

ACTS & FACTS

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JULY 2008

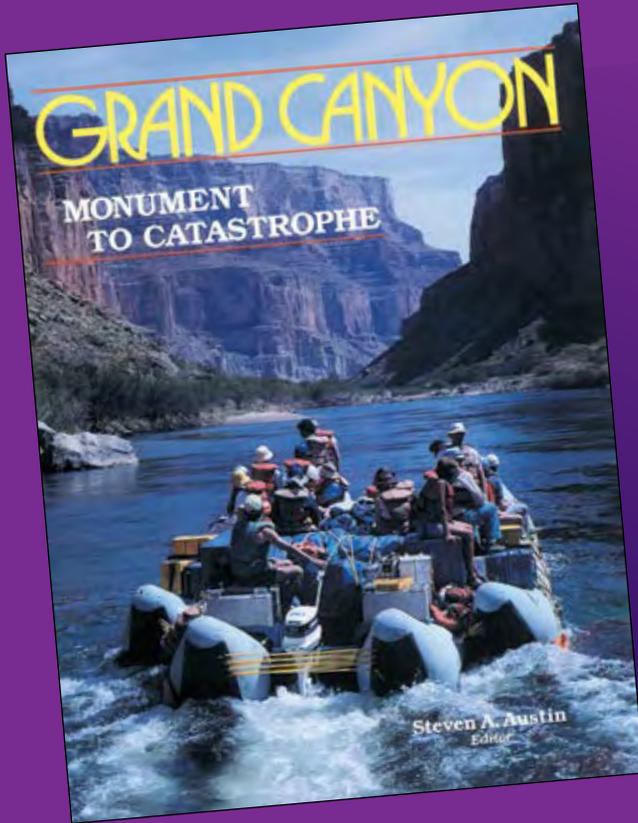
VOL. 37 NO. 7



Sowing the Creation Message

Today's Investment for Tomorrow's Harvest

BOOK & DVD



Grand Canyon: Monument to Catastrophe **BOOK**

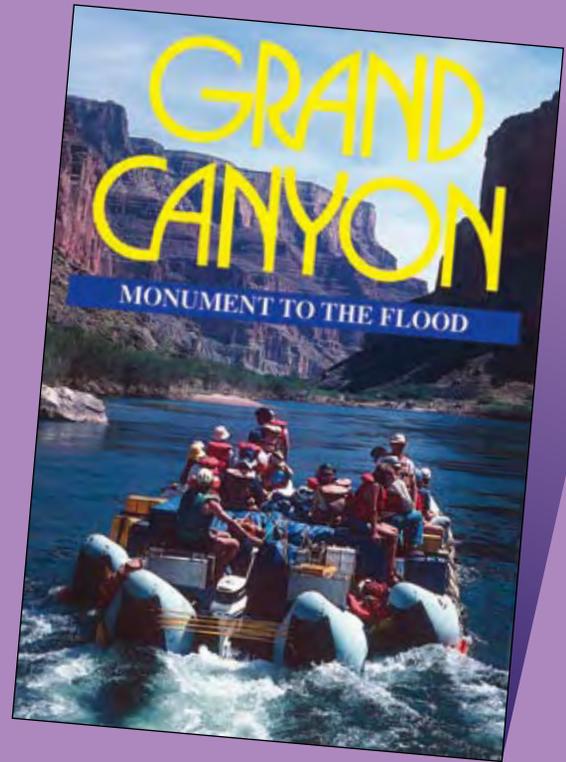
Dr. Steven A. Austin, Editor

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Reflecting on Grand Canyon

ICR's commitment to education comes through in just about everything we do. The late founder of ICR, Dr. Henry Morris, discerned that our long-range strategy for the creation/evolution conflict had to be education, not legislation or litigation. The hearts and minds of people need to change if any lasting transformation is to be realized.

In that spirit, several educational activities have been launched. The tours that we lead to various locations of geologic interest might not seem educational at first, but ask someone who has attended. Always, the emphasis is on understanding the area in a way that can then be communicated to others. In this way, ICR has permanently impacted thousands of "creation evangelists."

Over the years ICR has taken willing learners to Yellowstone National Park, Mount St. Helens National Monument, Yosemite National Park, Israel, and England, with each tour incorporating numerous visits to other state and national parks. All of these areas are sites of ongoing ICR research, which the tours have helped facilitate.

Our flagship tour, however, has always been to Grand Canyon. It was started in the early 1980s to continue our research there and to teach ICR graduate students. For many years, various faculty members led hiking, rafting, and bus tours, accommodating every level of activity. Unfortunately, escalating restrictions on tours (and ICR's growing notoriety as the leading creation voice) has forced us to scale back. This year we were limited to a bus tour only.

But what a tour! No one was disappointed. Learning on site beats classroom lecturing any day. Each area stood out in glorious splendor, allowing

tour members to acquire stunning photographs. Most participants "loaded their guns" for future ministry, but some who came on the tour were skeptical of creation. Judging by their subsequent correspondence, they left with all their questions answered.

Each day was punctuated by sincere Bible teaching and packed with sweet Christian fellowship. From the Sunday morning "church service" on Grand Canyon rim to times of testimony on bus rides between stops, God's presence was felt. It was truly a spiritual experience for us all (even ICR "veterans") and will long be remembered.

As we parted we prayed for each one, knowing all of the "students" were more fully equipped for fruitful ministry in the days to come. And so the creation movement forges ahead, with swelling ranks of trained and armed warriors for the battles we face.

If you haven't been on an ICR creation tour, we would love to have you join us someday. But even if you can't come on tour, you can still train as a "creation warrior" for the spiritual battle in which all Christians are engaged (Ephesians 6:12). As my brother, Dr. Henry Morris III, says in our cover article this month, ICR has been updating its various ministries in order to reach more people with the creation message. If you have an Internet connection, drop by our redesigned website and explore our new Evidence section. Even better, tell your friends, family, and church about the many resources we offer. And please consider joining us with your prayer and financial support as we invest today for tomorrow's harvest.


John D. Morris, Ph.D.
 PRESIDENT

CONTENTS

- 4** Sowing the Creation Message
Henry M. Morris III, D. Min.
- 6** The "Fatal Flaws" of Darwinian Theory
Larry Vardiman, Ph.D.
- 8** Man of Science, Man of God: William Kirby
Christine Dao
- 10** Red Rock Pass: Spillway of the Bonneville Flood
Steven A. Austin, Ph.D.
- 13** Tiny Bacteria's Big Challenge to Darwin
Frank Sherwin, M.A.
- 14** Searching for the Elusive Man from Mars
Brian Thomas, M.S.
- 15** Cosmology's Error Bars
David F. Coppedge
- 16** Letters to the Editor
 Radio Log
- 17** True Liberty
Henry M. Morris IV



Sowing the Creation Message

Today's Investment for Tomorrow's Harvest



HENRY M. MORRIS III, D.M.I.N.

History is a great teacher. From time to time, it is helpful for ICR to review its history and refresh its memory about the Lord's blessings and direction that have brought us to where we are. Those "landmarks" are boundaries and historical perspectives that we should not forget or stray from (Proverbs 22:28). At ICR, there are three broad foundational pillars that guide us.

The absolute authority and integrity of the written Word of God. Encoded into ICR's very DNA is a total commitment to the plenary, verbal, and perspicuous inspiration of Scripture. Essentially, that limits what we do, what we research, who we hire, how we spend our money, and what we plan to do in the future—limited by the Truth, which sets us free (John 8:32).

