 505-506.
4. *Ibid*, 506.
5. Tiner, J. H. 1975. *Isaac Newton: Inventor, Scientist and Teacher*. Milford, MI: Mott Media.

*Ms. Dao is Assistant Editor.*



# Evolution's Evangelists

**"It is absolutely safe to say that, if you meet somebody who claims not to believe in evolution, that person is ignorant, stupid, or insane (or wicked, but I'd rather not consider that)."**<sup>1</sup>

**— Richard Dawkins**

**D**arwinian evolution (specifically, neo-Darwinism or the synthetic theory) has enjoyed elite status when it comes to the discussion of origins. As more is discovered about the basic components of life and how they interact, however, it has become increasingly clear that random genetic mistakes and natural selection could not possibly be biological mechanisms that over time would turn bacteria into people—i.e., simpler life forms into more complex life forms.

Neo-Darwinists often engage in a frustrating tautology, using the course of evolution to “prove” natural selection—and vice versa. If evolution were merely a scientific theory that was open to evaluation based on the evidence, then its evidentiary failings would be freely acknowledged and additional theories could be considered as they are warranted.

But far from being a free marketplace of ideas where scientists consider themselves at liberty to pursue the evidence

where it leads, the modern scientific establishment has bound itself to a single system of interpretation, with myriad variations but one bottom line: evolution is fact, and alternatives must be rejected out of hand. Thus the tenets of evolution have become a matter of faith, the foundation of a worldview where random chance is the organizing principle and survival of the fittest is the highest law.

And like other systems of belief, it has its clerics (those invested as scientific authorities), its adherents (e.g., the education system and the media), its mission (to apply its “truth” to every sphere of human endeavor through research in the fields of biology, geology, cosmology, psychology, etc.)—and, of course, its heretics. Enter the evangelists of evolution, troubleshooters who step in to defend the evolutionary community from “the ignorant, the stupid, or insane.” This article will take a brief look at three prominent purveyors of the evolutionary creed.



Photo by Matthias Agersson/Picturam

## RICHARD DAWKINS

Field of Expertise: Zoology

Education: 1962, Graduated from Balliol College, Oxford, England  
1966, M.A. and D.Phil., University of Oxford  
1989, D.Sc., University of Oxford

Current Position: Charles Simonyi Chair in the Public Understanding of Science at the University of Oxford

**D**r. Dawkins has been one of the most well-known contemporary proponents of the evolutionary worldview, as well as one of the most vocal critics against opposing viewpoints. Never one to mince words, Dawkins has been called “Darwin’s rottweiler”<sup>2</sup> for his ruthless tenacity and blunt characterizations of those who dispute evolution.

Among his frank assessments is the role atheism plays in evolutionary tenets.

[A]lthough atheism might have been *logically* tenable before Darwin, Darwin made it possible to be an intellectually fulfilled atheist.<sup>3</sup>

The more you understand the significance of evolution, the more you are pushed away from the agnostic position and towards atheism.<sup>4</sup>

Dawkins’ antipathy toward religion is summed up in the title of his 2006 book, *The God Delusion*. When commenting on a Gallup poll showing that nearly half of Americans believe that the universe is less than 10,000 years old, he said:

They believe this because they rate a particular bronze age origin myth more highly than all the scientific evidence in the world. It is only one of literally thousands of such myths from around the world, but it happened, by a series of historical accidents, to become enshrined in a book—Genesis... Now, in the 21st century as we approach Darwin’s bicentenary, the fact that half of Americans take Genesis literally is nothing less than an educational scandal.<sup>5</sup>

An “educational scandal,” evidently, that necessitates a call to arms, a campaign to save science from the “organized ignorance” of religion and restore it to the realm of reason:

The enlightenment is under threat. So is reason. So is truth. So is science, especially in the schools of America. I am one of those scientists who feels that it is no longer enough just to get on and do science. We have to devote a significant proportion of our time and resources to defending it from deliberate attack from organized ignorance. We even have to go out on the attack ourselves, for the sake of reason and sanity. But it must be a positive attack, for science and reason have so much to give.<sup>6</sup>

What Dawkins proposes is not a faithless system. Instead of God, however, he enshrines science and reason. If something cannot currently be explained through natural means, it is only a matter of time before “miracles” will be satisfactorily transformed by science into “natural phenomena.”

