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#### FROM THE PRESIDENT

## New Addition to Our **Fossil Family**



n our March 2008 Acts & Facts, we introduced you to Boris, the 9-foot-tall cave bear that greets our visitors in the ICR lobby, and Levi (short for Leviathan) the mosasaur, which we acquired in a natural science



auction. Continuing that collection, on October 25 we purchased a rare juvenile Edmontosaurus skeleton that is over 90 percent complete. The specimen measures 10 feet long and 51/2 feet tall, and will be quite

impressive for our museum visitors when it has been installed. Such skeletons of nearly complete juveniles are almost unheard of, making this an extremely valuable exhibit and teaching tool.

Edmontosaurus, a member of the Hadrosaur family, is known by its prominent duck-like beak. These dinosaurs were herbivores (plant eaters) and were evidently a favorite prey of carnivorous dinosaurs, for sometimes bite marks are found on them that match T. rex tooth patterns.

There have been numerous Edmontosaurus fossils discovered, but only a few have been juveniles. The one we acquired was excavated from the Two Medicine Formation in Montana, which is dated conventionally as late Cretaceous, approximately 70 million years ago. This formation was obviously water deposited, consisting of a mixture of terrestrial sediments and volcanic ash. In close proximity were fossils of both a second juvenile and a partially complete adult, giving rise to fanciful stories of mother and siblings crossing a river and being suddenly trapped in rising water.

Evolutionary scientists need to remember that fossils are not "snapshots of life," but are

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rather buried carcasses. The animals did not necessarily live nearby, nor did they necessarily die nearby. The only thing we know for sure is that they were all buried there, in a transported death assemblage, and do not automatically represent an intact ecosystem. They may have lived some distance away and then were drowned, transported, and buried with plants and animals from completely different environments.

The deposit speaks of monumental, catastrophic processes quite unlike similar depositional processes today. The volcanic sediments are not simply air-fall from a volcanic cloud; rapidly moving water currents were required to transport this volume of material. The thick layer of sediments must be from a distant source, for no local source matches, and the formation can be traced laterally for hundreds of miles. No sluggish stream built up the strata of the Two Medicine Formation.

The Edmontosaurus fossil that ICR purchased was offered at auction here in Dallas, but it had no bidders. ICR was able to negotiate a substantially reduced price, for which we are thankful. The auction brochure described the skeleton as "mounted on a beautifully designed minimalist base, custom fitted with high quality castors for ease of mobility." The base was described as "intelligently designed."

Isn't it interesting that anyone can recognize evidence of design except for those who evaluated this intricate skeleton? It evolved, according to evolutionary thinking, by random mutation and mindless natural selection, with no intelligence involved. ICR plans to house this specimen in a future museum on our Dallas campus, and we look forward to using it to counter such ludicrous claims.



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7 "Perhaps Today!"

Henry M. Morris IV

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#### HENRY M. MORRIS III, D. MIN.

ave you ever wondered why the angels announced the birth of Jesus Christ to shepherds? Are you a bit curious about what drove the wise men to travel all the way from "the east"? Why Mary and Joseph for His earthly parents? Surely there were other Davidic descendants living at that time. And Simeon and Anna—why were they chosen to play a part in this event?

Then there was wicked King Herod and the self-righteous, hypocritical Pharisee sycophants who fawned on him. Why did God let them know that the Son of God had come into the world? What common denominator did the sovereign Creator use to select these human "stars" in this most unique drama in history?

Perhaps the most simple and profound spiritual test for an individual is where he or she stands concerning "belief of the truth" (2 Thessalonians 2:13). Just how the truth of the *written* Word (John 17:17) is wrapped up in the *living* Word (John 1:1-3, 14; 14:6) is an eternal mystery that can be believed, but never totally understood. Yet it is that truth that came into being when the eternal Son of God became the incarnate Son of man.

#### Mary and Joseph

Although they both met the genealogical and biblical requirements of the Davidic line (Joseph from Solomon with legal right, and Mary from Nathan with spiritual right), the more important character trait was their response to God's messenger, Gabriel.

And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. (Luke 1:38)

Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him. (Matthew 1:24)

Both were given astounding news that was humanly impossible to comprehend—and humanly costly to accept—yet they did not hesitate to believe and act immediately on the instructions they were given.

#### The Shepherds

Common, ordinary men, far from the "power people" of the day, on a routine job in the still of the night, were suddenly confronted with the stunning glory of the angel of the Lord. Their fear calmed by the angel's words, they heard the announcement of the fulfillment of the hope that lived in every believing Jewish heart—the Messiah had come!

After their physical hearts had calmed down, they turned to each other and said:

Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste. (Luke 2:15-16)

Not only did they gladly accept the word given, but they "came with haste"—they acted immediately on the information. Just like Mary and Joseph had.

#### Simeon and Anna

About a month after the circumcision of the infant Lord Jesus, Mary and Joseph came to the temple to offer a sacrifice according to the Law of Moses (Leviticus 12).

Simeon (the Bible just calls him "a man," giving him no special title or function) was a "just and devout" man who had yielded himself so completely to the Holy Spirit that he was told that he would not die before he saw the fulfillment of his faith. Responding to the Spirit's prompting, Simeon arrived at the temple just as Mary and Joseph came to present the Lord Jesus (Luke 2:27). Then, filled with the joy of the moment and under the Spirit's guidance, Simeon was used to pronounce a blessing and a prophecy (Luke 2:28-35).