An absolute commitment, therefore, to a recent creation, by and from the spoken word of the Creator-God, in six normal earth-days of time. That perfect world was designed for an eternal existence, set under the authority of man (who was directly made in the Creator's image), and pronounced "very good" by the omnipotent, omniscient, thrice-holy God. All naturalistic and evolutionary efforts to ignore that recent beginning are both scientifically wrong and theologically blasphemous. ICR's cosmological and astronomical science researches the issues of origins.

A total rebellion ensued against the Creator by man, resulting in catastrophic destruction of "the world that then was" by the universal Flood of Noah's day. That fall from a sinless relationship continues to impact everything today, and the utter destruc-

tion of earth's *kosmos* in the global deluge has left vast amounts of evidence from which we can gain some insight into the ancient past. Much of ICR's geological and physical science researches the impact of the Flood. Much of ICR's biological and genetic science researches the impact of the Fall.

Sowing for the Future

Keeping our historical and spiritual landmarks in place is very important, but always looking to the past is not. "Say not thou, What is the cause that the former days were better than these? for thou dost not enquire wisely concerning this" (Ecclesiastes 7:10). An organization must sow (invest for the future) if it is to reap (grow, prosper, and be successful in ministry). Maintaining the status quo is equivalent to that "wicked and slothful" servant who

“was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth” (Matthew 25:25-26). Hence, ICR has made some major investments toward the future that will “pay off” in the days ahead.

The relocation of the ICR ministry to Dallas, Texas. Although costly in time, personnel, and energy, the move (almost complete now) has validated the three most critical reasons for making this decision. We have unlocked the significant assets of the California properties and purchased a much larger campus, with expanded laboratory and research capabilities. We have increased our travel and outreach efficiencies, reducing the cost and time involved in conducting national ministries. We have been able to recruit top-level faculty and operational personnel to an affordable and family-friendly environment in a region that still respects and desires Christian ministries.

The upgrade of our publications and our website. Those of our long-time ICR family will, of course, recognize the enormous difference in *Acts & Facts*, as well as some changes to *Days of Praise*. ICR’s website, www.icr.org, may not be as familiar, but the use of that resource has grown exponentially over the last six months, with an average of nearly 125,000 visitors a month (not just “hits”). The *Acts & Facts* circulation is now growing at over 2,000 new subscriptions each month. Behind this growth and facial uplift are thousands of man-hours of detail work and planning—investment in new people, new vendors, and new ideas that are just now beginning to come to fruition.

The complete overhaul and design of ICR’s educational efforts. After maintaining a traditional graduate school for some 25 years, ICR has converted its program to an online Master of Science degree with four minors. With that program, along with the non-degree Creationist Worldview online course for Christian leaders, ICR has become a major source for professional training in the conservative evangelical world. Both of these programs are growing and have the potential to make a worldwide impact for years to come.

The Battles Ahead

Having foundational landmarks and clear “sowing” fields, although necessary, are still not enough for Kingdom ministry. There must be a commitment to diligence and a vision for the future, as expressed by Paul: “Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 3:13-14). Furthermore, there must be stable faith in the many promises of God’s supply and blessing: “let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not” (Galatians 6:9). Following are the main battles ahead for ICR and how you can help us.

An organization must sow (invest for the future) if it is to reap (grow, prosper, and be successful in ministry).

Educational authority in Texas. As most of you know by now, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) has rejected ICR’s application to grant M.S. degrees in Texas. ICR has submitted a formal petition of appeal to the THECB, insisting that “viewpoint discrimination” (applied to academic freedom, and specifically the First Amendment-protected religious freedom to have a creationist viewpoint), plus the “extra” protection provided by the 1999 Texas statute supplementing those religious freedom protections, has been violated by the THECB. If you live in Texas, you might consider writing a graciously-worded letter to your state legislators and senators, Governor Rick Perry, and the U.S. representatives from your area, as well as Senators Kay Bailey Hutchinson and John Cornyn. Elsewhere, please pray for God’s intervention and our careful due process as we seek to right this wrong and pave the way for other Christian schools to function freely.

New science faculty and researchers. ICR is growing! We now need additional Ph.D. science faculty and researchers in geology

(both soft-rock and hard-rock), astronomy/cosmology, paleontology, and science education. Thankfully, our life-science faculty is strong (and young), but we need to recruit and train those who will be the creationist scientists for the coming decades. The basic qualifications are: Ph.D. from a reputable school in the desired field, complete agreement with the ICR tenets (both biblical and scientific), and a “fire in the belly” for the creationist ministry. If you are such a person—or if you know such a person—get a resumé to us soon. We are ready to hire and are diligently looking for God’s warriors to “stand in the gap” (Ezekiel 22:30).

Expansion of our publication outreach. The information that ICR produces and the impact of that data is only as effective as the numbers of people who know about our work and ministry. *Acts & Facts* is a wonderful magazine. Once you are through reading it, please give it to someone who might like to know about ICR. Ask us for extra copies to give to your Sunday School class or small group. We will be delighted to assist in any way (church handouts, convention tables, etc). But please don’t send us a list of folks you think *might* be interested. Let others see our material, and then they can respond on their own. And tell others about our website, www.icr.org, which has a wealth of free material for all ages. Help us get the word out about ICR.

I hope that this has helped you see a bit of our heart and the issues that ground us and focus our ministry toward the future. If you are not yet sharing financially with us, I would ask that you consider including ICR as part of your Kingdom gifts. We don’t appeal for funds very much, but without the Lord’s people sharing their resources with us, we would be unable to function. Thanks for taking the time to read through this. May our Lord Jesus Christ honor your service to Him as you seek His face in your own ministry. ●

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



THE “FATAL FLAWS” OF DARWINIAN THEORY

LARRY VARDIMAN, P.H.D.

Evolutionary genetic theory has a series of apparent “fatal flaws” that are well known to population geneticists, but that have not been effectively communicated to other scientists or the public. These fatal flaws have been recognized by leaders in the field for many decades—based upon logic and mathematical formulations. However, population geneticists have generally been very reluctant to openly acknowledge these theoretical problems, and a cloud of confusion has come to surround each issue.

Numerical simulation provides a definitive tool for empirically testing the reality of these fatal flaws and can resolve the confusion. At the 6th International Conference on Creationism in Pittsburgh on August 3-7, 2008, two papers will be presented on the results of tests that utilized numerical simulation of mutation and natural selection. They are entitled “Mendel’s Accountant: A New Population Genetics Simulation Tool for Studying Mutation and Natural Selection” and “Using Numerical Simulation to Test the Validity of Neo-Darwinian Theory.” The primary authors of these two papers are Dr. John Baumgardner and Dr. John Sanford, respectively.

A new population genetics simulation tool called Mendel’s Accountant has been developed jointly by ICR and Feed My Sheep Foundation for studying mutation and natural selection. The program is a state-of-the-art forward-time population genetics model that tracks millions of individual mutations with their unique effects on fitness and unique location within the genome through large numbers of generations. It treats the process of natural selection in a precise way.

The program allows a user to choose values for a large number of parameters such as those specifying the mutation effect distribution, reproduction rate, population size, and variations in environmental condi-

tions. Mendel’s Accountant is thus a versatile and capable research tool that can be applied to problems in human genetics, plant and animal breeding, and management of endangered species. With its user-friendly graphical user interface and its ability to run on laptop computers, it can also be fruitfully employed in teaching genetics and genetic principles, even at a high school level.

