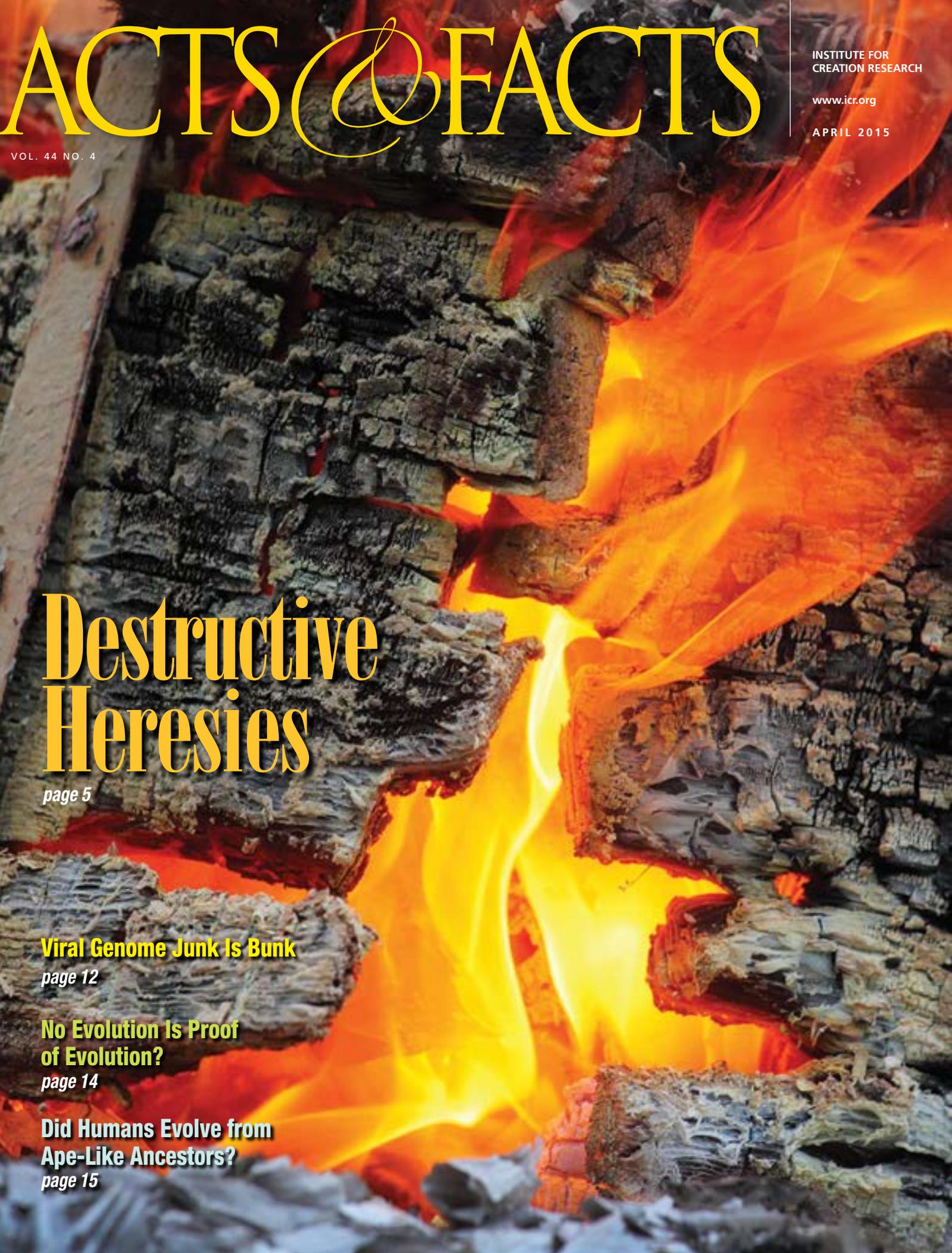


ACTS & FACTS



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APRIL 2015

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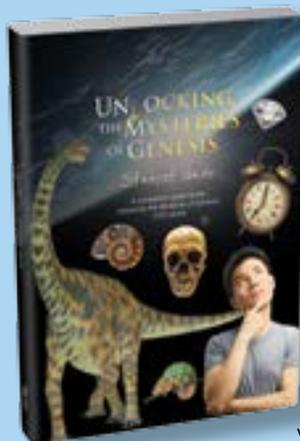
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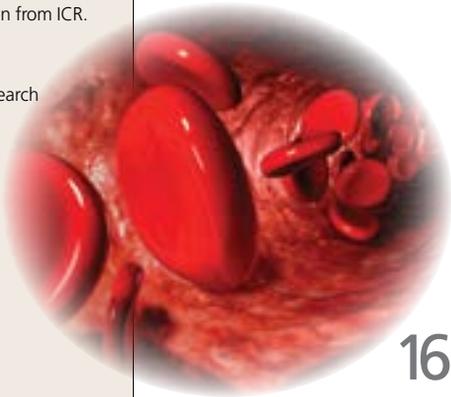
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From Foreign to Familiar

On a trip to England a few years ago, I found myself wondering about signs that dotted the roadways and parking lots. “Heavy Plant Crossing,” “Stop When Lights Show,” “Give Way.” Even the subway offered warnings: “Mind the Gap.” I heard about signs that said “Caution: Sleeping Policeman Ahead,” but I never saw either—the sign or a policeman who was sleeping. In a crushed-gravel parking lot near a centuries-old castle, I chuckled over this one: “Please Park Prettily.”



I asked friends who lived in England to explain their homeland signs. They cleared up the confusion about language-use variations and even the history behind some of the verbiage. Heavy Plant Crossing signs didn’t refer to jaywalking trees—they were warnings about big equipment vehicles crossing the road. And a speed bump, better known as a “hump,” is also called a sleeping policeman. Studying the cultural differences helped me understand the often-unfamiliar wording choices I encountered.

We may sometimes experience similar confusion as we read our Bibles. In one passage we see “to Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood,” and in another place we read “if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (Revelation 1:5; 1 John 1:9). How can washing in blood make

us clean? If we don’t study God’s Word diligently and have the help of the Holy Spirit, we can completely miss the meaning and direction of these and other Bible passages—we’ll be lost, as if we were traveling in a foreign country.

Confusion about God’s Word, as well as difficulty with understanding the presuppositions behind secular science, may be part of the problem for those who do not believe in a recent creation. But Dr. Henry Morris III reveals there’s even more going on in our culture today—many in our generation reject “a recent creation in six literal days” and “the literal words of Genesis” (pages 5-7). “Indifference to Genesis,” Dr. Morris says, “sets the stage for selective obedience.”

Other articles address some difficult questions raised about creation and help us understand how science confirms Genesis. Dr. Vernon Cupps continues his series on problems with radioactive dating methods (pages 10-11). Dr. Jeffrey Tomkins points out the contradictions of assuming that animal and human genomes “are littered with vast amounts of genomic viral DNA fossils” (page 12). Brian Thomas tackles the question “Did humans evolve from ape-like ancestors?” (page 13).

If you find yourself wondering about these and other creation questions—much like I did with the signs in England—try going to the source. Read the Genesis account, the narrative of what happened “in the beginning.” Ask God for understanding. Study the meaning of the words. Scrutinize science reports and historical documents, and learn to recognize the underlying errors in popular teachings that contradict Scripture. When we search the Bible for truth and examine science in light of God’s Word, the creation account makes sense—it’s no longer confusing. The foreign has become familiar.

Through an understanding of Scripture, we can come to know our Creator and what He has done for us. As Dr. Randy Guliuzza reminds us in his article, the blood of Jesus is “particularly special” (page 17). We pray this Easter that you will understand the true significance of our Lord’s precious blood and experience redemption through Jesus Christ. Christ is risen—He is risen indeed!

Jayme Durant

Jayme Durant
EXECUTIVE EDITOR



Destructive Heresies

HENRY M. MORRIS III, D. MIN.

But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction.

— 2 PETER 2:1 —

Many of the strong condemnations in the Bible are directed toward professing Christians who dare to distort the words of God. The Lord Jesus gave His harshest criticism to the religious leaders of His day, and multiple passages throughout Scripture speak severe warnings to prophets and professionals alike.

Most of the mainline denominations have long abandoned any pretense of supporting the inerrancy of Scripture, instead substituting dogma, theology, philosophy,

science, and the “tradition of men” for the words of God (Colossians 2:8). Academic liberalism and political pragmatism have poured from those pulpits and seminaries for over a century. Perhaps there are a few “even in Sardis” (Revelation 3:4) who remain faithful among them, but for the main part the product of generations of false teaching has grown a “Christianity” that has little semblance to the reverence for biblical holiness that once dominated our country.

It is recently, however, among the evangelicals that I find the tide turning dan-

gerously away from God.

There will always be fringe movements that attempt to set themselves apart from the mainstream with new social attractions that will enhance a popular movement or leader. Recently the news media was agog over a well-known female church leader from a conservative Bible megachurch who has formed “Women, Wine & Jesus,” a new women’s Bible study in wineries where they can have “real dialogue about our struggles with faith, Jesus, and our lives.”¹ Interesting, but not much different from the various fac-

ets of “making Jesus relevant” to the ungodly that are prevalent in many churches today.