Anna, over 100 years old, had been serving God as a prophetess and prayer warrior in the temple for many years. Coming "in that instant" (Luke 2:38), Anna uttered a prayer of thanksgiving and then went on to tell anyone who would listen of the wonder of Christ's coming.

Once again, both these dedicated people, responding to the word God had given them, acted immediately to obey and spread the truth.



But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law. G A L A T LA N S 4:4



#### The Wise Men

There are many Old Testament prophecies that speak to some event in the earthly life of Jesus Christ. Quite a few center on His birth, some of which, no doubt, were familiar to the Magi and were part of the motivation that started them on their long trek to find this "King of the Jews" (Matthew 2:2).

These men were the scholars of Persia, and would have had access to the writings of Daniel and the commentaries of the Talmud of Babylon. Coupled with their astronomical calculations, they had determined that the fulfillment of Daniel's "seventy weeks" was soon to climax in the coming of the Messiah, although they were not aware of the Bethlehem prophecy of Micah 5:2.

Again, acting immediately on the limited knowledge they had, they sought answers from the leaders in Jerusalem. When pointed to Bethlehem, they found the home of Mary and Joseph, worshiped the Lord Jesus with honor and gifts, and then responded to the dream from God warning them to return "another way" (Matthew 2:12).

#### **King Herod**

This sensually wicked and debauched king knew nothing of the Scriptures of his own people, and had only thoughts of murder toward any perceived threat to his rule and way of life. When told of the prophecies and the refusal of the Magi to participate in his deceptive plot, Herod responded with the slaughter of all boys under the age of two in Bethlehem (Matthew 2:16).

There was no "love of the truth" in Herod (2 Thessalonians 2:10)! Like Cain of old, he was "of that wicked one" (1 John 3:12) and reacted with rage and murder. Truth demands action. One cannot be neutral toward truth; it either invokes a love for it or a hatred toward it (John 3:19-21). Herod, already habitually wicked, plummeted to the depths of evil and acted on his passion.

#### The Pharisees

These men were the conservative religious leaders and scholars of their day. They knew the

Scriptures. They led the nation of Israel spiritually and set the standards for "holy" behavior. Of all the human participants in the drama of the Incarnation, they should have known the truth and embraced it gladly.

Yet they chose affluence and influence above obedience and reverence. Rather than follow the clear teachings of the Scriptures (which they knew intimately), they chose to follow the distorted and complicated reasoning of men (the Talmud) which allowed them to afflict their people with "heavy burdens and grievous to be borne" (Matthew 23:4) and use their traditions to make "the commandment of God of none effect" (Matthew 15:6).

The Lord Jesus gave His most harsh criticisms to these men. They knew truth, but chose to disobey. They could have responded in righteousness, but willingly turned away from truth, and then did all they could to make their disciples follow their error.

#### Reaction to the Gospel Today

Foundational to the "everlasting gospel" is worship of the Creator (Revelation 14:6-7) who has become our Savior through His death, burial, and resurrection "according to the Scriptures" (1 Corinthians 15:3-4). In many churches today, while the "love" message of the gospel is blended into palatable syrup that can be fed to anyone (Christian or non-Christian), the "repentance" and "new creation" parts of the gospel are either ignored or distorted into a hybrid that is compatible with evolutionary humanism.

The positive and negative responses to the gospel by those in Jesus' day are precisely the same reactions seen among people today. But only belief in the truth can lead to salvation and bring a soul

from death unto life. May God grant you His peace through His Son as we celebrate the greatest gift this Christmas season. ●

Dr. Morris is Chief Executive Officer of the Institute for Creation Research.



#### RESEARCH

## RAPID SURGING OF GLACIAL ICE LOBES

LARRY VARDIMAN, PH.D.

Harlen Bretz published an article in the *Journal of Geology* in 1923 that described a catastrophic flood that swept across eastern Washington state near the end of the Ice Age. He claimed that it eroded massive channels through solid rock and flooded the Columbia River Gorge to nearly 400 feet in depth as far downstream as Portland, Oregon. Bretz's theory that a lobe of ice from the ice sheet in Canada blocked the Clark Fork River in western Montana, created a lake as far upstream as Missoula, and released walls of water across eastern Washington when the dam was breached was rejected by most geologists until he lay on his deathbed in 1981.

The reason his observations were ignored for so many years was because the floods in eastern Washington required ice lobes to block the valleys, the sudden releases of the ice dams, and massive flows of water hundreds of feet deep over thousands of square miles. These events smacked of similar stories found in the Bible. However, the evidence of rapid, catastrophic erosion that was carved in the rocks eventually overwhelmed the ridicule of the conventional geological community and is widely accepted today. The Lake Missoula Flood is only one of many events that have led to the development of a rapid, high-energy explanation for geological process called neo-catastrophism.

