

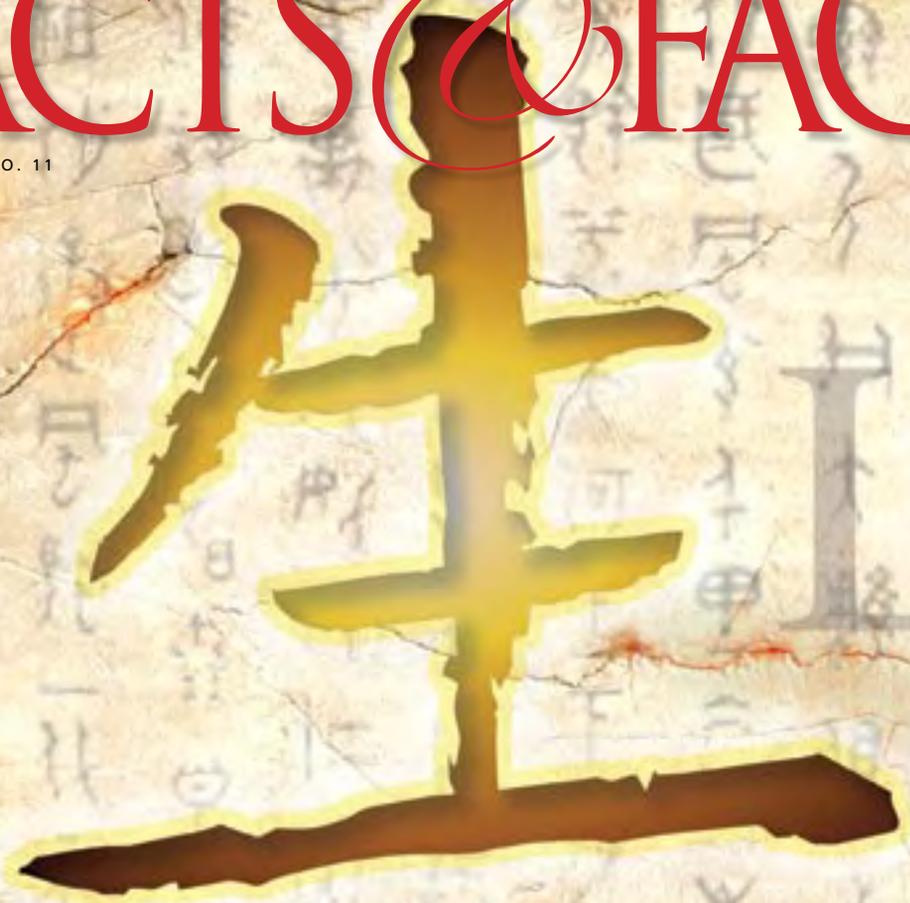
# ACTS & FACTS

INSTITUTE FOR  
CREATION RESEARCH

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Life

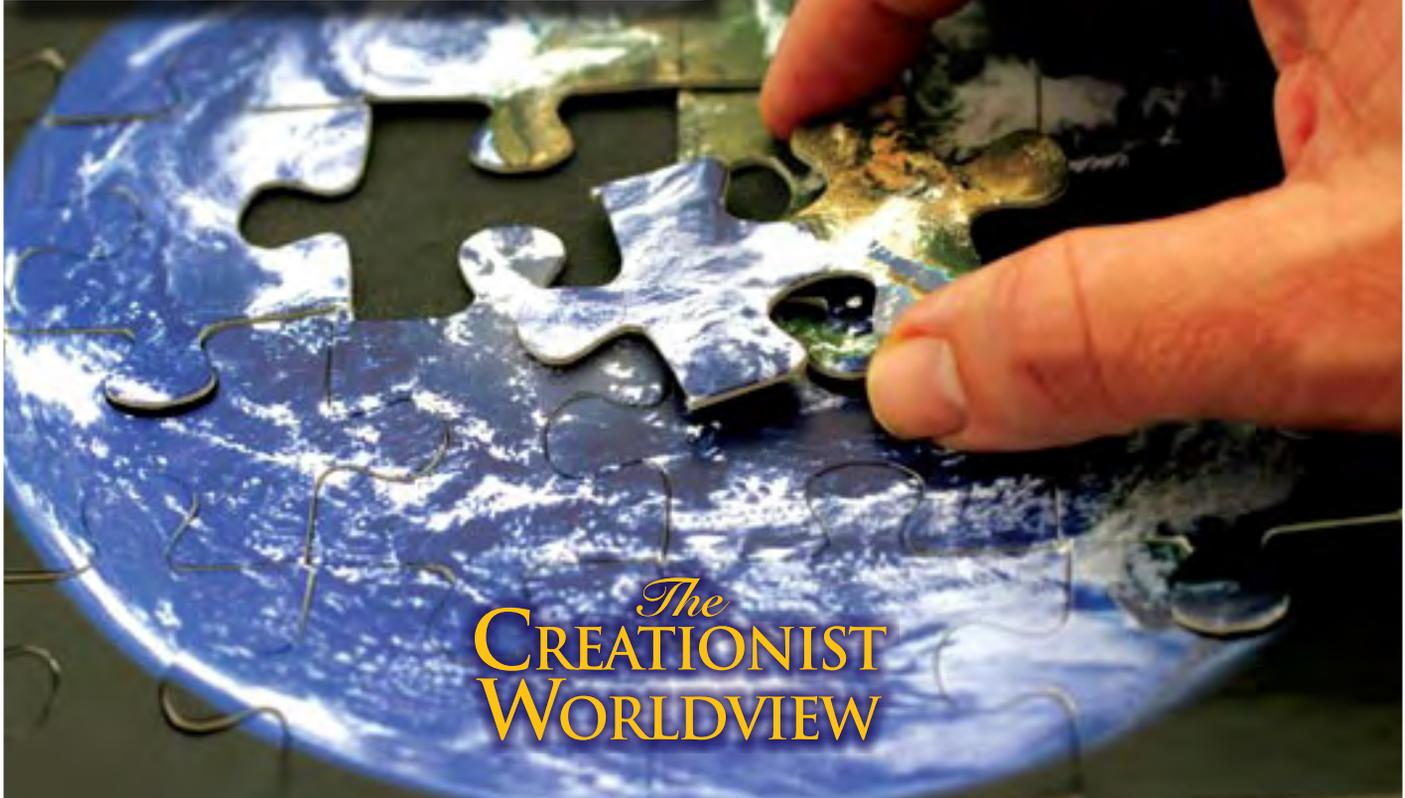
*Life  
in the  
Letters*

Uncovering  
creation truth in  
ancient cultures



Believe

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## Creation Evangelism

Scripture, which claims to be the written account of the Creator Himself, reveals a past time when God separately created each basic plant and animal type. These complex inhabitants all played a vital role in earth's early environment. According to His Word, creation was perfect at the start, but suffered ruination when the head steward of creation rejected God's authority over him. Soon a great worldwide flood cleansed the earth of these rebellious human inhabitants, and all the earth suffered. Today we study the remains of that once "very good" world, devastated by man's disobedience.

God's written message is totally trustworthy, for He was there, knows everything, can communicate clearly, and cannot lie. He wants us to know what really happened, and realizes we might come to error if we try to unravel past secrets without His help. Our Creator has the authority to tell us how we should live if we are to function properly. He has the authority to set the guidelines for life and the penalty for breaking those guidelines. If we live according to His "owner's manual," we can expect to enjoy life more fully than if we choose otherwise.

The fossils testify to a message written in stone that is remarkably similar to the one given in writing by the Creator. However, fossils and the other historical sciences may tell us a lot, but they don't provide the details. A complete reconstruction of past events from partial evidence in the present is nearly impossible. The forensic sciences can do much, but they can never provide certainty. In just that way, studying the fossil record only provides clues in our quest to understand the past.

