

# ACTS & FACTS

INSTITUTE FOR  
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VOL. 46 NO. 5

## Important *Mothers* in Scripture

page 5

A photograph of a woman with long brown hair in a ponytail, wearing a plaid shirt, and a young girl with brown hair, wearing a striped shirt, sitting on a white rug. They are both smiling and looking at an open book. The woman is pointing at the book with her right hand. The background is a warm, dimly lit room.

**Exploring Exo-planets**

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**Lucy Languishes as a Human-Ape Link**

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**Imaginary Junk DNA, Part 2**

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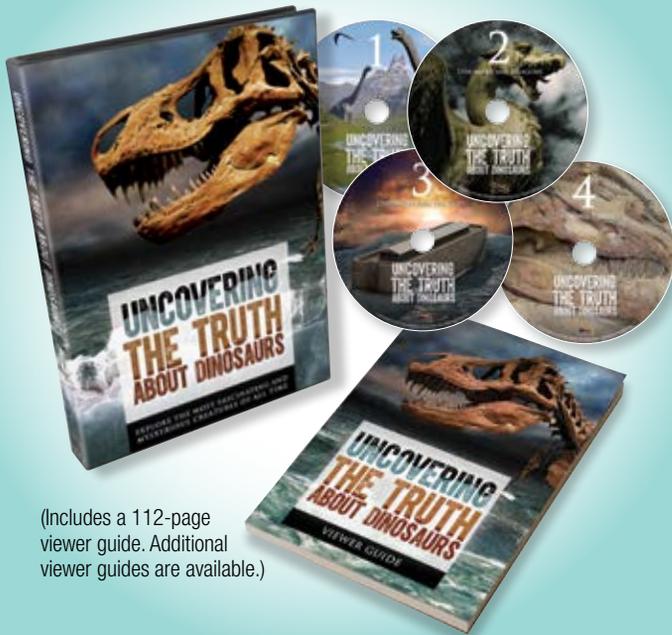
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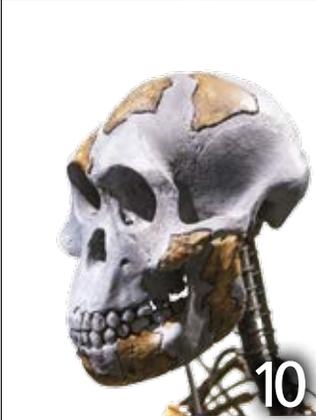
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# Moments in Time

A scarlet cord dropped from a window, laughter outside a tent, tears bathing a desperate prayer. These moments in time mark women who chose to follow God. As I read about the mothers in Dr. Henry Morris III’s feature article this month, I thought about how we remember each of these women from single events in their lives (“Important Mothers in Scripture,” pages 5-8).

Eve physically walked in the Garden with her Creator—something none of us have been privileged to do—and yet, we remember her for the sinful choice that impacted humanity and the rest of creation. Rahab invited the spies of Israel into her house, demonstrating her decision to follow the God of Israel. Hannah trusted God and urgently prayed at the tabernacle gate, unconcerned about what others thought of her. Abigail boldly did the right thing for her household, knowing she would face the wrath of a harsh husband. These mothers not only touched their children’s lives, they impacted their world.

As mothers today, we are here for God’s special purposes. While we can’t pass down stories to our children about walking in the Garden of Eden with our Creator, we have countless opportunities to influence their precious lives. Mothers hold a unique position to directly impact the children God places in their care for a brief time.

I remember hearing my grandmother and my mother say, “First things first.” Meaning, put the important things ahead of the rest. Address the most significant issues before moving on to other matters. This holds true in teaching our children about creation. It’s easier to teach our children about creation if they know their Creator before we delve into the details of dinosaurs and DNA.

Mothers hold their children’s hands when they are young, and

there’s no better time to lead them to the throne of God. We do that by showing them what Christ is like as we sit in our homes and walk through life with them (see Deuteronomy 6:7-9). When we pour out God’s love to them and demonstrate Christ-like behavior when no one else sees, they will want to know more about our Creator—that’s when they’ll be receptive to God’s Word. If we demonstrate grace within our homes, they’ll want to know God’s greater grace. Then we can effectively teach them the truths of the Bible, starting with how He created us to be like Him: “So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them” (Genesis 1:27).