Biologically reasonable Mendel’s Accountant input parameters produce output consistent with (a) the biblical account of recent creation, (b) rapid local adaptation followed by stabilization of changes in an organism’s visible features, (c) a spike in genetic variation followed by continuously declining diversity, (d) rapid genetic degeneration tapering into a more gradual but continuous genetic decline, and (e) many extinction events.

This program is freely available for personal use and can be downloaded from the web at <http://mendelsaccount.sourceforge.net>. When biologically realistic parameters are selected, Mendel’s Accountant shows consistently that genetic deterioration is an inevitable outcome of the processes of mutation and natural selection. The primary reason is that most deleterious mutations are too subtle to be detected and eliminated by natural selection and therefore accumulate steadily generation after generation and inexorably degrade fitness.

Mendel’s Accountant provides overwhelming empirical evidence that all of the “fatal flaws” inherent in evolutionary genetic theory are real. This leaves evolutionary genetic theory effectively falsified—with a degree of certainty that should satisfy any reasonable and open-minded person. ●

Dr. Vardiman is Director of Research.



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JULY 2008 EVENTS

JULY 6-10

Ephrata, PA – Conference
(Gardner) 717.354.5213

JULY 11-12

Oklahoma City, OK – Reclaiming Oklahoma for Christ
(J. Morris)

JULY 20

Oceanside, CA – Genesis Presentation
(J. Morris) 760.433.8233

JULY 24-26

Colorado Springs, CO – The Beginning and the End of the Universe Conference
(Morris III, J. Morris, and others) 719.590.4088

JULY 27

Colorado Springs, CO – Genesis Presentation
(J. Morris) 719.598.2139

For more information on these events, please contact the ICR events department at 800.337.0375 or events@icr.org.

Man of Science, Man of God:

William Kirby



Who: William Kirby

What: Father of Entomology

When: September 19, 1759 – July 4, 1850

Where: Born in Witnesham, Suffolk, England

CHRISTINE DAO

William Kirby must have been an unusual fellow, since he derived such joy from studying insects. After graduating from Cambridge University in 1781, he took holy orders in 1782. His interest in natural history was sparked in 1791 when he met English botanist Sir James Edward Smith, with whom he corresponded to seek advice about founding a natural history museum at Ipswich School in Suffolk.

Throughout Kirby's life, he compiled an extensive insect collection. His first major work—*Monographia Apum Angliae*, about the bees of England—caught the attention of leading entomologists in Britain and abroad. He received a Master's degree with the intention of applying for a professorship in botany at Cambridge, but was denied due to his political views.¹

Between 1815 and 1826, he and fellow British entomologist William Spence co-authored the four-volume *An Introduction to Entomology: or Elements of the Natural History of Insects*. Considered the foundational work in the field of entomology, Kirby introduced it in this way:

Having given you this full account of the external parts of insects, and their most remarkable variations; I must next direct your attention to such discoveries as have been made with regard to their *Internal Anatomy and Physiology*: a subject still more fertile, if possible, than the former in wonderful manifestations of the POWER, WISDOM AND GOODNESS OF THE CREATOR.²



...[W]hen we ascribe a certain degree of intellect to these animals, we do not place them upon a par with man; since all the most wonderful parts of their economy, and those manipulations that exceed all our powers, we admit not to be the contrivance of the animals themselves, but the necessary results of faculties implanted in their constitution at the first creation by their MAKER.³

Mankind and the animal kingdom were two distinct creations that shared no ancestors and were defined by wisdom.

There is this difference between intellect in man, and the rest of the animal creation. Their intellect teaches them to follow the lead of their senses, and make such use of the external world as their appetites or instincts incline them to,—and *this is their wisdom*; while the intellect of man, being associated with an immortal principle, and being in connexion with a world above that which his sense reveal to him, can, by aid derived from heaven, control those senses, and bring under his instinctive appetites, so as to render them obedient to the τὸ ἡγεμονικόν, or governing power of his nature: AND THIS IS HIS WISDOM.⁴



In 1835, Kirby authored the seventh *Bridgewater Treatise*, titled *The History, Habits and Instincts of Animals*. The first chapter, "Creation of Animals," argues that the very existence of animals testify to the Creator.

The infinite diversity of their forms and organs; the nice adaptation of these to their several functions; the beauty and elegance of a large number of them; the singularity of others; the variety of their motions; their geographical distribution; but, above all, their pre-eminent utility to mankind in every state and stage of life, render them objects of the deepest interest...so that arguments in proof of these primary attributes of the Godhead, drawn from the habits, instincts, and other adjuncts of the animal creation, are likely to meet with more universal attention.⁵

With Spence, Kirby helped to found the Entomological Society of London in 1833, to which he was appointed Honorary President for life. His Ipswich natural history museum opened in 1847, and he served as its president until his death in 1850. To this remarkable man, even the insects declared the glory of God. ●

References

1. Kirby was a Tory, a party that supported the authority of the British monarchy.
2. Kirby, W. 1826. *An Introduction to Entomology: Vol. IV*. London: Longman, Hurst, Rees, Orme, and Brown, 1.
3. *Ibid.*, 32.
4. *Ibid.*, 33.
5. Kirby, W. 1835. *The Seventh Bridgewater Treatise on the Power, Wisdom, and Goodness of God as Manifested in the Creation: The History, Habits and Instinct of Animals*, Vol. 1. London: William Pickering, 1-2.

Ms. Dao is Assistant Editor.

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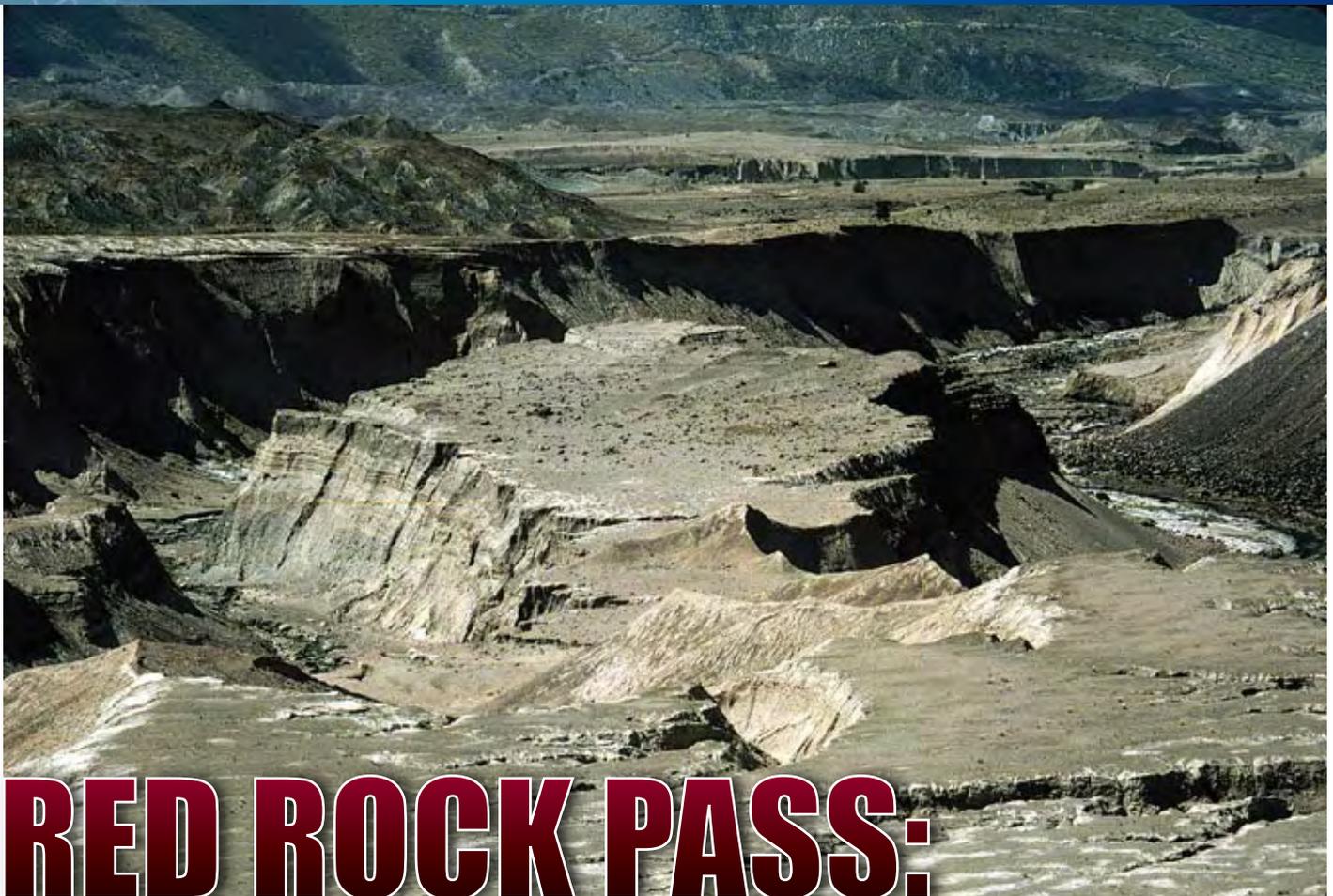
BEFORE YOU HEAD OUT ON VACATION...



