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THE FIRST BOOK OF MOSES, CALLED GENESIS.



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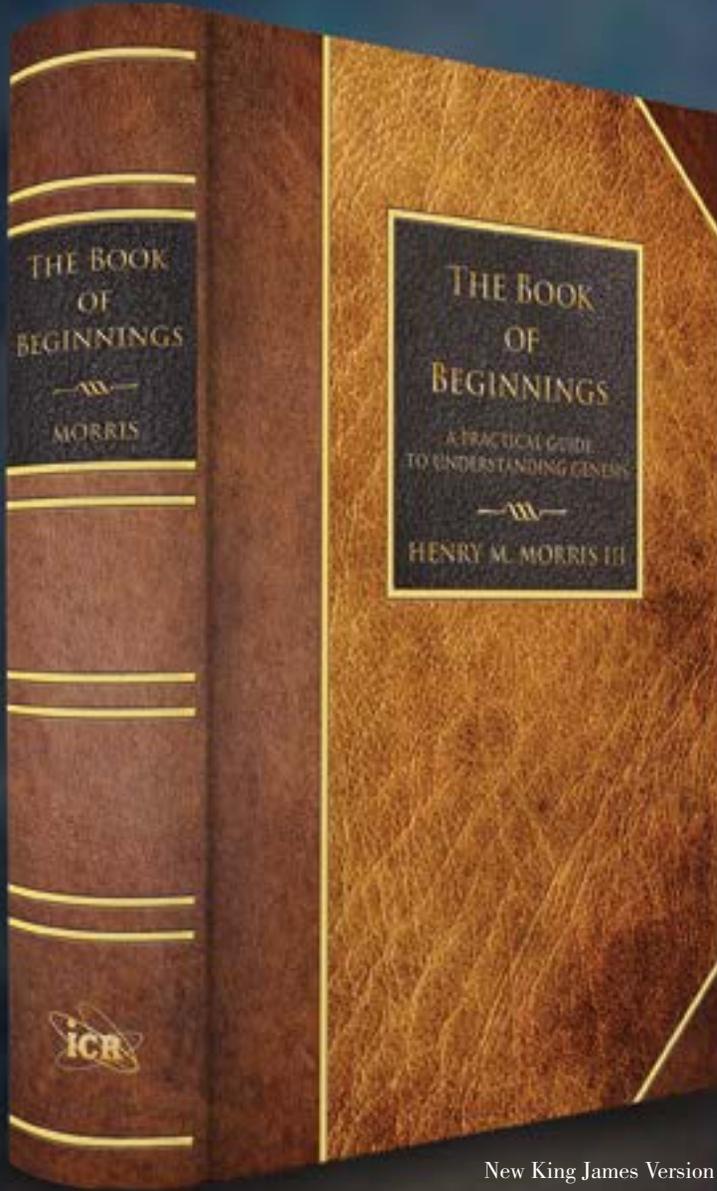
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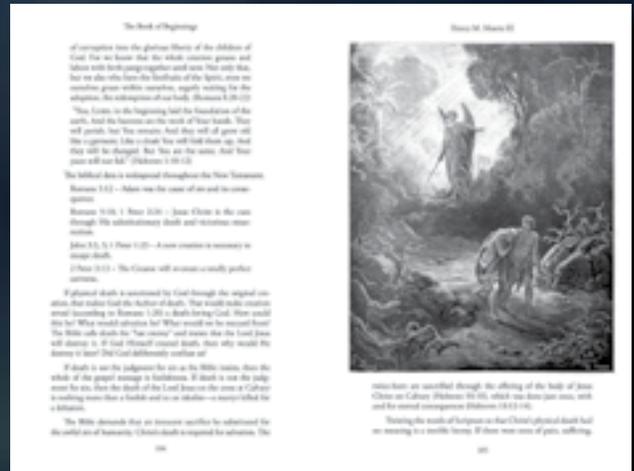
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HENRY M. MORRIS IV



A Father's Priceless Legacy

Many refer to ICR's founder, Henry Morris, as the Father of Modern Creationism. Those touched by his life's work point to his writings and years of service in Christian ministry as evidence of the huge impact he's had on countless lives. In fact, many of you over the years have shared stories of how Dr. Morris played a role in your coming to Christ or how his teaching strengthened your trust in God's

this article for clarification), we see Dr. Morris at home with his family. Times around the table. Family councils. Countless yellow pads filled with scribbled notes. And always an open Bible nearby.

Henry tells us that his father "was keenly interested in how science confirmed the message of Scripture." He also remembers Dr. Morris telling him that "he wanted to be as close to the words of God as he could be," and much of his later work reflected his

home was the place of answers. Answers from the Bible....Always calm, reasoned, Bible-related answers."

Because Dr. Morris was a university professor, the family moved often. He approached the subject of moving as something exciting. He instilled a sense of adventure in the children, "always expecting the Lord to cover and provide."

Henry tells us that as a headstrong young man, he tested the limits of his home, but his "earthly father exemplified the great grace and patience of our heavenly Father. Praying often and long for his children, the 'real' Dr. Morris interceded for each of us—especially the firstborn who bore his name."

This Father's Day, I hope you are encouraged by our founder's example—someone who demonstrated commitment to the Lord in his home as well as in the workplace and in public. He understood the importance of being available to discuss questions with his children and to offer grace when they challenged him. And he knew that life is an adventure because God always leads and provides. Now, that's a dad worthy of praise!

Dr. Morris went to be with the Lord 10 years ago, and ICR continues to celebrate his life's work and carry on with his vision. We still feel the impact of his commitment to sharing truth. As Henry tells us today, "Now that I can look back over the decades of his leadership and godly example, I can draw on a lifetime of godly wisdom and expectant trust in the Lord's provision and guidance. That legacy is priceless."

Jayme Durant
EXECUTIVE EDITOR



Word. He continues to be known for his scholarship, many books and articles, radio broadcasts, and unwavering commitment to teaching creation science truths, despite the opposition.

I'm thrilled to be able to give you a different peek at "the real Dr. Morris" in this issue of *Acts & Facts* as we talk about the legacy this father left behind.

In "ICR Founder Henry M. Morris: A Son's Tribute" (pages 5-7, written by Dr. Henry M. Morris III, referred to as Henry in

years of diligent study of the Bible itself. By example, Dr. Morris taught his children how to carefully study God's Word. He pored over the Scriptures with numerous concordances and the ever-present yellow pad to record his findings.

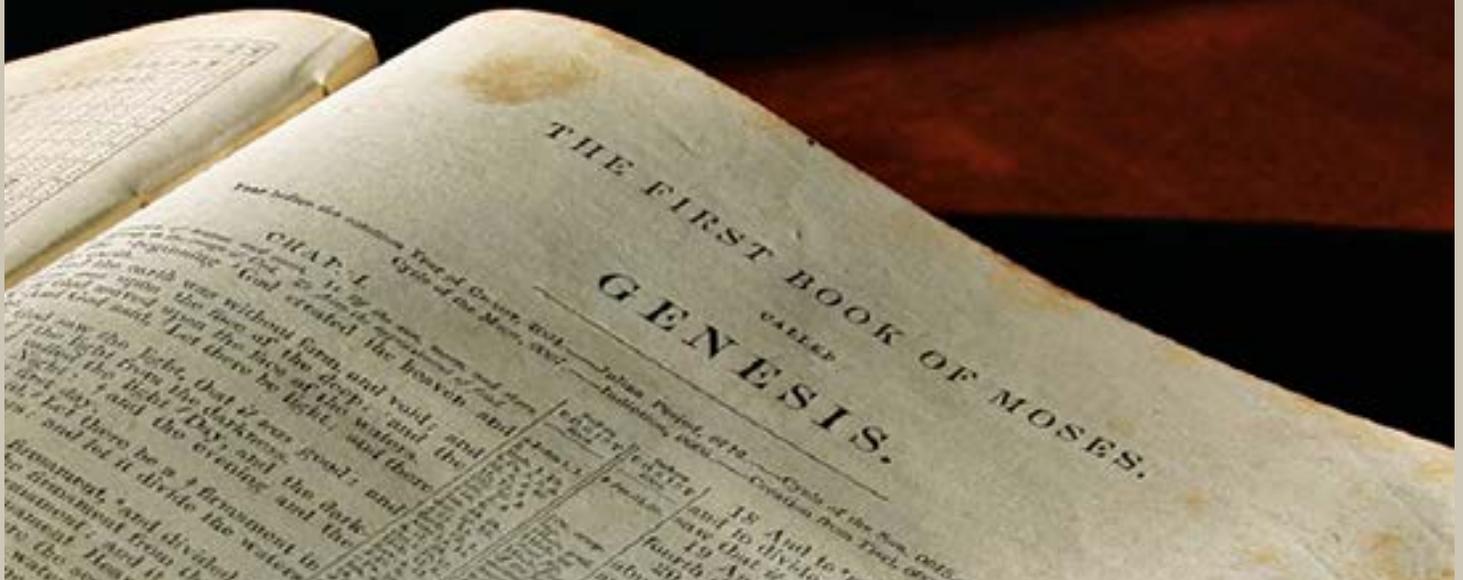
When the family spent time together, they often read the Bible, prayed, and looked for answers to questions, with Dr. Morris reading and explaining. He welcomed his children's questions, and "nothing was too dumb or silly to ask." Henry says, "Our

ICR FOUNDER HENRY M. MORRIS: *A SON'S TRIBUTE*

H E N R Y M . M O R R I S I I I , D . M I N .