The trouble is, we simply don't know all truth and can't accurately reconstruct the past from the fossils alone. We can only come to a better approximation of that truth as we do our investigation under the Creator's authority. Obviously, we can never discover full truth if we have already denied truth. But with His help, we can begin to fill in the blanks

Remember, fossils are dead things, yet the fossil record speaks eloquently of the Creator's precise design and of the truth of the Bible's message to us. There we are told of His creative power, His judgment of man's sinful rebellion, and His ultimate solution to the sin problem. When Adam sinned, God justly declared the penalty of sin to be death, eternal death. Yet He desired a relationship with sinful man, and knowing that man was powerless to overcome this sentence on his own, God moved to accomplish it Himself. This was accomplished by the death of the Creator in payment for our sins. Only in this way could God's holy and just nature be satisfied, and bring man back into right standing with his Creator.

God's plan of salvation is a free gift to any who confess their sin, turn from it, and accept the gift. He will respond with forgiveness of our sins, restoration of our standing before Him, adoption into His family, and eternal life in His presence. Such forgiveness can only be received by faith. Evidence such as that preserved in the fossil record can be a stimulus to faith, but evidence can never substitute for faith.

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

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# Life in the Letters

生 信

“Life”

“Believe”

## Uncovering creation truth in ancient cultures

AVA FORD, M.D.

**T**he truth about origins—about the creation of the world and its implications—has increasingly become a topic of colorful conversation in many facets of our society, not the least of which are the pulpits of our churches. At a recent Sunday night church social, I sat down at a table where two men were discussing the pastor’s talk that night regarding creation, evolution, and the Bible. Both men had earned doctorates, and while one remained a steadfast believer in young earth creation, based on the authority of Scripture, the other man ardently held to the theory of theistic evolution, convinced that the earth is billions of years old.

I remained silent during the conversation until our church’s evangelist sat down wearing an unusual shirt—a gift he had received on his

recent trip to China. The shirt had scribbles of various Chinese characters, most of them in disjointed, incomplete sentences.

As I began to translate for him, I honed in on two of the characters in particular: “life” and “believe.” It struck me that these words had relevance to the creation account in Genesis, the very topic of the pastor’s talk.

### Ancient Insight on Faith and the Creator

Chinese script is expressed through ideographic pictures developed from the picture writings on ancient oracle bones—a kind of “hieroglyphic” of Chinese language. Therefore, each character can be broken down into component parts. For instance, the word for “life” is made up of “motion” plus “Lord,” which reveals

the ancient Chinese belief that the Lord is the maker of all life.<sup>1</sup> “Believe” is also comprised of two components: “person” plus “word,” which means that placing trust in a word is considered an act of faith or believing. Simple, yet profound, especially when translated within a biblical context. The story of the Roman centurion in Luke 7:2-10 comes to mind; Jesus specifically remarked that this man’s “belief” in His Word was greater than what He could find in Israel.

According to research found in Harvard’s Yenching Library, the written Chinese language may have originated as far back as 2500 B.C.,<sup>2</sup> which coincides closely with the estimated time of the great dispersion of humanity from Babel, as calculated from the biblical genealogies.<sup>3</sup> When all mankind was divided into new linguistic groups and scattered over the face of

the earth, ancient Chinese people would have also carried with them an accurate account of early human history. Their knowledge of creation and the great Flood had to be fresh in their minds since they were likely contemporaries of Noah, who lived for 350 years after the Flood (Genesis 9:28) and knew all the details of creation through his own father, Lamech, who was only 56 years old when Adam died. With life spans averaging about 912 years in that era, he would have been considered a relatively young man (Genesis 5:1-11).

Interestingly, the ancient Chinese record *Feng-su Tung-yi* (Comprehensive Meaning of Customs) states that all people on earth are descended from “Nu-wa.” (Some have suggested this to be a version of the biblical name Noah, as found in other ancient Chinese texts.)<sup>4</sup> The Chinese were known for meticulous recordkeeping from the time of the Hsia Dynasty in 2205 B.C., and according to their most acclaimed set of ancient manuscripts, *Shu Jing* (The Book of History), many generations of Chinese emperors recited texts of praise during the annual Border Sacrifice as they brought their people together to worship “Heavenly Sovereign ShangDi,” the Creator of the universe and the one true God.<sup>5</sup>

Of old in the beginning, there was the great chaos, without form and dark. The five elements (planets) had not begun to revolve, nor the sun and the moon to shine. In the midst thereof there existed neither forms nor sound. Thou, O spiritual Sovereign, camest forth in Thy presidency, and first didst divide the grosser parts from the purer. Thou madest heaven; Thou madest earth; Thou madest man. All things with their reproducing power got their being.<sup>6</sup>

Sounds remarkably similar to Genesis, doesn't it?

### Acknowledging the Creator through Science

When you look at our beautiful planet earth, the changing colors in its seasons, and all its diverse, complex, interdependent creatures sustained by sophisticated ecosystems, have you ever stopped to wonder how it all came to be? Who set it all in motion and why?

Growing up in an unbelieving home,

I was quite ignorant of the concept of God as Creator. In school I was only taught Charles Darwin's theory of evolution: that all life forms evolved from a single cell. However, when I entered medical school, and particularly during anatomy class, I began to seriously question its validity. Each day I encountered the intricacies of the human body and something within me demanded an honest appraisal of Darwin's theory. I really wanted to know the true account of man's beginning. But none of my professors could give satisfactory answers to my questions.

I got my first glimpse of the Genesis account during a grueling 10-day mountain climbing expedition through a region called the “Valley of Death.” At one point during the climb, we were forced to spend a night in a cave

“Life” does not come through faith in the science of men, but through “belief” in the Creator of life, Jesus Christ.

because of a heavy rainstorm. In that cave, one of my teammates introduced me to the book of Genesis and the God of the Bible.

It wasn't until months later when I began to attend a Bible study with this same student that I heard the full story of the creation of the universe, the first man and woman, the institution of marriage, the temptation and fall, death as the consequence of sin, God's worldwide judgment through the Flood, the tower of Babel and the subsequent dispersion of humans through the confusion of many languages. As I studied, my excitement in the Bible grew. Not surprisingly, most of my classmates at medical school laughed at my enthusiasm for these new discoveries, which they considered to be no more than fairy tales suited for children, not for scientifically-minded, educated people.

So I began to search for evidences outside the Bible, mainly through books on archaeology. I recall at this time in the late '70s that the media was buzzing about the cuneiform discoveries at Tel Mardikh (Ebla), on clay tablets dating back to 2250 B.C. Many scholars suggested parallels with the early chapters of Genesis, shedding new light on the credibility of the Bible. Names

of biblical patriarchs were recorded, as well as a “creation hymn.” I found through other books on fossils, geology, astronomy, history, ancient languages, and medicine, much more evidence I could not simply brush aside—evidence that substantiated the veracity of Genesis, which led me to place my trust in the authority of God's Word, to “believe” the Bible accounts from Genesis through Revelation as literal truth. In time, by God's grace, this confidence in the Scriptures led me to personal faith in the Lord Jesus.

### Critics of the Creator

There are, I know, many well-meaning and well-educated Christians today who struggle with belief in the Genesis record. Sadly, they have placed more trust in science—in the words of men—than in Scripture. To these critics of the Creator I would ask if they consider themselves more qualified than the patriarch Job to answer the hard questions of God (Job 38-42). With all his wisdom, Job could only reply, “What shall I answer thee? I will lay mine hand upon my mouth” (Job 40:4).

It is both dangerous and dishonoring to God when His own people attempt to “spiritualize” the Scriptures in order to make them fit the musings of men (Job 36:26; 37:1-24). Science and its resultant evidence are vital for the progress of our God-given stewardship of the earth, but these must never be placed over the authority of God.

“Life” does not come through faith in the science of men, but through “belief” in the Creator of life, Jesus Christ.<sup>7</sup> ●

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7. John 3:14-16; 20:31.

Dr. Ford has served in medical missions on three continents since 1985.



# Sleuthing Superfaults

LARRY VARDIMAN, P.H.D.

The catastrophic processes during and following the Genesis Flood continue to amaze and challenge geologists and geophysicists. Mountain building, faulting, and other geologic processes are believed by the conventional scientific community to have occurred over millions of years. But evidence continues to mount that many massive geologic processes have occurred in months, days, and even minutes. For example, the rapid movement of large blocks of limestone for distances of up to 50 miles has recently come under scrutiny by scientists of the Flood Activated Sedimentation and Tectonics (FAST) program.