Summer is a busy time. The kids are out of school. Families are planning vacations. There are swimming parties and birthday bashes and barbecues and baseball games and ice cream cones and fresh-grilled hamburgers.

But in the midst of all your plans, don't forget ICR. Summer is typically a lean time for ministries, and we have so many exciting projects coming up that we can hardly wait to get started. We need your help, however, both with prayer and finances.

So as you're getting ready to relax by the pool, or set off on that trip, or whatever you do to take a break this summer, please give a thought to whether God would have you join with us in spreading the creation message. It's easy—just call 800.337.0375, send an email to stewardship@icr.org, or use the attached envelope. Thank you, and God bless your summer!



RED ROCK PASS: Spillway of the Bonneville Flood

STEVEN A. AUSTIN, P.H.D.

Scenic places fascinate geologists, especially vistas that generate profound thoughts. Sometimes these thoughts challenge our customary ways of viewing our world. On my “top ten list” of favorite places on earth is Red Rock Pass, a little-known landform between two rather unimportant mountain ranges in southern Idaho. Located nine miles east of Interstate Highway 15 on the route north to Pocatello and five miles south of the small farming town of Downey, Idaho, this remote landform commands my attention and challenges my thinking. I celebrate Red Rock Pass for being the collapsed dam and spillway through which an enormous Ice Age lake drained catastrophically. It was the source of the great Bonneville flood.

Evidence of Ice Age Lakes

In Salt Lake City as I look eastward, I see on the western side of the Wasatch Mountains an ancient wave-eroded bench 800 feet higher than the city. That widespread bench was formed by erosion at 5,050 feet above sea level. It marks the old shoreline (“bathtub ring”) of ancient Lake Bonneville, the largest Ice Age lake to form within the Great Basin. This old lake was comparable in volume to Lake Michigan, and occupied almost 20,000 square miles in eastern Nevada, western Utah, and southern Idaho. The surface of Lake Bonneville was about one third of the area of Utah. This massive lake attained a maximum depth of 1,000 feet and was 800 feet deep over Salt Lake City.

It was among many other, smaller Ice Age lakes of the Great Basin, other noteworthy examples being Lake Lahontan (over the city of Reno, Nevada) and Lake Manley (within Death Valley, California).

Another widespread wave-eroded bench can be seen at elevation 4,710 feet (340 feet lower than the old Lake Bonneville shore). This lower “bathtub ring” marks the old shore of Lake Provo. Below the Provo shoreline, multiple old shorelines retreat downward to the present level of the Great Salt Lake (elevation about 4,210 feet). The wetter conditions of the post-Flood Ice Age allowed big lakes to exist within the Great Basin. The present Great Salt Lake is the nearly dried-up remnant of Lake Provo.



Ice Age lakes in southwestern United States with Red Rock Pass located on the north side of Lake Bonneville.

(Image used by permission of Ken Perry, Chalk Butte, Inc.)

A Catastrophic Event

Still looking east from Salt Lake City, I see no other shoreline evidence between the level of old Lake Bonneville (5,050 feet) and the younger Lake Provo (4,710 feet). *It appears that Lake Bonneville emptied abruptly, releasing 340 feet depth of water to reach the lower level of Lake Provo.* Terrain analysis of the shorelines of both lakes indicates that the drainage of Lake Bonneville released about 850 cubic miles of water to become Lake Provo.¹ Where did this water go? Did it drain in a single event?

Proceeding northward from Salt Lake City back to Red Rock Pass in Idaho, I observe the old spillway of Lake Bonneville's catastrophic outlet flood. At Red Rock Pass, the spillway has an elevation just above 4,700 feet, which is the elevation it should have to retain old Lake Provo after catastrophic drainage of Lake Bonneville. Evidently, the old sedimentary bedrock dam at Red Rock Pass was once as high as 5,135 feet, holding back the water of older Lake Bonneville. Erosion of more than 340 feet of bedrock was accomplished very rapidly by the catastrophic release of 850 cubic miles of water from Lake Bonneville. Viewing the prehistoric collapse and erosion of the dam at Red Rock Pass would have been an awesome sight!

Development of a Breach

At the beginning of the colossal prehistoric flood from Lake Bonneville through Red Rock Pass, the spillway first formed as the water level in the lake on the south side reached the 5,100 feet level of the dam. Water may have leaked underground through the dam (a process called "piping" that destroyed Teton Dam) or flowed over the top of the dam (a process called "overtopping"). A notch formed in the top of the dam as erosion occurred because of

the massive potential energy within the high lake on the south side of the dam. As the notch in the dam got deeper, so did the discharge. Erosion accelerated as the notch widened to form the spillway. As the dam began to collapse, the spillway enlarged to three-quarters of a mile wide. At the flood's peak, water was released through the spillway at approximately 35 million cubic feet per second,² more than 4,000 times today's normal flow on the Colorado River in Grand Canyon. The big flood likely lasted for several weeks.

We can follow the path of the Bonneville flood northward from Red Rock Pass into the Snake River of Idaho and Oregon to the Co-

Could the erosion of a bedrock dam have breached a channel in Grand Canyon?

lumbia River in Washington and Oregon. Just north of Red Rock Pass, giant gravel bars and flood-sculpted bedrock cliffs show the power and depth of flood deposition and erosion. Significant erosion channels and scour surfaces occur in hard volcanic bedrock on the Snake River plain.³ High silt deposits on the Snake River also indicate the level of this great Ice Age flood.

Breached Dams and Erosion

My experience with the evidence for the Ice Age flood of Lake Bonneville helped me understand other catastrophic erosion features associated with breached dams. My three favorite examples of such dams are:

The breached dam at Lange's Crest on the upper North Fork of the Toutle River in

It appears that Lake Bonneville emptied abruptly, releasing 340 feet depth of water to reach the lower level of Lake Provo.