Rapid Ice Age processes similar to those associated with the ice lobe that caused the Lake Missoula Flood have also begun to be recognized in the formation, movement, and melting of ice sheets in the upper Midwest. During the Ice Age, large ice lobes surged from the Laurentide ice sheet from central Canada southward into the Dakotas, Minnesota, and Iowa. If the Ice Age was a relatively short event of only a few thousand years, as implied by biblical constraints, then these ice lobes must have moved rapidly. Yet, it has been commonly assumed until recently that ice moves relatively slowly.

Mark Horstemeyer and Philip Gullet reported at the 5th International Conference on Creationism (ICC) on their finite element simulations in one dimension of ice sheets.<sup>1</sup> They studied the rate at which steep edges could move and deform under heavy accumulations of snow and found that the rapid movement of ice and multiple surges were plausible during a short Ice Age on the order of 500 years. Jesse Sherburn and associates reported at the 6th ICC in the summer of 2008 even more detailed simulations in three dimensions specifically for the Des Moines ice lobe in Iowa.<sup>2</sup> They considered deformable till under the ice lobe, various porosity and crack levels, and various temperatures, slopes, and load angles. They agreed with previous simulations that surging could reach peak velocities of approximately 6.5 km/year and that the movement of ice lobes could in fact fit within a biblical time frame.

Even the conventional glaciology and paleoclimatology communities have come to believe that ice sheets several thousand feet thick in Canada may have melted in just a few hundred years. A major event during the deglaciation of the ice sheets called the Younger Dryas is now thought to have occurred in as little as a few decades. So, fewer and fewer pieces of evidence seem to justify hundreds of thousands of years for the Ice Age. Several of the articles presented at the ICC in the summer of 2008, including the one on the Des Moines ice lobe, may be found on the ICR website at www.icr.org/research.

#### References

 Horstemeyer, M. and P. Gullet. 2003. Will Mechanics Allow a Rapid Ice Age Following the Flood? Paper presented at the Fifth International Conference on Creationism, August 4-8, in Pittsburgh, PA.

2. Sherburn, J. A., M. F. Horstemeyer and K. Solanki. 2008. Sim-

ulation Analysis of Glacial Surging in the Des Moines Ice Lobe. Paper presented at the Sixth International Conference on Creationism, August 3-7, in Pittsburgh, PA.

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



## DESEMBER 2008

#### DECEMBER 21

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Pasco, WA – Genesis Presentation (Morris III) 509.547.5712

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For costs, reservations, or further information, contact Dr. and Mrs. Parker at 863.494.9558, or visit CreationAdventuresMuseum.org. There came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.

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( M A T T H E W 2 : 1 - 2 )

his holiday season, as you shop for gifts for your loved ones, have you considered including ICR on your Christmas list?

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## Man of Science, Man of God:

#### CHRISTINE DAO

robably no other scientist has had to face as many social barriers as George Washington Carver, the black American botanist noted for revolutionizing agriculture in the southern United States. He was born towards the end of the Civil War to a slave family on the farm of Moses Carver. As an infant, he and his mother and sister were kidnapped by Kentucky night raiders.

It's unclear what happened to his mother and sister, but George was rescued and returned to the Carvers, who raised him and his brother James. He grew up in a deeply segregated world, and very few black schools were available in the South. But his desire for learning prompted him to persevere, and he earned his diploma from Minneapolis High School in Minneapolis, Kansas.

Entering college was even more difficult, but he was eventually accepted at Simpson College in Indianola, Iowa, to study art. In 1891, he transferred to Iowa State Agriculture College in Ames (now Iowa State University) to study botany, where he was the first black student and later the first black faculty member. While there, he adopted the middle name "Washington" to distinguish himself from another George Carver. He received his undergraduate degree in 1894 and his masters in 1896, and became a nationally recognized botanist for his work in plant pathology and mycology. After receiving his masters, he joined Booker T. Washington at the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute (later Tuskegee University) in Alabama to teach former slaves how to farm for self-sufficiency.

Carver revolutionized agricultural science with his cultivation of soil-enriching crops, such as peanuts and soybeans, to revive earth that had been depleted of nutrients from cotton farming. He discovered over 100 uses for the sweet potato and

300 uses for the peanut, including beverages, cosmetics, dyes and paints, medicines, and food products. He conducted numerous research projects that also contributed to medicine and other fields, and used his influence to champion the relief of racial tensions.

He was offered many honors and substantial wealth from patents, but Carver chose not to patent his discoveries: "One reason I never patent my products is that if I did it would take so much time, I would get nothing else done. But mainly I don't want my discoveries to benefit specific favored persons."1

Frugal in finance and humble in character, Carver was undoubtedly a deeply devoted Christian. He attributed inspiration of his work to God,<sup>2</sup> and his studies of nature convinced him of the existence and benevolence of the Creator: "Never since have I been without this consciousness of the Creator speaking to me....The out of doors has been to me more and more a great cathedral in which God could be continuously spoken to and heard from."3

Carver died January 5, 1943 of complications from injuries he incurred in a bad fall. His life savings of \$60,000 was donated to the museum and foundation bearing his name. The epitaph on his grave on the Tuskegee University campus summarizes the life and character of this former slave, man of science, and man of God: "He could have added fortune to fame, but caring for neither, he found happiness and honor in being helpful to the world."