Most faults show the displacement of rock for tens of feet or less. However, much larger displacements of rock for many miles have come to be called *superfaults*. They require catastrophic explanations. The Heart Mountain detachment fault in northwestern Wyoming near Yellowstone National Park is the largest continental rockslide known on earth. This mass of rock, more than 400 square miles in area and over 1,000 feet thick, moved rapidly down a slope of less than 2 degrees at an estimated speed of 50 miles per hour. Because of the weight of such a large block of rock and its rapid movement, it has been an enigma to geologists for years. What processes could have reduced friction on the underlying surface sufficiently to allow sliding at such a low angle without deforming the lower surface? Could the rock have melted to form a thin layer of liquid or gas?

Recent research by both secular and creationist scientists has focused on an unusual layer of rock found in superfaults that has properties that argue for catastrophic emplacement. This thin layer of rock in the fault contains melted glassy minerals that indicate temperatures exceeded 1000°C and vaporized the limestone when it slipped. Similar glassy minerals have previously been found in craters where large meteors struck the earth at high velocities and melted basaltic rock at high temperatures. The



amazing irony of Heart Mountain is that uniformitarian geologists who believe in millions of years of earth history and slow, gradual processes are being forced by the evidence to recognize catastrophic process.

Members of the FAST group conducted field surveys in the summer of 2008 near Heart Mountain to document and explore the evidence for catastrophic emplacement of faults in the area. They mapped the South Fork detachment fault to the south of the Heart Mountain detachment fault and collected rock samples. Although much of this fault is inaccessible because it is buried underground, there are several locations where it is exposed at the surface. The fault at these locations is being studied in detail and samples of the minerals in the fault collected for laboratory analyses.

Plans are also being made to numerically simulate the superfaults in the Heart Mountain region and illustrate their movement under catastrophic conditions following the Genesis Flood. Dr. Steve Austin, who manages the FAST program under contract to ICR, has studied the Heart Mountain detachment fault for several years and is excited about its potential as an argument for a young earth and a catastrophic Flood. ●

*Dr. Vardiman is Chair of the Department of Astro/Geophysics.*



NOVEMBER 2008

Events

**NOVEMBER 6-7**

Mesa, AZ – ACSI Convention

**NOVEMBER 6-7**

Sturbridge, MA – ACSI Convention

**NOVEMBER 7-8**

Charlotte, NC – National Conference on Christian Apologetics

**NOVEMBER 13-14**

Dayton, OH – ACSI Convention

**NOVEMBER 24-25**

Anaheim, CA – ACSI Convention

**NOVEMBER 24-25**

Dallas, TX – ACSI Convention

**NOVEMBER 24-25**

Orlando, FL – ACSI Convention

**NOVEMBER 24-25**

Washington, DC – ACSI Convention

The Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) holds yearly regional conventions for teachers and administrators. ICR offers seminar speakers and/or exhibits at many of these, so we list them to let ACSI members know to visit us at their local convention. If non-members would like to attend, more information and the costs involved are available at [www.acsi.org](http://www.acsi.org).

For more information on these events or to schedule an event, please contact the ICR events department at 800.337.0375 or [events@icr.org](mailto:events@icr.org).

## New Opportunities for Spreading the Creation Message

As we head into the busy holiday season, we rejoice in God's provision this year for the ministry of the Institute for Creation Research. Recently, there have been new oppor-

tunities for those who wish to participate with us in spreading the message of creation. We invite you to prayerfully consider whether one of these options would fit the Lord's leading in your life.

### If You Are a Federal or Military Employee...



Time is running out to support ICR in this year's Combined Federal Campaign!

Those who serve our country can uphold the authority and accuracy of Scripture by supporting ICR's research and educational programs. If you believe in ICR's work and would like to support our ministry, please prayerfully consider designating ICR as the charity of your choice. Our CFC identification number is 23095, and we can be found in the "National/International" section of your local campaign brochure. God bless your service, both for your country and for Him!



### Attention, Stock Donors!

As part of our move to Texas, the Institute for Creation Research is pleased to announce that we have recently established a new brokerage account with Woodbury Financial. If you are prayerfully considering a gift of stock this year, please contact ICR for information to help in the transfer. Thank you for your support!

### IRA Rollover Has Been Extended



Good news! The Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 (H.R. 1424) that was recently signed into law included an extension of the IRA Charitable Rollover, which will apply to IRA distributions made throughout the 2008 and 2009 tax years. Individuals who are 70½ years or older can make a direct charitable contribution of up to \$100,000 from their IRAs without having to declare it as income.

For those who qualify, this is an excellent opportunity to practice good stewardship and support those tax-exempt organizations that God has laid on your heart. For further information on the IRA rollover extension, please contact your financial advisor. We would also be happy to assist you.

For more information on these opportunities, send an email to [stewardship@icr.org](mailto:stewardship@icr.org), or call 800.337.0375.

## Man of Science, Man of God:

# Louis Pasteur

**Who:** Louis Jean Pasteur

**What:** Father of Modern Microbiology

**When:** December 27, 1822 – September 28, 1895

**Where:** Arbois, France

C H R I S T I N E   D A O

Little was known about preventative medicine and the causes of disease in the days of Louis Pasteur. Today, we owe all the discoveries in the fields of microbiology and immunology to his work.

Pasteur came from a long line of peasants. Biographers Albert Keim and Louis Lumet wrote that Pasteur was a “rather slow” student and “gave no indication of brilliant qualities. He studied diligently, but without enthusiasm.”<sup>1</sup> His father, however, wanted him to become a professor, so the young Pasteur applied himself to his studies and eventually gained admittance to the prestigious *École Normale Supérieure*, to which he returned in 1856 as director of scientific studies.

Pasteur was a devout Catholic and was “regarded as conforming with the biblical account of the creation.”<sup>2</sup> At the time, the concept of spontaneous generation was widely accepted, which maintained that life was generated by non-life (i.e., maggots appeared to arise out of exposed animal carcasses). Darwin used this theory, also known as abiogenesis, to propose that the first life forms miraculously grew out of a “warm little pond, with all sorts of ammonia and phosphoric salts, lights, heat, electricity, etc.”<sup>3</sup>

Pasteur conducted experiments comparing organic material that was exposed to air with organic material that was not. Nothing grew in the sealed or filtered vessels. This empirically demonstrated that the fermentation in the open containers was caused by the growth of microorganisms from the air, not spontaneous generation, thus proving biogenesis (life begets life). His studies led to the practices of sterilization and “pasteur”ization, particularly in the fields of medicine and food preparation. He wasn’t the first to propose the theory that germs cause disease, but his experiments supported it and he shares the title of “the father of germ theory and bacteriology” with German physician Robert Koch.

Pasteur received criticism for his work and detail-oriented methods. He wouldn’t make any claim until he had re-tested several times and was sure of the results. His vigorous approach to his work eventually led to perhaps his most significant contributions: the anthrax and rabies vaccines. Anthrax was responsible for destroying whole flocks of sheep in France, and Pasteur successfully demonstrated the survival of inoculated sheep from the vaccines he developed.

In 1880, Pasteur and his pupils began re-

search into hydrophobia, or rabies. At the time, treatments included cauterization with hot irons, stifling sufferers between two mattresses, and other useless “remedies.” Pasteur isolated the rabies virus and developed both a non-virulent and a virulent vaccine. The non-virulent version was given to a nine-year-old boy bitten by a mad dog in 1885. The vaccine succeeded, as it did in subsequent cases. On October 26, 1885, Pasteur officially presented his research on hydrophobia, preventative vaccines, and vaccination treatment applied after infection, and this work was highly praised.

On June 4, 1887, the Pasteur Institute was established in Paris so Pasteur and his researchers could expand their work on infectious diseases.<sup>4</sup> A university was also named for him, and he received high honors and acclaim from his peers, years after he had endured their criticism. Later in life, he suffered from a series of strokes and died from complications in 1895 near Paris.