Those efforts (some more successful than others) do not alarm me like the growing boldness of those evangelical voices that are in rebellion toward the opening chapters of Genesis. Here, at the bedrock of God’s revelation of Himself, His work, and His character, well-funded and well-known organizations are openly defying the clear teachings of Scripture, siding with atheistic naturalism and insisting that the words of the text must be interpreted to fit the teachings of men—embracing destructive heresies.

“I am the LORD, that is My name;
And My glory I will not give to another.”
(Isaiah 42:8)

I fear for those who dare to denigrate the character of God—and that is exactly what is being done when scholars insist that creation must be by some form of evolution! No scheme about creation could be more insulting to the thrice-holy omnipotent and omniscient Being revealed in the Bible than the eons-long random interplay and purposeless development by natural forces that make up the foundational platform of evolution.

The blind interplay of natural forces flies against the very idea of the Person of the Holy Spirit “hovering” over the “face of the waters” (Genesis 1:2). Multiple messages throughout Scripture insist that our Lord Jesus was the Speaker who uttered the first recorded command: “Let there be light” (Genesis 1:3; Colossians 1:16). Insisting that billions of unprovable ages were necessary to form stars and galaxies defies the biblical passages that insist these magnificent lights were formed by God’s spoken word.

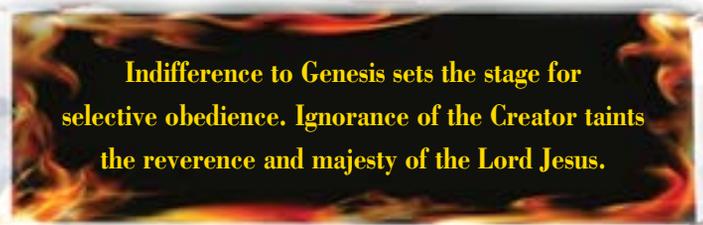
Unimaginable ages of reasonless, violent death of countless billions of life forms violate the core of God’s character. He who is

life insisted that death was a curse on the creation. That death weighs on the “whole creation” (Romans 8:22), which groans under the pains and travail of this “enemy” that will one day be destroyed (1 Corinthians 15:26).

No—nothing of the evolutionary scheme fits the character of the Creator. It is a destructive heresy. And those who dare to smear the glory of God with the filth and grime of this godless story will one day stand before the One they denigrate. That defiance is so awful that I can only mimic what the archangel Michael said to the devil: “The Lord rebuke you!” (Jude 1:9).

“I am the LORD, and there is no other;
There is no God besides Me...
[T]here is none besides Me.
I am the LORD, and there is no other.”
(Isaiah 45:5-6)

It is noteworthy to me that the phrase “I am the LORD” appears over 180 times in



the Old Testament. Each instance insists in some way that it is the heart of foolishness to set oneself against God—either in disobedience to His commands or in defiance of His message. Those who insist on “creation by evolution” do both! On the one hand they twist and distort the revelation that God delivered to us who bear His image, and on the other they strike at the core of the Lord’s command to simply believe Him.

The beautiful gospel of John is built around seven great miracles of creation executed by the Lord Jesus during His public ministry. The first, and perhaps most easily understood, was the creation of the stunningly complex array of chemicals, fibers, and sugars (wine) from the simple H₂O poured into water pots by the servants at the Cana wedding feast (John 2:1-11). Later, Jesus pleaded with His hearers: “Believe Me

that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves” (John 14:11).

Nothing is more basic than this. Salvation comes through faith (Ephesians 2:8). Faith comes by hearing the Word of God (Romans 10:17). Those who deny and defy the *works* of God are denying and defying the *words* of God. They are throwing their disbelief in the teeth of the One who would save them from their disbelief. Further yet, they are undermining the faith of all whom they influence—insisting that God did not tell the truth or do what He said He did. They are people

“having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!” (2 Timothy 3:5)

After listing a litany of the sinful traits that will be prevalent in the “last days,” Paul warns Timothy that those with these traits will look like godly people but deny God’s power. Similarly, the writer to the Hebrews noted that God provided “two immutable things” (both a covenant and an oath) that make it “impossible for God to lie” (Hebrews 6:18). Those

who deny God’s words call Him a liar!

Please note: we are commanded to “turn away” from such people.

Yes, I know there are some who are led astray by others. And yes, some are either naive or ignorant of the issues—and perhaps many are led into apathy or indifference by the leaders who refuse to take a stand one way or another. And while their error may be correctable and their indifference is understandable, the results are neither neutral nor noble.

Indifference to Genesis sets the stage for selective obedience. Ignorance of the Creator taints the reverence and majesty of the Lord Jesus. Allowing evolutionary philosophy to be the default belief system for creation forces a misplaced confidence in the philosophy of science rather than the “clearly seen” evidence of the “things that

are made, even His eternal power and God-head” (Romans 1:20), blinding many to the truth.

But what about those “who suppress the truth in unrighteousness” (Romans 1:18)? What about those who “although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God” (Romans 1:21)? What about those “who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator” (Romans 1:25)?

The Lord Jesus told us that “their fruits” would reveal their belief systems (Matthew 7:20) and “those things which proceed out of the mouth” (Matthew 15:18) are straight from the heart of man. Simply put, what is done and what is said give evidence enough—clear enough to conclude that those who give preference to evolutionary “science” over the Word of God love “the praise of men more than the praise of God” (John 12:43).

Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil;
Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness;
Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!
Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes,
And prudent in their own sight!
(Isaiah 5:20-21)

Although there are those whose naivety, apathy, or ignorance shelters them from the aggressive brashness of the growing anti-creation movement, many more are yielding to the sophisticated presentations and “scholarly” articles of organizations whose sole purpose is to persuade the evangelical church that the Bible is incorrect and that the science of men has proven the evolutionary ages to be fact.

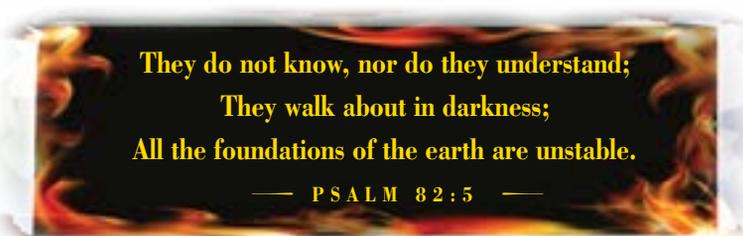
BioLogos is a classic example. Funded by the Templeton Foundation and The Issachar Fund with hundreds of thousands

of dollars, BioLogos—a group that essentially believes in creation by evolution—is sending out attractive and articulate spokespersons to churches, colleges, and seminaries around the country with the



sole purpose of promoting “creation by evolution” and insisting that groups like ICR are hindering efforts to evangelize by embarrassing the Christian community with a foolish insistence on a recent creation in six literal days.

They, and others of like kind, are making serious headway among evangelicals. The old hybrid theories like the gap theory, the day-age theory, theistic evolution, and progressive creation are tolerated as well-meaning but not satisfactory. No, according to BioLogos, the Bible is just plain wrong. They maintain science has proven that the universe and Earth are billions of years old and evolutionary development by natural forces is fact. According to BioLogos, Genesis, at best, is an allegorical attempt by Moses to give God some kind of meaningful part in creation, but Adam is a myth and Genesis is mythology.



They say, “The real culprit is young-earth creationism!” More and more churches are capitulating to the websites, blogs, articles in scholarly journals, polished seminars, and educational materials designed to disprove the Genesis account and enshrine

evolution. Make no mistake. The battle rages and the Enemy is marshalling his minions.

ICR speakers are often asked why we make such a big deal about the literal words of Genesis. It is because Christian colleges and seminaries are drifting away from the creation account—and the movement often begins among the Bible faculty! Academic pressures are enormous, and peer relationships drag toward the majority views. Pastors are badgered to back away from controversy by influential members with either money or intellectual status. Denominational literature and Christian publishers are under economic stress to produce that which “sells.”

For a great and effective door has opened to me, and there are many adversaries. (1 Corinthians 16:9)

ICR is in a wonderful position—perhaps stronger than it has ever been intellectually and operationally. Our science staff is outstanding. The requests for seminars and events continue to pour in. Our websites and social media outlets are growing almost more rapidly than our staff can cope with. God is blessing ICR. Our readers and supporters remain gracious and generous. But more needs to be done. The younger generations require higher-quality media and ever-more-rapid responses. Combating the opposition organizations is more intense and personal. Pray for us.