Children's children are the crown of old men,
and the glory of children is their father.

..... P R O V E R B S 17:6



There is a line in J. R. R. Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy from King Théoden of Rohan just as he was getting ready to lead his nation into the great war against Mordor. He threw the taunt of the evil wizard Saruman back in his face: "A lesser son of great sires am I, but I do not need to lick your fingers." That courage came from a lifetime of learning from his earthly father—and with that lineage came the strength to lead and motivate his nation to a great victory against enormous odds and frequent counsel to the contrary.

It's not often that a son gets to share something of his memories of an earthly father whose leadership is well known to readers of *Acts & Facts*.

The "Real" Dr. Morris

There is a little-known story among the Morris siblings about my father. When my brother John and I were working with ICR and Christian Heritage College some years ago, my mother called, as she frequently did, to speak to "Dr. Morris." The receptionist was new at the time and asked my mother which Dr. Morris she wanted

to speak to. Mother patiently told her that she wanted the Dr. Morris who had written books.

At the time, both John and I had written some published material and were beginning to build on our father's reputation with careers of our own. Frustrated at that non-answer, my mother continued to identify the Dr. Morris who was frequently on the radio (no difference yet) or was often asked to speak (still no distinction). After some bantering back and forth about identifying the correct Dr. Morris, my mother insisted, rather sternly, that she wanted to speak to the

“real” Dr. Morris—that stuck!

In much the same vein, both my brother and I recognize that we are “lesser sons” of a “greater sire.” God had his hand on the “real” Dr. Henry M. Morris from an early age and used him to start a movement among Christian men and women of science that continues to bear fruit more than a decade after the Lord took him home.

A Bible, Concordances, and a Yellow Pad

Long before computers were common, my early memories of Dad were folded around seeing him in his study, balancing a Bible, several types of concordances, and an ever-present yellow pad to take notes on the passages he was studying. I remember asking him why the multiple concordances instead of commentaries or scholarly tomes on the subject—he had a big library. His answer was always that he wanted to be as close to the words of God as he could be, without interference from the interpretations of other men—no matter how well known or respected they were.

His method was always the same. He would diagram or dissect the verse or passage under consideration, then use the key words to locate other verses in the Bible that used the same terms. With that data located, he would organize the many passages into parallel sections, delineating the information into an expanded outline of the biblical message about that topic or concept.

Obviously, he was keenly interested in how science confirmed the message of Scripture, but many of his later works were the fruit of those early years of diligent study and research among the pages of Scripture. His copious notes were later organized into the annotated Bible that bears his name—*The Henry Morris Study Bible*, published by Master Books.

By the way, none of us could ever get him to use a tape recorder or a computer. All of his books were written longhand on

yellow pads. Sometimes he would deign to peck at a manual typewriter with two fingers when he wrote personal letters, but his mind seemed to function best when sitting in his study with a Bible, concordances, and a yellow pad. Yes, he read voraciously and was a hoarder of various articles and clippings from friend and enemy alike—but his legacy was written down on yellow pads.



Tumult and Tranquility

From my earliest memories, our house was noisy and busy. Most children do not understand the work of their fathers—except to know that they are busy. Although I was the first child, our family grew quickly until there were six siblings and countless friends roaming around the house. Added to that were the many Sunday dinners with guests from the various universities that surrounded our lives.

With houses that were often smaller than the needs of very active kids, the hustle and bustle of the Morris manor was usually right at the threshold of chaos. Except at breakfast and dinner (or supper, depending on which part of the country you live in). Those table times were family times, and we *always* read from the Bible and prayed together. Of course, Dad was the reader and the explainer. All of us had the freedom (in fact, were often encouraged) to

ask questions about what we were reading. The Bible always had an answer. That was the way we learned to trust the Scriptures. Nothing was too dumb or silly to ask, and Dad always had a way of finding the verse or passage that would give the right answer. To be sure, some of those answers were difficult to understand or apply as a young child, but we were always assured the Bible had the answer—for everything and anything.

And there was another important lesson: Tumult would always be around, but tranquility could always be found in the Scriptures. “These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world” (John 16:33). Those lessons didn’t seem to leap out of unusual moments but seemed to grow and develop into a sure character over time. Consistent home Bible times provide just that kind of stable attribute among those who have been privileged to enjoy them.

Moving—Always Moving

The “real” Dr. Morris received his Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. I have vague memories of living in Houston, Texas, while Dad was teaching at Rice University, but Minneapolis was my first “home.” It was also the place where the bulk of the rest of the brothers and sisters came into being—and I loved the delight of snow, ice skating, and playing cowboys with friends. Dad had a different view of snow and ice. And, of course, in the early days of academia, promotions were usually gained by moving from one university to another—usually at opposite ends of the country.

I’ve been told by many that moving is a major trauma for children and that families should seek the stability of sameness as much as they can. But my earthly father made the idea of moving a wonderful thing. To begin with, we had several family



councils about moving to foreign lands as missionaries. Whatever was discussed during those times led me to look forward to new things and exciting adventures, always expecting the Lord to cover and provide. I didn't understand much back then about the logistics of such things, but Dad always made these moves seem like fascinating explorations.

No, we didn't go to Afghanistan (as once was possible) or India (as was discussed on another occasion), but we moved from Minneapolis to Lafayette, Louisiana. I'm not sure one could find more extremes. From the rather sophisticated university environment stimulated by 20 degree-below-zero weather to Cajun country with bayous and snakes! What a wonderful place to be a preteen and a young teenager. Romping through alligator-infested swamps as a Boy Scout and trying to understand the half-English, half-French of my Catholic friends was an adventure of monumental proportions.

And, oh, the questions. New friends, new religions, new schools—pagan culture. Those were challenging days, but our home was the place of answers. Answers from the Bible. Answers to the distortion of many doctrines. Answers to the cultural discrepancies. Answers to the segregated South and separate water fountains. Answers to the

growing issues of foolish youth. Answers. Always calm, reasoned, Bible-related answers. Those half-learned, not-always-understood answers became the foundation of an adult commitment to a life in the Kingdom.

Patient, Restrained, and Reliable

Yes, we moved again and again. From Lafayette to Carbondale, Illinois, from Carbondale to Blacksburg, Virginia, and later to San Diego, California. By then I had moved into the U.S. Army, taking with me the years of a stable family and Bible-centered home that would always keep my heart and head pointed toward a godly father.

Surely you will recall the parable of the Prodigal Son. You should remember that the hero of that parable is the godly father who was wise enough to let his headstrong son leave, knowing that the son would endure much that was both dangerous and damaging—yet the father remained faithfully waiting until the son came to himself and returned to the home that was reliable still.

Those years were strained, to say the least. But all during the times of testing limits and trying to “kick against the goads” (Acts 9:5), my earthly father exemplified the great grace and patience of our heavenly Father. Praying often and long for his children, the “real” Dr. Morris interceded for each of us—especially the firstborn who bore his name.

Perhaps the greatest trial any of us must endure is waiting for answers to manifest themselves. Now with nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren of my own, I know something of the heartache my father carried during the years the Lord was testing me. Now that I have inherited the responsibility of the Institute for Creation Research that he founded, I know something of the patient waiting in prayer and longing for effective ministry that he carried for decades. Now that I can look back over the decades of his leadership and godly example, I can draw on a lifetime of godly wisdom and expectant trust in the Lord's provision and guidance.



That legacy is priceless. One day we shall meet again as joint-heirs of the King and will share together the fruit of lives shaped by the Holy Spirit into vessels suitable for the work of the Kingdom.

Future Hopes

The youngest Morris sibling, Rebecca Barber, is nearing completion of a biography of the “real” Dr. Morris that ICR expects to publish later this year. I've had the delight of reading the draft chapters as she completes them and am truly excited about the release of his life story. Many of you will enjoy getting to know that side of ICR's founder—and the way God shaped him in his young adult life to become the leader of the creationist movement in the 20th century.

For many years, Dad had hopes of building a teaching museum that would provide a challenge for years to come to “profane and idle babblings and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge” (1 Timothy 6:20). Most of you are aware that ICR is in the middle of raising the funds necessary to make that a reality. Much is already done. It is our hope and prayer that we can fulfill that hope before 2017 is over.

As they sometimes say in radio, “Stay tuned.” 📻

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



June 2016 Events

- ◆ **June 10** Randolph, MA – Women in Ministry Brunch
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Regular *Acts & Facts* readers may be aware that I have hinted at upcoming results from my research on deep seafloor sediments.¹ Now I am pleased to share some preliminary results with you.