Washington State—The mudflow from Mount St. Helens volcano on March 19, 1982, overtopped the debris dam that was deposited within the river valley in 1980. The mudflow eroded the rockslide and volcanic layers to a depth of 140 feet, forming a one-fortieth scale "Little Grand Canyon" on the North Fork of the Toutle River.⁴

The ancient breached ice dam at Sandpoint, Idaho, that released Lake Missoula from Montana—Ice Age glaciers flowing southward in northern Idaho blocked the Clark Fork River, impounding about 500 cubic miles of water and forming a lake of 900 feet in depth over Missoula, Montana. The Lake Missoula flood began when the ice dam failed. The outburst flood destroyed the ice dam, eroding and scarring the 16,000-square-mile Channeled Scabland of eastern Washington. Fifty cubic miles of sediment were moved. Grand Coulee is the most prominent erosional feature (the 50-mile-long trench is one to six miles wide and averages 900 feet deep).⁵

The breached dam through the Kaibab Upparp at Grand Canyon formed by drainage of large lakes in eastern Arizona, southeastern Utah, northeastern New Mexico, and western Colorado—Large lakes within the saucer-shaped depression of the Colorado Plateau appear to have contained about 3,000 cubic miles of water. The original breaching of the dam likely began by catastrophic drainage of ancient Hopi Lake in the eastern Grand Canyon.⁶

Ancient Lakes near Grand Canyon

My understanding and experience with catastrophic bedrock erosion at Red Rock Pass helped me to better appreciate Grand Canyon as a breached dam. While camping in eastern

Red Rock Pass looking northeast across the spillway of the Bonneville Flood.

(Photo by Ann Yearsley)



Grand Canyon with my geology graduate students in April 1985, we discussed the Bidahochi Formation, a large silt deposit at 6,000 feet elevation in northeastern Arizona. We were fascinated by the sedimentary evidence of a very large lake or lakes east and north of Grand Canyon as demonstrated by the silt deposit of the Bidahochi Formation.⁷ Could the erosion of a bedrock dam by drainage of 500 cubic miles of water from Hopi Lake have breached a channel at the location where we were camped in Grand Canyon?

A case could be made as we remembered Lake Bonneville's shoreline next to Red Rock Pass, only happening on a much larger scale in Grand Canyon. In 1986, I began the process of mapping the possible shore of the giant lakes east and north of Grand Canyon.⁸ In addition to Hopi Lake east of Grand Canyon, we recognized evidence for at least two large lakes in Utah. The largest of these lakes (what I call Canyonlands Lake⁹) was in northern Arizona, southeastern Utah, northeastern New Mexico, and western Colorado.

Darwin's First Wrong Turn

No discussion of the breaching of a 300-foot-high dam would be complete without remembering Charles Darwin's observations in Argentina in April 1834. After reading Charles Lyell's book *Principles of Geology* during his voyage on the *Beagle*, Darwin had 16 days to explore the valley of the lower Santa Cruz River. Darwin reported his interpretation of the valley in his journal:

At the first glance of the basaltic cliffs on the opposite sides of the valley, it was evident that the strata once were united. What power, then has removed along a whole line of country, a solid mass of very hard rock, which had an average thickness of nearly three hundred feet, and a breadth varying from rather less than two

miles to four miles? The river, though it has so little power in transporting even inconsiderable fragments, yet in the lapse of ages might produce by its gradual erosion an effect of which it is difficult to judge the amount.¹⁰

His assumption of slow erosion of the river valley allowed Darwin to extrapolate "the lapse of ages" to speculation on organic evolution later in his voyage at the Galapagos Islands. Darwin became a *geological* evolutionist before he became a *biological* evolutionist. Some have called this uniformitarian thinking at the Santa Cruz River "Darwin's first wrong turn."

Today, geologists dispute Darwin's notion that the Santa Cruz River canyon was eroded by the daily activity of the normal river. Instead, many geologists today believe that large natural dams broke in the headwaters of the Santa Cruz River, releasing catastrophic floods from gigantic glacier lakes. Major excavation of the Santa Cruz River canyon occurred rapidly during catastrophic floods, not slowly through millions of years. If Darwin had known about the evidence of catastrophic breaching of dams within the upper drainage of Santa Cruz River, he might not have continued on to make his great extrapolation called organic evolution.¹¹

When you visit an extraordinary place like Red Rock Pass in southern Idaho, expect to ponder some of the greatest issues of science! ●

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5. See the made-for-television documentary *Mystery of the Megaflood* (2005, Public Broadcasting System), available as a DVD at the PBS website.
6. Austin, S. A. (ed.). 1994. *Grand Canyon: Monument to Catastrophe*. Santee, CA: Institute for Creation Research, 284 pp. See especially pages 92 to 107 and endnote 40 on page 109.
7. After the April 1985 Grand Canyon field study and lengthy discussions of the Bidahochi Formation, John H. Whitmore, one of my ICR graduate students, wrote a term paper titled "The Origin of the Colorado River Across the Kaibab Upwarp: Four Models" (October 7, 1985). With my encouragement, Whitmore's paper included a map of a large post-Flood lake in northeastern Arizona and text describing how flow from the lake breached the bedrock barrier known as the Kaibab Upwarp at Grand Canyon.
8. In March 1986, I began public lectures on the rim of Grand Canyon on the "breached dam theory." In August 1986, I explained the significance of the Bidahochi Formation to Dr. Edmond W. Holroyd III and introduced him to the "breached dam theory" for the origin of Grand Canyon. I encouraged Holroyd to use a computer elevation database to plot possible shorelines of a very large lake or lakes, especially in southeastern Utah. Holroyd's computer plotting occurred in late 1986. By January 1987, Holroyd and I were exchanging maps we had drawn of Colorado Plateau lakes. Early in 1987, I used topographic data to show that if Grand Canyon were blocked today by a giant man-made dam with 5,700 feet elevation, the lake formed would rise behind the dam to a maximum of 5,620 feet elevation and would extend into four states. The overflow location out of that lake at 5,620 feet would be 20 miles east of Kanab, Utah, at Telegraph Flat. Holroyd and I discussed relict topography as evidences of the former lakes, especially topography around Glenn Canyon and Canyonlands in southeastern Utah. Holroyd published a verbal description of the search for lakes in an article titled "Missing Talus" in *Creation Research Society Quarterly*, June 1987, 21 (1):14-15. I published a rendition of a lake map (Arizona, Utah, Colorado, and New Mexico) in February 1989 (*Grand Canyon Field Study Tour Guidebook*, April 8-16, 1989, Santee, CA: Institute for Creation Research, 54).
9. Austin, *Grand Canyon: Monument to Catastrophe*. See pages 103, 104, and endnote 62 on page 110.
10. Darwin, C. 1839. *Voyage of the Beagle*. London: Smith, Elder. Quoting from chapter 9 under the entry dated April 26, 1834.
11. You can explore the terrain that Darwin never saw: the extremely glaciated landscape with underfit rivers on enormous floodplains, huge glacially dammed lakes, and noteworthy breached structures. Use Google Earth software (available online) to view the upper Santa Cruz River near 50 degrees south latitude and 72 degrees west longitude.

Dr. Austin is Professor of Geology and Chair of the Department of Geology.



Tiny Bacteria's Big Challenge to Darwin

FRANK SHERWIN, M.A.