Become an advocate for these vital issues. Inform your churches about ICR. Much more needs to be done. Much more can be done. God has always chosen to work through His people. Consider investing some of the resources that God has

entrusted to you to partner with ICR in this crucial mission. ●

Reference

1. Roese, J. Women, Wine & Jesus. August 26, 2014, blog posting on jackiealwaysunplugged.com.

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



APRIL 7	Farmers Branch, TX Metroplex Institute of Origin Science (MIOS) (J. Hebert) 972.965.2110
APRIL 8	Redding, CA Little Country Church (R. Guliuzza) 530.222.4092
APRIL 8-12	Redding, CA – 12th Annual Alpha/Omega Conference at Shasta Bible College & Graduate School (R. Guliuzza) 530.221.4275
APRIL 9-11	Atlanta, GA – 2015 Teach Them Diligently Atlanta Homeschool Convention (H. Morris III) 864.235.4444
APRIL 10	Shasta, CA Shasta Community Church (R. Guliuzza) 530.241.4614 or 530.604.7340
APRIL 10-11	Lincoln, NE – 2015 NCHCA Conference and Curriculum Fair (J. Lisle) 402.423.4297
APRIL 12	Lincoln, NE Indian Hills Community Church (J. Lisle) 402.483.4541
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APRIL 12	Grass Valley, CA Combie Bible Church (R. Guliuzza) 530.268.0309 or 530.273.1343

APRIL 13-15	Orlando, FL – The Gospel Coalition 2015 National Conference 2015.thegospelcoalition.org or events@tgc.org
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APRIL 17-18	Saint Paul, MN – 2015 MACHE Homeschool Conference and Curriculum Fair 763.717.9070
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APRIL 19	Oregon City, OR Oregon City Evangelical Church (B. Thomas) 503.894.0841
APRIL 19-20	Conroe, TX West Conroe Baptist Church (R. Guliuzza, B. Thomas) 936.760.1911
APRIL 24-26	Branson, MO 2015 Branson Worldview Weekend (H. Morris III) 901.853.8792
APRIL 29-30	Arlington, TX Creation Summit (B. Thomas, F. Sherwin) 580.768.3456

APRIL 19 - 20
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West Conroe Baptist Church
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936.760.1911

Sunday, April 19, 2015
8:00 a.m. *The Doctrine of Creation* (Dr. Guliuzza)
11:00 a.m. *The Doctrine of Creation* (Dr. Guliuzza)
6:00 p.m. *Divine Engineering* (Dr. Guliuzza)
7:00 p.m. Live Q & A (Dr. Guliuzza)

Monday, April 20, 2015
9:00 a.m. *Dinosaurs for Kids* (Brian Thomas, grades K-5)
11:00 a.m. *Four Biological Facts of Creation* (Dr. Guliuzza, grades 6-12)
6:30 p.m. *Five Minutes with a Darwinist: Exposing the FLUFF of Evolution* (Dr. Guliuzza)
7:15 p.m. *What You Haven't Been Told About Dinosaurs* (Brian Thomas)

LIVE WEBCAST! www.ICR.org/webcast

SAVE THE DATE - AUGUST 29TH EVENT!
Birmingham Creation Conference
Boutwell Auditorium (Birmingham, Alabama)
Dr. Henry Morris III, Dr. Randy Guliuzza,
Dr. Jason Lisle, Dr. Nathaniel Jeanson,
Brian Thomas
www.creationbirmingham.org

For more information on these events or to schedule an event, please contact the ICR Events Department at **800.337.0375**, visit www.icr.org/events, or email us at events@icr.org

The First Joint ICR/CRS Research Meeting

The Institute for Creation Research (ICR) and the Creation Research Society (CRS) are pleased to announce their first-ever joint research meeting July 30–August 1, 2015, in Dallas, Texas.

This meeting marks the culmination of a long history of growth and progress in the larger young-earth creation community. Since the 1961 publication of the seminal work *The Genesis Flood* by Dr. Henry Morris and Dr. John Whitcomb, creation science has seen a remarkable resurgence. For example, in 1963 CRS was founded to fill a critical void in the then-nascent professional creation science community—the need for a peer-reviewed scientific journal. Dr. Morris was one of 10 scientists who founded CRS, which publishes the *Creation Research Society Quarterly*. Dr. Morris went on to start ICR in 1970 to complement the growing young-earth creation movement.

In the early years of each of these organizations, the young-earth creation view had not yet reached a sufficient number of scientific professionals to justify a yearly meeting. As the movement grew, the first creation research meeting finally occurred in 1986: the International Conference on Creationism (ICC). Though the meeting was a success, the group remained too small to have annual meetings, thus subsequent ICCs were held four to five years apart.

In more recent years, interest and progress in creation science have multiplied to the point where an annual meeting would be both fruitful and necessary. For example, the science team at ICR has made great strides on a multitude of scientific fronts—geology, astrophysics, biology, and genetics. One of the most important steps in our research process is vetting ideas and data in front of other professional scientists who can critique and evaluate the preliminary results



Dr. Lisle presenting at the 2014 Creation Research Society meeting in the Cincinnati area

in their respective fields. This helps us maintain a high standard of veracity and integrity in our work. The most rigorous peer review happens in print, but oral peer review is a helpful first step toward accuracy. Hence, a yearly professional meeting keeps our research on track and advancing.

The CRS has held professional science meetings four times in the last several years, and ICR is pleased to join forces with them this year. In this spirit of progress in creation science, we invite all scientific professionals to join us this summer for the ICR/CRS research meeting. In addition, if you are a scientific professional and have your own creation research results that you'd like to vet, we invite you to submit an abstract for presentation at the meeting. The details for all of this can be found below. We hope to see you at the end of July! ●

Dr. Jeanson is Deputy Director for Life Sciences Research and received his Ph.D. in cell and developmental biology from Harvard University.



INSTITUTE FOR CREATION RESEARCH / CREATION RESEARCH SOCIETY JOINT RESEARCH MEETING

When: July 30 – August 1, 2015

Where: DoubleTree Farmers Branch (Dallas area)
11611 Luna Road, Farmers Branch, TX 75234

Who: Professional scientists and researchers interested in helping advance the young-earth creation model

Cost: \$50 for CRS members, \$90 for non-members

Seating is limited. Abstract submission deadline is April 15, 2015.

For more details, visit www.CreationResearch.org



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Creation Research Society Conference

Rare-Earth Clocks, Sm-Nd and Lu-Hf Dating Models 2: Radioactive Dating

PART 6

“Studies of young volcanic rocks at the mineral scale have shown this assumption to be invalid in many instances. Variations in initial isotope ratios can result in erroneous or imprecise ages.”

This series has summarized radioisotope dating models, their assumptions, and how those assumptions mistakenly lead to a “deep time” picture of our universe.¹ Secularist scientists want us to accept their circular arguments and improbable assumptions as scientific fact, despite the fact these same scientists often push aside the scientific method itself.

Using the various types of radioisotope decay as clocks does not produce consistent results, nor are those results verifiable by observational evidence. If these methods do not properly date rocks of known ages—some less than a century old—how can we trust them to date rocks of unknown ages?

Last month we discussed dating methods using rare-earth elements (REEs), a group of seventeen metallic elements—i.e., the lanthanides plus scandium (Sc) and yttrium (Y).

SIDEBAR A

The rare-earth elements are further divided into two groups—light rare earths and heavy rare earths. Light REEs have densities that vary from 2.989 (Sc) to 7.9 g/cm³ (Gd), while the heavy REEs vary from 4.47 (Y) to 9.84 g/cm³ (Lu). Density is not a definitive differentiating factor between the groups.

REEs

Light Rare-Earth Elements

Scandium (Sc)
Lanthanum (La)
Cerium (Ce)
Praseodymium (Pr)
Neodymium (Nd)
Promethium (Pm)
Samarium (Sm)
Europium (Eu)
Gadolinium (Gd)

Heavy Rare-Earth Elements

Terbium (Tb)
Dysprosium (Dy)
Holmium (Ho)
Erbium (Er)
Thulium (Tm)
Ytterbium (Yb)
Lutetium (Lu)
Yttrium (Y)

SIDEBAR B

Ages estimated from REE concentrations almost always use the isochron dating model. For the ¹⁴⁷Sm-¹⁴³Nd model it looks like this:

$$\frac{{}^{143}\text{Nd}}{{}^{144}\text{Nd}} = \left(\frac{{}^{143}\text{Nd}}{{}^{144}\text{Nd}} \right)_i + \left(\frac{{}^{147}\text{Sm}}{{}^{144}\text{Nd}} \right) (e^{\lambda t} - 1)$$

And for the ¹⁷⁶Lu-¹⁷⁶Hf model it looks like this:

$$\frac{{}^{176}\text{Hf}}{{}^{177}\text{Hf}} = \left(\frac{{}^{176}\text{Hf}}{{}^{177}\text{Hf}} \right)_i + \left(\frac{{}^{176}\text{Lu}}{{}^{177}\text{Hf}} \right) (e^{\lambda t} - 1)$$

The ¹⁴⁷Sm-¹⁴³Nd model has a problem the previous models we have discussed do not have—i.e., ¹⁴³Nd is only observationally stable; it is theoretically predicted to undergo alpha (α) decay to ¹³⁹Ce. Furthermore, the index isotope ¹⁴⁴Nd alpha decays to ¹⁴⁰Ce with a half-life of approximately (2.29 ± 0.16) × 10¹⁵ yrs.

This introduces a time-dependent concentration into a time-independent linear equation. Since both the daughter and index isotopes vary in time, establishing an initial daughter concentration (via the isochron method) becomes problematic because the y-intercept of the linear plot cannot be assumed to be the primordial ratio of

$$\frac{{}^{143}\text{Nd}}{{}^{144}\text{Nd}}$$

Geochronologists solve this problem by using “stony meteorites” to establish a primordial isotope ratio for ¹⁴³Nd to ¹⁴⁴Nd and an estimated age of (4.58 ± 0.05) × 10⁹ yrs using the Moama meteorite as a reference standard.² This method assumes that the terrestrial Nd has evolved in a uniform reservoir whose Sm/Nd ratio is equal to that of a chondritic meteorite that is further thought to be similar in composition to the current photosphere of the sun minus the volatile elements. Hence, the logic used to estimate the initial value of the daughter isotope concentration springs from the evolutionary models for solar system formation and is, again, quite circular in its essence.