Uniformitarian scientists believe that there have been about 50 ice ages within the last 2.6 million years of alleged “prehistory.” They believe that slow changes in Earth’s orbital and rotational motions regulate the timing of these ice ages. This theory is called the astronomical, or Milankovitch, ice age

Seafloor Sediment Research:

Exciting Results!

theory. Uniformitarian scientists generally assume the Milankovitch theory is correct and use it to assign ages to seafloor sediments with a method called *orbital tuning*. They then use these ages to date the deep ice cores. My previous research focused on the fact that these age assignments involve a good deal of apparent circular reasoning, since ages in cores are often tied to ages in other cores.²

Yet, this method is only truly circular if the evidence for the Milankovitch theory is either weak or nonexistent. Although there are serious problems with the Milankovitch theory, uniformitarian scientists claim that an iconic 1976 paper provided strong evidence for the theory.^{3,4} In the paper, analysis of data from two Indian Ocean sediment cores yielded results consistent with Milankovitch expectations. The authors concluded that Earth’s orbital motions acted as a climate pacemaker that regulated the timing of ice ages.

However, this 1976 “Pacemaker” paper has serious problems. For instance, the authors excluded nearly a third of the data from the second sediment core, probably needlessly. Likewise, an assumed age of 700,000 years for the most recent magnetic reversal played a key role in the Pacemaker paper. Yet uniformitarian scientists now claim that this

reversal happened 780,000 years ago. This age revision is extremely problematic for the paper’s results.

I have reproduced results, which I hope to soon publish, from the first part of the Pacemaker paper, using reconstructed data and the same method as the paper’s authors.

However, the final phase of my research is to explore the effects that these changes (inclusive of the first third of the data from the second core and an age change from 700,000 to 780,000 years) have on the paper’s results. Preliminary analysis indicates that they will not be encouraging for Milankovitch believers—even if one accepts, for the sake of argument, the claim that the sediments are hundreds of thousands of years old!

The Milankovitch theory plays an important role in uniformitarian dating methods. Demonstrating that there is no sound logical basis for orbital tuning could call into question hundreds, perhaps *thousands*, of uniformitarian age assignments. Likewise, the Milankovitch theory may be mak-

ing a subtle contribution to global warming alarmism, so this research has the potential to bring some perspective to this controversial topic.

I continue to find problems with this Pacemaker paper. Lord willing, I will publish these results in a series of future *Impact* articles. For those who can’t wait that long, my first paper may be freely read on the Internet.⁵ Although it is technical, I kept the mathematics to a minimum and took pains to explain the necessary background material so that non-specialists may get the gist of the argument. ✉

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Dr. Hebert is Research Associate at the Institute for Creation Research and earned his Ph.D. in physics from the University of Texas at Dallas.





THE EVIDENCE RATS OUT BAT EVOLUTION

Of the 1,240 living mammal species, almost 25 percent are the amazingly designed bats.¹ They compose the second-largest order of mammals, next to rodents,² and are ecologically and economically important. Bats effectively control insect pests and are essential to the pollination of some flowers. In fact, a number of tropical plants depend entirely on bats for seed dispersal. Mammalogists place these nocturnal creatures into two suborders—the Microchiroptera (echolocating, insect-eating bats) and Megachiroptera (fruit-eating bats). According to evolution, both groups evolved from an unknown flying common ancestor.

Bat Origins

Evolutionists maintain that a rodent of some sort evolved into a bat. Yet, over 1,000 fossil bats have been unearthed and scientists have not classified a single one as an intermediate between rodents and bats. They're all bats, as predicted by the creation model.

If there was ever such a great transformation, evolutionarily speaking, it would

be a remarkable transition from an unknown rodent to a swift-flying bat. How do evolutionists account for this? Strangely, a 2007 book edited by two evolutionists titled *Major Transitions in Vertebrate Evolution*³ does not explain the process. Neither does *Great Transformations in Vertebrate Evolution*, published several years later.⁴ Why the silence on bat origins?

The phylogenetic (evolutionary) relationship of different groups of bats is contentious, and no evidence exists for an evolutionary transition from rodents to bats. Indeed, an intermediate form is hard to imagine since rodents have front legs designed for the tetrapod (four-footed) lifestyle. Evolutionary theory suggests that through a large number of unknown beneficial mutations, these front legs evolved into highly articulated bones for flight and added the two dozen independent joints and membranous wings (patagium) that we see in bats. Not surprisingly, evolutionists themselves state, “There are no known intermediate stages between bats and insectivores.”⁵ Bats are 100 percent bat from their first appearance.

Bat Wings

The earliest fossil bats resemble their modern counterparts in possessing greatly elongated digits to support the wing membrane, which is an anatomical hallmark of powered flight.⁶

Bats flap only their digits, not their entire forearms as birds do. So, according to evolutionists, other than the normal thumb with a claw, the four short toes of the alleged non-flying bat ancestor slowly and gradually extended into the greatly elongated digits (metacarpals 2-5) seen in bats today. Zoologists observe that bats' fine-tuned wing movement—due to the reshaping and stretching of the webbing and hand—is responsible for their fantastic flying abilities.

Their agility in the air demands quick, precise wing movements and a constant adjustment of tiny muscles in the wing membrane. They also use their wings for other delicate tasks, like holding food and cradling young. To adjust their complex wings for the job at hand, they must integrate a variety of sensory feedback.⁷

For those willing to acknowledge it,



the intentional design in bat wing construction is obvious. Researchers at Brown University stated in a news release that

Birds and insects can fold and rotate their wings during flight, but bats have many more options. Their flexible skin can catch the air and generate lift or reduce drag in many different ways. During straightforward flight, the wing is mostly extended for the down stroke, but the wing surface curves much more than a bird's does—giving bats greater lift for less energy. During the up stroke, the bats fold the wings much closer to their bodies than other flying animals, potentially reducing the drag they experience. The wing's extraordinary flexibility also allows the animals to make 180-degree turns in a distance of less than half a wingspan.⁸

One must ask just how untold billions of intermediate creatures (not a rodent but certainly not yet a bat) survived for millions of years while waiting for such well-constructed wings and prey-catching abilities. Of course, the fossil record does not reveal such a fantastical transition but instead shows that bats have always been bats. This

was shown to be true as far back as the early Eocene with the discovery of *Onychonycteris* and *Icaronycteris*, which are described as “reasonably complete bat fossils.”⁹ They possess key features of the small insect-eating bats (Microchiroptera): the four elongated digits, a living flight membrane with specialized muscles, sensors, and elastic fibers, and “the feet are turn backwards so that these early bats could hang upside down as modern bats do.”¹⁰

God created bats with unique bone morphogenetic proteins referred to as *Bmps*, a family of multifunctional proteins present in mammals. As a bat develops embryonically, a crucial gene controlling Bmp signaling, called Bmp2, is expressed in the developing forelimbs. This accelerates their finger elongation. If evolution were true, we should find early bat fossils with shorter fingers. Through the millennia, digit length should increase, reflecting increased Bmp2 activity caused by genetic mutations. Scientists should observe accompanying changes in a variety of interconnected controlling factors such as regulatory RNAs, epigenetic controls, and a variety of regulatory DNA

sequences in and around the Bmp2 gene.

All these fine-tuned critical factors must be in place all at once for the whole system to make a proper bat wing. And an early bat fossil dated at “50 million years” revealed no noteworthy increase in digit proportion. Creation scientists see this as evidence that bats have always reproduced after their kind, with developmental genes and their regulatory systems, such as Bmp2, in place from the beginning.

The supposedly 50 million-year-old fossil does not show any evolution from an alleged common ancestor. But evolutionists maintain that the consistency of bat wings throughout the fossil record is only an indication that genes remained unchanged over large expanses of evolutionary time—a concept called *conservation*.

Evolutionist Michael Denton weighs in on the elongated and webbed hand of the bat, saying,

This implies that the actualization of this remarkable novelty has involved what would appear to be complex simultaneous compensatory recruitment of new gene circuits, which op-



erate in unison to generate long fingers and the intervening webbing—a finding at odds with the Darwinian conception that novelties emerged gradually via a succession of *individual genetic changes*.¹¹

In other words, Denton claims the appearance of elongated fingers and webbed wings in bats throughout the fossil record means that multiple necessary traits must have evolved at the same time through complex genetic interactions. This contradicts the gradual accumulation of mutations over time that Darwinian evolution expects. But bats appearing in the fossil record with the ideal design from the get-go is much better explained by the Genesis account of an omniscient Creator.

Bat Sonar

Biological sonar, or echolocation, uses sound to “see.” The biological equipment that grants this God-designed ability in bats is smaller, weighs less, and yields higher resolution than man-made sonar equipment. Could such design really evolve? As evolutionary paleontologist Michael Benton admits,

The evolution of echolocation in bats has been hard to resolve.¹²

Bats “see with sound” by emitting narrow beams of frequency-modulated sounds (ultrasounds) that are projected from their larynxes and out their mouths. They vocalize faster as they near their targets, giving them the higher resolution required to catch their prey. The bat evaluates the returning signals picked up by its uniquely shaped ears and uses them to “paint” a mental image of its surroundings. The sonar image is as well-defined as the visual images of human and diurnal (daytime) animals.