#### References

- 1. Carver Quotes. Posted on the George Washington Carver National Monument website at www.nps.gov/gwca.
- 2. Carver is quoted as saying, "I never have to grope for methods. The method is revealed at the moment I am inspired to create something new. Without God to draw aside the curtain I would be helpless.' Federer, W. J. 1994. America's God and Country Encyclopedia of Quotations. Coppell, TX: FAME Publishing, 96.

#### Who:

George Washington Carver What: Father of Modern Agriculture When: 1864 or 1865 - January 5, 1943 Where: Diamond Grove, Missouri

#### A "Short" List of Peanut By-Products Discovered by G. W. Carver:

- » Peanut Punch
- Peanut Beverage Flakes
- All Purpose Cream (cosmetic)
- Antiseptic Soap
- Baby Massage Cream
- Face Bleach and Tan Remover
- Facial Lotion
- Facial Powder
- Glycerine
- Hand Lotion
- Peanut Oil Shampoo
- Shaving Cream
- Tetter and Dandruff Cure
- Vanishing Cream
- 30 different Dyes for Cloth
- 19 different Dyes for Leather
- 17 different Wood Stains
- Hen Food (from the peanut hearts)
- 3 different kinds of Stock Food
- » Bar Candy
- Caramel
- Chili Sauce
- **Chocolate Coated Peanuts**
- Curds
- Dry Coffee
- **Flavoring Paste**
- Meat Substitutes
- Peanut Brittle
- Peanut Cake
- Peanut Flour
- Peanut Popcorn Bars
- Peanut Relish
- Peanut Tofu Sauce
- Salad Oil
- Vinegar
- Worcestershire Sauce
- Castor Oil Substitute
- **Emulsion for Bronchitis**
- Iron Tonic
- Laxatives
- Axle Grease
- Charcoal (from the shells)
- **Diesel Fuel**
- Gasoline
- Glue
- Insecticide
- Linoleum
- Lubricating Oil
- Nitroglycerine
- White Paper (from the vines) »
- Printer's Ink
- Plastics »
- Rubber
- Laundry Soap
- Sweeping Compound

<sup>3.</sup> Ibid, 97.

Ms. Dao is Assistant Editor.



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# When GOD Became (AN

HENRY M. MORRIS, PH.D.

In the beginning was the Word, ...and the Word was God....All things were made by him;...And the Word was made flesh. (John 1:1, 3, 14) e can never *understand* the doctrine of the incarnation, whereby God the Creator became man the creature, for it is beyond the limits of finite comprehension. But we *can believe* it, and rejoice in it!

In fact, we *must* believe it, for "every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God" (1 John 4:3). "If ye believe not that I am he," said the Lord Jesus, "ye shall die in your sins" (John 8:24).

We not only must believe, but we *can* believe, for He has proved Himself to be God incarnate by "many infallible proofs" (Acts 1:3), especially by His bodily resurrection after dying for our sins. Thereby has God "given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him

from the dead" (Acts 17:31). Only the Creator of life could defeat death. Buddha is dead and Mohammed is dead, and so are Confucius and Plato and all the great men who ever lived, but the "Word made flesh" who was "put to death in the flesh" (1 Peter 3:18) has been raised from

the dead and is "alive for evermore" (Revelation 1:18). "Wherefore he is also able to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him" (Hebrews 7:25).

#### How Could the Creator Become Man?

Since "by him [that is by Christ, the Word of God] were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth" (Colossians 1:16), He must have created the very body in which He would dwell when He "was made flesh." This body, however, could not be a body produced by the normal process of human reproduction, for it must be a body unmarred either by inherent sin spiritually or by inherited genetic defects physically or mentally.

It would necessarily have to be a perfect body, a body like that of the first man He had created long ago in the beautiful garden of Eden. He would, in fact, come to be called "the last Adam" (1 Corinthians 15:45), since there would never be another man created as that "first Adam" had been.

There would be one important difference, however. The first Adam was created and made as a full-grown man, but the second must be "in all things...made like unto his brethren" (Hebrews 2:17). From conception to death, He must be "in all points...like as we are, yet without sin" (Hebrews 4:15). In particular, His blood must be "precious blood...as of a lamb without blemish and without spot" (1 Peter 1:19), for that blood must be "offered... without spot to God" (Hebrews 9:14).

Thus the body of the second Adam must be formed directly by God and placed in a virgin's womb. This had been the very first promise made after the first Adam brought sin and

In that tiny cell in Mary's womb resided all the information not only for Christ's own growth into manhood, but also for the creation, preservation, and redemption of the whole creation.

> death into the world. Speaking of "the woman, and...her seed," God said that He "shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel" (Genesis 3:15). This prophecy was addressed to Satan, whose lie had elicited Eve's sin. This wonderful body would not grow from a man's seed, as in every other human birth, nor would it grow from a woman's egg, for in either case a sin-carrying and mutation-carrying embryo would necessarily result. It must instead be a seed specially formed by the Creator Himself, then planted in the virgin's womb, where it forthwith would become His "tabernacle" for thirty-three years as He lived on His planet earth among those He had come to save.

> "Lo, I come," He would later promise through David (Psalm 40:7). Through Isaiah He said: "A virgin shall conceive, and bear a son," and that babe would also be "the mighty God, the everlasting Father" (Isaiah 7:14; 9:6). Still later, another great prophet could antici

pate that "the Lord hath created a new thing in the earth, a woman shall compass a man" (Jeremiah 31:22).