An atheist in this sense of philosophical naturalist is somebody who believes there is nothing beyond the natural, physical world, no *supernatural* creative intelligence lurking behind the observable universe, no soul that outlasts the body and no miracles—except in the sense of natural phenomena that we don’t yet understand. If there is something that appears to lie beyond the natural world as it is now imperfectly understood, we hope eventually to un-

derstand it and embrace it within the natural. As ever when we unweave a rainbow, it will not become less wonderful.<sup>7</sup>

Although opposed to the view that there can or should be a Supreme Being, there is one individual to whom Dawkins has shown allegiance.

Charles Darwin showed how it is possible for blind physical forces to mimic the effects of conscious design, and, by operating as a cumulative filter of chance variations, to lead eventually to organized and adaptive complexity, to mosquitoes and mammoths, to humans and therefore, indirectly, to books and computers.<sup>8</sup>

In the world of Richard Dawkins, religion is a force of “organized ignorance” that must be actively opposed, but “blind physical forces” that “mimic... conscious design” and through random chance somehow mysteriously lead to “organized and adaptive complexity”—those are what we should trust and believe in; they are the bedrock of our world and our lives.

It is no wonder that Dawkins has elsewhere concluded that “life has no design, no purpose, no evil and no good, nothing but blind pitiless indifference.”<sup>9</sup> If this is what evolution offers, can there be any other result but despair?

## EUGENIE SCOTT

Field of Expertise: Anthropology

Education: 1967, B.S. Zoology, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee  
1968, M.S. Zoology, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee  
1974, Ph.D. Anthropology, University of Missouri

Current Position: Executive Director, the National Center for Science Education (NCSE)

**D**r. Scott is a woman with a mission. The tagline of the NCSE website is “Defending the Teaching of Evolution in the Public Schools.” Against what is she defending it? The answer is easily summed up by the titles of her recent publications *Evolution vs. Creationism: An Introduction* (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2004) and *Not in Our Classrooms: Why Intelligent Design Is Wrong for Our Schools* (Boston: Beacon Press, 2006).



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Like Dawkins, Scott accepts the primacy of evolution in scientific endeavors—and indeed, in society as a whole.

You can’t really be scientifically literate if you don’t understand evolution. . . . And you can’t be an educated member of society if you don’t understand science.<sup>10</sup>

But scientific literacy is not her primary concern, as evidenced by the “Project Steve” statement on the NCSE website:

Although there are legitimate debates about the patterns and processes of evolution, there is no serious scientific doubt that evolution occurred or that natural selection is a major mechanism in its occurrence.<sup>11</sup>

By stating that there is no “serious” scientific doubt, Scott neatly eliminates the possibility that non-evolutionary scientists can provide a valid case for their hypotheses or conclusions. This stance is presented even more strongly in her book

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In February, shortly after we launched our re-designed website, Eugenie Scott wrote to us, "Your new website is quite attractive, but I am not easily able to find the list of Impact Series pamphlets that you used to make available. Is it still on the site?" After we explained our Search feature, she replied, "Many thanks! I will try that solution. I appreciate your quick response."

Thanks, Dr. Scott, for your patronage!

### Demand the evidence. Get it at ICR.org.

*Evolution vs. Creationism.*

In principle, all scientific ideas may change, though in reality there are some scientific claims that are held with confidence, even if details may be modified. The physicist James Trefil (1978) suggested that scientific claims can be conceived as arranged in a series of three concentric circles. . . . In the center circle are the core ideas of science: the theories and facts that we have great confidence in because they work so well to explain nature. Heliocentricism, gravitation, atomic theory, and evolution would be examples.<sup>12</sup>

When she ranks evolution as one of the "core ideas of science," Scott grants it the same legitimacy as the studies conducted on gravity and atomic theory—although these involve testable phenomena, whereas there has been no observable scientific evidence for macroevolution.<sup>13</sup> Yet Scott sees no contradiction:

Science is quintessentially an open-ended procedure in which ideas are constantly tested, and rejected or modified. Dogma—an idea held by belief or faith—is anathema to science.<sup>14</sup>