Bats can effortlessly fly around obstacles in pitch-black darkness. Their sonar

sensibilities rapidly detect the flying insects such as mosquitoes they love to eat. The bat can even instantly determine the type of insect it is chasing, but to do this it must vocalize high-pitched, high-energy pulses that would soon damage its own inner ear tissue. With the emission of such sharp and repeated blasts of ultrasonic energy, one must ask how they avoid deafening themselves. The Creator solved this problem by designing a tiny skeletal muscle attached to the bat’s miniscule hearing bones. The muscle contracts during each emitted sound pulse, protecting the sensitive inner ear. But the bat must hear returning pulses *at the same time*, especially as it closes in on the prey. In order to hear these returning pulses, the muscle relaxes to re-engage the bones 10 or more times per second.

One would think insects such as moths wouldn’t have a chance against the efficient bat sonar. However, God has created defensive abilities for a number of insects, giving them a chance for evasion. Certain moths such as the tiger moth can detect bat sonar and use a sonar-jamming defense method. Just when the bat closes in on the hapless moth, the moth emits ultrasonic counter-clicks to jam the bat sonar. The clicks are so rapid that they sound like a siren, briefly confusing the bat and allowing the moth to escape.¹³

Hibernation

Bats are also true hibernators. The design features that allow these flying mammals to undergo a period of winter inactivity are incredible. God designed the hypothalamus portion of the brain to slow the bat’s respiration, heart, and metabolic rate. The hypothalamus sets the bat’s thermostat to about two degrees Celsius, which lowers respiration to only four shallow breaths per minute. Compare this to its several hundred breaths per minute while active! Heart rate also changes radically during hibernation. A medium-size bat has a heart rate of 1,000 beats per minute

(bpm) while flying, yet it transitions to only 25 bpm while hibernating.

To awaken bats from hibernation, God gave a special type of fat deposit to endothermic (warm-blooded) vertebrates called brown fat. It is different from normal fat in that it contains a large number of mitochondria, organelles in which aerobic respiration and most energy production occurs. God designed brown fat cells for the production of heat (thermogenesis or metabolic heating). They are stimulated by reduced temperatures. As brown fat cells are metabolized, this unique tissue slowly brings the bat’s temperature up to 37 degrees Celsius, awakening it from its sleep-like state.

Bats are very complex animals that show no evidence of having evolved from a rodent ancestor. Indeed, they would have to make the remarkable transition to powered flight, echolocation, complex brain function, unique cranio-maxillary structures, and more, all within a mere 10 million years. That’s a blink of a bat eye in supposed evolutionary time. Based on the evidence, the most logical explanation for bat origins is an ingenious Creator, just as Genesis says. ✨

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Image credit: NASA/John Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory/Southwest Research Institute

Looking Back at PLUTO

Nearly a year has elapsed since the New Horizons spacecraft flew past Pluto and captured the first high-resolution images of this mysterious dwarf planet. Far different from the cold, dead, 4.5 billion-year-old mass that secular astronomers anticipated, these images revealed a world of astonishing diversity. Once again, science has confirmed biblical creation, demonstrating that the surface of Pluto is young, with evidence of recent geological activity.

Around this time in 2015, New Horizons was fast approaching Pluto. It was already close enough to take clearer images than any ground-based observatory had achieved—even surpassing the clarity of the Hubble Space Telescope. But the real excitement came on July 14-15 when the spacecraft made its closest approach. New Horizons began recording ultra-high-resolution images of the most distant object ever visited by spacecraft.

Since Pluto rotates only once every 6.39 days, the New Horizons spacecraft could only capture one side of the dwarf planet in high resolution during the close flyby. By providence, the side it captured had a most interesting and unexpected terrain: an enormous heart-shaped feature, nicknamed *Tombaugh Regio* after Pluto's discoverer, Clyde Tombaugh. Secular astronomers expected that Pluto's surface would be saturated with craters due to countless impacts over billions of years.¹ But Tombaugh Regio has virtually none. Instead, the region exhibits a quasi-polygonal tile pattern, unlike anything seen on any other planet or moon.² Astronomers now believe that this pattern indicates some type of convection—the cir-

ulation of material due to heat.

New Horizons images revealed other interesting geological features on Pluto. Mountains as large as the Rockies stretch across its surface, but they're made of water-ice instead of rock.³ The spacecraft also captured cliffs and enormous canyons, what appear to be frozen lakes of nitrogen,⁴ and even evidence of past volcanic activity.⁵ This geology indicates that the surface was once active with motion driven by internal heat. Apparently, Pluto was warmer when the Lord first created it. Such geology cannot be billions of years old. Otherwise, countless impacts over billions of years would have obliterated such terrain.

But this presents a problem for the secular view. How would Pluto have any heat left if it were billions of years old? Being a very small world, only two-thirds the size of Earth's moon, Pluto cannot retain heat for billions of years. It certainly doesn't get much energy from the sun—less than one thousandth of what the earth receives. The only thing we know of that could (in principle) generate heat over billions of years is radioactive decay. Some of the heaviest elements like uranium are radioactive and produce heat. But from Pluto's low density, we know that it simply cannot contain very much radioactive material—not nearly enough to produce the geology seen on its surface. The most natural explanation is that Pluto is only a few thousand years old.

Pluto's largest moon, Charon, also displays geology indicative of internal heat. It has mountains and canyons of its own and a mysteriously dark north pole.⁶ The other four moons are tiny and irregularly shaped and orbit in nearly perfect circles around Pluto's equator. They rotate surprisingly fast, and one of them, Nix, even rotates backward relative to its orbit.⁷ Yet, secularists believe such rotations should have slowed over billions of years. These are perplexing problems for secular formation scenarios. However, Christians delight in seeing the Lord's creativity continually revealed. ✍



Image credit: NASA/John Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory/Southwest Research Institute

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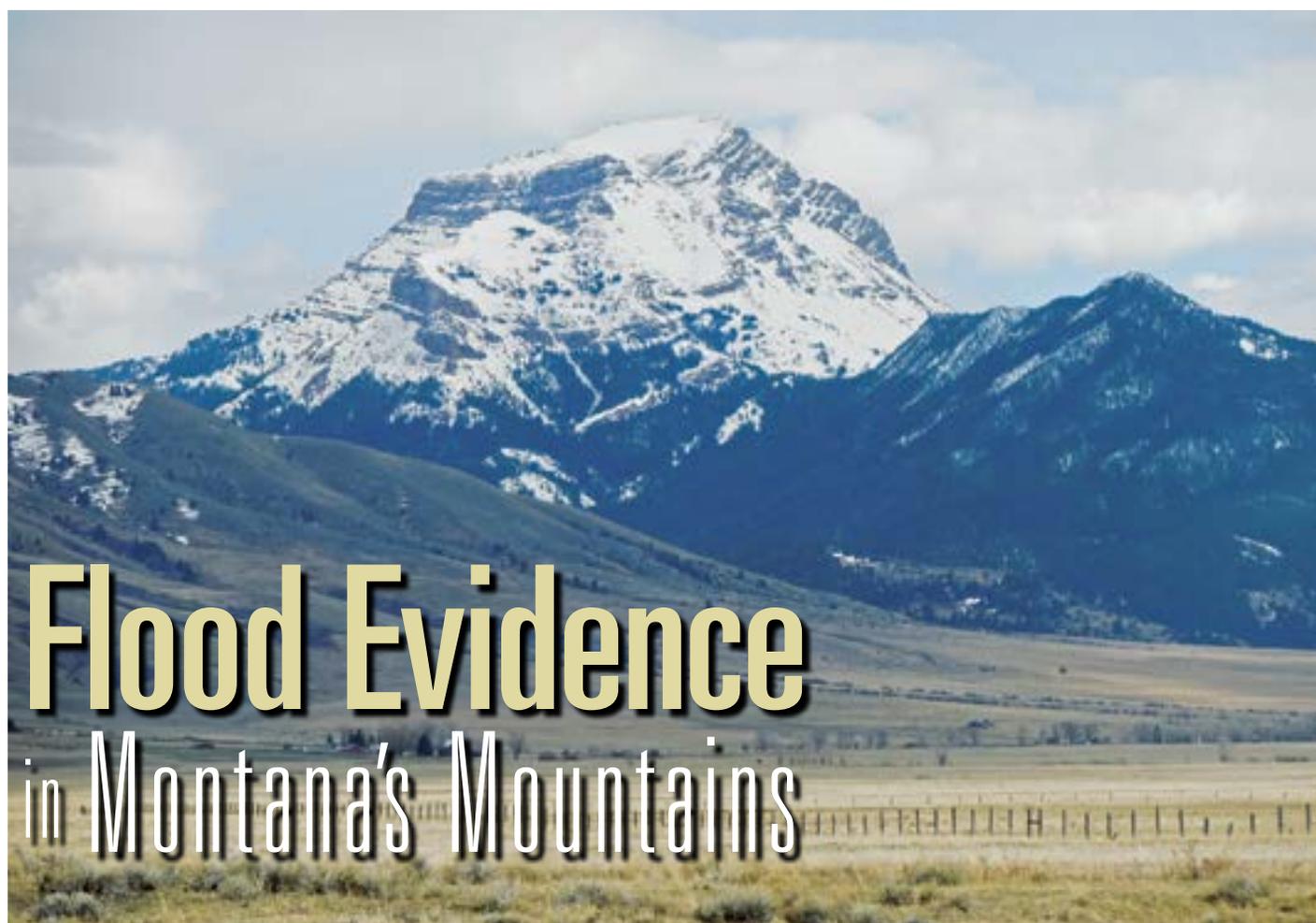


Image credit: B. Thomas

Flood Evidence in Montana's Mountains

ICR's Dr. Jake Hebert and I recently enjoyed a field trip around the town of Ennis, Montana, hosted by post-Flood Ice Age expert Michael Oard. During the outing we observed two landscape features best explained by Noah's Flood.