We remember the Shunammite woman by her love for her child. Dr. Morris says, “Love—particularly motherly love—does not have a monetary or cultural boundary... Things, or the lack thereof, do not replace the mother’s heart cry” (page 7). We see persevering love and an intense faith in God in this woman, the mother who did not panic in the face of tragedy.

Do you wonder what moments your children will remember? Will it be an event like Eve experienced when she chose to sin and grieve the Creator of the universe? Or will it be an act of boldness in life-threatening circumstances? Or desperate, tearful prayers? Will your children think about how you depended on your gracious Provider? As we see in the Bible, God used faithful mothers and struggling mothers alike. Each day is an opportunity to point to the Creator as you build lasting memories for your children, moment by moment.

**Jayme Durant**  
EXECUTIVE EDITOR





Several women are given recognition in Scripture. Some are recognized in unusual ways for traits of a mother's heart seldom given much thought. This Mother's Day might be a good time to learn from a few of them.

# Important *Mothers* in Scripture

## **Eve, Mother of All Living**

Biblically, Eve is most known for her sin. But God forgave Eve. She lived for centuries and gave birth to many “sons and daughters” (Genesis 5:4), although the rest of her life was dominated by this initial fall from perfection that set the stage for Satan to deceive “the whole world” (Revelation 12:9). The Bible admonishes us to learn from her being deceived by our “adversary the devil” (1 Peter 5:8). I have little doubt we will meet her in eternity and learn much from the “mother of all living” (Genesis 3:20).

## **Sarah, Mother of Nations**

The life of Sarai, Abram's wife from Ur of the Chaldees, is given a lot of ink in Genesis 16–18. Early on, she is portrayed as impatient, angry, and selfish, particularly in re-

## Important *Mothers* in Scripture

gard to her servant Hagar, who Sarai insisted should bear Abram a child in her name. Much could be said to justify Sarai during those early decades of their married life, but the truth is she struggled with her own faith regarding the promise that she would bear a promised heir who would be the head of a great nation.

As the plans of God materialized, however, God changed her name to demonstrate His favor. And the Hall of Faith cites her great faith, her ability to see the future fulfillment of God's promises (Hebrews 11:11), and her willingness to obey Abraham to such a degree that she became the classic example of the biblical submission required of a godly wife (1 Peter 3:6).

### **Rebekah, Mother of Israel**

Abraham and Sarah gave birth to Isaac, whose wife, Rebekah, was selected for him by Abraham's servant. Rebekah gave birth to Jacob and Esau, of whom God specified that "the older

shall serve the younger" before the boys were even born (Genesis 25:23; Romans 9:10-13).

Both Isaac and Rebekah knew of this specific prophecy, yet Isaac chose to ignore God's choice and was ready to cede the blessing of the head of the family—and more importantly, the charge to carry out the plans God had invested in Abraham for the unique Israel and Messiah to come—to Esau, the godless "man of the field." Rebekah and Jacob were faced with a backslidden Isaac and the horrible thought of deceiving him so the prophecy of God would be honored and not profaned through Esau.

Both Rebekah and Jacob made the sacrifice to follow God's plan. She prevented her husband from making a mistake that would have no doubt brought the judgment of God down on Isaac's head almost immediately. In fact, when Isaac finally did realize what he had almost done, he "trembled exceedingly" (Genesis 27:33).

Rebekah was a bold and righteous woman who gave up much to protect her husband and implement the known plan of God for her household.

### **Rahab of Jericho**

Rahab might not be generally remembered as a mother, but that is what the Lord remembers her for. Most of us know the saga of Jericho and the two spies. Joshua sent them out to survey the territory and "especially Jericho" (Joshua 2:1). They lodged in Rahab's brothel. Back then, Jericho worshiped the moon goddess Ashtoreth, a cult that had religious fertility rites. The brothel was not the place for the common folk to

Little did she know who she would become, but God placed her in the Messianic line. She had to be bold enough to recognize the true God and make a public confession that cost the livelihood that provided for herself and many of her family. Thank God for "sinners" like Rahab.

go but rather for the more wealthy and city leaders—a perfect place to find out information about the state of affairs in Jericho.