Evolutionists may need a refresher course on the basic definitions of "science" and "dogma." Or better yet, an accurate mirror in which to view themselves.<sup>15</sup>

**PAUL ZACHARY "P. Z." MYERS**

Field of Expertise: Biology  
 Education: 1979, B.S. Zoology, University of Washington, Seattle, WA  
 1985, Ph.D. Biology, Institute of Neuroscience, University of Oregon, Eugene, OR  
 Current Position: Associate Professor of Biology, University of Minnesota, Morris



Courtesy of P.Z. Myers

Although many other evolutionists are active "evangelists" in the world today, P. Z. Myers deserves a mention because of his prolific presence in cyberspace, mainly through blogs on his website Pharyngula.<sup>16</sup> Many of his postings are surprisingly puerile, often registering on the observational level of a newly-hormonal teenager. One such posting will suffice to give the general tone.

I would think the concerted and largely successful effort in our culture to equate Christianity with the idiocy of belief in a 6000 year old world or a god who meddles in trivialities or denying the facts of a natural world would p\*\*\* you off. Unless it's true, that is, that you don't mind having your religious beliefs associated with flaming anti-scientific lunacy.

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Maybe you should try squawking a little louder. You could start by writing to David Bracklin and letting him know that stupidity isn't supposed to be a Christian sacrament.

Unless it is, of course. I wouldn't know. Atheist, remember? All I know is what I see, the stuff the loudest of you bray out in public, and boy, you Christians sure seem to hate good science.<sup>17</sup>

ICR also comes in for a special mention.

The Institute for Creation Research is a treasure trove of sloppy pseudoscience.<sup>18</sup>

The Internet has opened new avenues for research and for offering data of all kinds. . . . as well as misinformation of all kinds. As was indicated in the October 2007 *Acts & Facts*, web surfers must be wary of "half-truths and hidden assumptions"<sup>19</sup> on the sites that they visit.

Although using cruder language, Myers basically offers nothing new to the debate. He may state his case more brusquely than other evolutionists, but the argument essentially remains the same—evolution is fact, evolution vs. creationism is a case of science vs. religion, science and religion are anathema to each other, therefore *scientific creationism* should be banished to the lunatic fringe.

No matter where the evidence leads. ●

11. Project Steve is a parody of the lists that creationists have put together of scientists who doubt evolution. The NCSE solicits the signatures of scientists named Steve who agree with an online statement supporting evolution. See the Project Steve page at [www.ncseweb.org](http://www.ncseweb.org) (accessed April 14, 2008).
12. Scott, E. 2004. *Evolution vs. Creationism: An Introduction*. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 8.
13. See Morris, H. 2000 and 2001. The Scientific Case against Evolution, Parts 1 & 2. *Acts & Facts*. 28 (12) and 29 (1).
14. Scott, *Evolution vs. Creationism*, 8.
15. See James 1:23-24
16. Currently located at [scienceblogs.com/pharyngula](http://scienceblogs.com/pharyngula). Pharyngula refers to a stage in embryonic development in which all vertebrates appear to have similar features.
17. Comment posted by PZ Myers to Pharyngula blog on April 3, 2008, 8:33 a.m.
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# Evolution's Biggest Hurdles

JOHN D. MORRIS, P.H.D.

The theory of evolution has numerous problems, some of which are absolutely enormous and for which no adequate solution has even been proposed. The biggest problem comes right at the beginning with the supposedly spontaneous generation of life from non-life. Neo-Darwinian scientists admit this, recognizing that proposed evolutionary scenarios do not model reasonable conditions on earth, and could not have produced anything like the complex life we see all around us—even single-celled life.

The second-biggest problem involves the development of complex invertebrates, animals without a backbone, from single-celled life. How did this transition occur? A robust fossil record of one-celled life has now been found, and of course a truly abundant record of marine invertebrates can be discovered everywhere, from clams to sponges to jellyfish to starfish, etc. The “explosion” of life in the Cambrian system of strata continues to baffle evolutionists, for there is no record showing a transition from tiny single-celled life to complex invertebrates. There are innumerable fossils of invertebrate ocean bottom life, even those with no hard outer shell, but no ancestors of these invertebrates have been identified.