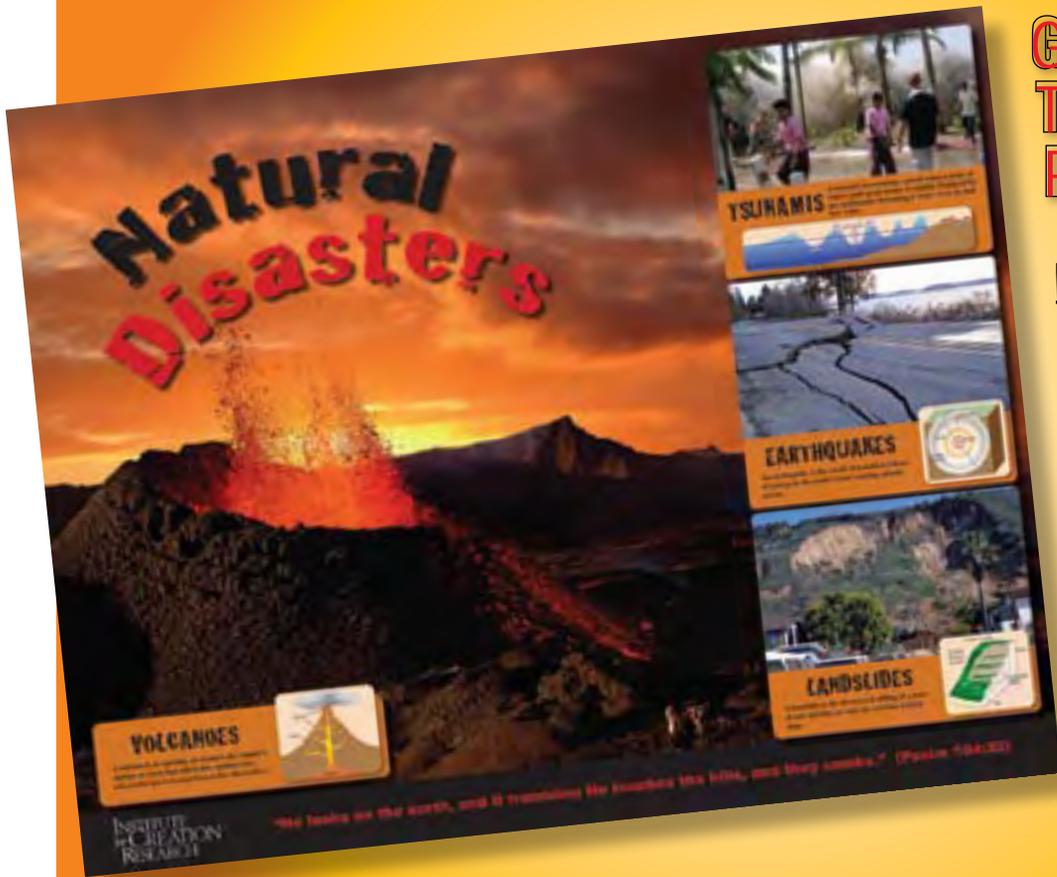
Pasteur’s work set the foundation for some of the most important advances in our modern world. He was an experimentalist of the highest order, and his science was undoubtedly fueled by his faith:

Are science and the passionate desire to understand anything else than the effect of that spur towards knowledge which the mystery of the universe has placed in our souls? Where are the true sources of human dignity, of liberty, of modern democracy, unless they are contained in the idea of the infinite, before which all men are equal?<sup>5,6</sup> ●

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*Ms. Dao is Assistant Editor.*



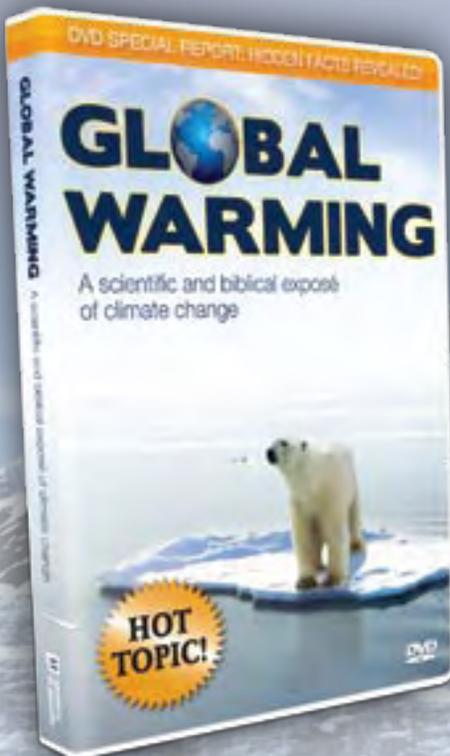
## Great Teaching Poster!

### Natural Disasters

Science teachers will love this new teaching poster on natural disasters, which covers geological disasters such as volcanoes, earthquakes, tsunamis, and landslides. It provides basic terms and definitions, as well as valuable information on the differences between evolutionary and young-earth creationist interpretations of the physical features of our world.

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# A NEW THEORY OF CLIMATE CHANGE



LARRY VARDIMAN, P.H.D.

## INTRODUCTION

**M**an-made carbon dioxide is generally thought to produce global warming. However, in a recent article entitled “Does Carbon Dioxide Drive Global Warming?” I presented several major reasons why carbon dioxide is probably not the primary cause.<sup>1</sup> But if carbon dioxide is not the cause, then what is? Evidence is accumulating that cosmic rays associated with fluctuations in the sun’s electromagnetic field may be what drives global warming. A new theory called *cosmoclimatology* that proposes a natural mechanism for climate fluctuations has been developed by Henrik Svensmark,<sup>2</sup> Head of the Center for Sun-Climate Research at the Danish National Space Center.

## SOME HISTORY

Edward L. Maunder reported in 1904 that the number of spots on the sun has an 11-year cycle.<sup>3</sup> Sunspots can be observed in real time online at [www.spaceweather.com](http://www.spaceweather.com). Figure 1 shows a 400-year record of the monthly number of sunspots. Note the low number of sunspots in the period from 1645 to 1715. This period is called the Maunder Minimum<sup>4</sup> and coincides with the Little Ice Age, the coldest period of temperature during the last 1,000 years.

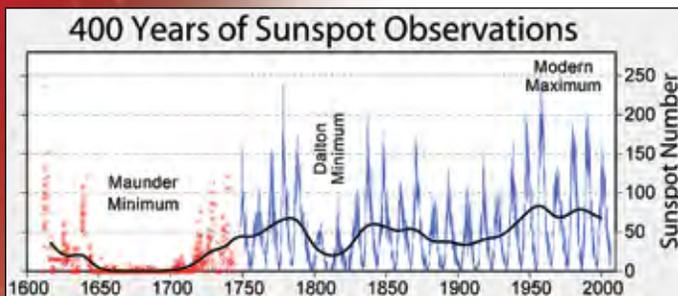


Figure 1. Monthly Solar Sunspot Number.<sup>5</sup>

For many years, climatologists attempted to correlate the number of sunspots with various climate variables, including temperature and precipitation. By the 1980s these attempts were determined to be futile, because the percentage change in solar heating was found to be insufficient to explain the variations. However, this interest began to increase the connection between cosmic rays and sunspots, carbon-14 in the atmosphere, beryllium-10 on the surface of meteorites, and other processes. In particular, it was found that carbon-14 dating needed to be corrected for fluctuations in cosmic ray flux. Without such adjustments, many carbon-14 dates were inconsistent. The question was raised, could cosmic rays affect other geophysical phenomena as well?

## A NEW CLIMATE THEORY

In 1995, Henrik Svensmark discovered a startling connection between the cosmic ray flux from space and cloud cover. He found that when the sun is more active—more sunspots, a stronger magnetic field, larger auroras, stronger solar winds, etc.—fewer cosmic rays strike the earth and cloud cover is reduced, resulting in warmer temperatures. Figure 2 shows the relationship he found between low-level cloud amount derived from satellite data from the International Satellite Cloud Climatology Project and cosmic ray counts from Climax, Colorado.