Indeed, that is just what happened. Rahab had heard how the "terror of you has fallen on us, and that all the inhabitants of the land are fainthearted because of you" (Joshua 2:9). She was willing to hide them from the king and his assassins and to beg asylum in Israel, "for the LORD your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath" (Joshua 2:11). She was a brave lady. Not only was she willing to risk her own life to switch sides, but she believed God to the extent that she included her family in her request and must have persuaded them to follow her in her conversion.

Later, after the city was taken, she married Salmon and became the mother of Boaz, the father of Obed, who sired Jesse, the father of King David. Little did she know who she would become, but God

placed her in the Messianic line. She had to be bold enough to recognize the true God and make a public confession that cost the livelihood that provided for herself and many of her family. Thank God for "sinners" like Rahab.

### **Hannah, Samuel's Mother**

Childless for a long time, Hannah came to the tabernacle and prayed earnestly for a child. So intense was her petition that old Eli the priest thought she was drunk and tried to shoo her away. But God heard her prayer and gave her Samuel to love and prepare for service to God.

Hannah cared for Samuel during infancy and childhood, and when the time came to fulfill her promise to God to give Samuel to Him, she joyfully took the young boy to Eli and dedicated him to the Lord's service for the remainder of his life. No doubt other mothers have felt the double-sided angst of joy and sorrow

at watching a young son enter the full-time service of the Lord. There were better-paying jobs back then as well as now, but Hannah knew the greater good and deeper joy of giving what was most costly to her over to the Lord for His use in the Kingdom (1 Samuel 3:19-21).

### **Abigail**

Abigail was married to Nabal, a fool and a "son of Belial" (1 Samuel 25:17, KJV). Abigail was a "woman of good understanding and beautiful appearance," but her husband was "harsh and evil in his doings" (1 Samuel 25:3). David lived the life of a Robin Hood outlaw for several years and had protected Nabal and his enterprise for some time. David needed supplies for his growing army and sent messengers to Nabal to request help. Nabal refused and sent the messengers packing with insults as well as empty supply wagons.

David expected provisions from Nabal and reacted hotly to the insults, planning to attack Nabal and take by force what he should have had by right of territorial protection. Abigail got wind of the plan, took matters into her own hands, and outfitted a supply train to send to David in an effort to forestall the attack. When the supplies arrived, Abigail (already under risk from her husband), bravely confronted David and begged him “from avenging yourself with your own hand” (1 Samuel 25:26). With the passion and intensity of a bold woman, she persuaded David away from a bloody battle.

David listened to Abigail and stopped the attack. Nabal died from a stroke when he heard that he almost lost his life to David, and Abigail married David, giving him his second son, Chileab (2 Samuel 3:3). Apparently, God was pleased with Abigail’s open defiance of her evil husband’s wickedness and rewarded her accordingly.

### **Widow of Zarephath, Mother in Poverty**

God told Elijah that He had commanded a widow (a pagan woman in a foreign territory) to sustain him while the drought prophesized by Elijah against Ahab continued (1 Kings 17). The widow was very poor and had nothing of substance, “only a handful of flour in a bin, and a little oil in a jar” (1 Kings 17:12). She and her young son were preparing to eat their last meal together, then wait to die.

Elijah, nonetheless, asked for bread. She fed him with apparent deference for his position as a prophet. The promise from Elijah was that if she would trust God’s word, God would make the flour and the oil last long enough to sustain all of them until the drought was over.

As promised, the flour and oil continued. But one day, the young son fell sick and died. That proved too much for the widow, and she began to rail at Elijah as the cause of her distress. (How often have we done such

a thing?) However, Elijah prayed and the son was revived, restoring both the son’s life and the widow’s faith. Sometimes the Lord tests us to the breaking point—just to strengthen our faith so that it won’t break again.

### **Preacher’s Widow**

This is a story that is far too familiar among pastor’s families. After long service, a faithful prophet (an Old Testament “pastor”) died and left his family without any visible means of support. The creditors were coming to take his widow’s two sons for indentured servants (that was legal back then). She came to the prophet Elisha for help, telling him she had nothing in the house but

Elijah prayed and the son was revived, restoring both the son’s life and the widow’s faith. Sometimes the Lord tests us to the breaking point—just to strengthen our faith so that it won’t break again.

one pot of oil (2 Kings 4:2). He told her to go out into her city and borrow all the pots and pans she could find among her neighbors, and when she had done her best, to shut herself and her sons in her house and begin pouring the oil from her pot into the pots and pans of her neighbors.