The Bible teaches that God judged every man and air-breathing, land-dwelling animal found across the entire earth's surface during the Flood. 2 Peter 3:3-7 says that those who scoff at the reality of this worldwide Flood will scoff at God's coming judgment by fire. If the first did not happen as the Bible says, there's no reason to trust the second judgment will happen either. But we saw clear evidence of that watery judgment in the mountains around Ennis.

The Madison River's waters originate in Yellowstone, flow northward through the picturesque Madison River Valley where Ennis lies, then produce rapids on their journey through Bear Trap Canyon. The river eventually merges with other waters near Three Forks, Montana, to form the Missouri River. Oddly, Bear Trap Canyon cuts right through a mountain range made of hard crystalline rock called *gneiss*. Why didn't the Madison River flow around the mountain instead of cutting right through it? And did this little river carve the canyon over millions of years?

Geologists use the term *water gaps* for narrow canyons holding rivers that cut through mountain ranges. We don't see them form

Just upstream from Ennis Lake in the Madison River Valley, Sphinx Mountain lies atop Madison Range sedimentary deposits. Its unique rock type is all that remains from a vast stretch of sedimentary blankets that earlier floodwaters deposited and receding floodwaters removed.

today, so we rely on our forensic wits to solve these geologic mysteries. Every continent has water gaps, and thousands exist around the world.¹ So, if we solve the mystery of one water gap, we might help solve a world of such mysteries.

Those who declare that slow and gradual erosion is the only process available to answer the water gap question must assert that the river flowed at a pace that eroded through solid gneiss at exactly the same rate as the mountain of gneiss slowly uplifted. This occurs nowhere today and implies an eons-long, finely tuned balance that sounds more like science fiction than science.

Flood geologists have a better explanation that includes water volumes that at one time overtopped the surrounding mountain peaks. As the Rocky Mountains rose late in the Flood year, floodwaters receded off the continents. Decreasing water levels began to pool behind mountainous barriers. They would have rapidly flowed over any nearby low notch soon after the mountaintops appeared above the water's surface. Like waters that break through a crack in a dam,



Landsat satellite image of a hydroelectric dam on the Madison River in the bottom of Bear Trap Canyon. Image: Google Earth



Creation advocates Michael Oard and Dr. Jake Hebert view and discuss Sphinx Mountain.

they ripped through that notch to catastrophically carve a steep-sided gorge. Similar occurrences have been documented during events like the 1982 Mount St. Helens mud flow and the formation of Canyon Lake Gorge.² But who in their right mind could ever believe in so much water? A second nearby landscape feature made believing as easy as seeing.

We parked our vehicle beside the road to discuss a very out-of-place peak in the Madison Range called Sphinx Mountain. Its layered sedimentary rocks match no nearby outcrops. Apparently, Sphinx Mountain is all that remains of a vast collection of layered sediments that once blanketed the whole region! Where did all that rock go? The worldwide Flood helps solve the puzzle.

Early flooding mixed dead creatures' remains with sandstones, limestones, and other sediments as it carried in the sediments that underlie Sphinx Mountain. During perhaps months or weeks, fast flows ripped up debris from far away. Slowing flows deposited more layers on top, then receding waters began to speed up again as they



View of Madison River water gap looking east from U.S. Hwy 287 over Ennis Lake. The Madison River feeds the lake and then flows through Bear Trap Canyon, which cuts right through the mountains instead of wandering around them.

rolled off the world's continents. They eroded and erased those fresh deposits, carving whole valleys. In the Madison River Valley they eroded all but a tiny remnant of certain layers that today form Sphinx Mountain.³

As we gazed at the Madison Range, we imagined early and middle Flood fast flows that formed vast sedimentary sheets where today we see sky. Late Flood rapid erosion removed most of them but left sky-high sedimentary remnants like Sphinx Mountain. Then the last receding waters rapidly carved water gap canyons. Psalm 104 seems to recap the scene:

You who laid the foundations of the earth,
 So that it should not be moved forever,
 You covered it with the deep as with a garment;
 The waters stood above the mountains.
 At Your rebuke they fled;
 At the voice of Your thunder they hastened away.
 They went up over the mountains;
 They went down into the valleys,
 To the place which You founded for them.
 You have set a boundary that they may not pass over,
 That they may not return to cover the earth.⁴

Erosional remnants on mountaintops and water gaps through mountain ranges remind us that the world really was judged by a watery catastrophe that only eight people receiving God's grace escaped. And since the Bible speaks with amazing accuracy about history and geology, we have plenty of evidence to believe whatever it says about any subject—even about a judgment to come.⁵ ☞

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- Psalm 104:5-9.
- Scripture instructs us to prepare for this judgment with "repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ" (Acts 20:21).

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THE FATAL FLAWS OF LIVING FOSSILS

R A N D Y J . G U L I U Z Z A , P . E . . , M . D .

Judy Rivers was stuck living out of her car for months. She was not poor—her bank accounts had \$80,000. Yet she couldn't rent an apartment or access her money. The police even took her to jail once as an identity thief for using her own debit card.

Judy's problems all started one day when she woke up "dead." Her name had somehow appeared on the Social Security Administration's Death Master File. Judy's story was told by CBS News' *60 Minutes* correspondent Scott Pelley, who quipped, "God may judge the quick and the dead but it's the states that collect the data."¹

Pelley reported that being alive but mistaken for dead is "deadly serious business because when you're added to the file, that means that banks, the IRS, Medicare, law

enforcement and the like, scratch you out of existence. But we found that the Death Master File is often fatally flawed."¹ Judy learned that getting off the Death Master File was harder than getting on. Worse yet, since she was living but officially thought of as dead, in evolutionary terms she was like a living fossil—a creature considered extinct that suddenly turns up alive.

Living Fossils: Fixing a Problem of Too Much Time

Judy had her problems, but living fossils cause their own troubles for evolutionists. In his review of a new book about such creatures, science writer Colin Barras observed "that peculiarly oxymoronic moniker, too, has survived—for around 150

years."² The term "living fossil," first used by Charles Darwin in his *Origin of Species*, does indeed sound like an oxymoron. However, it suits the way evolutionists apply it to their theory.

Their central problem is time—in this case, too much of it. If evolution is all about creatures changing over time, how do evolutionists account for the many groups of creatures that, in the broad sense, did not change? The time involved in these cases is not trivial. In their way of thinking, you shouldn't be able to compare a 400 million-year-old fossil fish to its living counterpart and find no major differences.

Time can be an evolutionist's ally. Darwin appealed to incomprehensibly vast eons to smother any mental reservations about the impossibility of one kind of organism

evolving into fundamentally different kinds. His thinking goes like this: If organisms have an enormous number of chances to change over eons, by sheer luck the seemingly impossible just may happen. But vast eras of time may also be an enemy to his theory. Why have horseshoe crabs changed hardly at all in 450 million years when fish, amphibians, reptiles, and mammals all supposedly emerged in succession in 550 million years from some “primitive” organism? Is this non-evolution (called *stasis*) of horseshoe crabs really the norm for all of life, or are creatures like them simply evolutionary anomalies?

Darwin assumed static creatures like horseshoe crabs were deviations from the normal evolutionary processes. “These anomalous forms may be called living fossils; they have endured to the present day, from having inhabited a confined area, and from having been exposed to less varied, and therefore less severe, competition.”³ Is Darwin’s assumption reasonable about less varied or severe conditions resulting in uniformity over hundreds of millions of years? His explanation may sound like an observation from nature, but it is really an imaginary conjecture. After all, these non-evolving creatures supposedly faced the same bleak multiple mass-extinction events that annihilated many others.

Barras offers another explanation, but since it lacks a scientific foundation he also turns to luck. “The fossil record suggests that every so often evolution hits the jackpot: an organism so impeccably and robustly suited to its environment that further modification is apparently unnecessary.” After all, no one knows for sure “what singles out an organism as a survivor-in-waiting.”⁴ It seems that both his and Darwin’s scenarios incline toward pure imagination.

Without a doubt, the term “living fossil” is a device intended to rescue evolutionary theory from the “too much time” dilemma by suggesting that organisms survive for

eons without change because they live under less varied competition or are simply lucky. Just like the mental constructs used for Pilt-down Man and “whale hips,”⁵ the fatally flawed notion of living fossils leads to blunder upon blunder—some minor and others with major conceptual problems.