A third huge problem lies in the next step required by evolution. Fish, thought to be the first vertebrates, must have evolved from invertebrates, but again there is no record of this transition. “How this earliest chordate stock [i.e., early vertebrates] evolved, what stages of development it went through to eventually give rise to truly fishlike creatures, we do not know.”<sup>1</sup> Over the years nearly every invertebrate has been proposed as the ancestor, but each suggestion has only been in vogue for a time. As Dr. Duane Gish—former Senior Vice President at ICR and a well-known creation scientist—

likes to say, if evolution can’t derive either invertebrates from single-celled life, or vertebrate fish from invertebrates, it is “dead in the water.”

One proposition receiving attention these days is that echinoderms were the creature that evolved into fish. Now, echinoderms usually don’t look anything like fish. Their ranks include sea squirts, tunicates, and starfish. These do have a pseudo-spine with a central supportive notochord and a tubular nerve chord, features that are somewhat present in vertebrates, especially in the embryonic stage. It seems that Ernst Haeckel’s theory of embryonic recapitulation is more extensive than once thought.<sup>2</sup>

It has been discovered that during embryonic development, certain features in the gut of the starfish bear similarity to a feature in vertebrate embryos. Further maturity yields a form and function far different from the vertebrate condition, yet this early formative pathway seemingly provides the hoped-for clue evolutionists need. Is this proof that a starfish evolved into a fish that evolved into a human?

It seems to me that they are grasping at straws. Without the assumption of evolution, without the neo-Darwinian scientist’s “certain knowledge” that vertebrates evolved from invertebrates, this flimsy link would not merit such attention. How much more scientific it is to recognize the God-designed diversity in creation, and not attribute all living things to a hypothetical common ancestor. Scripture teaches, “All flesh is not the same flesh: but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of beasts, another of fishes, and another of birds” (1 Corinthians 15:39). ●

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2. Also referred to as “ontogeny recapitulates phylogeny,” Haeckel’s now-discredited theory proposed that an embryo’s development reflects the various stages of its evolutionary history.

Dr. Morris is President of the Institute for Creation Research.



# Sand Injectites

WILLIAM A. HOESCH, M.S.



A combination of “squishy sand” and seismic shaking was responsible for some of southern Utah’s most spectacular landforms. Preserved in this rocky landscape are unmistakable indicators that what is today sandstone was once fluidized sand that was folded and injected into a number of remarkable structures, including dikes and pipes. Everything from extraterrestrial impacts to super-volcanoes<sup>1</sup> has been suggested as the shaking agent. For wet sand to be mobilized demands enormous thicknesses of sedimentary strata that were once soft and water-saturated at the same time in the past. This is very odd, if these rocks accumulated over millions of years.

Rising from the floor of Kodachrome Basin, a lovely state park in southern Utah, are dozens of amazing sandstone pillars that have perplexed geologists for decades. The amphitheater-shaped basin is surrounded on three sides by 700-foot-high escarpments of Jurassic, Cretaceous, and Tertiary “layercake” strata. The pillars, which vary in thickness from a few feet to 52 feet in width, and which rise as high as 172 feet (52 m), are typically composed of fine-grained sandstone admixed with varying amounts of pebbles, cobbles, meter-sized blocks, brown shale clasts, and carbonized wood fragments.<sup>2</sup> The pillars differ greatly in composition from the surrounding host rock, and

in places it is clear that they had forcefully intruded the strata from a depth of at least 300 feet below the surface. The thickness of sedimentary rock that hosts the dozens of pipes is at least 835 feet; clearly this entire section was in a less-than-solid state for a period of more than 10 million years according to “standard” age assignments.<sup>3</sup>

Recent interest in these features from the petroleum industry has found that clusters of pipes similar to those found at Kodachrome Basin are dispersed over an 8,000-square-mile area.<sup>4</sup> For example, in the remote and beautiful slick-rock country surrounding Lake Powell in Glen Canyon National Monument are clusters of sand pipes, including some with diameters up to 240

feet across. Liquefied sand had apparently escaped to the surface “and flowed considerable distances” in one case.<sup>5</sup> Other pipes have weathered into cone-shaped landforms that actually resemble small volcanoes. The strata affected are the same as at Kodachrome Basin. “No single hypothesis adequately explains the origin of the pipe-like masses of deformed and fluidized sandstone in the Jurassic strata of southcentral Utah,” according to one expert.<sup>6</sup> He attributes these remarkable structures to seismic shaking produced from super-volcanoes on the continental margin.