She did as instructed, and when all the pots and pans were filled to the brim, she was told to sell the oil and live off the proceeds (2 Kings 4:1-7). Many a sermon has been preached from this little story. Some suggest that the widow didn’t have enough faith to borrow more pots, implying that she could have gained a better “retirement” if she had just had a better relationship with her neighbors. But most simply note that God will supply our needs (as promised in Philippians 4:19)—sometimes in ways that we don’t expect.

### **The Great Shunammite Woman**

Elisha traveled a good bit. Often he would go by the home of a “notable wom-

an” who suggested to her husband that they “make a small upper room on the wall” that Elisha could use whenever he came (2 Kings 4:8-10). In gratefulness for the favor, Elisha asked the lady if he could do something for her in return, to which she replied that she was okay and didn’t need anything.

But Elisha’s servant, Gehazi, learned that she did not have children, so Elisha interceded for her, and she became pregnant with a son. After a few years, the young child was struck with a blazing headache and quickly died. The notable woman did not panic but went as fast as she could to Elisha and begged for his help. Urgently, Elisha sent Gehazi to put his staff on the child’s chest, then went with the Shunammite lady to her home and spent a long time interceding for the child before God. Finally, the child revived and was given back into his mother’s arms (2 Kings 4:8-37).

The intensity of this event is full of applications. But the mother’s heart of this woman is certainly worth recognizing. Love—particularly mother love—does not have a monetary or cultural boundary. The wealthy mother loves just as deeply as the poor mother. Things (or the lack thereof) do not replace the mother’s heart cry.

### **Elizabeth, Older Mother**

Elizabeth was the mother of John the Baptist. She was childless well up into her senior years, and when her husband, Zacharias, told her of the vision he had while serving in the temple, she knew that this son was going to be a gift from God. Obviously, pregnancy at her age would be very unusual, but coming as it did directly as a result of the personal message from Gabriel, Elizabeth was prepared to do everything in her power to follow the instructions they were given.

Once the young Mary heard her own miraculous message from Gabriel, Elizabeth recognized the “mother of my Lord” immediately when Mary arrived on a visit

## Important *Mothers* in Scripture

from Nazareth (Luke 1:43). For about three months, Elizabeth did her best to mentor young Mary and prepare her with an understanding from the Scriptures regarding what they both could expect from their miraculous sons.

Elizabeth offers us a godly example, not just in the acceptance of the physically dangerous pregnancy that she herself would undergo, but in the gracious time spent with another “special” mother-to-be to help her with what would eventually become a horrific series of events for both of them. In a similar fashion, Paul told young Timothy to have the “older women” teach the “young women” how to be good homemakers and faithful wives and mothers in their own homes (Titus 2:3-5).

### Mary, Young Virgin Teen

Mary, the young lady God chose to bear the human body of our Lord Jesus, was most certainly a simple girl from a righteous family who was raised to willingly submit to the Word of God and follow the leading of

her parents—and ultimately the leading of her husband-to-be.

As was often the case among Jewish families of that era, Mary probably knew she was engaged to Joseph, but as was the custom had not even come to the courting stage of their marriage when Gabriel appeared to her. Everything about that vision was outside of her experience and expectations. Yet, she was willing to do whatever God required of her once she confirmed that the messenger was indeed the Gabriel whom she had heard about from the family’s regular Scripture readings and household teachings. She quickly went to her godly relative Elizabeth for counsel and advice. Those months with her must have been very precious to young Mary.

The faithful and godly Elizabeth knew who and what her son would be and helped Mary with much we will probably never know about until we get to hear her testimony in heaven at the great Marriage Feast. Mary pondered during the approximately 30 years she had her son at home with her.

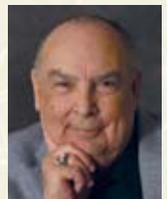
But when the time came for Him to enter His public ministry, there is no evidence that she had ever tried to change His destiny or give Him anything but encouragement for the many trials that would come in the years ahead.

This young teen mother is one of the more godly and gracious examples recorded in the Bible for young girls to follow. One day we will all be able to thank her for her sacrifice and see the honor God will grant her in eternity.