A Fish Mistakenly Added to Nature’s Death Master File

Just as Judy Rivers was mistaken for dead, National Geographic recalls how “the primitive-looking coelacanth... was thought to have gone extinct with the dinosaurs 65 million years ago. But its discovery in 1938 by a South African museum curator on a local fishing trawler fascinated the world.”⁶ PBS’s NOVA program on the subject, titled



Thought to have been long extinct, a museum curator discovered this coelacanth “living fossil” in 1938.

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Ancient Creature of the Deep, describes the coelacanth as “a bizarre fish and ‘living fossil’ that has changed little in its 400 million years on Earth.”⁷

The coelacanth’s discoverer, Marjorie Courtenay-Latimer, was the astute curator of East London Museum in South Africa. She had made known to the local fishermen her desire to see unusual specimens. On December 22, 1938, she was summoned to the wharf, where she observed a very strange five-foot-long fish. The fascinating letter exchanges between her and Dr. J. L. B. Smith, a chemistry professor and ichthyologist at Rhodes University in nearby Grahamstown, are archived on NOVA’s website. Courtenay-Latimer’s initial drawing of the fish was good

enough that Smith recognized its similarity to fossil coelacanths... but he was skeptical.

After studying samples of the fish’s scales, Smith became convinced of the discovery. NOVA described his first encounter with the fish, which had been preserved by taxidermy.

It had been nearly two months since the fish had come ashore, but that only made Smith’s initial sighting of it all the more miraculous. “Although I had come prepared, that first sight [of the fish] hit me like a white-hot blast and made me feel shaky and queer, my body tingled,” he wrote in *Old Fourlegs*. “I stood as if stricken to stone. Yes, there was not a shadow of doubt, scale by scale, bone by bone, fin by fin, it was a true Coelacanth.”⁸

Evidently, scientists themselves can have strong emotional attachments to their worldviews. The evolutionary worldview may capture one’s mind, in which case obvious questions can go unasked. How did this fish remain unchanged for hundreds of millions of years while other fish were allegedly changing to different kinds all around it? Since no one has an answer for “what singles out an organism as a survivor-in-waiting,” is this kind of fish truly that ancient? The mistake of declaring a fish dead that really wasn’t is not itself a major error. Evolutionists, however, commit an enormous scientific blunder by fabricating oxymoronic “living fossil” or “survivor in waiting” rescuing devices to save their theories.

Imagining “Primitive” Features

In an evolutionary context, a primitive characteristic is one at an early stage of evolutionary development. There are temporal and usually qualitative dimensions evolutionists use to indicate that a primitive trait is early and less advanced. But there are problems with this approach.

If you started from an evolutionary perspective and carefully examined your face, which features would you label as “primitive”? What scientific test would be capable of giving such a result? Actually,

evolutionists usually accomplish this feat by just looking at a trait or DNA sequence and declaring, “That’s primitive.”

You could ask, What is the opposite of primitive? Is there a non-arbitrary standard by which one draws the line between the two? Tasks like that are not so clear, as Adrian Bejan correctly observed: “In biology, evolution is largely a mental construct built on imagination, because the time scale of animal evolution is immense relative to the time available to us for observations.”⁹ Could evolutionary blunders be based on mistaken mental visualizations of primordial features, or primitive life forms, or ancient epochs of life?

Darwin made up “living fossils” to explain the anomaly of creatures that had not evolved even over supposed eons of time. Taking that assumption as fact, he claimed that living fossils also help us to visualize primeval organisms: “Species and groups of species which are called aberrant [showing little evolutionary change], and which may fancifully be called living fossils, will aid us in forming a picture of the ancient forms of life.”¹⁰ Darwin’s fanciful phrase actually expressed an evolutionary concept for framing life’s history.

Commenting on the impact of the phrase, one writer concludes:

It quickly multiplied in both academic writing and the popular press. Eventually, it came to signify creatures that had emerged long ago and had not changed for eons, preserving a primitive appearance unlike any other living thing. “Living fossil” was no longer a passing phrase; it had become a powerful concept shaping scientists’ attitudes toward modern species. If certain creatures were frozen in evolutionary time, the reasoning went, then they could be our windows to ancient epochs of life.¹¹

In 2011, evolutionary biologists studied “a newly discovered eel that inhabits an undersea cave in the Pacific Ocean [that] has been dubbed a ‘living fossil’ because of its primitive features.”¹² What’s even more

remarkable about this living eel is that these evolutionists claim it is the most primitive eel in Earth’s history, has been evolving independently from other eels for ages, and is a living fossil even though there are *no known fossils* of it. The original paper states, “Additional morphological and molecular analyses demonstrate that in some features it is more primitive than Recent eels, and in others, even more primitive than the oldest known fossil eels, suggesting that it represents a ‘living fossil’ without a known fossil record.”¹³ Coelacanth and this eel are actually only observed living in today’s world.

Creationists expect that fossils of living creatures will look like what we observe today since the ideas of “ancient” versus “modern” life are arbitrary mental fabrications.

Evolutionists summon extraordinary imaginative skills enabling them to “see” primitive features in them and visualize their ancient environments. Those visualizations are subsequently published in science journals as if they are reality.

Other major evolutionary presumptions such as co-evolution, co-option, nature exercising agency, and convergent evolution duplicate the “primitive features” blunder. These are not *observations* of test results but are actually *declarations* based on fertile imaginations. One must ask, how much of the evolutionary scenario exists only in an evolutionist’s mind...but not in reality?

Fossils and Living Counterparts Look Similarly Designed

Creationist Carl Werner has compiled the most complete photo record of what evolutionists label as living fossils.¹⁴ His fascinating work covers all major animal phyla living today. Included are many “modern” mammals found in rock layers dating back to the “dinosaur era.” Over 21 different animal and plant types show essentially no change between their fossils and living counter-

parts—even though evolutionists tag them with different genus or species names to line up with their assumptions. Non-evolution, or stasis, seems to be the reality for all of life.

Creationists expect that fossils of living creatures will look like what we observe today since the ideas of “ancient” versus “modern” life are arbitrary mental fabrications. Given the fossil/living counterpart similarity, why couldn’t the fossil’s age actually be closer to its contemporary counterpart’s?

We can appreciate Judy Rivers and the coelacanth for who and what they really are now that they’re off the Death Master File.

Yet, a mind can become conditioned to still see “the primitive-looking coelacanth”—but only by overlooking how eight powerful fins give it remarkable maneuverability, or enable it to swim belly up or remain motionless while head down. Or dismissing how

the photodetector cells in its large eyes are sensitive enough to detect a single photon of light while swimming down to depths of over 1,500 feet. But for those fixed in reality, these sophisticated designs of a “primitive” fish clearly show that “the works of the LORD are great, studied by all who have pleasure in them” (Psalm 111:2). ☞

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NASA ISS Experiments Look to Mars

When Neil Armstrong set foot on the moon on July 20, 1969, the feat captured the world's imagination. Numerous missions followed, including the Space Shuttle program and the massive International Space Station (ISS) currently orbiting our world today. Although we've launched unmanned spacecraft to the far reaches of our solar system to explore planets and beyond, the question remains: Where will humans set foot next?

Answer: Mars.

Later this year, a friend of our ministry, Col. Jeff Williams, will break the record for the most time in space by a NASA astronaut—534 cumulative days from his four expeditions. But a round trip to Mars would exceed that time in a single journey.

NASA looks to send humans to Mars in the next 15 years. This ambitious plan requires constant research and experimentation by today's astronauts, and one of the key places to work out the details is on board the ISS. Three current ISS experiments focus on the effects of spaceflight on the human body, testing an expandable habitat for deep-space exploration, and real-time gene analysis.

If an astronaut doesn't get enough exercise during a long-duration spaceflight, the microgravity (almost zero gravity) environment can cause a rapid loss of bone density and muscle mass. These effects are similar to the symptoms people experience with muscle atrophy diseases. The Rodent Research-3 project studies molecular and physical changes in the musculoskeletal system of mice during spaceflight.¹ Test results will increase our understanding of muscle atrophy while using new antibodies known to preserve muscle in mice on Earth.

The results could help humans better endure spaceflights to Mars.

Astronauts will need adequate living and laboratory space while on the Red Planet. Habitats should be lightweight and easy to build, and they must perform in microgravity and the vacuum of space. They also need to protect against solar radiation and space debris. A new structure called the Bigelow Expandable Activity Module (BEAM) appears to be a solution.² "Expandables" take up less precious room on a rocket but once expanded provide greatly enhanced living and working space. The capsule connects to the ISS and expands to a 13 x 10.5-foot compartment. Crew members will monitor the module's material and design during its two-year test mission.

WetLab-2 uses innovative technology that allows biologists to perform gene activity analysis and other research in the microgravity of space.³ This will help researchers rapidly identify changes in gene expression with the goal of lessening the harmful effects of long-duration spaceflight.

These experiments will advance NASA's Mars program, and veteran astronauts like Col. Jeff Williams are laying the foundation for future missions, journeys that will continue adding to the evidence for biblical creation. ✎

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Michael Stamp is an editor at the Institute for Creation Research.