How far will this research lead? It has recently been found that Upper Cretaceous strata may also have been deformed during the same shaking event,<sup>7</sup> which, if true, would suggest a thousand or more feet of strata had been in a soft condition for more than 100 million years (according to standard age assignments). It would not be difficult to extend the shaken region to parts of New Mexico. A new volume devoted to “sand injectites” has been published,<sup>8</sup> guaranteeing these will receive greater scrutiny in the future. A major portion of the sedimentary record being soft at the same time in the past does not fit well with an evolutionary timescale. It does, however, fit well with the Flood. ●

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Mr. Hoesch is Research Assistant in Geology.



# Messenger from Mercury

DAVID F. COPPEDGE

After a 33-year hiatus, we have a message from Mercury. On January 14, NASA's MESSENGER spacecraft (MErcury Surface, Space ENvironment, GEochemistry, and Ranging) sent the first close-up images of the innermost planet since Mariner 10 completed its last rendezvous in 1975. MESSENGER,<sup>1</sup> built and operated by the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab, did not fail to maintain tradition—i.e., surprising scientists.

Analysis of the amazing close-ups from MESSENGER is still in its preliminary stages. This article will review some of the more interesting and unusual findings that may be of interest to creationists.

Mariner 10 showed Mercury to be heavily cratered, with a particularly large basin (Caloris) that was hit so hard, the impact appears to have deformed the opposite side (antipode). Mercury's apparent similarity to our moon is misleading. It is actually very different. One contributor to *The New Solar System* said in 1999, "Mercury remains an enigmatic planet, a world of extreme contrasts and unexpected surprises. Just when scientists believe they understand what is happening on and within it, innovative observations probe a little deeper into Mercury's secrets. And each new revelation seems more improbable than the last." Its high density, for instance, "cannot be explained by our current models of condensation and accretion...."<sup>2</sup> Although it must have a huge iron core, very little iron is detectable on the surface.

Among the planet's most unexpected features is its global magnetic field. Mercury should not have a magnetic field. According to the secular consensus, a planet needs a molten interior for convection to generate a magnetic dynamo. Sean Solomon, writing in *Science* last year, described the surprise when Mariner 10 detected the magnetic field: "With a mass about 5 percent that of Earth, Mercury had been expected to have cooled internally to the point where either the core had solidified or core convection no longer occurs."<sup>3</sup> Another paper in the same issue proposed a workaround by importing sulfur from throughout the primordial nebula to lower the melting point.<sup>4</sup> This was clearly an ad hoc solution.

MESSENGER imaged parts of the planet not seen by Mariner 10, and saw everything with much higher resolution. Right away, the astonishment began. The Caloris Basin was larger than thought, and one side of it appeared "younger" than the other. Many large crater floors appeared flat, suggesting volcanic activity had occurred subsequent to cratering. Inside some of the basins, ghost craters are visible. These must have been quickly infilled by volcanic flows.

Many "young" craters appear fresh with bright rays, but others are ringed in dark material. A spider-shaped series of radial cracks was found. Two new classes of craters, some with dark halos and one with a bright floor, defy explanation at this time. The abundant secondary craters confuse any attempts to date the surface.<sup>5</sup>

In summary, expectations were shattered—again. Mercury now looks complex, dynamic, and younger than billions of years. This is a common experience in planetary exploration. Bob Strom, the only scientist who worked on both Mariner 10 and MESSENGER, said of the January encounter, "It dawned on me that this is a whole new planet we're looking at. Every part of this planet, 'seen' or 'unseen,' is new."<sup>6</sup>

MESSENGER will be back in October 2008 and September 2009 before settling into orbit in 2011. Planetary scientists enjoy surprises like masochists enjoy pain. Their theories suffer, but it keeps them occupied. "The best is yet to come," not only for theory torture, but for opportunities for alternative views. The heat's on for theorists. Keep your eye on the rising Mercury. ●

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David Coppedge works in the Cassini Program at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory. The views expressed are his own.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Thank you very much for the article “The Evidence of Nothing,” by James J. S. Johnson, J.D. in the April 2008 issue of *Acts & Facts*. This article is a very good explanation of the relationship between the laws of legal evidence and the lack of evidence for the reality of the evolution of life on earth.