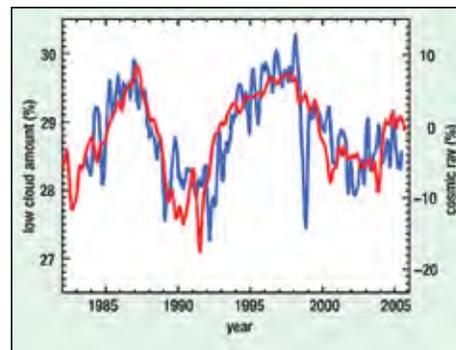


Figure 2. Global variation in cloud amount for clouds below 3.2 kilometers above sea level (blue line) compared to the anomaly in cosmic ray counts at Climax, Colorado (red line).<sup>6</sup>

It is evident in Figure 2 that for the 22-year period from 1983 to 2005, the average amount of low-level cloud follows the flux of cosmic rays very closely. In fact, Svensmark claims that the correlation coefficient is 0.92, a very high correlation for this type of data. In addition, when looking at various longer periods of record using proxy data for these two variables, he also found good correlations and similar trends. In particular, he suggested that during the Little Ice Age when the sun was inactive, cosmic ray flux from space was high, cloud amount was greater, and global temperatures were cooler. As the sun became more active after 1750, cosmic ray flux decreased, cloud amount decreased, and global temperatures warmed. Svensmark proposed that the global

warming we've experienced for the past 150 years is a direct result of an increase in solar activity and attendant warming.

A potential change in cloud cover of 3-4 percent caused by changes in cosmic ray flux is sufficient to explain global temperature changes of several degrees due to the change in the reflectivity of clouds. The reason the variation in direct radiation from the sun was rejected earlier is because it has been found to vary only by a few tenths of a percent. This is insufficient to explain observed global warming.

### EXPERIMENTS ON CLOUD CONDENSATION NUCLEI

These statistical correlations are intriguing, but many critics are skeptical of Svensmark's theory until he can explain the mechanism by which cosmic rays create more clouds. This led him to design a laboratory experiment to demonstrate that cosmic rays produce more cloud nuclei on which cloud droplets can form. In 2007, Svensmark et al published the results of an experiment which confirmed his theory that cosmic rays increase the number of cloud condensation nuclei (CCN).<sup>7</sup>

Most CCN that nucleate cloud droplets in water clouds near the earth's surface are composed of compounds of sulfuric acid derived from water vapor, sulphur dioxide, and ozone found in the atmosphere over the ocean. Svensmark built a cloud chamber containing these gases to see if CCN can be multiplied when cosmic rays are introduced into this mixture. He found that the cosmic rays ionize molecules in the air, releasing electrons that in turn attach themselves to oxygen molecules and collect other water and sulfur dioxide molecules to form clusters. This process occurs extremely rapidly and many times for each electron. The electrons function as a catalyst to form clusters of molecules that grow and produce sulfuric acid CCN. When the air is lifted by normal meteorological processes, these additional CCN form more dense and widespread clouds because of their greater number.

In addition to the results Svensmark obtained from the experiment above, which he called SKY, he anticipates confirmation of his results in a more complete experiment called CLOUD to be conducted at the CERN laboratory in Geneva, Switzerland. The experiment at CERN was delayed numerous times, but has now been funded and approved for 2010.

**IT WOULD BE PRUDENT**  
for the political leadership in the U. S. and the world to look more closely at Svensmark's theory of cosmoclimatology for an explanation of global warming before restructuring our entire economic system to eliminate carbon dioxide.

### CONCLUSIONS

Svensmark's theory of cosmoclimatology is now complete. He has discovered a complete chain of events that explains the variations in global temperature that have puzzled climatologists for so many years, and that has now led to an explanation for the recent global warming episode. It starts with cosmic rays coming to earth from exploding supernovas and collisions of remnants of stars with nebula in space. Many of these cosmic rays are shielded from striking the earth by the electromagnetic activity of the sun. When the sun is active, the solar wind prevents cosmic rays from entering the earth's atmosphere by sweeping

them around the earth. When the sun is inactive, more of them penetrate the atmosphere. Upon reaching the

lower atmosphere where more sulphur dioxide, water vapor, and ozone is present, the cosmic rays ionize the air, releasing electrons that aid in the formation of more CCN and form more dense clouds. This increase in low-cloud amount reflects more solar energy to space, cooling the planet. Variations in electromagnetic activity of the sun and fluctuations in cosmic ray intensity from space result in the periodic warming and cooling of the earth.

Solar-modulated cosmic ray processes successfully explain the recent global warming episode. It would be prudent for the political leadership in the U. S. and the world to look more closely at Svensmark's theory of cosmoclimatology for an explanation of global warming before restructuring our entire economic system to eliminate carbon dioxide. If, in fact, Svensmark is correct, reducing the concentration of carbon dioxide will have little impact, anyway. ●

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Dr. Vardiman is Chair of the Department of Astro/Geophysics.

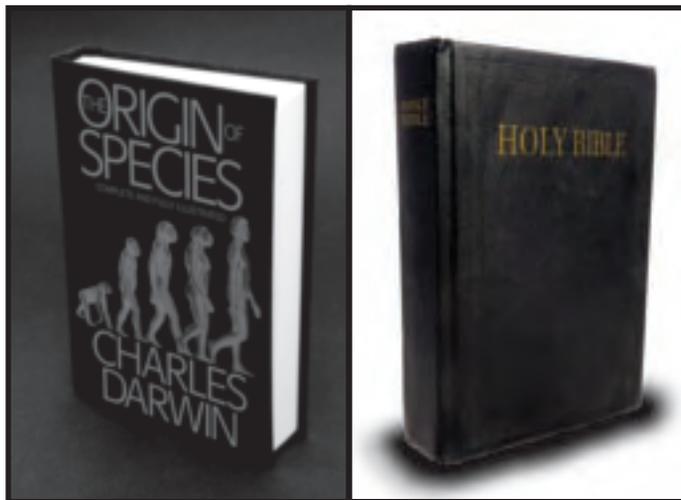
# The Contrasting Religions of Creation and Evolution

JOHN D. MORRIS, P.H.D.

The often-asked question “Do you believe in evolution?” expects the answer “Of course!” Don’t only ignorant yokels have any doubt? But polls consistently reveal that a great majority of Americans do not believe in the evolution of all life forms from a common ancestor. Why isn’t evolution something you can know for sure, not just something in which you can believe?

As always, it helps to define terms. First, evolution is the “descent from a common ancestor” model, the idea that all of life came from more primitive forms. Humankind came from an ape-like ancestor that came up through the mammals from an original rodent-like creature. All mammals came from early reptiles and amphibians, which all came from fish. And the fish came from some marine invertebrate like a snail or starfish, which had still earlier evolved from single-celled life.

Thus, a more revealing question might be “Do you believe your ancestors were fish, as evolution teaches?” Or, “Are you a mutated rodent-like creature?” Fewer people would be inclined to answer, “Yes!” Despite several generations now of aggressive evolution-only teaching in the public school classroom, most people just know that they didn’t come from a fish or a rodent or a starfish. They can choose to believe they have an animal ancestry, but few do. It just isn’t believable. Thankfully, it isn’t the only alternative explanation for origins, and the other is not only more believable, it’s more appealing.



Dr. Michael Ruse, perhaps the most eloquent spokesman for evolution today, has admitted:

Evolution is promoted by its practitioners as more than mere science. Evolution is promulgated as an ideology, a secular religion—a full-fledged alternative to Christianity, with meaning and morality. I am an ardent evolutionist and an ex-Christian, but I must admit that in this one complaint...the literalists are absolutely right. Evolution is a religion. This was true of evolution in the beginning, and it is true of evolution still today.<sup>1</sup>

Christianity has its God and its revealed truth. It tells us our origins, who we are, where we came from, the meaning of life, and where we’re going after we die. It tells us how to live and how to make life decisions along the way. Created in the image of God, we have great worth in His eyes, and great standing before Him as we appropriate His gift of redemption, a great destiny to perform on earth, and life with our loving and righteous Creator/Savior after death.