Bacteria (prokaryotes) are found everywhere and are a critical foundation of the earth's ecosystem. The prokaryotes are designed to be saprotrophs or "decomposers," breaking down wastes and organic material so that chemical components such as nitrogen can be recycled.

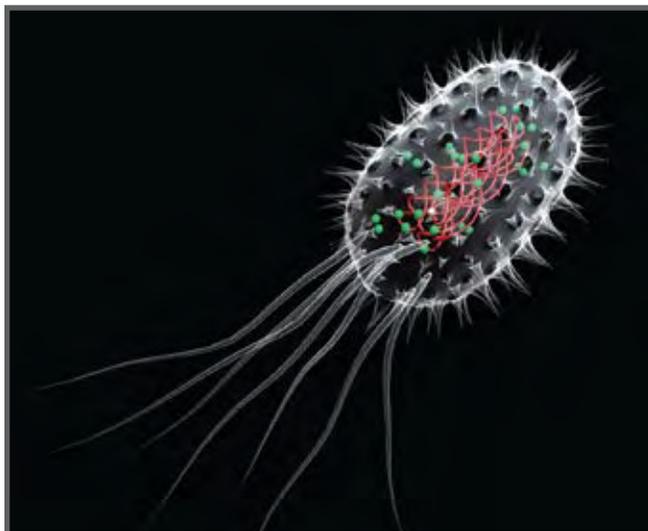
Evolutionary theory states that some ancient prokaryotes ("simple" forms) evolved into eukaryotes ("complex" forms). Eukaryotes are cells with a membrane-bound nucleus and DNA structured into linear chromosomes, versus the circular chromosomes in bacteria. However, the Creator has designed bacteria with some amazing properties that should cause one to be openly skeptical of Darwinian claims regarding bacteria's origin and alleged evolution over time into completely different life forms. (For example, see my article "Just How Simple Are Bacteria?"¹)

Secular scientists have no credible idea how the DNA molecule may have evolved from non-life—especially without the aid of proteins (which must be coded by DNA²) or the critical DNA repair system.³

The genetic material (DNA) in most bacteria is found as a single circular chromosome in an area called the nucleoid region and contains some 4.7 million base pairs. Stretched out, this DNA molecule would be about 1,000 times longer than the bacterium itself. The bacterial chromosome, though chemically identical, is structured unlike linear chromosomes of eukaryotic cells that make up people (46 chromosomes), plants (e.g., corn, 20 chromosomes) and animals (e.g., fruit fly, 8 chromosomes).

All cells (except mature red blood cells) must duplicate their genetic material for the next generation. The process of DNA duplica-

tion in bacteria, called replication, into two exact copies—one for each new daughter cell—is quite complex. This involves an origin site on the circular molecule (called *oriC*) where replication begins. Then, bidirectional replication of the two strands at identical speeds is carried out with precision. As you can see, this is hardly simple and involves many enzymes, including topoisomerases. These large molecules are de-



signed with the important job of relaxing and uncoiling the DNA. Some anti-cancer drugs work by interfering with topoisomerases in targeted cancer cells.

As impossible as it would have been for such a process to have evolved through time, chance, and random genetic mistakes, three evolutionists ask if DNA replication could have evolved *twice* independently!⁴

Replication difficulties aside, fitting the convoluted mass of DNA in the confines of a tiny bacterium requires an amazing process called supercoiling. The Creator has designed enzymes that rapidly and efficiently twist the bacterial DNA upon itself. For example, Type II topoisomerases (DNA gyrase that produces negatively supercoiled DNA by cutting it) main-

tain a precise, steady-state degree of supercoiling. Fully supercoiled, the chromosome is about 1 μm (a micrometer, 1 millionth of a meter) in diameter, while its relaxed configuration is approximately 430 μm .

Far from supercoiling just being an efficient manner in which the bacterium stores its DNA, researchers are discovering that "supercoiling acts as a second messenger that transmits information about the environment to many regulatory networks in the cell."⁵ A second messenger (e.g., cyclic AMP) is an intermediary compound that can alter fundamental patterns of gene (DNA) expression.

So, not only must the DNA of bacteria replicate error-free at an amazing rate (30,000 "letters" per minute), but it must also be compacted to fit inside an impossibly small space. During replication, certain genes must also be immediately available for necessary bacterial functions, some actually being expressed by their sensitivity to supercoiling—which in turn is stimulated by environmental changes. And this is just the "simple" bacterium. As we say in creation science, "If it's living—it's complex!" ●

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Mr. Sherwin is Science Editor.

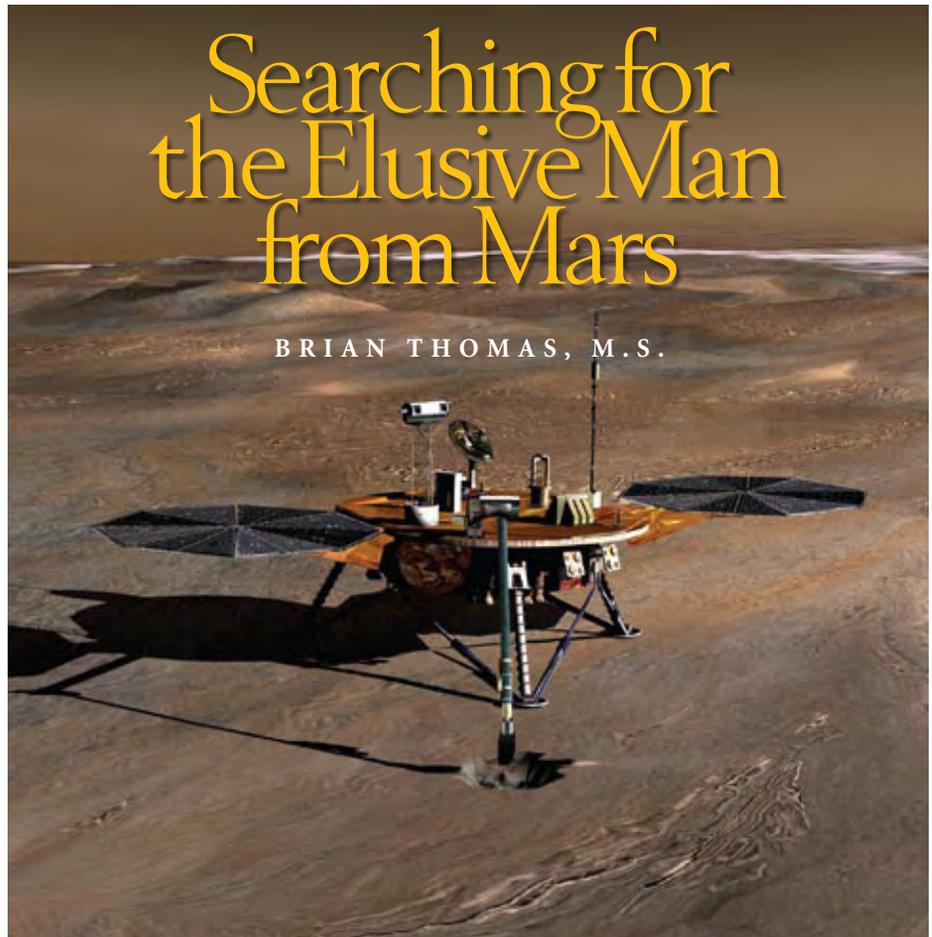


The Phoenix Mars Lander has successfully arrived and is, as of this writing, examining the surface of the Martian planet. The objective of the Phoenix Lander is two-fold: first, to explore geological evidence for water; and second, to find a “habitable zone” between soil and ice that may contain microbial life. The five previous successful American landings on Mars have produced no evidence of life or even the conditions that may support life, but scientists are evidently optimistic that it must be there somewhere.