— D.L.M.

Regarding the online Creationist Worldview study program:  
Wow! I am so impressed as I look at the introductory material for these modules. Praise God for such excellent work available to everyone!

— M.B.

*Days of Praise* is such a blessing to a “shut in.” It seems each day’s reading is just what I need—encouragement to continue serving our wonderful Sovereign Creator God. *Days of Praise* also reminds me to pray for ICR. Your ministry is and has been over the years a great asset in the restoration of truth, not just to science, but to all areas truth touches.

— D.R.

I have been receiving *Acts & Facts* for some considerable time.... Over the years I have looked forward to the arrival of your next magazine, and while I admit some of the articles are beyond my understanding, I have always been uplifted by what I could glean from them. They make me realize what a wonderful God we have! Some of the articles I have passed among my friends—e.g., “Folding a Protein Correctly”—and they find them most interesting and informative.... May the Lord continue to bless each of you at ICR and the great “secrets” you are discovering.

— J.W.

I LOVE the new website. I need paper copies of *Acts & Facts* to read whenever I get a chance, but I also write a quarterly article...for our church newsletter. I do lots of research before each issue, most of that online. The old website was helpful for looking up stuff I knew I’d read earlier. But this new website looks even better.... Thanks so much for all your hard work!

— B.R.

**Editor’s Note:** We have recently upgraded and revamped our website at [www.icr.org](http://www.icr.org). If you are new to ICR’s web page, or haven’t visited in a while, we invite you to visit and take advantage of our wealth of creationist materials.

Have a comment? Email us at [editor@icr.org](mailto:editor@icr.org). Or write to Editor, P. O. Box 59029, Dallas, Texas 75229.

## Radio Log



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

W E E K E N D O F M A Y 3

#### *Critters of the Underground*

They are never told by their mothers to stop playing in the dirt. Dirty claws don’t seem to bother them. As a matter of fact, living *in* the dirt is the way of life for fossorial animals! What are they and how did the Creator equip them for life underground? Dig in this week to *Science, Scripture, & Salvation!*

W E E K E N D O F M A Y 10

#### *Creation and the Importance of Mothers*

Growing up, we didn’t appreciate her the way we should have, even though she was cook, counselor, nurse, and chauffeur. There’s no one else like her—what would we have done without mom?! Join us as we discuss the high value the Creator places on motherhood!

W E E K E N D O F M A Y 17

#### *Early Man*

What was ancient man really like? Was he a stooped-over, club-wielding caveman who invented fire and barbecued T-Rex? Was he on an evolutionary journey to modern man, or was he just the same as you and me? Go back in time with us as we investigate the life of ancient man and find out just how advanced he truly was!

W E E K E N D O F M A Y 24

#### *Coral Reefs*

The many coral reefs around the world are beautiful places of clear, pristine waters that house numerous colorful and vibrant creatures. But are these underwater communities just products of circumstance and chance? Tune in this week to learn about spectacular coral reefs!

W E E K E N D O F M A Y 31

#### *Freshwater Fish*

Fish are a fascinating creation of God. It’s interesting how some fish live in salt water, while other fish need fresh water to survive. When you consider the tumultuous mixing of oceans and other bodies of water during the global flood, it’s amazing that freshwater fish survived. How was this possible? We’ll tackle this question today on *Science, Scripture, & Salvation!*

To find out where you can hear ICR broadcasts, please email [radio@icr.org](mailto:radio@icr.org) with your name and address. We will gladly send you a radio station listing for your state. If our programs are not aired in your area, we would be happy to send you a free demo packet for you to take to your local Christian station.

# Darts, Darkness, and Donors

HENRY M. MORRIS IV

**N**ot long ago, after an extensive career in finance, the Lord made it abundantly clear that He wanted me to join ICR. I took the position with great anticipation, relishing the opportunity to devote my energy to working with donors in laying up everlasting “treasures in heaven” (Matthew 6:20). Mentally I knew the learning curve would be steep, and ICR’s strategic move to Texas would make it doubly challenging. But I had experienced similar situations before in business, and with faith and perseverance I claimed God’s promise that “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me” (Philippians 4:13).