The inhomogeneous distribution of Lu and Hf in granitic rocks and their sensitivity to alteration during metamorphism create reproducibility problems for the Lu-Hf model. The initial or primordial ratio of $\frac{^{176}\text{Lu}}{^{177}\text{Lu}}$

must be determined from other dating methods. Even then, the scatter of the data points for the isochron is usually significant, perhaps hinting that the linear plot more closely models a mixing line than an isochron.

Rare-earth dating is plagued by the same questionable four assumptions as the K-Ar, Ar-Ar, and Rb-Sr dating methods,³ and the rocks they supposedly date continue to exhibit behavior that is just as consistent with a mixing line as an isochron line. Half-lives, which figure prominently in date calculations for the REEs, have a high degree of uncertainty, and the methods for measuring the primordial concentration ratios exhibit circular reasoning.

Another assumption that is seldom mentioned is the issue of continuing cosmogenic production of both parent and daughter isotopes in all these aforementioned dating methods. For example, ^{142}Nd is continually produced via the alpha decay of ^{150}Gd , and it in turn continually produces ^{143}Nd via neutron capture reactions from solar radiation. Since ^{147}Sm decay produces only tiny amounts of ^{143}Nd , even small amounts introduced via a process like neutron capture will seriously skew the dates estimated with the ^{147}Sm - ^{143}Nd method. All these factors cast significant doubt on the accuracy and reliability of these methods for dating rock formations.

Four geologists, writing in the periodical *Geology*, had this to say about isochron ages:

The determination of accurate and precise isochron ages for igneous rocks requires that the initial isotope ratios of the analyzed minerals are identical at the time of eruption or emplacement. Studies of young volcanic rocks at the mineral scale have shown this assumption to be invalid in many instances. Variations in initial isotope ratios can result in erroneous or imprecise ages.⁴

Samuel Bowring and Todd Housh stated in the periodical *Science* concerning discordant Nd-Sm isochron model values:

It is possible to produce linear arrays on isotope correlation diagrams (even statistically significant ones) that do not have any age significance and are best interpreted as mixing lines. The half-life of ^{147}Sm is so long that even for geologically significant periods of time (hundreds of millions of years) little change occurs in the Nd isotope composition of rocks; thus, a number of rocks that start with slightly different initial ratios and Sm/Nd may produce linear arrays on an isotope correlation diagram with no age significance.⁵

So what else do the observations say about these REE dating methods? Two isochrons from Grand Canyon's Bass Rapid's diabase sill and contact hornfels are discordant by a factor of 2—the diabase mineral isochron giving an age of 1376 ± 140 Ma and the granophyre + hornfels isochron giving an age of 676 ± 280 Ma.⁶ Which one is correct?

The Mt. Ngauruhoe andesite, which is no older than 65 years, yielded a whole-rock Sm-Nd isochron age of 197 ± 160 million years.⁷

Basalt from the Uinkaret Plateau in the western Grand Canyon, Arizona, yielded a Sm-Nd isochron model age of 916 ± 570 million years, yet its accepted conventional age is $< 1.16 \pm 0.18$ million years.⁸

Whole-rock samples from the Somerset Dam layered mafic⁹ intrusion near Brisbane, Australia, yielded ages for the rock formation from 2,923 to 442 million years. This led the author of a report on the samples, Andrew Snelling, to conclude “and thus its present radioisotopic ratios do not provide its true age by the conventional radioisotope dating techniques.”¹⁰

Finally, the measured isochron ages of amphibolite rock from southeast India gave an age of 481 million years using the Rb-Sr method but an age of 824 million years using the Sm-Nd method.¹¹ The researchers explained away the obvious disagreement by claiming the older age was the time at which the rocks underwent metamorphism while the younger age resulted from a later heating of the rocks. How do they know this time sequence? Can they time travel? They are using unknowns to explain unknowns. This is blind faith wrapped in a philosophical premise, not science.

Speculation, conjecture, and reasonable hypotheses all have their place in the scientific process, but they are not scientific fact and should never be presented as such. The secularist will tell us that believing the biblical account of creation is not science, even though the preponderance of the observational evidence points to the truth of the Genesis record. Unfortunately for them, secularists' worldview of a matter, energy, random-chance universe (naturalism) is also a matter of belief, not science. Do we believe God, whose Word has stood the test of time, or do we believe self-appointed experts who have a long history of mistaken ideas and bankrupt philosophies? ●

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One of the great ongoing myths of evolution is that the genomes of animals and humans are littered with vast amounts of genomic viral DNA fossils. These alleged ancient viral sequences are thought to have entered the genome via viral infection, initially served no purpose in the host, and then later during evolution's long, slow changes were supposedly converted ("exapted") to various useful purposes—like aiding in the elaborate process of human reproduction. However, like other evolutionary tales, advancing research in the field of genomics utterly contradicts this popular dogma.

been documented. The process itself is an exercise in speculation. In studies where their random and uncontrolled integration has occurred in regular body cells (called *somatic tissue*), cancerous tumors are often the outcome.¹ In reality, most modern ERV-like viruses do not readily integrate into a host's genome; only a few, like the AIDS virus, have been found to do this. And the ones that do perform this integration type of behavior do not target germline cells that would then enable them to be passed on to the next generation.

Third, important functions are now being attributed to ERV sequences in mammalian genomes. In fact, several studies in recent

years have highlighted the importance of many ERV gene sequences in placenta development and maintenance—a process crucial to reproduction and life.^{3,4} Not only are important genes contained in these sequences, but also many different regulatory elements that function as key genetic switches.⁵

So, where do viruses come from that essentially share the same sequences as those found in their host genomes? Perhaps the evolutionists have placed the cart before the horse on this issue, as proposed by several creation scientists.^{4,6} In fact, in an ironic twist, the evidence mentioned above indicates that viruses likely arose from their hosts and not the other way around. As molecular biologist and biochemist Peter Borger notes, "The most parsimonious answer is: the RNA viruses got their genes from their hosts."⁶

In other words, mammalian viruses may not have existed at all before the Curse, but after mankind's sin may have been allowed to develop from DNA sequence already present in the now-fallen people and animals of the earth. Again, cutting-edge genome research confirms the Genesis account of origins. ●

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Viral Genome Junk Is BUNK

Secular scientists compared the gene sequences of viruses to their counterparts in animal genomes and found that, at most, the variation in these sequences indicates they can be no more than 50,000 years old.

According to evolutionary theory, viruses have repeatedly integrated themselves into the DNA of germline cells (those that produce eggs and sperm) over the past 100 million years of mammalian evolution—with their viral-like DNA proliferating across creatures' genomes.¹ These are called *endogenous retroviruses* (ERVs), and 8% of the human genome is populated by these sequences. However, there are at least three major problems with this idea.

First, genetic data indicate that these sequences are not millions of years old. Using the comparative tools of evolutionary genetics, secular scientists compared the gene sequences of viruses to their counterparts in animal genomes and found that, at most, the variation in these sequences indicates they can be no more than 50,000 years old.² So, if these viral-like sequences are not millions of years old, then where did they come from?

Second, the alleged process whereby these ERV sequences were supposedly stably integrated into the germlines of animals has never

One-Ton Guinea Pig

As if *living* creatures don't display enough variety in God's creation, *fossil* forms bring that diversity to a whole new level. Consider the fossil skull of a guinea pig from Uruguay so big the living rodent might have weighed 2,000 pounds!¹ Size estimates vary, but any rodent even close to a buffalo's bulk attracts attention. Surprisingly, its largest modern relatives only reach about knee high, and the common guinea pig pets are no bigger than a rabbit. Why don't we see buffalo-sized guinea pigs today? Examining the history of five other humongous or fearsome creatures may help answer this question.

Humans have removed the threat of large cats from most wilds, even making tigers an endangered species. Perhaps the most fearsome-looking ones were the saber-toothed cats. Some of them approached the mass of Hercules, a 920-pound liger (offspring of a male lion and a tigress). Considering how people continue to eradicate large, threatening cats like tigers and lions, surely the even larger saber-toothed cats were equally unwelcome in ancient neighborhoods, which was no doubt a factor in their eventual disappearance.²

At 13 feet tall, mammoths are widely regarded as the largest representative of the elephant kind. Ice Age evidence, such as cave paintings showing armed warriors surrounding mammoths, confirms mankind once hunted them—perhaps to extinction. We see modern examples of this today, since elephants in Asia gruesomely kill hundreds of people every year, prompt-



ing humans to hunt them in defense.³

Ice Age cave bears no longer inhabit Siberia or Europe, where only their fossils remain. Their bones show they had a bit more muscle than the largest of today's grizzly bears. Occasionally, spear points and human bones are found alongside cave bear bones, reflecting ancient conflict. Bears that attack people nowadays are typically dispatched immediately; similar human responses may have eradicated cave bears.



Fossils show the dire wolf was one of the heaviest canines ever. Why don't we see dire wolves today? Historical records show that American settlers rapidly wiped out gray wolf populations across the United States.⁴ They left stories of wolf-eaten livestock, leading us to suspect that ancient locals may have given the equally threatening dire wolves the same kind of treatment.

The fifth and final creatures were the largest ever—dinosaurs. Because Genesis specified two of *every* land creature boarded Noah's Ark, we know two of every dinosaur kind must have escaped the great Flood.

So what could have caused dinosaurs' post-Flood decline? Similar to the fate of other humongous or threatening creatures, history indicates human hunting likely aided dinosaur extinction as well.