Note that the "new thing" in the chosen woman must be "*created*." When the time came the angel assured young Mary that "the Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God" (Luke 1:35).

Then, "when he cometh into the world, he saith,...a body hast thou prepared me" (Hebrews 10:5). Most significantly, He used the same word "prepared" (Greek, *katartizo*) which the writer of Hebrews also then would use when he testified that "the worlds were *framed* by the word of God" (Hebrews 11:3),

> recognizing that the same living Word who had framed the worlds had also framed His own human body! And in that tiny cell in Mary's womb resided all the information not only for His own growth into manhood, but also for the creation, preservation, and redemption of the

whole creation. It was His by right of creation and soon would be doubly His by right of redemption.

#### When Did the Creator Become Man?

It has become customary in much of the world to observe the Creator's incarnation on December 25, which is assumed to be the date of the birth of Jesus. However, various other dates have been observed by different groups or promoted by various writers-dates in January or March or October, for example. The early church apparently never observed Christmas at all, and the date of December 25 only began to be identified as Jesus' birthday in about the fourth century. In fact, many believe that Christmas celebrations are essentially a continuation of the old Roman Saturnalia or other pagan practices centering around the winter solstice, during the year's longest nights.

The fact is that no one really knows the date of His birth, so no one should be dogmatic on this subject. Nevertheless, there is one particularly intriguing possibility: On the night Christ was born, shepherds were in the field watching their sheep (Luke 2:8). Although it is barely possible that this could be in late December, it seems far more likely that it would be sometime in the early fall.

If so, the birth of Jesus also would have been in the fall, and it is significant that there was an ancient Christian feast called Michaelmas, observed on September 29 by many early Christians, especially in England and western Europe. The name later also was appropriated to identify a period during the fall when certain courts were in session.

In any case, the name "Michaelmas"

meant "Michael sent," just as "Christmas" means "Christ sent." It is very probable that Michael was the "angel of the Lord" (Luke 2:9) who was sent from heaven to announce the birth of Jesus to the shepherds. The feast of Michaelmas thus may well have originated to commemorate this coming of

Michael and the angels to welcome Jesus at His human birth.

This date would be just several days before the great Feast of Tabernacles, which the pre-exilic Israelites observed each fall in gratitude for the annual harvest, with each family dwelling for a time in a tent, or "tabernacle." When John wrote that "the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us" (John 1:14), he did not use the usual Greek word for "dwell." Instead, he said, literally, that the Word (that is, the Creator) "tabernacled" among us for a time. It was as though He had come into the world at just the appropriate time for the joyful Feast of Tabernacles, as Michael and the angels sang of "good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people" (Luke 2:10).

As glorious as the birth of Christ may have seemed, however, this was *not* His incarnation. He had already been "made in the likeness of men" (Philippians 2:7) nine months earlier, when He created a body for Himself and took up His residence in Mary's womb. *That* was the time when "the Word was made flesh"!

And so it may be beautifully significant that the real "Christmas" (i.e., "Christ sent"), when the Christ was sent from His throne in heaven to enter a "tabernacle" of flesh, would have been nine months earlier than "Michaelmas," when Michael and the angels were sent to announce His birth. But that brings us back to December 25 again! The actual number of days between the two dates is 278, which is the ideal period of human gestation.

Whether or not these inferences are correct (and remember no one really *knows* when Christ was born), they at least yield a greater

How appropriate it would be for Him to enter the world right at the season of darkest and longest night, for He would come as "the light of the world."

> appreciation of His miraculous conception. How appropriate it would be for Him to enter the world right at the season of darkest and longest night, for He would come as "the light of the world" (John 8:12) to bring "life and immortality to light through the gospel" (2 Timothy 1:10). Then, at "Christmas" time, we can remember with deep thanksgiving (not with Saturnalian revelry and pagan greed) the amazing Christmas gift of God Himself, when "God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him" (1 John 4:9).

#### Why Did the Creator Become Man?

No question that begins with "Why?" can be answered scientifically. Such questions can be answered only theologically, and that means they can only be truly answered from the written Word of God. And this greatest of all questions has the most wonderful of all answers!

For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. (John 3:17)

When the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law. (Galatians 4:4-5)

This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. (1 Timothy 1:15)

But that is not all, of course. His first coming, followed by His sacrificial death, bodily resurrection, and glorious ascension, is a prophetic promise of His second coming.

At His first coming, He "tabernacled" among us for a little while; at His second com-

> ing, there will be "a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither

sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away" (Revelation 21:3-4). "And there shall be no night there;...for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever" (Revelation 22:5).

How infinitely sad it is that so many today reject or ignore such a gracious, loving, holy, powerful Creator/Redeemer. Not only do they miss all the true meaning and blessing of Christmas now, but, unless they respond to Him in repentance and faith, they will be everlastingly separated from Him in the glorious

eternal ages to come. •

Adapted from Dr. Morris' article "When God Became Man" in the December 1993 edition of Acts & Facts.

Dr. Morris (1918-2006) was Founder of the Institute for Creation Research.