Then the “fiery darts” started to hiss past my head (Ephesians 6:16). They were subtle at first—a printing delay here, a computer glitch there—nothing major, just a few minor irritations. Over time however, these minor irritations accumulated one on top of the other to the point where I was mystified as to what was going on. Granted, ICR had monumental changes to conquer as we settled into our new Dallas home—new staff to hire and train, office equipment to acquire and set up, vendors to establish relationships with, etc. But we had highly competent people working long hours on these problems—surely we could overcome these issues! But the harder we worked, with

precious little progress to show for it, I found myself muttering, “It just shouldn’t be this hard!” to no one in particular as concerned staff members avoided me in the halls.

Slowly, it dawned on me that our efforts were being hindered by a completely different source. I had experienced spiritual warfare before, but never to this extent and never this directly. And with this realization, Paul’s admonition to the believers in Ephesus came to mind:

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. (Ephesians 6:12)

Suddenly, everything made sense. As frustrating as it was at the time, this truth confirmed in my mind that ICR’s purpose and mission were squarely within the refuge of God’s will, and the “rulers of the darkness of this world” were doing everything in their power to stop us. The Scriptures promise that “many are the afflictions of the righteous” (Psalm 34:19), and “all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution” (2 Timothy 3:12). But “greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world” (1 John 4:4)! How wonderfully comforting to know our Lord will prevail no matter what our adversary throws at us!

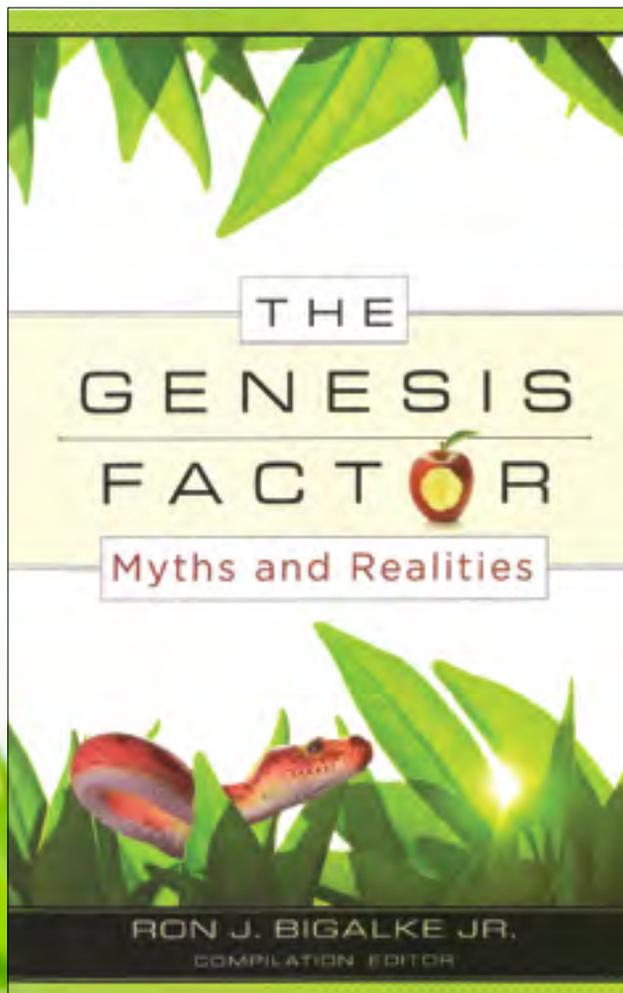
So what does all this mean to you, our readers? Not much—if issues of eternal value and worth are of little importance to you. But to our donors and prayer warriors across the globe, the fact that our adversary is temporarily allowed to disrupt our routine business operations is confirmation that ICR remains on the path of His truth. The pursuit and communication of His truth is the singular focus of ICR’s work, a mission of such breadth and depth that our resources are often stretched thin. However, we will endeavor to continue this work as long as the Lord enables. If you can help financially, please do; the rewards will be eternal. But above all, please pray for us—pray for our scientists, who through various research projects seek to uncover irrefutable evidence of His mighty hand; pray for our faculty, who through our graduate school will train the next generation of leaders; and pray for our speakers and our publication, radio, and museum programs, that they can continue to communicate His message of salvation and redemption through the wonders of His creation. ●

*Mr. Morris is Director of Donor Relations.*



THE  
GENESIS  
FACTOR  
Myths and Realities

edited by Ron J. Bigalke, Jr.