For example, a new book titled *Amazon Expedition* shows an ancient South American cave drawing of armed men surrounding a dinosaur.⁵

Other human artwork and written records reflect dragon legends that detail slayings and honor the slayers' names. If some dragons were actually dinosaurs, then legends of their demise fit what history has shown:

Whenever men move into a geographic area, they remove the large threatening animals as well as the large edible ones.

Like our five other fearsome creatures, the one-ton guinea pigs may have been perceived as dangerous threats, or they might have just been targeted as food for hungry villagers. Either way, if recent and ancient history supplies any clues, it's a good bet that humans had something to do with their disappearance.⁶ ●

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No Evolution Is Proof of Evolution?

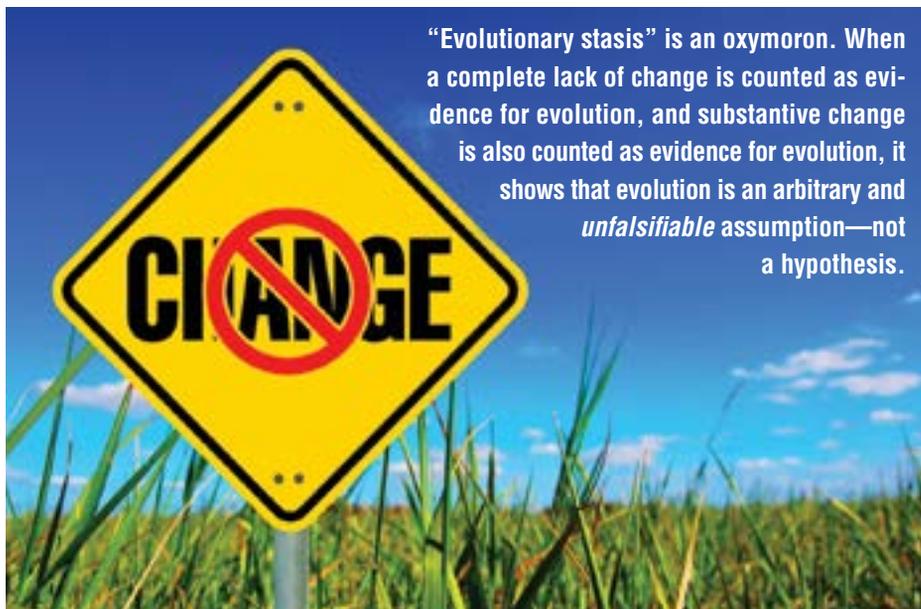
JEFFREY P. TOMKINS, PH.D., TIM CLAREY, PH.D., AND JASON LISLE, PH.D.

Scientists recently discovered a community of fossilized sulfur-metabolizing bacteria that are alleged to be 1.8 billion years old.¹ Surprisingly, the microbes are virtually identical to their modern counterparts, yet the study authors claim that the microbes are proof of evolution.

In recent decades, the discovery and documentation of microbial Precambrian fossils have markedly changed long-held ideas about the fossil record and its age. In fact, secular scientists now believe they can document life's history as far back as 3.5 billion years—roughly three quarters of the supposed age of the earth.²

These Precambrian microbes are typically found in a type of rock called *chert*. Most cherts are nearly pure microcrystalline quartz and have been commonly used to make arrowheads and spear points. Chert's fine texture is able to preserve minute details of the unique filamentous-shaped sulfur bacteria. Various types of *microfossils* have been reported in numerous chert-rich rocks from so-called Precambrian strata.² According to the current study in the Precambrian Duck Creek Formation, the chert appears to be a secondary replacement, where supersaturated amorphous silica gel traveled through the original carbonate rock, replacing it with chert and preserving the microbes in the process.

In this new study, scientists found that the “1.8 billion year old” microbe fossils from Western Australia were identical to those in a separate chert deposit, also from Western Australia, believed to be 2.3 billion years old. The researchers compared these two sets of fossils to communities of live deep-sea sulfur bacteria found off the west coast of South America. Interestingly, all of the creatures looked virtually identical—an assessment supported by microscopically examining their unique filamentous physi-



“Evolutionary stasis” is an oxymoron. When a complete lack of change is counted as evidence for evolution, and substantive change is also counted as evidence for evolution, it shows that evolution is an arbitrary and *unfalsifiable* assumption—not a hypothesis.

cal structure and community characteristics. Amazingly, evolutionists are claiming that this new discovery of microbial stasis is actually evidence *for* evolution, despite the fact that no evolution was observed. Where is the logic in this conclusion?

J. William Schopf, lead author of the study, stated, “If evolution is a product of changes in the physical and biological environment, and there are no changes in the physical and biological environment, then there will be no evolution.”³ So how would one answer a statement like this?

“Evolutionary stasis” is an oxymoron. When a complete lack of change is counted as evidence for evolution, and substantive change is also counted as evidence for evolution, it shows that evolution is an arbitrary and *unfalsifiable* assumption—not a hypothesis. The term “evolution” becomes undefined and meaningless, a slippery mechanism called upon to explain anything and everything. In a sense, it explains nothing. That is, any evidence whatsoever that could be discovered is interpreted as supporting evolution. How is this approach even remotely scientific?

Creationists have long maintained that a key evidence against evolution is the fact that virtually all fossil organisms appear in the fossil record suddenly, fully formed and without transitional forms between kinds. And when fossils are found that resemble a modern counterpart, they always appear nearly identical and show no signs of evolution.⁴

Stasis, in the sense that kinds always remain the same, is a direct prediction of the creation model as indicated in the book of Genesis, which designates that biological life reproduces only after its kind.⁴ And there is nothing unscientific or illogical about that. ●

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Did Humans Evolve from Ape-Like Ancestors?

BRIAN THOMAS, M.S.

A: The popular story of human origins is that humans evolved from ape-like ancestors over millions of years. If this is true, it defines our very identities. Are we creations of the God of the Bible who seeks to redeem us, or products of natural forces that wait to kill us? Fortunately, clear observations of humans' physical, mental, and spiritual abilities strongly support that we really are made in God's image.

All of mankind shares uniquely human body parts, including feet. Apes have flat "hands" for feet, with which they grasp tree branches. Human feet have a long arch from heel to toe and a short arch across the foot that act as springs for walking or running. With these features, we can outlast apes and other animals over long distances, but only because we also have leg bones of appropriate length and hip bones of just the right size, shape, and angle. These all work together to point our knees and feet forward, while ape knees point outward.

The upright angle of the human spine properly balances body weight to enable running or walking—even while we're using our hands. All these body parts work in close harmony, indicating they were formed at the same time. Only God could have put our parts together.

Hands also confirm creation. Like feet, many parts team up to give hands their unique abilities. Human finger bones are straight, and our thumbs point forward and

are positioned high on the hand so they can touch each fingertip.¹ Unique human wrist and arm bones, anchored to a stable pectoral girdle (collar bones plus shoulder blades), provide the support human hands need to work with tools or toys—whether pencils, puppets, or power saws. Apes' curved fingers



and small, sideways thumbs cannot do what human hands do.

What if an ape somehow acquired human hands and arms? First, our arms would not fit securely onto an ape's frame. The misfit creature would not be able to swing on tree branches as well as real apes. Plus, human hand bones would be useless without the intricate human muscles and nerves properly connected to them. Human nerves can activate one muscle cell at a time, enabling us to make delicate movements like scribes copying God's words spoken

through prophets since the world began.² Apes can only activate whole groups of muscles at a time, making their hands stronger but far less nimble than people's hands.

Even if some ape-like creature had human hand bones, muscles, and nerves, without a human brain these would all be useless. Healthy human minds come completely equipped to interpret all the sensory signals from fingers or feet and convert desired actions into executable motions.

With our unique feet, hands, and minds, we access, manipulate, and understand the meaning of objects in just the ways needed to learn from and interact with our world—to dance, compose music, build rockets, etc.—showing that we, not apes, are uniquely made in God's image.

Humans, not apes, ponder our origins and destinies. We, not they, earn death when we reject God from our lives, and yet in His mercy God became a man, not an ape, to save us from such certain death. Only mankind can respond in faith, believing God's Word. Only humans can love a loving God.³

In the end, the vast physical, mental, and spiritual differences between humans and apes refute human evolution and enable us to seek the Creator who became our Savior. ●

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MADE IN HIS IMAGE: LIFE-GIVING BLOOD

RANDY J. GULIUZZA, P.E., M.D.

After 100 years of development, automobiles still need engine oil, transmission fluid, brake fluid, antifreeze, and so on. Wouldn't it be great if just a single multipurpose fluid could be circulated from a central reservoir? Each car part would use only the needed properties of the special fluid, exclude detrimental properties, and then send it back. The new system's worldwide application would ensure a huge market—and academic honors—for the clever developers.

This lucrative breakthrough, however, would not be pioneering. Just such a brilliant integration of fluid properties to the diverse needs of the human body has already been achieved in our blood—in a self-starting process beginning about 15 days after conception.

Heart and Blood Vessel Formation

The first human cell divides rapidly, becoming a small cluster that implants inside the uterus. Initially it flattens into a disc only a few cells thick and is able to get nutrients by diffusion from maternal blood circulation. However, after two weeks of growth the disc becomes too thick for this process, so the developing embryo urgently needs a nutrient transport system. Right on cue, blood and blood vessel formation begin at the end of the second week of life in both the embryo and the developing placenta. Heart tubes (the precursor to the heart itself) form and start pumping within seven days. The cardiovascular system is the first

organ system to become functional—an important factor, since every cell depends on blood to survive.