### Mother’s Day and Mother’s Heart

As we honor our earthly mothers this month, may we also give thanks to the Creator who made the unique female nature that reflects the complete and pure love of God for His children (1 John 4:19). ✨

*Dr. Morris is Chief Executive Officer of the Institute for Creation Research. He holds four earned degrees, including a D.Min. from Luther Rice Seminary and an MBA from Pepperdine University.*



## EVENTS

## M A Y

MAY  
11-13

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MAY  
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Tampa, FL  
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MAY  
25-27

Kissimmee, FL  
Florida Parent-Educators Association  
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MAY  
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# Exploring

## Exo-planets

In the last two decades, astronomers have discovered over 3,000 planets orbiting other stars. These are called *extra-solar planets*, or exo-planets, and they've caused a lot of excitement and speculation. What do we really know about these distant planets, and what is their significance for biblical creation?

Astronomers long suspected that stars might have orbiting planets just as the sun does. However, it's nearly impossible to observe something as small and faint as an exo-planet next to the bright glare of its host star. So, astronomers have relied primarily on indirect methods of discovery.

One method involves measuring the Doppler effect in the light of a star. This effect is the shift in the wavelength of light that occurs as the source approaches or recedes from an observer. As a planet orbits, it exerts a gravitational force on its star, causing the star to wobble slightly. Although these perturbations are tiny, astronomers have detected them by Doppler shifts in the star's light. This allows astronomers to deduce both the period and minimum mass of the orbiting planet.

More recently, astronomers have used the transiting method. If a planet passes directly between its star and the earth, then we perceive a slight drop in the star's brightness. This is called a *transit*. The change in brightness is extremely small, but it's detectable with modern technology. This method only works on star systems that are nearly edge-on relative to us. Otherwise, the planet would never cross in front of its star from our point of view. Nonetheless, astronomers have discovered many extra-solar planets



*For thus says the LORD, Who created the heavens, Who is God,  
Who formed the earth and made it, Who has established it,  
Who did not create it in vain, Who formed it to be inhabited:*

*"I am the LORD, and there is no other."*

( I S A I A H 4 5 : 1 8 )

with this technique.

The amount by which the star dims allows astronomers to estimate the planet's size. Combining this information with the mass estimate obtained from the recorded Doppler shift, astronomers can compute the approximate density of the planet. The density provides a basis for estimating its possible composition. In some cases, a slight change in the star's observed spectrum during the transit reveals the chemistry of the exo-planet's atmosphere.

Finally, in a handful of cases, astronomers have been able to image some extra-solar planets directly. This method involves blocking the light from the star in order to see the faint reflected light from the orbiting planets. In these cases, time-lapse images taken years apart allow us to observe the planets directly as they orbit their star.

Currently, we know virtually nothing about what extra-solar planets look like. We have very little information on their compo-

sition and can only roughly estimate their temperature. Astronomers will require advances in technology if we are to learn more about these distant worlds. What do we expect to find? Will we find life?

As biblical creationists, we predict extra-solar planets will manifest evidence of recent creation and defy secular age estimates. For example, we expect that many exo-planets will have evidence of strong magnetic fields. Since magnetic fields naturally decay on a timescale of thousands of years, such evidence would confirm biblical creation. We expect that some exo-planets will have internal heat like Jupiter and Neptune do. Such heat cannot be maintained over billions of years.