The book of Genesis is constantly under attack from many sources, but perhaps the most damaging attacks come from within the modern church. With leaders and influencers advocating an old-earth view of the world, it's no wonder that people's confidence in the authority of God's Word has been shaken.

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**\$13.95**

*(plus shipping and handling)*

*See our review of this book on page 19!*

# The Genesis Factor

edited by Ron J. Bigalke, Jr.

(Master Books, 2008, 254 pages)

FRANK SHERWIN, M.A.

A common refrain within creation science circles is “Creation is the foundation.” And indeed it is, as we see Darwinism slowly falling from secular grace amidst ongoing research and investigation. Creation science unapologetically has as its foundation the Bible, and Genesis—the book of beginnings—in particular. Clearly, it is no wonder that of the 66 books of the Bible, Genesis is most often maligned and vilified.

*The Genesis Factor*, edited by Ron J. Bigalke, Jr., is a current, substantive, and outstanding apologetic source for the creation activist—and none too soon, as secular (and sadly, sacred) attacks on Genesis are increasing. The purpose of this book is to show that those who view the Bible as historically accurate do not need to compromise with ever-changing secular science in order to maintain the truth of their position.

In the first chapter, Christopher Cone gives a first-rate overview of the history of creationism in the Church. This is followed by articles offering solid biblical support for the creation week’s 24-hour day (Ron J. Bigalke, Jr.) and the literal historical interpretation of the opening chapters of Genesis (Eugene H. Merrill).

Australia’s Tas Walker does a commendable job cataloging the geological evidences for a young earth and answering many of the criticisms (pitch, evaporates, and varves) of Alan Hayward, Dan Wonderly, and Glenn Morton, Christians who accept evolution’s timescale of millions and billions of years. His article also includes an excellent section on radiohalos and Flood chronology.

Creation science continues to make progress, particularly in astronomy. Contributor Jonathan Henry lists for the reader various planetary rings (their dissipation, widening, or recent formation), lunar statistics, and other challenges to the conventional chronology of our solar system

that point to a recent creation. Then ICR’s own Larry Vardiman supplies oceanic and atmospheric evidence for a young earth.

It was gratifying to see that the authors did not shy away from the unscriptural progressive creation beliefs of Hugh Ross and others. The late Henry Morris was succinct in stating in the book’s Introduction that “...the day-age and progressive creation concepts are not accepted by the [secular] scientific establishment any more than is young-earth creationism.”<sup>1</sup>

Dr. Morris’ *Genesis Flood* co-author John C. Whitcomb also confronts Ross’ progressive creation theology, as well as the little-known framework hypothesis and divine accommodation theory. Dr. Whitcomb perhaps summarizes this little volume best when he states,

“...this author humbly insists that *it is essential to believe the Genesis record of origins in order to please God*. Believing the Genesis record obviously includes *the manner* in which living things were created (“full-grown” with a superficial appearance of history; e.g., Adam and Eve); *the order* in which things were created (e.g., the earth before the sun and moon; trees before marine life; and flying creatures and whales before reptiles and land mammals); and *the duration* of creation events (six 24-hour days only a few thousand years ago).<sup>2</sup>

May the Church and its leaders once again embrace Genesis as literal history recorded by the One who was there—and pass this faith on to the next generation.

#### References

1. Morris, H.M. 2008. Introduction: The Days Do Matter. In Bigalke, Jr., R. (ed.), *The Genesis Factor*. Green Forest, AR: Master Books, 18.
2. Whitcomb, J.C., *The Genesis Flood*, *The Genesis Factor*, 208, emphasis in original.

Mr. Sherwin is Science Editor.



“Believing the Genesis record includes *the manner* in which living things were created... *the order* in which things were created... and *the duration* of creation events.”

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