#### JOHN D. MORRIS, PH.D.

eologists now accept that catastrophic processes are necessary for the deposition of nearly all rock types. Only a short time was needed to form each bed of sediments (which eventually hardened into sedimentary rock). But how much time elapsed between the deposition of one bed and the deposition of an overlying bed? One clue is to recognize that the various features present on the top surface of each bed would not last very long if exposed. These features had to be covered rather quickly, before they had a chance to erode or be destroyed.

One very common feature, seen in many rock layers in many locations, is the presence of ripple marks, which form as water moves over a surface. These can frequently be seen on a beach after the tide has receded, and can also be seen on the ocean bottom where a particular current direction dominates. In many other places we see what have been called raindrop impressions, although these fragile markings may actually be blisters that formed as air bubbles escaped from rapidly deposited underwater sediments. Animal tracks are also common. In any case, these surface features, which had to be formed in soft sediment or they would not have existed at all, are very fragile, and if present on any surface whether soft unconsolidated material or hard rock—will not last very long.

Keep in mind that almost every sedimentary rock layer was deposited under water. Every geologist agrees with this. Unless erosion dominates locally, sediments normally accumulate on an ocean bottom, lakebed, delta, beach, lagoon, stream bank, etc., in the presence of water currents. If subsequent events lift the deposit up out of the water, erosion and/or non-deposition will result. But if a zone stays under water, it will continue to be subjected to water action and will either receive more sediment or be eroded. In such an active environment, ripple marks can be preserved only if they are quickly buried by overlying materials, so that they are protected and thus have time to harden into rock.

In many places around the world, oceanfloor sediments have solidified into rock and are now uplifted onto continental surfaces. Ripple marks and similar features are readily seen in many locations, "frozen" into solid rock. Many examples come readily to mind for anyone who spends time out of doors. Sometimes one can observe several layers of rock stacked on top of one another, each displaying obvious ripple marks. The ripple marks in different layers may be in varied orientations, indicating that the water currents responsible for deposition shifted rapidly and erratically while deposition continued. There must have been a continued supply of sediments, but how could all the ripple marks be preserved?

If such a mark is exposed on any surface, under water or above water, it will soon erode and be washed away, especially in soft, unconsolidated sediments. Even on a hard rock surface, markings will erode in a few decades. There is no possibility that fragile features will last if unprotected for millions of years, waiting to be re-submerged and buried, and thus protected from destructive forces. We cannot determine exactly how much time passed between the deposition of two adjacent layers simply by looking at ripple marks, raindrop impressions, animal footprints, etc., but we can conclude that much less time passed than it takes for surface features to be eroded and disappear.

Since almost every layer gives demonstrable evidence of having been laid down rapidly and catastrophically, and since nearly all such catastrophic layers have surface features that were not eroded, one can reasonably conclude that the whole sequence of rocks was deposited by different episodes in a dynamic, watercharged, and sediment-laden event—such as the one described in Genesis 7 and 8. ●

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

ellyfish (Scyphozoa) are truly fascinating creatures with a vague and imprecise evolutionary record. Evolutionary scientists Daphne Fautin and Sandra Romano state, "The four extant cnidarian classes [including jellyfish] are identifiable as early as the Ordovician, but evolutionary relationships among them have been the subject of much debate."1

They appear in the fossil record complete and fully formed as jellyfish, as creation science predicts.<sup>2</sup> Precambrian jellyfish fossils have been found in the Ediacara beds (forfish origins must be pushed back "205 million years."4 But they are still jellyfish.

Another trove of "500-million-yearold" fossil jellyfish was discovered in 2002 in the Upper Cambrian Mt. Simon-Wonewoc Sandstone in central Wisconsin.5 Ronald Pickerill of the University of New Brunswick states, "They must have been buried extremely quickly."6 Creation scientists agree-by a catastrophic event 4,000+ years ago.

Regardless, evolutionary scientists maintain that these creatures evolved from unknown non-jellvfish ancestors and were "the planet's first swimmer."7 Such a faith statement is based on Darwin's philosophy of "descent with modification," not on actual observation. A recent Popular Science article described how engineer John Dabiri and his graduate students study complex vortex rings produced by swimming jellyfish. They are involved in a field called biomechanics, where scientists and technologists attempt to copy the structures and functions of creations found in the living world. Sadly, virtually all scientists involved in biomechanics give credit to the creation, not the Creator.

ELLYFISH REVEAL THE RECENT Hand of the Creator

merly Vendian) of south Australia, along with the complex annelids (segmented worms). Indeed, one would think a Flood geologist (Genesis 6-9) wrote the following in regard to the rapid fossilization process that preserved these Ediacaran organisms:

Ediacara biota is not found in a restricted environment subject to unusual local conditions: they were a global phenomenon. The processes that were operating must have been systemic and worldwide. There was something very different about the Ediacaran Period that permitted these delicate creatures to be left behind. It is thought that the fossils were preserved by virtue of rapid covering by ash or sand, trapping them against the mud or microbial mats on which they lived.<sup>3</sup>

Ten jellyfish fossils that were discovered in Utah document a very rapid burial and sedimentation event-such as one would expect from a flood, perhaps? The burial was so rapid that tentacles and the unique bell shape are clearly seen.<sup>4</sup> One can appreciate just how fast these creatures would have to be buried to preserve such detail-especially since they are about 95 percent water. Because of this discovery, National Geographic reports that jelly-

#### FRANK SHERWIN, M.A.



Despite evolutionary assumptions, jellyfish appear as 100 percent jellyfish in the sedimentary record with all indications that they were buried rapidly in a worldwide catastrophe. Researchers study and mimic the extant (living) forms today to take advantage of their unique design features. Creation scientists alone appreciate that the incredible variation and complexity of the jellyfish reveals not time, chance, and natural processes, but the recent hand of the Creator.