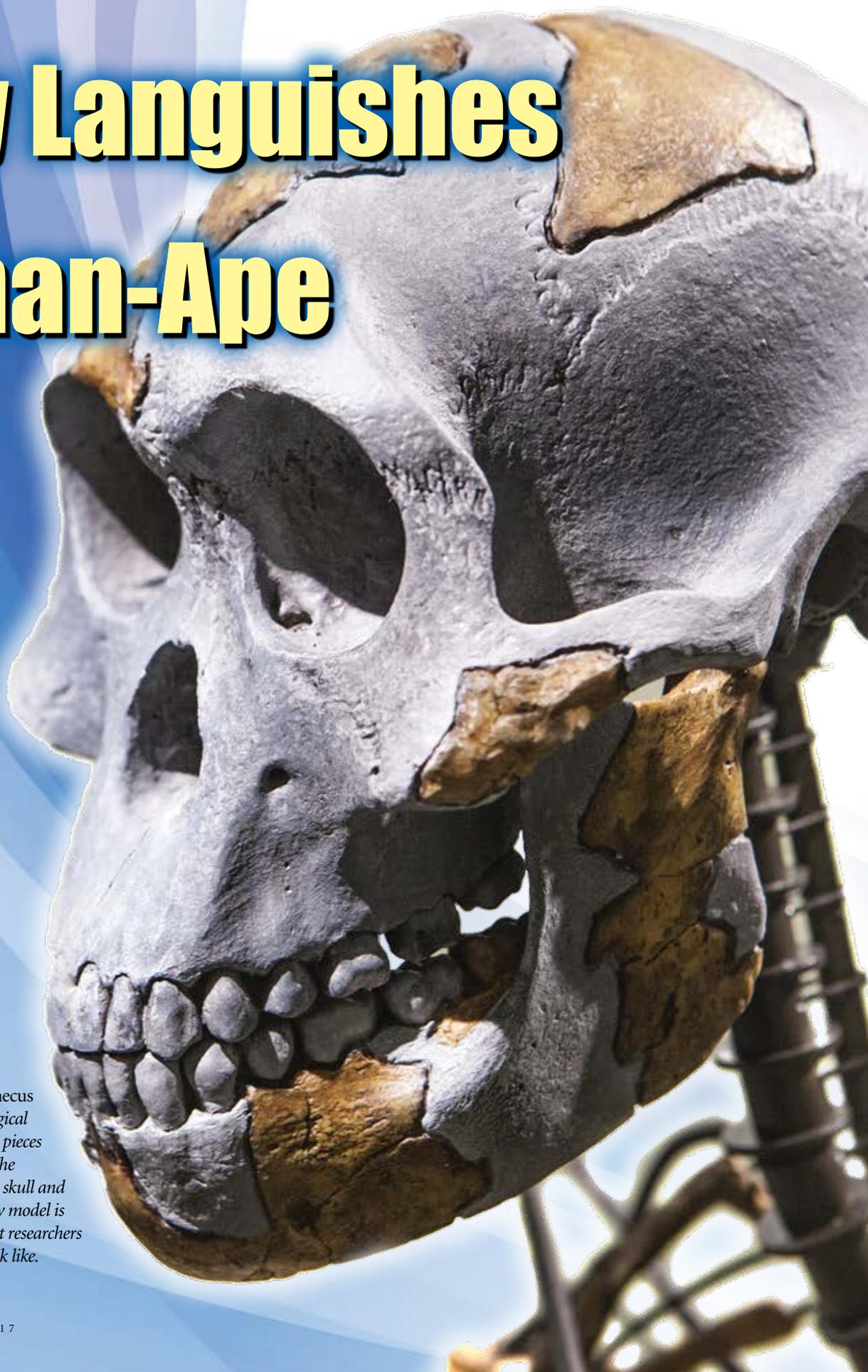
Furthermore, we expect diversity that challenges secular formation scenarios, such as gas giants that orbit very close to their stars. Astronomers have already detected such "hot Jupiters." We expect to find more of these and also other types of planets that do not readily fit the secular mold. We may find planets that orbit in a different plane from their host star's rotational plane, contrary to the predictions of the nebular hypothesis. We might find that some exo-planets even orbit their star backward, just as the Lord created some moons in our solar system that revolve retrograde. We predict that exo-planets will not have life because the earth seems to be unique in this respect (Isaiah 45:18). And we expect beauty and diversity because the heavens declare the glory of God (Psalm 19:1). ✨

*Dr. Lisle is Director of Physical Sciences at the Institute for Creation Research and earned his Ph.D. in astrophysics from the University of Colorado.*



# Lucy Languishes as a Human-Ape Link

*The famous Lucy skeleton, labeled a female Australopithecus afarensis (National Archeological Museum, Madrid). Only five pieces of the cranium were found. The brown pieces represent actual skull and jaw fossils, while the light gray model is essentially a rendition of what researchers believe Lucy's skull should look like.*



**H**uman evolution has consistently been shown to be without scientific or biblical merit. Although a parade of supposed transitions are displayed in every conceivable outlet, non-Darwinists maintain that the links between people and our alleged ape-like ancestors are—*missing*.