Vital Characteristics of Blood

Blood is essentially a liquid tissue. For normal human function, blood has to be a fluid. Why? Because fluids flow. They carry either suspended or dissolved solids and gases, and respond to even slight pressure changes by continuously changing shape. Blood and blood vessels form an incredibly flexible conduit—the exact shape of a person's body at any moment—that connects the outside world to the body's innermost cells. Cellular metabolic demands are relentless. That is why nearly all of the estimated 60 trillion cells in the body—each one carrying out an average 10 million chemical reactions *per second*—are always close to blood vessels that bring them oxygen and fuel.

Blood is made up of solid (formed) parts such as oxygen-carrying red blood cells (RBCs), disease-fighting white blood cells (WBCs), and platelets suspended in a liquid that is 92% water. This liquid, called *plasma*, has about 120 dissolved components that include oxygen, carbon dioxide, glucose, albumin, hormones, and antibodies. Sensors continuously monitor the concentrations of these items and make swift adjustments. Vital body functions like normal acid-base ratio, intracellular water content, the blood's ability to flow through vessels, and managing body-heat production depend as much on correct concentrations

as the correct mix of these components.

Fetal Blood Production

The embryo makes RBCs first, the most necessary blood component. These distinctive cells are made by the inner lining of blood vessels in a temporary structure outside the embryo called the *yolk sac*, which in people is actually a “blood forming sac” that never contains yolk. This misguided name was given because it was believed to have “arisen” in a pre-human animal ancestor and it initially contains a yellow substance.

The progenitor RBCs eventually migrate from the yolk sac to the liver and spleen, which become the lead cell-forming sites by the sixth week of gestation. By the fifth month, bone marrow is sufficiently formed to take over this process for nonstop lifelong production. Interestingly, even in adulthood if the body is stressed by a shortage of RBCs, the spleen and liver can resume production as emergency backup sites.

In children, most blood formation occurs in the long leg bones. In adults, it occurs mainly in the pelvis, cranium, vertebrae, and sternum. However, development, activation, and some proliferation of certain WBCs occur in the spleen, thymus gland, and lymph nodes. Normally, sensor-control mechanisms balance mature RBCs from their production to their eventual loss—which is about 1,200,000 cells *per second*. How does the marrow produce these prodigious numbers of cells?

Blood Formation: A Precisely Planned Process

Blood formation begins with a self-renewing population of *pluripotent* stem cells that are capable of developing into any type of blood-cell lineage (RBC, WBC, or platelet). They reproduce by making exact copies of themselves called *clones* or *daughter cells*. Some daughter cells or originals remain as pluripotent stem cells, but the rest will be “committed” to specific lineage pathways. Which cells stay as stem cells and which get committed is a random process. In contrast, the survival and expansion of cells in each lineage is precisely controlled by dozens of interacting chemical signals called *colony stimulating factors* (CSFs)—some produced in other body tissues. CSFs control numerous activities, including turning certain genes on and off at just the right time to ensure that each unique feature of the cells is made.

The bone marrow provides a protected microenvironment where immature cells grow on a meshwork of fat cells, large WBCs called *macrophages*, and cells lining the marrow. The meshwork compartmentalizes the nurturing process and also secretes vital CSFs. Proper growth is stimulated by strict regulation, in stepwise fashion, over both order and timing of when the 12 major CSFs are introduced to the blood cells. Controls are so exact that concentrations of CSFs from other tissues can be as low as 10^{-12} molar—like one grain of salt dissolved in about 27,000 gallons of water. Amazingly, at certain steps in the process some of the maturing (or mature) blood cells *themselves* emit CSFs to direct their own development or even control the meshwork.

For RBCs, a crucial stimulating hormone is *erythropoietin*, commonly called EPO. Without EPO, no RBCs would be made. EPO is steadily circulated, keeping RBC production at the normal rate. But normal for a 10-year-old girl at sea level may not be normal for a 60-year-old man living on a mountain. The genes with instructions for making EPO are controlled

by stimulants known as *hypoxia-inducible factors* (whose function depends on several vital enzymes). These factors activate EPO DNA but not in response to the number of RBCs. Rather, low oxygen concentrations induce more EPO production, which normally results in rapidly rising RBC numbers. By regulating exactly what is needed—the blood’s ability to carry adequate oxygen—the optimum number of RBCs running at maximum oxygen capacity is continuously and efficiently adjusted. Therefore, it would be fitting for EPO to be produced mainly in an organ that is very sensitive to changes in blood pressures and oxygen content, such as the renal cortex of the kidney—which it is.

Integrating Blood Properties with Organ Function

The familiar biconcave (concave on both sides) shape of human RBCs bestows the highest possible membrane surface area relative to intracellular volume and oxygen saturation rate. This makes it possible for over 250 million hemoglobin molecules in each of the billions of RBCs to be oxygen-loaded in a fraction of a second.

Recall that nearly all body cells are in close proximity to blood vessels. By necessity, most of these vessels are tiny capillaries, of which 40 could be put side by side in the diameter of a human hair. RBCs are twice the diameter of a capillary but can actually squeeze through it. How? Structural properties in the RBC’s membrane allow the cell shape to be incredibly deformed and then spring back to normal. Five specialized structural proteins confer this important ability, and a genetic defect in any of these proteins causes diseases due to rupturing of less-flexible RBC membranes.

Since RBCs are themselves living tissues and need nutrients, it would be possible for RBCs to consume much of their oxygen payload with little left to supply other tissues. However, RBCs have enzymes to power their metabolic processes without the use of oxygen—so they consume none of their precious cargo.

Cellular metabolic demands are relentless. That is why nearly all of the estimated 60 trillion cells in the body—each one carrying out an average 10 million chemical reactions *per second*—are always close to blood vessels that bring them oxygen and fuel.

.....

Several kinds of cells, like the clear cornea and lens of the eye, need the oxygen and nutrients carried in blood but could not function properly if coated in red blood cells. This problem is overcome by a part of the eye that acts like a blood filter. Using ultrafine portals—so small as to screen out RBCs and other proteins—a crystal-clear, water-based portion carries just enough dissolved oxygen and nutrients. After nourishing the cornea, the fluid is reabsorbed—through another set of tiny holes—back into the bloodstream. Cerebral spinal fluid and urine are some other ultrafiltrates of blood in which only some of blood’s properties are extracted to fill a specific need at a precise location.



Conclusion

From the earliest days in the mother’s womb until the day of death, a person’s life is in the blood. Even a person-to-person gift of blood is treasured and called “the gift of life.” Human blood is indeed a gift from the Lord Jesus Christ, clearly testifying to His great creative abilities and the body’s total unity of function. The Bible says that the Lord Jesus’ blood is particularly special—in fact, “precious” (1 Peter 1:19)—because it is able to redeem us and cleanse us from all sin (1 John 1:9). Let us give glory “to Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood” (Revelation 1:5). ●

Adapted from Dr. Guliuzza’s article “Made in His Image: Life-Giving Blood” in the September 2009 issue of *Acts & Facts*.

Dr. Guliuzza is ICR’s National Representative.



Grappling with Megasequences

TIM CLAREY, P.H.D.

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ICR's ongoing Column Project (an analysis of over 500 drilling-core and outcrop samples from across North America) has revealed surprising results that smash entrenched uniformitarian thought.¹ The rocks continue to support the biblical account of one worldwide Flood.

The main area of interest concerns the six megasequences that comprise most of the fossil-bearing strata on Earth. Megasequences are defined as packages of sedimentary rock bounded top and bottom by erosional surfaces, with coarse sandstone layers at the bottom (deposited first), followed by shales, and then limestone at the top (deposited last). The corresponding size of the sedimentary particles is also thought to decrease upward in each megasequence (Figure 1). The megasequences are interpreted as representing the depth of the sea at the particular time each one was laid. The base sandstone layers of each megasequence are believed to represent the shallowest sea level, the shale a little deeper water environment, and the limestone the deepest water

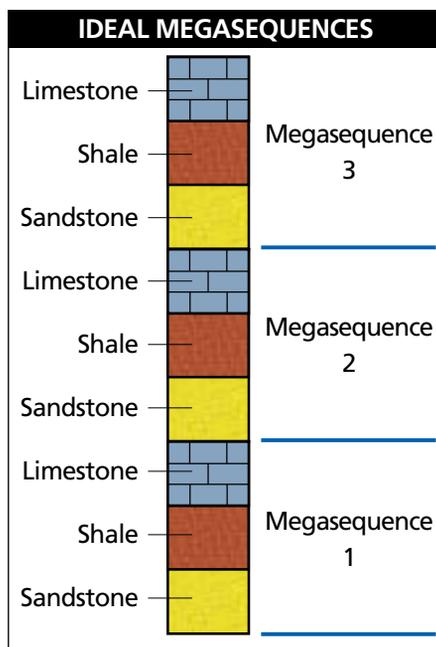


Figure 1. Idealized megasequence rock layers. Secular geologists believe that as sea level rises, the first rocks deposited are sandstones, followed by shale and limestone as the water becomes deeper. This cycle is repeated for each subsequent sequence. But actual rock-column data tell a different tale. The ideal cycle is observed best in the lowermost megasequence, the Sauk, which was deposited as early floodwaters spread across the continent.

environment in each sequence. By tracking these changes in rock types, geologists are able to define each megasequence.