Evolution answers these same questions differently. We are and come from the universe’s chemicals that have self-organized into unlikely forms over eons of time. Single-celled life transformed itself into higher forms until finally the human animal came along. As higher animals, we have incorporated animal behavior into societal norms and even “religious” beliefs. The only true meaning to life is survival and reproduction, and life’s highest goal is to pass on one’s genes more efficiently than others. After life, we

simply cease to exist.

As Dr. Ruse explains, “Evolution is a religion,” and not a science at all. It might be best understood as a worldview, a way of thinking and making sense of the world around us. Some, such as Eugenie Scott, have called this worldview “philosophical materialism,” a religious claim of naturalism that holds that nature is all there is. There is no supernatural Being who has ever interfered with the natural order of things. Surely this is a religious claim regarding all of reality.

And surely it’s not the only or the best such claim. As constitutional attorney Wendell Bird has pointed out: “Evolution is at least as religious as creation, and creation is at least as scientific as evolution.” Creation is also more believable. ●

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

There are at least a half-million species of plants in the world. Although they do not contain living souls,<sup>1</sup> plants nevertheless display incredible design features and complex interactions with other plants and insects.

Plants have immune systems that seem to be every bit as biochemically complex as those in vertebrates. Botanists have discovered that a plant can distinguish a nematode (tiny parasitic roundworm) from a virus, actively resist a penetrating mold, and produce odors to defend itself against a feeding caterpillar.<sup>2</sup> Indeed, the Creator has designed plants with chemical detectors that are precise enough to discern between a beetle and a caterpillar.

Plant resistance is a whole new field (so to speak) of botany that has bloomed in recent decades. Fascinating discoveries include proteins produced by plants that are toxic to invading microbes, and toxic soap-like compounds called saponins that are designed to resist plant pathogens such as various fungi. Other effective anti-fungal chemicals include cysteine-rich peptides called defensins, which are found in people as well as plants. This fact does not necessarily indicate that plants and people came from a common ancestor. On the contrary, if they had the same Designer, we would expect that He might have provided them both with effective fungistats.

Far from being inert entities that merely provide us with food and aesthetic value, plants can actively respond to their environments by adjusting their looks and growth—and even their behavior, from defensive to aggressive. For instance, plants can wage chemical warfare against other plants. In 2003, researchers from Colorado State University found that the roots of the spotted knapweed produce a natural her-

## Complex Plant Systems: Rooted in God's Genius

FRANK SHERWIN, M.A.

bicide called catechin that causes nearby plants to self-destruct. When these plants die due to a specific series of biochemical reactions caused by the catechin, the spotted knapweed takes over their territory.<sup>3</sup>

In fact, plants even seem to have a sophisticated social life! One study showed that a wildflower called a sea rocket was less competitive with those of the same species, but more aggressive with others. The authors state, “Our results demonstrate that plants can discriminate kin in competitive interactions and indicate that the root interactions may provide the cue for kin recognition.”<sup>4</sup>

How do neo-Darwinists respond to such clear evidence of design? A decade ago, in a chapter titled “The New Darwinism,” retired Australian evolutionary scientist S. A. Barnett wrote:

The transformations revealed by modern biology are, however, not directed by any overriding agency. Biologists can no longer present organisms as the product of an intelligent designer.<sup>5</sup>

This pronouncement is not based on empirical science, but upon the author's natural-

istic worldview. He credits natural selection of mutations as “the only credible explanation.”<sup>6</sup> But natural selection is not the powerful mechanism that its supporters envision. One reason to doubt the neo-Darwinian story is that 80 percent of mutations are so slight that they are invisible to selection.<sup>7</sup> Also, realistic ratios of beneficial to deleterious mutations hover around 1:1 million.<sup>8</sup> Therefore, the deleterious ones relentlessly accumulate, cannot be selected “out,” and eventually lead to fatal data corruption.

Natural selection at most accounts for some members of a population surviving in greater numbers, but it leaves the less fortunate ones unfit for survival. This might lead to extinction of certain breeds, but not to the invention of a whole new organism, useful body part, or a single cell, much less the complex biochemical communication systems in plants. There is a more convincing explanation for the origin of plants, with their capacity for minor variations, but it would give glory and honor to the Creator, not to His creation. ●

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Mr. Sherwin is Senior Science Lecturer.





# The Gaps in “The God of the Gaps”

BRIAN THOMAS, M.S.

Is a “god of the gaps” at the root of Intelligent Design (ID) and creation science? This informal logical fallacy occurs when a given mystery (or gap) that science has not solved is “explained” with reference to divine activity: “God just made it work out, somehow,” some theists might say.

For example, science cannot yet fundamentally explain why atomic nuclei, packed with positively charged and repelling protons, do not fly apart. “God of the gaps” reasoning would posit that God simply holds them together. The standard model of particle physics, in contrast, holds that an enigmatic “nuclear force” keeps them together. (But this also seems faith-based—perhaps using a “nature of the gaps” concept.) If, however, a new property or model of atoms is found that can explain this atomic cohesion, then invoking either the divine or some natural force to fill in “the gap” will become unnecessary.

Contrary to the claims of ideological naturalists, “god of the gaps” thinking does not characterize the central tenets of either ID or creation science. ID specializes in detecting design, just like archaeologists and forensic scientists, who carefully examine artifacts or events to determine whether they were manufactured non-naturally. ID researchers likewise infer a designer from the observation of purposefully placed patterns.

For example, after studying a bi-directionally rotating molecular machine like ATP synthase—complete with a stator, anchor, axle,

and rocking cams—ID scientists do not conclude that “God must have made it because we want to believe in a God.” Rather, they reason that an intelligent entity, though left undefined, must have crafted it precisely *because* of the inference from machine to machinist: “So we infer design on the basis of what we know rather than what we don’t know.”<sup>1</sup>

Creation scientists do not use “god of the gaps” reasoning either. Their approach is somewhat the opposite. They begin with Scripture as a reliable source of historical, scientific, and theological information. Then, they endeavor to fill in the missing pieces by using either inductive origin science or deductive empirical science.

When critics mistakenly assume that creator-friendly views use the “god of the gaps” fallacy, it leads them to impose another faulty accusation. They maintain that the “God did it” mentality stifles motivation for meaningful scientific inquiry. Science Historian at Cornell University Will Provine “described intelligent design as an ‘utterly boring’ theory, one that offers the ‘same answer for every irreducible mechanism.’”<sup>2</sup> And since science can’t be done without an innate curiosity, they reason, creationists are not actually scientists.

However, this reasoning rests upon the prior faulty assumption that ID and creation science use “god of the gaps” thinking, and it ignores real history. Since ID advocates focus on probing objective evidence for intelligence, and since creation scientists work to fill gaps in scriptural knowledge with scientific inves-

tigation, then neither group is using the “god of the gaps.” Rather, both are quite interested in science.

In fact, it was the intense scientific interests of creationists that gave birth to modern science in the 18th and 19th centuries, establishing the major disciplines still in use today. If any discipline is to be considered invalid because it is too boring or because it infers design, then by the same logic archaeology and the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence are likewise invalidated.

As mentioned above, many of the same critics who swing the “god of the gaps” club at their ideological competitors, nonetheless take refuge in their own “nature of the gaps” reasoning. Nature is assumed, for example, to have spontaneously generated matter from nothing; atoms, galaxies, stars, and planets from an explosion; and life from non-living soup. Well-educated people, wise enough to include the Creator in their thinking, need not fear the specious accusation that they are relying on the “god of the gaps.” ●

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Mr. Thomas is Science Writer.



# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Just a note to thank you...

1. for sending the *Days of Praise* to us each month.
2. for the sound biblical teaching.
3. for presenting the strong biblical teaching on creation...young earth, etc.
4. for having courage to expose liberalism and neo-evangelicalism.
5. for the many books that I have secured from you throughout the years.

Keep up the good work that God has called you to do. Please don't ever change your views on the above.

— C.L.W.