Image credit: Jeff Williams

NASA ASTRONAUT JEFF WILLIAMS: SUNDAY, APRIL 17, 2016⁴
"We finally have a Sunday (no cargo vehicle this weekend!) with some personal time to take in the view out the window. Every time we pass over, I have been fascinated with this view considering it contains the vast majority of Biblical history. My father—a high school history teacher—gave me a love and appreciation for history, and I have a special appreciation for that history. '...your testimonies are my meditation.'⁵ It is a good day of rest off the planet!"



Left: Flight Engineer Jeff Williams works with the WetLab-2 system.

Image Credit: NASA

Below: The expanded BEAM attaches to the rear port of the space station's Node 3.

Image Credit: Bigelow Aerospace, LLC



Q: Why Creation Ministry?

A: When I finally grasped how important Genesis is to Christianity, society, and the meaning of life, I felt like someone had just opened the door to a vast treasure room. How precious the words of Genesis suddenly became! I had once dismissed them as part myth, even as a Christian. So when others step through that door of understanding by correctly connecting Genesis to vital truths, I know the exhilaration they feel. I share with them a passion for believing and defending six-day creation, a real Adam, and the global Flood. Genesis conveys real history—and science confirms it.

One good reason for creation ministry concerns Adam. Christians who swallow the secular story believe that mankind evolved from reptiles and fish through natural processes. In reality, no discovery proves that man shares ancestry with anything other than mankind. Both modern humans and buried remains show that people have always been people.

And the Bible supplies the genealogy from Adam to Jesus. 1 Corinthians calls Jesus the last Adam, adding, “For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.”¹ If the first part of this verse were mere myth, then why trust the last part? Those who assert that we evolved from primates instead of descending from Adam sever the biblical connections between Adam and Jesus, Adam and us, and between Adam and death as a sin-caused intruder into a once “very good” creation.

Attacking Genesis destroys some Christians’ confidence in the rest of the Bible. Many evangelical churches lose most of their youth! The evolutionary story that sounds so scientific at first intimidates young ones into doubting Genesis. Closer inspection reveals that evolution merely masquerades as science, like a book titled *Impressive* but filled with blank pages.

Gospel preachers rightly teach that

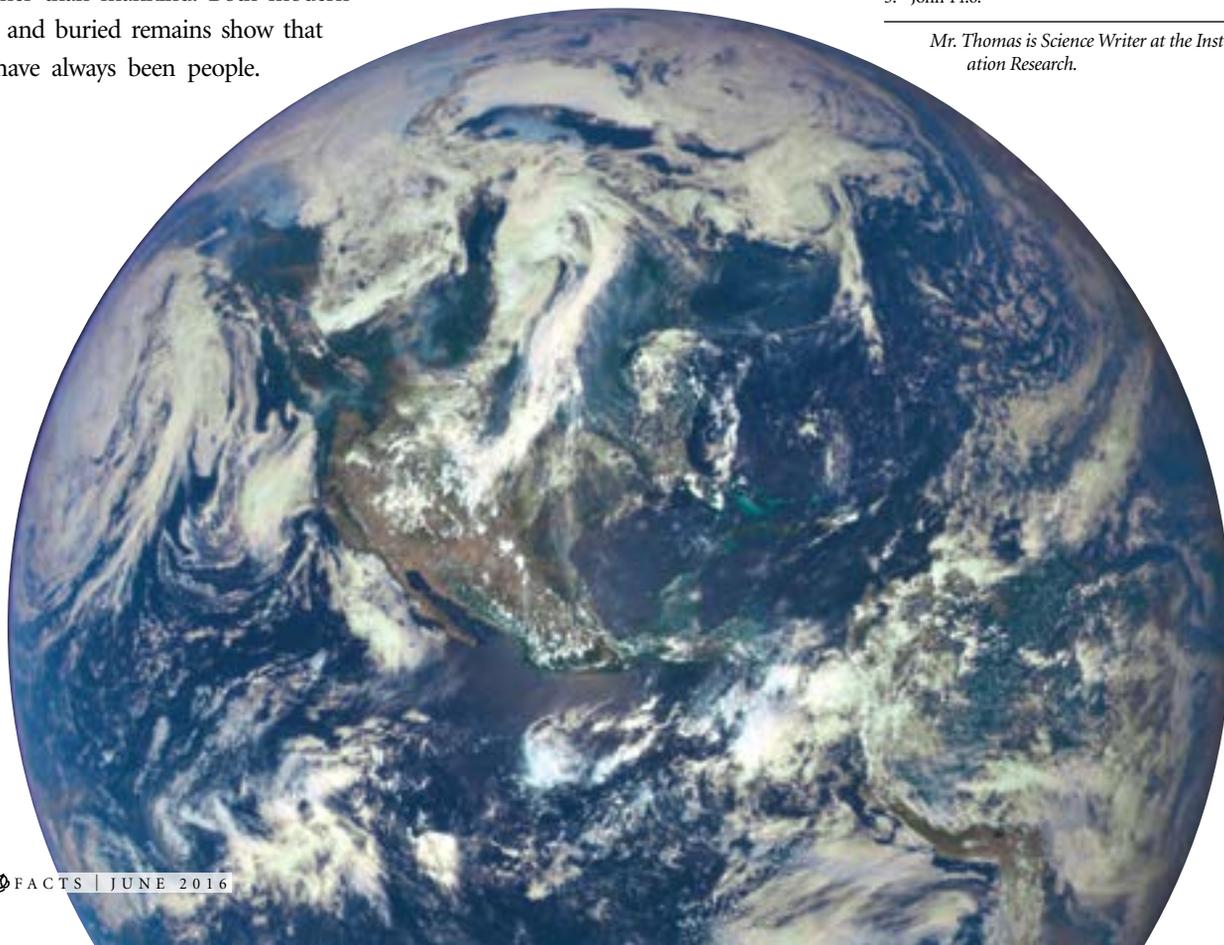
Jesus sacrificed Himself in our place when He endured the cross.² But sadly, some think that Genesis doesn’t matter, even though it teaches death as the penalty for sin, the very reason Jesus had to suffer. Some Christians agree with secular teachings like millions of years of creature death and fossilization. But Christians who adopt this story must reject the plain words of Genesis spoken by the Creator. In other words, evolution undermines Genesis, which leaves the gospel with little or no logical or historical foundation.

Since 1970, ICR origins research has shown how science confirms Genesis. Lord willing, we will continue to share the good news that the risen Lord Jesus, the last Adam, really is “the way, the truth, and the life.”³ After all, Genesis contains the right record of where we came from and why we so desperately need salvation. ✎

References

1. 1 Corinthians 15:22.
2. Galatians 3:20
3. John 14:6.

Mr. Thomas is Science Writer at the Institute for Creation Research.



Tree-Snacking Tanagers Undermine Darwin

Survival of the fittest has been a dominating tenet of Darwinian evolution. But a trio of colorful birds provides evidence that Darwin got it wrong when he suggested competition is the fundamental force that shapes nature. How do these birds dispute Darwin? By eating!

Three varieties of Trinidad tanagers share bugs on the same trees as they silently undermine natural selection survivalism. Without confrontations over resources, 1) speckled tanagers pick off bugs from tree leaves, 2) bay-headed tanagers prefer to eat bugs from under large branches, and 3) turquoise tanagers snap up bugs from twigs.¹

Illustrating what ecologists call *non-competitive niche positioning*, this tanager trio avoids antagonistic competition.¹ To appreciate how this peaceful prey sharing upsets the presumptions of Charles Darwin, Thomas Huxley, and their modern ilk, it's helpful to review why Darwin's ideas were welcomed so fervently by academics who scoffed at Genesis.

Generations before Darwin's natural selection theory became popular, deists—people who essentially believed in a God yet rejected the Bible—like Charles Lyell and James Hutton laid the groundwork for the acceptance of evolution's survivalism themes.

Both deists and Darwinists have misrepresented living conditions on Earth, yet they do so in opposite ways. Deists err on the “see no evil” extreme, underestimating the fallenness of creation.² Darwinists, however, overemphasize “conquer or be conquered” survivalism—even nominating death as nature's hero and means of progress instead of recognizing it as the terrible “last enemy” to be destroyed.³ Both extremes misrepresent nature. The true portrayal of nature's condition is found in Scripture, starting in Genesis, a Mosaic book Christ endorsed (John 5:44-47).

The deists' approach produces worthwhile observations of natural beauty, orderliness, and efficiency but fails to account for how Earth “groans” after Eden.² What about birds that peck other birds to death while fighting over food and territory? That's not

beautiful! In the first half of the 1800s, deism failed to explain such competition, so many sought a humanistic theory that explained Earth's uglier features—disease, deprivation, dying—without resorting to God's revelation in Genesis.

Enter Charles Darwin's magic mechanism of natural selection—an animistic theory that often uses the alias “survival of the fittest.”