According to secular geologists, subsequent megasequences are supposed to demonstrate a pattern of sandstone-to-shale-to-limestone deposition as sea levels repetitively rose and fell over millions of years, flooding the North American continent up to six separate times.² The upper erosional boundaries were supposedly created as each new megasequence advanced across the land and eroded the top of the earlier sequence. Ideally, these megasequences stack one on top of each other, with sandstone at the base and limestone at the top as illustrated in Figure 1. Secular scientists use these megasequences to infer past environments and, of course, as an argument for deep time.

However, the data show a completely different story and reveal a lot about the progression of the Flood. Figure 2 is a representative stratigraphic section illustrating the southeastern United States. It compares several rock columns at adjacent locations and displays the corresponding megasequence

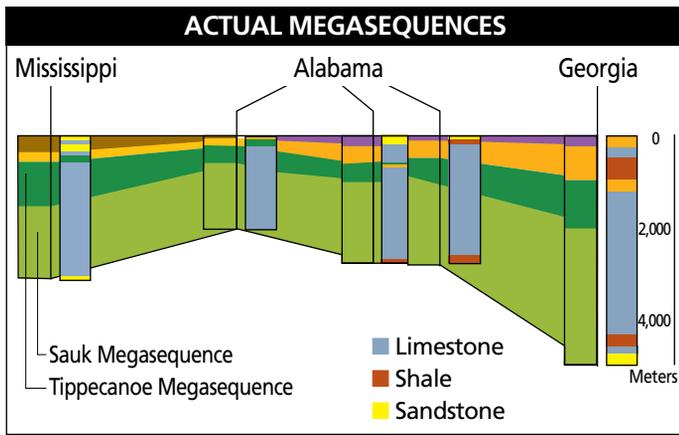


Figure 2. Actual stratigraphic rock column data representing the south-eastern U.S. Each column shows the megasequences on the left side and the rock types (as a drill-sample column) on the right side. The colors correlated between columns show the megasequence boundaries. On the right side of each vertical column, the rocks are colored by lithology: yellow = sandstone, brown = shale, and blue = limestone.

boundaries. Careful comparison of the rock types in each column with the sequence boundaries show very few “ideal” uniformitarian megasequences.

The most extensive sandstone layer is found at the base of the Sauk Megasequence (Figure 3). This sandstone layer, commonly known as the Tapeats Sandstone (and its equivalent), is generally agreed upon by creation geologists to be the first significant deposit of the advancing floodwaters. It’s no surprise this sandstone is prevalent across the entire continent.²

Secular geologists can’t get around the reality of catastrophic flooding, but rather than entertain a worldwide deluge, they insist that it was all a result of isolated local floods—yet this interpretation doesn’t fit the data.

However, many subsequent megasequences greatly differ from the layer pattern we observe in the Sauk. Some megasequences start with limestone at the bottom and sandstone at the top—a complete reversal of the secular story! Others start with shale or even salt at the base, and some have very little sandstone in the sequence at all. Rarely do we see complete “idealized” megasequences, starting with sandstone and progressing through to shale and limestone. And if this pattern is observed, it is only found across a limited region.

For example, the lowermost rocks in the Tippecanoe Megasequence that spans much of the eastern U.S. placed limestone (Figure 2) right on top of the limestone of the upper Sauk Megasequence. This relationship suggests that the floodwaters may never have drained off these areas between the Sauk and Tippecanoe Megasequence cycles. In other words, the water depth may have stayed deep enough to continue depositing limestone right across the sequence boundary. The Kaskaskia Megasequence is also mostly limestone at its base with virtually no sandstone across its entire expanse. And there is very little

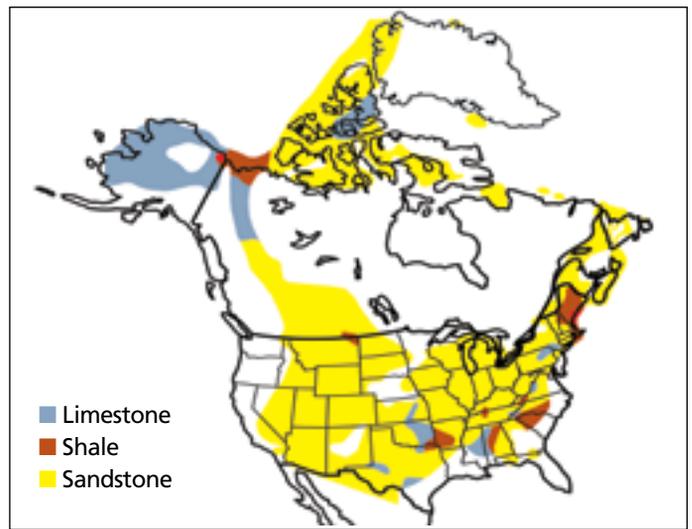


Figure 3. Extent of the basal Sauk sandstone (yellow) across North America, colored by lithology: yellow = sandstone, brown = shale, and blue = limestone.

limestone found in any of the later megasequences in the northern Rocky Mountain region. It is mostly sandstone and shale.

In the Flood model, variations in the sequence-bounding rock types make perfect sense. Flood geologists don’t expect the ocean to completely drain off the continent and drop to previous sea levels between each megasequence. The Bible says:

The waters prevailed and greatly increased on the earth, and the ark moved about on the surface of the waters. And the waters prevailed exceedingly on the earth, and all the high hills under the whole heaven were covered. (Genesis 7:18-19)

The actual rock layers confirm this exact series of events. The megasequences show that the floodwaters seemed to rise somewhat steadily across the continent. The waters may have dropped between megasequences but may not have drained completely off the land. The variations in observed rock types at different locations and sequence boundaries merely reflect the local conditions during the one continuous Flood event.

Although there are erosional boundaries between many megasequences, there is no evidence that millions of years have simply gone missing from the geologic record. The rocks were merely stacked one on top of another, sequence by sequence, as the Flood rose higher and higher. Secular geologists can’t get around the reality of catastrophic flooding, but rather than entertain a worldwide deluge, they insist that it was all a result of isolated local floods—yet this interpretation doesn’t fit the data. The rock columns found across the country are best explained in the context of the one-year Flood. And the rocks speak the truth. ●

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Home is a special place that attracts us, one way or another. Is the Genesis creation account part of the explanation for why home is so important?

The universal habit of using a personal shelter, a home that belongs to us, is nothing new. Indeed, longing for home is not limited to humans.¹ The Lord Jesus said, “Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests” (Matthew 8:20; Luke 9:58). Various Scripture writers refer to animal homes. Eagles, swallows, sparrows, storks, doves, owls, and other birds use nests.² Spiders make web-silk homes.³ Worms and other creepy creatures live underground.⁴ Lions have dens.⁵ Salmon return home to spawn.⁶

Polar bear mothers sometimes live in dens, sheltered from colder weather outside:

Dens offer pregnant [polar bear] females protection from the cold and predators while they give birth and rear their cubs. The temperature inside a den is often just below freezing and fluctuates much less than outside temperature. The temperature inside a den can be 38°F (21°C) warmer than outside, and the warmth reduces energy use, which is important for small cubs and for females without access to food.⁷

But what explains the *origin* of homing habits? God hardwired (i.e., bioengineered) His creatures’ home-building habits to match their habitats—from polar permafrost to prairies, from torrid tropics to tundra and taiga, from fields to fjords, from oceans to islands.^{6,7,8,9,10}

Darwin’s magical phrase “natural selection” provides no etiological (causal) explanation for the universal phenomena



Why We Want to Go Home

of creaturely home life.⁹ However, Scripture does provide the key for understanding this universal habit—the Genesis mandate. God commanded humans and animals to be fruitful, multiply, and “fill the earth” (Genesis 1:21-22, 26-28; 9:1-7).^{6,9} Because God designed His creatures to do more than just populate, He programmed diverse creatures to fill living spaces all over the globe—on land, in water, and to some even the air is a home of sorts.^{6,8,9,10,11}

Accordingly, settling (domesticating) specific niches in the earth—even migratory stopover homes—and utilizing home bases for family life activities is needful to fill the multitude of Earth’s multitudinous habitats.^{8,9,11} To achieve this goal, God has providentially equipped creatures with physical bodies (with helpful anatomies and physiologies) and programmed bio-informational instructions (coding and equipping for habitat-interactive behaviors) that are fitted to the dynamic challenges of physical environments (and biotic communities) all over the globe.^{6,9}

As earthbound pilgrims, we pass

through this mortal life (Hebrews 11:13; 1 Peter 2:11), interfacing with an all-too-often hostile culture (Hebrews 11:36-38). We long for a truly secure home—where we really belong. But, as Christians, what is our true home? It is not residential real estate housing (Philippians 3:20; Hebrews 11:8-14). Our true homes are not even the earthly bodies that we temporally inhabit, although they are the “tents” we know best (2 Corinthians 5:1-4; 2 Peter 1:13).