Thank you for your firm stand on God's Word!...We are praying that the state of Texas will come to its senses concerning your application for certification. God can overrule in this situation. You played this same game in California. That is how we became aware of your ministry...I have a lot of your literature and it is great. Thanks again for all that ICR does!

— L. & J.B.

Back in July we had a speaker [from ICR] at our church...I just wanted to write and tell you how captivated my husband was. I didn't have to even ask him to go along to VBS after the first night. On the way home he would actively talk about what was spoken on for the evening...It was a very good experience.

— S.M.

Camp Marez (9,000 troops) has your devotional...keep up the good work! Praise God! Hang in there.

— J.M. (in Iraq)

Thank you very much for the program today on *Science, Scripture & Salvation* on the Radical Feminist movement, its detrimental effects on American society and the world, and the connection that the belief in evolution has had on the Radical Feminist movement. This program was most interesting and informative, and I thank God for the way He has led you in producing this radio program.

— D.L.M.

We have been long-time fans (using the daily devotional, the monthly *Acts & Facts*, and various other literature...) and monthly supporters of the ICR ministry. We are very impressed with the degree of research and detail that goes in to everything you do. Thank you for your continued faithfulness.

— B.S.

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



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



WEEKEND OF NOVEMBER 1

### Great Apes

Gorillas, chimpanzees, and orangutans are magnificent creatures made by God on day six of the creation week. However, evolutionary scientists believe that these primates, known as great apes, share a common ancestor with man, thus making them an evolutionary part of our family tree. Hang around for this interesting discussion!



WEEKEND OF NOVEMBER 8

### Hibernating Animals

While we as humans tend to either enjoy or dislike the winter season, for certain *wildlife*, winter is all about staying alive. But these animals are not without a special survival kit given to them by their Creator. Listen in as we discuss hibernating animals and their amazing ability to go to sleep and wake up at just the right time.



WEEKEND OF NOVEMBER 15

### Molecular Machines

All of God's creation is amazing and wondrous. But perhaps His most complex and incredible works are the things we can't see. For example, inside the microscopic cell, hundreds of thousands of little machines work to keep us alive. How do they do it? Come with us this week into an invisible world of tiny cities inside our cells and find out why they are so important to us.



WEEKEND OF NOVEMBER 22

### Molecular Clocks

Evolutionary scientists use a variety of methods in order to make their belief system appear scientific. In an effort to prove that different organisms, such as man and apes, are related, they use something called molecular clocks. Join us as we explain the molecular clock and the calculations used to make it tick.



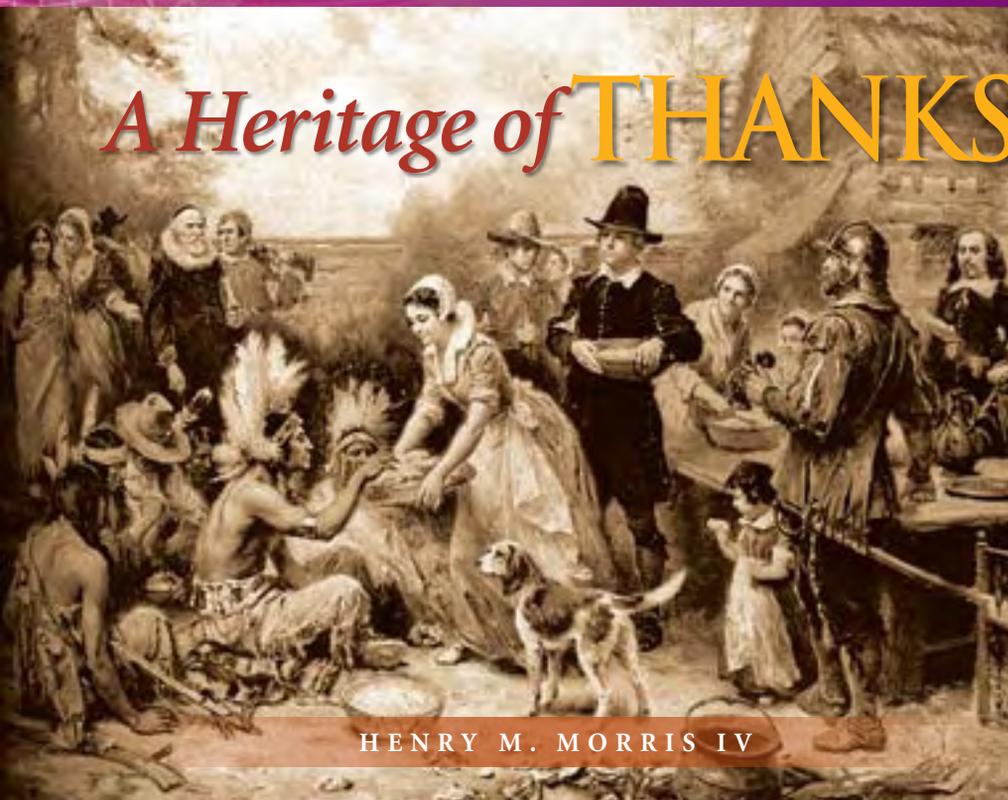
WEEKEND OF NOVEMBER 29

### Space: The Final Frontier

The vast, seemingly endless universe holds many mysteries. In his quest for knowledge of cosmic origins, man continues to search for new discoveries in the heavens. But could the answer he's looking for be right here on earth? Don't beam out! Listen in as we discuss the universal topic of space, the final frontier.

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# A Heritage of THANKSGIVING



HENRY M. MORRIS IV

*"The First Thanksgiving"*  
by Jean Leon Gerome Ferris  
(1863-1930)

Perhaps no other custom reveals our nation's original character as clearly as the celebration of Thanksgiving Day. Other countries have adopted similar observances, but America was the first to nationally recognize its dependence on God with a special day set aside for thanksgiving for His wondrous provision and deliverance.

Although the exact date of the first American Thanksgiving observance may be uncertain, there is no question that this treasured custom sprang from our deep Judeo-Christian heritage. From early Spanish expeditions in the late 1500s, to a small band of settlers in Maine in 1607, each group held services to give public thanks to God. Twelve years later, settlers in Virginia set aside a day of thanksgiving for their survival on the shores of this vast and uncharted land. And in 1623, Governor William Bradford created the most famous of all such observances at Plymouth Colony when a bounteous harvest prompted him to proclaim a special day to "render thanksgiving to ye Almighty God for all His blessings."<sup>1</sup>

In 1777, during the War of Independence from England, the U. S. Continental Congress set aside a day for thanksgiving and praise for the decisive victory at Saratoga, marking the

first time that all American colonies took part in such an event on the same day. The following year at Valley Forge, George Washington declared a special day of thanksgiving upon receiving news that France had agreed to provide aid. And later, as the fledgling nation's first president, he responded to a congressional petition by declaring Thursday, November 26, 1789, as the first Thanksgiving Day of the United States of America.

Since that first Thanksgiving declaration, many state and national days of thanksgiving have been proclaimed for a variety of reasons. But it was the tireless crusade of one woman, Sarah Josepha Hale, that finally led to the establishment of this beautiful observance as a national holiday. Her moving editorials so touched the heart of Abraham Lincoln that in 1863—even in the midst of the Civil War—he enjoined his countrymen to be mindful of their many blessings, cautioning them not "to forget the source from which they come," that they are "the gracious gifts of the Most High God" who ought to be thanked "with one heart and one voice, by the whole American People."<sup>2</sup>

In this spirit, ICR invites all Christians—not just Americans—to again take part in this beautiful tradition wrapped in the deep heritage of our shared Judeo-Christian

ethic, and deeper still in our hearts. We declare our gratitude to God for the many blessings He has showered upon our ministry, our lands, and our people. And in this season of Thanksgiving, we are most grateful for our abundant harvests and the productivity of our industries; for the discoveries of our laboratories through the work of our researchers, scientists, and scholars; for the achievements of our writers, clergy, and teachers, physicians, businessmen, and public servants, farmers, mechanics, and workers of every kind whose honorable toil of body and mind rewards them and their families and enriches our lands. Let us then thank God for our families, friends, and neighbors, and for the joy of this heritage of thanksgiving that we celebrate in His name.