Perhaps the premier and most popular purported evolutionary relative of man is *Australopithecus afarensis*, or southern ape of Afar—better known as Lucy.<sup>1</sup> Several hundred pieces of fossilized bone were discovered in east Africa by paleoanthropologist Donald Johanson and graduate student Tom Gray in 1974.

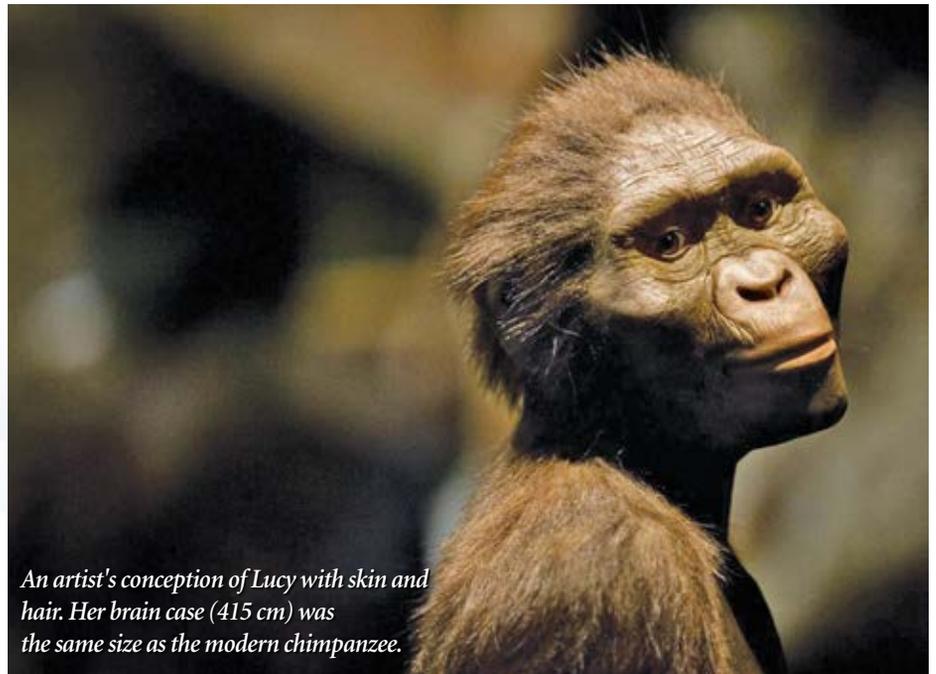
Lucy is dated by evolutionists to be 3.75 to 3 million years old, and evolutionists have stated her line “probably evolved directly from [*Australopithecus*] *anamensis*.”<sup>2</sup>

How are creationists to respond to this compelling creature that supposedly links us to non-human ancestors millions of years ago?

To begin with, many people are not aware of the subjectivity that is involved with piecing together shattered fossil remains. For example, two evolutionists stated in regard to Lucy:

The sacrum and the auricular region of the ilium are shattered into numerous small fragments, such that the original form is difficult to elucidate. Hence it is not surprising that the reconstructions by Lovejoy and Schmid show marked differences.<sup>3</sup>

Not only do these bone pieces have no dates on them, but no one can be absolutely sure they are even from the same individual. The pieces fit where the biased researcher would like them to go. Whatever fragments are missing must



*An artist's conception of Lucy with skin and hair. Her brain case (415 cm) was the same size as the modern chimpanzee.*

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be filled in with plaster of Paris and imagination.<sup>4</sup> This is certainly true with Lucy. Her bones are what would be expected on the basis of creation: “Lucy’s fossil remains match up remarkably well with the bones of a pygmy chimp.”<sup>5</sup>

Anatomical evidence shows this creature was ape-like with a nonhuman gait.<sup>6</sup>

V-shaped or ape-like, nothing like that of a human, who has a U-shaped mandible.

Her jaw was the wrong shape...I interpreted other things in her dentition [teeth] as primitive also, as pointing away from the human condition and back in the direction of apes...The larger jaws had some of those same primitive features.<sup>7</sup>

.....

**Not only do these bone pieces have no dates on them, but no one can be absolutely sure they are from the same individual. The pieces fit where the biased researcher would like them to go. Whatever fragments are missing must be filled in with plaster of Paris and imagination.**

.....