For Christians, ultimately, our real eternal home is God Himself (Psalm 90:1; 2 Corinthians

5:6; John 14:2-6). As our Creator, He started us. As our Redeemer, we finish with Him. What a homecoming we wait for! ●

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3. Isaiah 59:5. See Sherwin, F. 2006. Spiral Wonder of the Spider Web. *Acts & Facts*. 35 (5).
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5. See Job 38:39-40; Song of Solomon 4:8; Nahum 2:12. Even humans, when circumstances justify it, live in “dens” (see Judges 6:2; Hebrews 11:38; Revelation 6:15).
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10. Percy, W. G. 1992. *Ocean Ecology of North Pacific Salmonids*. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 117-123.
11. Frigatebirds fly most of the time, spending very little time in water or on land. Soper, T. 1989. *Oceans of Birds*. London: David & Charles Publishers, 82-83.

Dr. Johnson is Associate Professor of Apologetics and Chief Academic Officer at the Institute for Creation Research.



Gifts of Significance

Over 45 years old now, the Institute for Creation Research has grown in many ways. God always supplies each need, month by month, as individuals respond to occasional appeals and regular updates in *Acts & Facts*. All of us at ICR are tremendously grateful for those who support our work, and we are prayerfully confident that, Lord willing, present levels of giving will continue. However, key research initiatives and major projects do not happen without large gifts to underwrite them. Quite simply, significant gifts often make “bigger” ministry possible.

Our own history bears witness to this. Substantial gifts enabled vital research projects, such as ICR’s landmark RATE initiative several years ago, to finish crucial phases that likely would not otherwise have been attempted. They made two major moves possible, the first into our very own facility in 1980 after sharing space with Christian Heritage College (now San Diego Christian) for 10 years, and the second in 2007 to our current three-building campus in Dallas. In California, the gifts funded new office construction and heavily underwrote our first museum. In Dallas, they allowed ICR to hire key personnel, make much-needed renovations to our facilities, and acquire adjacent property for future growth. This stream of significant gifts helped make ICR a better and more effective ministry for God.

I have written in the past cautioning against the big-gift mentality of some organizations, so please do not misunderstand my point. Smaller gifts are utterly vital to maintain ICR’s ministry, and the Lord has graciously met every need through many faithful supporters. Furthermore, ICR remains debt free as a testament to our co-laborers and our desire to be the best stewards of the funds God has granted to us. But we would be foolish to ignore the impact that significant gifts have made on our ministry in the past—and could make in the future. Frankly, large gifts are often the missing ingredient needed to

unleash the full potential of capabilities that lie dormant from lack of adequate financial support.

To put this in perspective, consider the following: Over the last 10 years, ICR has received approximately 500,000 gifts from a yearly average of 21,500 donors. Of these, only 125 gifts—less than 0.03%—were valued at \$25,000 or more, and roughly half of these large gifts came from estates and will bequests of long-time supporters after their home-going. Because of ICR’s purposefully low-key fundraising approach, nearly all of these substantial gifts were unsolicited and came as a complete surprise to our ministry. God has been good to ICR, often supplying a critical gift just when we needed it most. But we must do better if we are to fully utilize the unique talents and capabilities the Lord has marshalled at ICR.

As my father’s article this month so amply demonstrates, the battle has grown fierce within the evangelical world as well-funded, quasi-Christian organizations engage in church and seminary campaigns that dispute, devalue, and disparage the very foundation of Scripture. ICR has the scientific muscle, intellectual prowess, and biblical commitment to effectively combat these threats, but not without considerable help to fully develop current initiatives and launch new ones.

ICR research sits on the cusp of great gains in innovative projects that blow old-earth arguments away. ICR media looks to build on the great success of *That’s a Fact* and *Unlocking the Mysteries of Genesis* with exciting new high-quality video resources that appeal to the next generation—the *Made in His Image* DVD series is in the works for 2015! If there was ever a time to help ICR with a gift of significance, now is that time. Pray for us, and please help if you are able. ●

Mr. Morris is Director of Donor Relations at the Institute for Creation Research.



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10,000 *Unlocking the Mysteries of Genesis* DVD Sets Sold... and Counting

Since ICR's 12-DVD series *Unlocking the Mysteries of Genesis* (UTMG) first hit our store last May, God has used it beyond our expectations.

We have received countless letters of thanks and appreciation, and pastors and small-group leaders continue to rave about its positive impact on their members. The first shipment is sold out now, and our second edition has arrived.

The new edition contains English closed captions and subtitles in Spanish, Chinese, and Korean (as well as English) to help launch the creation message beyond the English-speaking community.

In the United States, over 60 million people speak a language other than English at home. Nearly 40 million speak Spanish, almost 3 million speak Chinese, and well over a million speak Korean.¹ In the entire world, Chinese accounts for over 1.2 billion native speakers, Spanish for 330 million, and Korean for 77 million—a total of over 1.6 billion people.² Not only do the subtitles for UTMG allow us to reach over one and a half billion more people, but creation science itself is making strong headway in Asian countries, with the Korea Association for Creation Research being the largest creation science organization in the world. Now they can watch *Unlocking the Mysteries of Genesis* in their own language.

ICR is in the process of developing another exciting DVD series, *Made in His Image*.³ With the same stunning cinematography, animation, and high-budget production as UTMG, this new series will further confirm and spread the message of the truth of God's Word. Watch for updates in the coming months. ●

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3. For more information or to support this project, visit ICR.org/MadeInHisImage.

"And you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Acts 1:8



Top: ICR's 11,000 square-foot Distribution Center houses the books and DVDs offered at ICR.org/store.

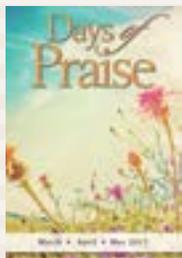
Center: Joel Kautt, one of ICR's consummate customer service representatives.

Bottom: Michael Lane and Ethan Williams prepare to ship the 10,000th UTMG DVD set.



My husband loved the *Days of Praise*. He always shared with me every morning over breakfast. He would say, “Can I read this?” He loved God, and shortly before his death he said, speaking of the Lord, “He is my love, He is my peace, He is my joy.”

— L.F.



Thank you for your time, effort, biblical stewardship, and discipleship of Jesus Christ. I am a high school science teacher, have a degree in science, and am a fellow faithful servant of our Savior. I earnestly thank you for the path you are walking and the work you do. The Scriptures are God-breathed, and our work is challenging in the science fraternity as we try to touch the souls around us. I personally appreciate the resources you provide as they support my faith in the science classroom. Your work is integral to my work.

— M.H.

I am the pastor of a small country congregation. The members are not familiar with Genesis and all the incredible information found there as far as the history of the earth. We are going to begin an expository, text-by-text study of this book, and I felt this video series [*Unlocking the Mysteries of Genesis*] would be a great way to start the study. I was NOT disappointed! The series has helped build a foundation for the congregants that will establish a solid biblical worldview before we begin the actual Bible study. The concepts taught in the series are helping strengthen these saints in their understanding of how the world began and are helping them stand for their faith when challenged by the Darwinian worldview promulgated by secular science.

— P.B.



Wow! The BioOrigins Project updates in *Acts & Facts* have been so exciting! I'm finding that's the first place I turn when we get a new issue in the mail. From Part 5 in the February issue: “Our discoveries have been so remarkable that the burden of proof has swung away from creationists and now falls on the evolutionary community.” Kudos to Dr. Jeanson and

team, and keep these engaging updates coming!

— D.W.

Thank you for the high-quality and precise scientific work you have done and continue to do.

Please continue with the mathematics [“Alkali Metal Dating, Rb-Sr Dating Model: Radioactive Dating, Part 4” by Dr. Vernon R. Cupps]! It is proof that you are an educated group, heftier than a simple watered-down article, and a challenge to students and adults, which raises the bar of expectation and accomplishment. Students need to be challenged not baby-talked to. It is far better to have to look information up to understand an article than to be handed facts that have become nebulous. Please keep ICR intelligent, focused, and superior in education and reasoning.

— J.H.



I have grown [by reading] *Days of Praise* for many years, thanks to Dr. Henry Morris and [the ICR staff]. When folks ask me why I know so much about the Word, I tell them that besides great pastors, faithful to teaching the Word, [and] wonderful women's Bible studies, I have the benefit of a daily devotion that leads me in-depth in a small study—not the musings of men. I dusted off my O.T. bearings and enjoyed a dip into Zechariah and Amos these past months.

— C.S.

I eagerly await every issue of *Acts & Facts* to learn the latest news in creation science. Thank you for your series of scientists' testimonies like that of Dr. Jeffrey Tomkins in the March 2015 issue. Hearing how scientists have come to understand the creation vs. evolution debate and dedicated themselves to rigorous scientific inquiry is inspiring and a joy. Please keep such testimonies coming.

— J.W.



We have been viewing the [*Unlocking the Mysteries of Genesis*] DVD series with our grandchildren and have found it to be a really wonderful presentation of the issues surrounding the arguments for belief in Genesis. Thank you all for developing the series. What was most impressive was how the presentation, while being good for adults, was also very understandable by our grandchildren.

— B.D.

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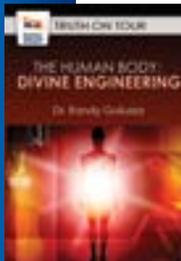


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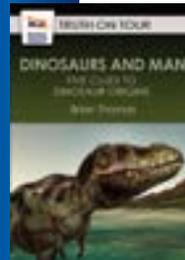


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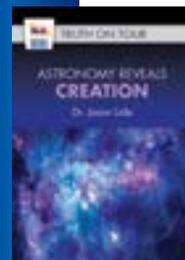


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