We have spent millions of dollars in our efforts to gather more data about other planets. Now we are spending millions more to look for life on Mars. Because the planet has been discovered to be inhospitable to any life, our expectations have been lowered dramatically. Whereas once we were entertaining thoughts of Martians invading earth, now we have relegated our investigation to merely looking for evidence that Mars *may* have once supported living organisms.

Why would we stubbornly keep looking for life forms that refuse to materialize? Consider these events. First, Darwin published *On the Origin of Species* in 1859. Within ten years, the evolution revolution took hold and academicians began teaching that all life originated not from God, but from nature itself. When you add to this the concept that the universe is vast and might contain countless planets to accompany its countless stars, the ingredients for a recipe for alien life are in place. Also, since Mars is relatively similar to the earth in size and distance from the sun, why not begin the search with Martians?

Certain visible features (and perhaps some wishful thinking) led many early astronomers to believe that liquid water, a key ingredient for life as we know it, was on the surface of Mars. However, the first official demotion of alien expectation was in 1965, when the Mariner 4 performed the first flyby of the planet. The “aquatic” features turned out to be nothing more than mirages.



Since then, we have discovered that Mars has an average surface temperature of -50° F, compared to earth’s average of 57° F. Mars is *cold*. The Martian atmosphere contains 96 percent carbon dioxide (CO_2), 2.7 percent nitrogen (N_2), and only .2 percent oxygen (O_2). This is in stark contrast to earth, which has 78 percent N_2 , 20 percent O_2 , and 0.04 percent CO_2 .

On earth, the N_2 is inert, so it does not react with sensitive lung tissues. The CO_2 and especially H_2O vapor provide a vital greenhouse shield. Mars does not have this, nor does it have enough oxygen for life. In fact, it has none of the unique atmospheric attributes essential to life on earth, including an ozone layer. Radiation is so intense on the planetary surface that aside from the cold anoxic environment, this alone would suffice to destroy the very molecules of life. That is why researchers are digging deeper to look for life...or at least an extinct incubator for a life that is long gone.

A straightforward reading of Genesis 1 describes a universe with life that is bound to earth. In it, the earth is described as uniquely constructed to support life. Scientific investigation has confirmed this; the prospects for Martian life appear slim. On our home planet, however, there is strong evidence for a well-designed, robust atmosphere and a planetary makeup that is just right.

Evolutionary scientists will keep looking for extraterrestrial life because their theory predicts that it should exist. But why is there such a conspicuous lack of evidence for it? The Genesis account of creation remains consistent with what we observe and is the only satisfactory explanation for the presence of life...on earth. ●

Mr. Thomas is Science Writer.



Cosmology's Error Bars

DAVID F. COPPEDGE

Close-Up of Galaxies from the Hubble Ultra Deep Field Image

NASA, ESA, S. Beckwith (STScI) and the HUDF Team

It wouldn't make much sense to brag about knowing the diameter of a steering wheel to five decimal places on a car headed the wrong way with an engine about to blow, would it? Neither is it sensible to talk of "precision cosmology" in a day when major upheavals are being seriously considered by astronomers.

Error bars are required markings on scientific graphs. They indicate the range of uncertainty surrounding a measurement. As with the proverbial weakest link, no product of measurements can be more precise than the factor with the biggest error. Astronomers have achieved record levels of precision measuring minute fluctuations in the cosmic background radiation. When combined with other factors whose uncertainties are huge, however, confidence in any conclusion evaporates. Consider some major upsets recently discussed in the literature.

In *Science* this May, a Korean team said there is growing evidence that the intergalactic space is permeated with magnetic fields in a state of turbulence. These fields could affect ideas about the large-scale structure of the universe, but they began by saying, "The nature and origin of turbulence and magnetic fields in the intergalactic space are important problems that are yet to be understood."¹

The *Galaxy* satellite recently imaged hydrogen spiral arms beyond the visible arms in galaxy M83. According to the press release,

astronomers speculated that stars "could have formed under conditions resembling those of the early Universe, a time when space was not yet enriched with dust and heavier elements."² The BBC added big error bars: "But this process is not well understood."³ How might this finding throw off estimates of galaxy masses?

In May, *Astrophysical Journal Letters* reported that astronomers were surprised to find tightly compact galaxies at redshift 2.3, corresponding to one-fifth the assumed age of the universe. They were more compact and dense by a factor of six than normal galaxies, like finding 20-inch-long babies weighing 180 pounds. Early galaxies were once thought to start diffuse and increase in density over time. To account for their formation, the scientists visualized puddles and vortices of dark matter.⁴

It should be remembered that most leading cosmological models recklessly employ dark matter and dark energy, neither of which have been observed directly, and neither of which is understood at all.⁵ The use of fudge factors takes all precision out of science.

Recently, inflation theory has come under fire.⁶ And *Space.com* dropped a bombshell that the universe is twice as bright as it appears.⁷ What other sources of error are yet unknown?

Finally, in one of the most astonishing cases of questioning a foundational assumption, an astronomer seriously considered tossing overboard the Copernican principle, the

"principle of mediocrity" that has dominated astronomy for over a century. It is a cherished assumption, he said, but "fundamentally untested." Writing for *Nature* last March, he said the advantage is that it gets rid of the need for dark energy—a conundrum that, for him, is telling us there is "something fundamentally wrong with our assumptions."⁸

When you hear claims that the Big Bang theory is all figured out except for the final few decimal places, make sure the claimant has not forgotten to draw in these astronomical error bars. ●

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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



God recently blessed us a little financially, so we would like to share with your ministry. May God bless you. Can't believe it's been almost a year since our Yellowstone tour with you.

— T.&N.K.

Just today I received in the mail another of your extraordinary booklets *Days of Praise*. A complete daily reading, totally diversified and a blessing. Those booklets are timeless and should be read and re-read and passed along to others. It has only been a number of years since my late sister, now in Heaven with the Lord, gave me a copy of one...that someone else had given to her—an extra copy—and my, didn't I enjoy it.

— A.L.

The May issue of *Acts & Facts* was such a blessing to me. I seemed to pick up a note of joy and triumph as I read through the different presentations! Bless your hearts for continuing to “press the battle.” The message you continue to publish is so needed in this day of paganism and idolatry!

— J.Y.

We trust the move to Dallas is proving beneficial for your wonderful ministry. We praise God for the powerful lead ICR is taking in bringing glory to God as Creator, and vindicating the integrity of His Word.

— Pastor W.A.B.

I am a missionary evangelist...Every quarter you all mail me the *Days of Praise*. Thank you so much for them. I pass them out in the chapel services, in the six different prisons where I preach. The men ask for them. They say they enjoy them. Personally I'm glad because of the doctrinal foundation from which you write...I hope and pray God uses the *Days of Praise* to greatly influence these inmates. Again, thank you for your ministry.

— A.W.

It is a great honor for me to send a small check to aid you in your continuing mission for Jesus Christ. Please use this money for spreading the Word of God to help arm Christians with the truth of creation so they can stand up to the continual barrage of attacks on our faith launched from the pro-evolution factions. Your ministry is also in my prayers.

— A.H.

Editor's Note: Thank you for your support. We know that God will honor your gift, no matter how big or small it is on a worldly scale. The ICR ministry could not function without you and others like you who are committed to the truth of the Creator and His Word.