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## More Than Just "Complex"

#### BRIAN THOMAS, M.S.

Ribbon diagram of a chaperonin.

certain amount of confusion has existed over the use of the term "complex." In the past, creation scientists have used it to refer both to unique arrangements, and to unique, *specified* arrangements. Evolutionists have capitalized on this ambiguity, insisting that creationists are ignorant of nature's creative abilities. For

example, evolutionary biologist P. Z. Myers reacted to an *Acts & Facts* article by asserting:

The lesson of Darwin is that unguided natural processes have the ability to generate complex functionality, so it takes more than just showing complexity and function to demonstrate purpose. Creationists don't understand that at all, so they keep whining "it's complex"!<sup>2</sup>

The reason that "the lesson of Darwin" is rejected by creationists is not because they don't un-

derstand it. Rather, it is because they rightly observe that "unguided natural processes" cannot generate both complexity *and* functionality, referred to as "specified complexity" by Leslie Orgel in his 1973 book *The Origins of Life.*<sup>3</sup> And it is the functionality conferred to a machine by the exact "specification" of its parts that demands a nonnatural, purposeful origin.

Specification combined with complexity demonstrates purpose. For instance, the exact configuration of individual sand grains washed up on a beach is extraordinarily unlikely and therefore could be deemed "complex." However, a sand sculpture shaped like a dolphin is both complex (unlikely) and specified (set to the pattern of a dolphin's form). Arguing that waves (i.e., nature alone) can create sand sculptures because both a sculpture and the sand next to it are complex (uniquely arranged) ignores the key distinction: specification to a predetermined pattern.

Using different terms, evolutionary biochemist Jeffrey Wicken explains:

Whereas ordered systems are generated according to simple algorithms and therefore lack complexity, organized systems must be assembled element by element according to an external "wiring diagram" with a high information content.<sup>4</sup>

Machines with multiple functioning parts are complex in that their parts are uniquely arranged (i.e., lined up in an improbable array). However, *any* arrangement would be just as unique, just as improbable or complex, as any other. In order to function, the machine needs to have components that are specified to required parameters.

A molecular example is found in chaperonins. In cells, these barrel-shaped protein complexes shelter certain other proteins from watery environments, giving them extra time to fold into their necessary shapes. Chaperonins have a precisely-placed enzymatic active site, detachable caps, flexible gated entryways, a timed sequence of chemical events, and precise expansion and flexion capacities. Each of the parameters size, shape, strength, hydrophobicity distribution, timing, and sequence—represents a specification. With each additional specification, the likelihood of a chance-based assembly of these parts diminishes...to miracle status.

Nonetheless, hard-core Darwinist Richard Dawkins stated,

The creationist completely misses the point, because he...insists on treating the genesis of statistical improbability [complexity] as a single, one-off event. He doesn't understand the power of accumulation.<sup>5</sup>

Statistical improbability happens all the time, and by itself is irrelevant to the question of how life originated. Improbability with specification, however, only happens by intention, and it is this combination of qualities for which Darwinian scientists have yet to provide a naturalistic explanation.

Attributing these kinds of creative powers to nature must be a product of the willful exclusion of God, not the product of cogent observation. Since only an all-wise, all-powerful, all-loving Creator could devise nanoscopic, specified-complex, life-sustaining molecular machines like chaperonins (and the biochemical systems that produce them), and since this God is described in the Bible exactly this way, it is most reasonable to credit Him.

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### LETTERS *to the* EDITOR



Both my husband and I are letter carriers for the USPS. We've been giving through Combined Federal Campaign for many years from the local charities. I had been wondering if this was really the best way to give and then I noticed in October's *Acts & Facts* that it was! It's that time of year again and we've put you down under the National/International section code #23095....P.S. I'm proud to deliver all your mailings.

-A.B.

I just want to thank you for all you guys do....I know what it's like to be in the minority opposing the widespread theory of evolution. I love your [web]site and it is extremely informative and it helps me debate, as well as learn, creationism in the context of hard evidence.

—A.O.

I was delighted to find and read Dr. Johnson's concise article on "How Young Is the Earth?" [in the October *Acts & Facts*]. It came as an affirmation of what I had included in study notes back in the late 1970s...I never could understand how the days of Genesis were anything but solar days. At any rate, a literal reading of the book brings me out to conclude that our planet is, indeed, young.

— W.W.G.

I've just started through *The Genesis Record* again and read all Henry Morris' notes in the *New Defender's Study Bible*. Trying to be sure I can pass on a refutation to "evolution believers." Thanks for the help!

— М.М.Ζ.

I want to thank you so much for sending us the *Days of Praise* booklet. We really enjoy reading it and often get blessed by daily reading it....P.S. Our friends would also like to receive *Days of Praise*.