Darwin and his followers imagined the global ecosystem as a closed fight-to-the-death arena swarming with vicious creatures scrapping for limited resources. In a one-sum game (“red in tooth and claw,”⁴ adopting a phrase from Tennyson to fit Darwin's theory), gain by one competitor meant loss to another. This selfish competition was heralded as nature's law, so explaining wildlife interactions soon required interpretations based on that brutal assumption.²

But real-world data often refuse to fit the evolutionary paradigm. Like today, uncooperative data were routinely dismissed and ignored during the 1800s and 1900s.⁵

Even more embarrassing to Darwin's theory than a lack of wasteful competition is the reality of *mutual aid*, also called *mutualistic symbiosis*, where different life forms help each other, such as algae and fungus coexisting as lichen or bees pollinating the flowers from which they harvest nectar. Like noncompetitive eco-niche positioning,¹ mutual aid doesn't harmonize with Darwin's antagonistic competition “song,” so mutual reciprocity (and self-sacrificing altruism) displays are also censured from or marginalized by science curricula.⁶

Consequently, field studies are often skewed by researchers quickly jumping to conclusions to emphasize antagonistic survivalism—as if natural law always requires competition.

Even today, modern Darwinians, lauding mystical natural selection, trumpet creation's fallenness as Earth's foremost feature while they discard or disparage the historical documentation that God provided in Genesis



Speckled tanager



Bay-headed tanager



Turquoise tanager

regarding what triggered Earth's fallenness.

Meanwhile, creatures like tree-snacking Trinidad tanagers make a mockery of Darwinian dogma as they peaceably share food. ☸

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- Whitfield, P., P. D. Moore, and B. Cox. 1989. *The Atlas of the Living World*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 100-101.
- Deists believe in an intelligent Creator God, so they expect Him to make a perfect creation. However, because they dismiss the Bible, they philosophically imagine what a perfect God would do with His creation—assuming they know how a perfect God would think and act. Accordingly, deists are quick to recognize God's caring handiwork in nature; they see orderliness, logic, beauty, and many good things. See Johnson, J. J. S. 2010. Misreading Earth's Groanings: Why Evolutionists and Intelligent Design Proponents Fail Ecology 101. *Acts & Facts*, 39 (8): 8-9.
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Planned Leaving vs. Lifetime Giving

Recently, I was working with a supporter when he asked me an interesting question. “Brother Morris, do you believe planned giving is really giving at all?” My initial thought was “Yes, of course.” But the more I thought on this, the more I realized the answer is not that simple.

Obviously, gifts we make during our lifetime represent a purposeful and voluntary separation from some of our resources. Planned gifts, on the other hand, represent a purposeful but *involuntary* separation from our possessions after we can no longer use them. With the former, your possessions are voluntarily leaving you. With the latter, you are involuntarily leaving whatever possessions remain. With one you are truly *giving* from what you have, while with the other you are *leaving* the leftovers. From this perspective, a major difference emerges between the two.

Please don’t misunderstand me. Planned gifts are tremendously helpful, and they are often among the largest ICR receives. But in my experience, many people who plan to leave behind something for the Kingdom could make most of those gifts while they are still living and able to enjoy giving them. With all the counsel in the Bible about the proper focus on our possessions (e.g., Proverbs 3:9-10; Mark 10:17-22) and the great blessings that await those who use them for God’s work (e.g., Philippians 4:17), it is puzzling why believers don’t do all the giving they can to “lay up... treasures in heaven” while they are still here on Earth (Matthew 6:19-21).

It seems people have several reasons for planned *leaving* instead of lifetime *giving*. For one, it is striking how often believers work with unbelieving advisors who seldom make charitable giving a central focus in their planning considerations (and may oppose it if their future income is reduced). It is far too easy to simply earmark a future gift in an estate plan—it requires no sacrifice or any real strategic planning to maximize our impact for Christ. After all, with planned leaving

you are not really giving anything away.

Second, uncertainty is a powerful impediment to giving during our lifetimes. Some believers worry that they might give too much and won’t have enough for later in life, but I have never heard of anyone who gave themselves into poverty. In fact, Jesus’ teachings in Matthew 6:25-34 make it clear this is not possible for the born-again Christian who “seek[s] first the kingdom of God.” But fear, enhanced by an innate sinful nature inclined towards covetousness (Luke 12:15), often dampens our ability to joyfully and generously give to the Lord’s work during our lives. As such, planned leaving can be a practical manifestation of the fear and lack of trust in God to “supply all [our] need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:19).

Moreover, the manner in which we use our God-given resources is affected by the urgency of our heavenly perspective. Believers who are not passionately engaged in doing something with eternal value will see little difference between lifetime giving now versus planned leaving later. Either way, the purifying fires of Christ’s judgment seat will one day “test each one’s work, of what sort it is,” and only those activities built on His sure foundation will endure and receive a reward in eternity (1 Corinthians 3:13-14).

In the end, the best giving approach calls for a balance between the two, first on bountiful and cheerful “sowing” during life (2 Corinthians 9:6-7) followed by the purposeful leaving of whatever might remain. But only gifts made during our lifetimes provide us with the added blessing of seeing the increase God will produce for the cause of Christ (1 Corinthians 3:6-7). So, if we can willingly trust God for our eternity, surely we can trust Him to take care of us while we support worthy Christian ministries doing His work on Earth. ✍

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



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So many evangelists do not realize that a person's "education" can be a stumbling block for one's ability or willingness to hear and accept the gospel. ICR and other [organizations] like it filled in the gaps of missing knowledge and understanding that I had after years of university studies in the biological sciences. Along with a strong desire to find real truth, everything makes much more sense to me now, including the gospel of Jesus Christ. Thank you for your ministry.

— S. F.

Your radio program *Science, Scripture & Salvation* led me to accept the Bible as totally infallible.

— R. P.

f Facebook comment

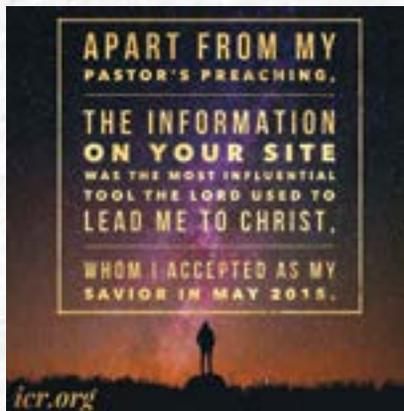
That's the verse that helped win me to Christ—Haggai 1:9 [quoted in *Holey Bags*, April *Acts & Facts*]! What an image God gives in those verses.

— R. R.

Instagram comments

Amen, God bless your ministry. It's invaluable for witnessing to the unbeliever, and it also serves to strengthen the faith of the believer as well.

— C. F. C.



I work with New Tribes Mission at a training institute here in the beautiful country of Colombia. I first became aware of the *Unlocking the Mysteries of Genesis* [DVD] series at our home church in Redding, CA. Our church [places] a solid emphasis on teaching the Word in an expository way. This series is so good that our church leaders decided to give one Sunday evening a month during a year to view it with the entire congregation.

My wife and I are sent out by that church to teach at New Horizons Bible and missionary institute here in Colombia. I immediately contacted ICR about the availability of the series in Spanish. We are using it here in the process of training tomorrow's evangelical leaders from a cross-section of students that come from six different countries. The production is excellent. Thank you so much for all you are doing for the church of the Lamb and for the glory of the King!

— W. S.

[Editors Note: Our 2nd edition *Unlocking the Mysteries of Genesis* has subtitles in English, Spanish, Chinese, and Korean.]

I didn't come to Christ until age 50 and was so entrenched in evolution so I thought holding to the gap theory was a big step. Until a friend 5 or 6 years ago suggested I subscribe [to *Acts & Facts*]. Such error I was in. Anyway, thank you for teaching me that if I don't believe Genesis 1 I need to check myself. I did. Saw a hummingbird today. That tiny, tiny bird who works so hard. Oh yes, He has revealed to us His mighty hand in such a small bird. It works so hard and He provides its nectar. My laziness in doctrine was the opposite. No more.

— S. S.

My evolution glasses obscured my vision. Now I see clearly. Well done, ICR—you're doing a great job. You assist in helping us defend the biblical worldview.

— S. W.

In reading today's *Days of Praise* [Reporting on the Parables, 3/26/16], the last verse (quoted below) really struck a chord with me. I often have friends and relatives who are not sure how "divine" the Scriptures really are as they see too many discrepancies. Your explanation below is one I will definitely keep in mind the next time someone challenges the Scriptures. Thanks very much for your daily readings and your faithfulness.

— P. M.

The doctrine of divine inspiration of the Scriptures (2 Timothy 3:16), however, applies not to the process but to the result. The Spirit of God was free to use the writer's own research, vocabulary, and style in reporting an event, so long as there were no factual errors or irrelevancies in the final result. In fact, such minor differences often give greater depth and credence to the reported event since they help in proving that the different writers were not in collusion but simply telling of a real event from different perspectives. Henry M. Morris



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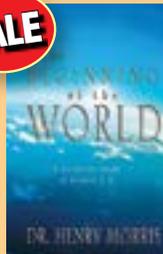
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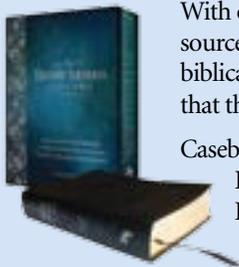
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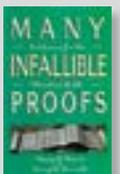
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