Let every house of worship, every home, and every heart be filled with the spirit of praise and gratitude and love for our Great Provider on this Thanksgiving Day. As the psalmist sang, "Unto thee, O God, do we give thanks, unto thee do we give thanks: for that thy name is near thy wondrous works declare" (Psalm 75:1). In this vein, won't you prayerfully join with ICR to see that His wondrous works are declared throughout the land? ●

#### References

1. Governor William Bradford's Thanksgiving Proclamation, Plymouth Plantation, 1623.
2. Proclamation of Thanksgiving, Abraham Lincoln, 1863.

*Mr. Morris is Director of Donor Relations.*



# EXPULSED:

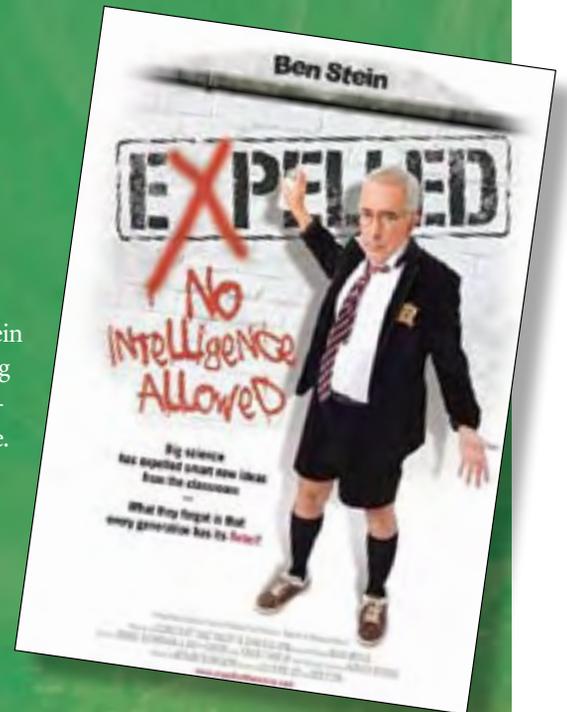
## NO INTELLIGENCE ALLOWED

Big science has expelled smart new ideas from the classroom....

What they forgot is that every generation has its Rebel!

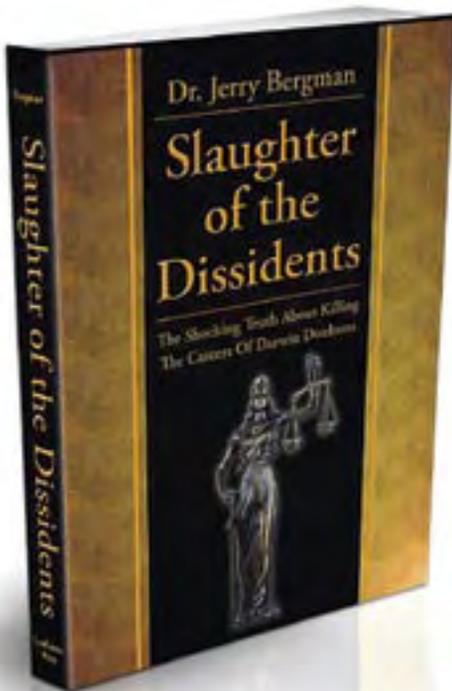
In this groundbreaking documentary, economist, actor, lawyer, and columnist Ben Stein travels the world on a quest for truth, and learns that educators and scientists are being ridiculed, denied tenure, and even fired—for merely believing that there might be evidence of design in nature, and that perhaps life is not just the result of random chance.

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## *Slaughter of the Dissidents:*

*The Shocking Truth about Killing the Careers of Darwin Doubters*

Dr. Jerry Bergman

*Slaughter of the Dissidents* is a unique and groundbreaking work exposing how the careers of Darwin skeptics are being brutally attacked and destroyed in many academic institutions throughout America. Dr. Jerry Bergman carefully documents with agonizing detail in his page-turning and mesmerizing case studies the discrimination, bigotry, prejudice, and tactics used against students, professors, and other science practitioners who dare to question various aspects of Darwinian evolution.

If you appreciated the movie *Expelled: No Intelligence Allowed*, this book picks up where the film left off. *Slaughter of the Dissidents* is a wake-up call for those who are interested in freedom.

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# Slaughter of the Dissidents:

*The Shocking Truth about Killing the Careers of Darwin Doubters*

by Dr. Jerry Bergman

(Leafcutter Press, 2008, 477 pages)

BRIAN THOMAS, M. S.

If Ben Stein's 2008 documentary film *Expelled: No Intelligence Allowed* was the tip, then Dr. Jerry Bergman's *Slaughter of the Dissidents* is the rest of the iceberg. With clarity and thoroughness, Bergman provides detailed accounts of 17 of the over 300 scientists and educators he has interviewed, all of whom have advanced degrees. Though their views range from creation science to intelligent design to evolution, all of them expressed some doubt regarding neo-Darwinism, observing that selection of mutations is not creating life's diversity. And all of them have received some form of discrimination.

Dr. Bergman has observed that evolutionary elitists incorrectly lump all "Darwin Doubters" into one group, "creationists," who are then categorically ridiculed. Though highly qualified, these scientists and educators are verbally and physically threatened, lose privileges, lose opportunities for promotion, and lose jobs and whole careers, just for expressing some measure of doubt about the standard evolutionary story.

One example is Rodney LeVake, the only high school biology teacher in his Faribault, Minnesota, public school with a master's degree in biology, who was displaced in 1998 strictly for the inadequacies he noticed in evolution. His school administration required (only) him to write a "position paper," wherein LeVake noted that "life's complexity and the fossil record do not support the theory of macroevolution" (p. 217). Another biology teacher stated that evolution "is a *fact* like gravity, and a teacher who questions

Darwinism is blatantly incompetent and *should* be fired" (p. 220). LeVake made it clear that he was "not interested in teaching creationism in biology class" (p. 219), but he was reassigned to teach chemistry. In June 2000, the Rice County District Court ruled that LeVake "has no constitutional right to teach his proposed criticisms of evolutionary theory, though they may be scientifically meritorious" (p. 221).

Dr. Bergman points out that if teachers were required to believe all that they teach, then

When freedom of speech is revoked from one group, then the precedent is set to revoke it from others. Who knows what group will be targeted next for academic "slaughter," and who knows when the "slaughtering" will expand beyond academia?

history teachers would have to believe Marxism and Christianity when those subjects are covered, and religion teachers would have to believe all the different religions that they survey. Bergman quotes legal scholar Francis Beckwith's opinion that "since the court concedes that Mr. LeVake's reassignment was based on his beliefs, an act that is de facto unconstitutional, therefore, the Court should have ruled in his favor on these grounds" (pp. 223-224).

The purpose of *Slaughter* is to call us

to "recognize that the pendulum has swung too far away from a reasonable center and against Christians." It is "a plea that readers and supporters will work to move the pendulum toward...accommodation of Darwin skeptics in line with the principles of a free and just society" (p.15). *Slaughter* firmly verifies the theme of *Expelled*, that our rights to free speech are being taken away. When freedom of speech is revoked from one group, then the precedent is set to revoke it from others. Who knows what group will be targeted next for academic "slaughter," and who knows when the "slaughtering" will expand beyond academia? *Slaughter* calls us to do the work of defending the innocent now, before such a task grows monumental or even impossible.

With a total of 477 pages, *Slaughter* contains 386 pages that recount and analyze cases of discrimination, a useful index, and a 68-page bibliography. This first of three volumes has an accompanying website, [SlaughteroftheDissidents.com](http://SlaughteroftheDissidents.com). The second volume will detail the means by which discrimination is carried out, and the third will focus specifically on cataloging censorship. *Slaughter* provides ample evidence that "Darwin fundamentalists," a phrase penned by Stephen J. Gould, are determined to punish others who do not agree with their beliefs.

Well-documented, well-referenced, and well-analyzed, *Slaughter of the Dissidents* presents a clarion wake-up call for those who are interested in freedom. ●

*Mr. Thomas is Science Writer.*

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