— *Р. & I.C.* 

**Editor's Note:** We appreciate your friends' interest in getting our publications. Our policy has changed, however, regarding names and addresses that are submitted by others. Out of respect for their privacy, individuals will need to request our materials directly. Please ask your friends to call us at 800.337.0375, or they can subscribe online at www.icr.org. Thank you.

**Correction:** In the November 2008 article by Dr. Larry Vardiman titled "A New Theory of Climate Change," the sentence in paragraph four ending with "cooler temperatures" should have read "warmer temperatures."

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





#### WEEKEND OF DECEMBER 6

RADIO LOG

#### There's No Place Like Home

Isaiah 45:18 tells us that God created the earth to be inhabited. While the earth is a wonderful place to call home, could there be other planets similar to earth where life can exist? Many secular scientists think so and are continually trying to find life in other places. But why is this so important? Tune in as we discuss so-called "earthlike" planets and consider the possibility of life on these distant worlds.

#### WEEKEND OF DECEMBER 13

Star Gazing

#### \_\_\_\_

According to Psalm 19:1, "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork." Perhaps there is no better way to experience this heavenly declaration than to cast our eyes upward into the sky on a dark, clear night and behold the beauty of the created universe. Listen in this week as we contemplate star gazing and learn how it can renew a sense of wonder and appreciation for our Creator.

#### WEEKEND OF DECEMBER 20

#### **Beautiful Bethlehem**

From shepherds on a hillside to an infant King wrapped in swaddling clothes, the Christmas story is the beautiful account of our Savior coming to earth to save sinful mankind. But what was it like in Bethlehem during this time? Learning about the birthplace of our Lord can help us focus on the true meaning of Christmas, so gather your family around as we explore the little town of Bethlehem and piece together what it might have been like on that wonderful night so long ago.

## **w**

#### WEEKEND OF DECEMBER 27

#### The Wonder of the Evergreen

The earth is full of natural wonders designed by God and enjoyed by us. One such wonder is the majestic evergreen, which retains its beauty even in the dead of winter. But why do these trees stay green while others lose their leaves? Don't let this question needle you. Join us this week as we discover the wonder of the evergreen!

To find out which radio stations in your city air our programs, visit our website at www.icr.org. On the Radio page, use the station locator to determine where you can hear our broadcasts in your area. You can also listen to current and past *Science*, *Scripture & Salvation* programs online, so check us out!

## "Perhaps Today!"

HENRY M. MORRIS IV

rom my earliest childhood recollections, a small and humble plaque hung in my grandfather's office, placed in a prominent location on the wall directly opposite his desk. Painted in brown with ivory-colored words, it simply but boldly proclaimed, "Perhaps Today!" Though much faded with the passage of time, it hangs today in the memorial office maintained in ICR's new Dallas home. For those who knew him personally, and even those countless multitudes who knew him indirectly through his writings, this simple phrase captures the essence of what drove Dr. Henry M. Morris. Everything he said or did-whether in a book or article or lecture, or in private conversation with a grandchild-was ultimately focused on the much anticipated return of our Lord Jesus to set all things right.

And yet, in one of the great paradoxes of Scripture, Christ instructed us to "occupy till I come" (Luke 19:13) even as we "see the day approaching" (Hebrews 10:25). Thus, it is clear we are to continue working without hesitation, even if the imminent return of Christ would bring sweet relief to our toil here on this earth (Revelation 21:4). Granddad believed this with all his heart and set an excellent and humbling example to those of us who remain, by continuing to work up to the very moment the Lord called him home to glory.

As he so often reminded us in his

writings, both the Dominion and Great Commission mandates have never been revoked. These alone provide Christians with a compelling and urgent reason to continue steadfastly in the work of the Kingdom, and ICR was established based on this same premise. Through scientific research and education, we strive to further mankind's "dominion" over this earth so that others may understand and teach the wonders of His majestic creation. And by communicating these truths, we hope to ultimately demonstrate the Creator's amazing "love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

And so, in this Christmas season, let us not forget God's most precious gift to us. In troubled times like these, fresh on the heels of a turbulent election and in the midst of financial turmoil that has not been seen in some time, God's people can rest in the fact that the Lord is in control and loved us deeply enough to willingly die for us! While our nation, and the entire civilized world to a certain extent, is feeling the pressures of great uncertainty and apparent loss of wealth, we can be confident that He owns it all and will "supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19).

ICR claims this

promise on a daily basis. But we know that our needs, while many, are but a speck in the timescale of eternity. Better yet, we should cast all our cares upon Him (1 Peter 5:7) and focus on the work that still remains to be done while He tarries. If the Lord has blessed you this Christmas season, and the work of ICR has encouraged you in some way, please share generously as the Lord leads so that our ministry may continue in strength and vigor. "Perhaps Today!" may indeed turn out to be *today* (and what a glorious day that will be!). But until that time, we invite you to "occupy" with us until He comes.

On behalf of the entire staff of ICR, we wish you a most glorious and blessed Christmas as we rejoice on "him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth

salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!" (Isaiah 52:7). Amen and amen! ●

Mr. Morris is Director of Donor Relations.



## The Complete Zoo Adventure

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NEV

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