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

Radio LOG

This month on “Science, Scripture, & Salvation”

WEEKEND OF JULY 5

The Gift of Trees

Just how beneficial are trees to our everyday living? We behold their beauty and appreciate a nice shady spot during the hot summer months, but trees offer so much more than we often realize. Listen in to learn about the gift of trees and the marvelous ways they help us!

WEEKEND OF JULY 12

Our Created Sun

Our life-sustaining sun in all of its strength was created on day four of the creation week. But evolutionists believe the sun took billions of years to develop. We'll challenge that claim and discuss scientific facts about our created sun this week on *Science, Scripture, & Salvation!*

WEEKEND OF JULY 19

Time

Far too often, our lives seem to be dictated by time and schedules. We hurry to church, run to work, and rush off to school. What is this thing called time that has us in its grip? When did it begin? Can we travel through it? When will it end? Call a “time out” and listen to this fascinating discussion on the mysteries of time!

WEEKEND OF JULY 26

Hurricanes, Hypercanes, and Tornadoes

Many of us have either seen firsthand or watched on T.V. the total devastation caused by a hurricane or a tornado. Besides the locations of where they occur, what's the difference between these two destructive forces of nature? Is it possible that hurricanes were more powerful long ago? Tune in this week as we focus on hurricanes, hypercanes, and tornadoes!

To find out where you can hear ICR broadcasts, please email 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.

When the United States of America was founded on July 4, 1776, the signing of the Declaration of Independence was preceded by prayer at the urging of Benjamin Franklin, the senior statesmen of the fledgling nation. It was certainly no coincidence, then, that the very first sentence of this historic document acknowledged God as Creator (“nature’s God”).

This was followed by arguably one of the world’s best-known statements, when the delegates declared that “all men are created equal...endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights.” And even in the concluding sentence, the delegates pledged “support of this declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence.” From its very beginning, America was founded on an expressed faith in God as both Creator and Sustainer, and the Lord has blessed this nation greatly in the years since that first Fourth of July.

It has been noted that America’s beginning and the history that followed seem, in many ways, to mirror that of ancient Israel. God’s chosen nation of Israel started strong, but its people gradually forgot their Sabbaths, Passovers, and Jubilee years. They even forgot God, and instead turned to the gods of nature. After multiple calls for repentance through His prophets, God finally judged Israel and banished them to captivity.

In much the same way, the Lord greatly blessed America in its remarkable formation and early history. When the Liberty Bell was rung on that first Independence Day, a proclamation taken directly from Scripture was sent to all thirteen colonies: “Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof” (Leviticus 25:10). And yet America, like ancient Israel, is rapidly forgetting the true Creator that it acknowledged in its beginning—which may eventually, I fear, exhaust the patience of God.

In reality, many Americans have already deserted their Christian heritage of liberty through our great Savior. And as a result, they have relinquished their freedom in some fashion—exchanging it for immorality, drugs, self-indulgence, pleasure, or some other pursuit



that conflicts with God’s Word. They have, in effect, become “the servant of sin” (John 8:34), and have been deceived by “great swelling words” from false teachers who “promise them liberty” but who themselves “are the servants of corruption” (2 Peter 2:18-19).

But we have a Hope! True freedom—true liberty—can only be secured by faith in Christ’s saving work. For “if the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed” (John 8:36). As a nation—and as individuals—we need to return, before it is too late, to that same Creator so strongly affirmed by our founding fathers in the Declaration of Independence.

ICR seeks through its use of good science to help those of our world discover the true liberty that is found in the Creator. That freedom begins with a belief in the God of creation, and flourishes with the knowledge of His Word. While the adversaries of God and His Word are powerful and plentiful, we are not intimidated—because the Lord is on our side. But the opposition is very real, and the battle grows hotter every day. As such, we need your help both in finances and through prayer to strengthen our hands as we fight on. Please let me know how I can serve you as you prayerfully consider joining our cause. ●

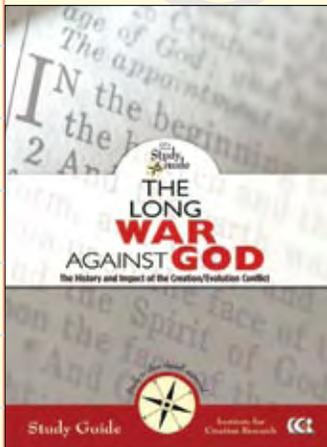
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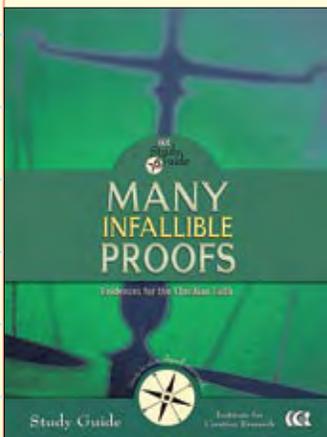
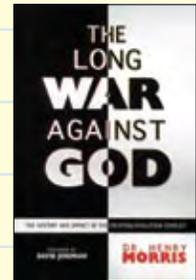
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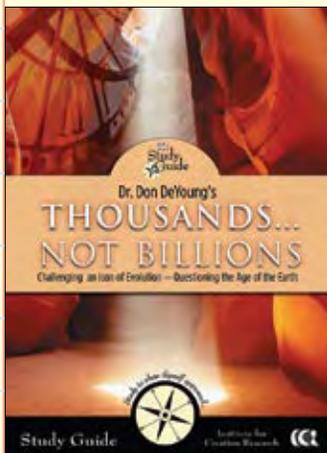
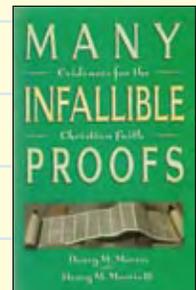
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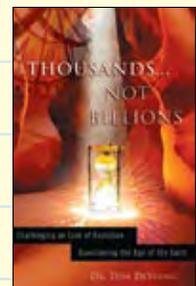
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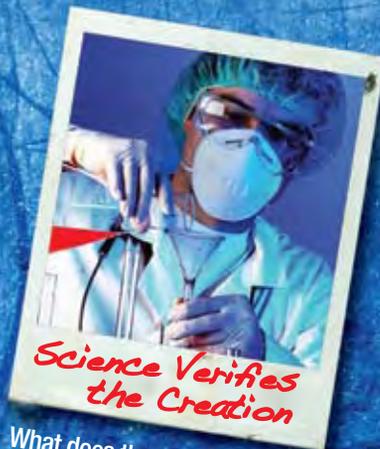
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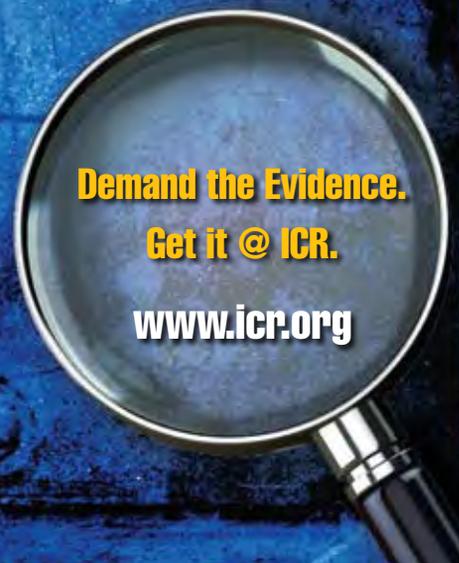
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