She knuckle-walked and climbed trees. Visitors to natural history museums, however, see a reconstructed creature behind the glass with a posture deceptively erect and humanlike. These displays show Lucy with an intelligent stare and skin color and hair added by an evolutionary artist who never saw her when she was alive and must guess the majority of her reconstructed features. Johanson agreed Lucy’s mandible (jaw) was

In spite of evidence “pointing back” to apes, Johanson was determined to see Lucy as a human ancestor. His bias is revealed by his interpretation of a single arm bone he discovered in the sand. He stated:

This time I knew at once I was looking at a hominid elbow. I had to convince Tom [Gray], whose first reaction was that it was a monkey’s. But that wasn’t hard to do.<sup>8</sup>

Other fossil fragments fail to fit the evolutionary picture. Lucy's shoulder blade was "virtually identical to that of a great ape and had a probability less than 0.001 of coming from the population represented by our modern human sample."<sup>9</sup>

Despite the displays of Lucy at the St. Louis, Missouri, zoo and the natural history museums of New York and London as having human feet and hands, she in reality had short, curved toe and finger bones.<sup>10</sup> (People have no curvature in these bones.) In addition, Lucy had a locking hand joint, while people are designed with a non-locking hand joint.

A chance discovery made by looking at a cast of the bones of "Lucy," the most famous fossil of *Australopithecus afarensis*, shows her wrist is stiff, like a chimpanzee's, Brian Richmond and David Strait of George Washington University in Washington, D.C., reported. This suggests that her ancestors walked on their knuckles.<sup>11</sup>

Recently, it was reported that Lucy "had an exceptionally powerful upper body, thanks to spending a lot of time climbing trees."<sup>12</sup>

Her brain case (415 cm) was not enlarged and was the same size as the common chimpanzee. Lucy's rib cage was conical-shaped (as found in apes), while humans have a barrel-shaped rib cage. As paleontologist Peter Schmid at the Anthropological Institute in Zurich, Switzerland, stated:

When I started to put the skeleton together, I expected it to look human. Everyone had talked about Lucy as being very modern, very human, so I was surprised by what I saw. I noticed that the ribs were more round in cross-section, more like what you see in apes. Human ribs are flatter in cross-section. But the shape of the rib cage itself was the biggest surprise of all. The human rib cage is barrel shaped, and I just couldn't get Lucy's ribs to fit this kind of shape. But I could get them to make a conical-shaped rib cage, like what you see in apes.<sup>13</sup>

Returning to the pelvis, evolutionists determined that Lucy was more likely a male due to the pelvis being heart-shaped and ridgeless.

Consequently, there is more evidence to suggest that AL288-1 was male rather

than female. A female of the same species as AL288-1 would have had a pelvis with a larger sagittal diameter and a less protruding sacral promontorium.... It would perhaps be better to change the trivial name to "Lucifer" according to the old roman god who brings light



The Lucy display at the American Museum for National History in New York.

“But the shape of the rib cage itself was the biggest surprise of all. The human rib cage is barrel shaped, and I just couldn’t get Lucy’s ribs to fit this kind of shape. But I could get them to make a conical-shaped rib cage, like what you see in apes.”

after the dark night, because with such a pelvis “Lucy” would apparently have been the last of her species.<sup>14</sup>

Why are hominids like Lucy depicted as walking upright? Even evolutionists admit that “the origin of bipedalism, the key event in the evolution of hominids, remains a mystery.”<sup>15</sup> Regardless, because a half-femur and half-pelvis were found, evolutionists maintain Lucy walked upright, which they consider evidence that it was on the evolutionary road to people (*Homo sapiens*). But is upright walking *the* litmus test for the chimp-to-man transition? Non-Darwinists maintain that the bonobo (*Pan paniscus*) of today walks upright perhaps 10% of the time but this hardly means it is our ancestor. In fact, there has been some disagreement over just how “modern” the bipedalism of Lucy was.<sup>16</sup> A recent study suggested:

Even when Lucy walked upright, she may have done so less efficiently than modern humans, limiting her ability to

walk long distances on the ground.<sup>17</sup>

And just a decade after Lucy’s discovery, evolutionist Charles Oxnard showed the issue of australopithecine locomotion to be irrelevant to any human evolutionary story.

The australopithecines...are now irrevocably removed from a place in the evolution of human bipedalism, possibly from a place in a group any closer to humans than to African apes and certainly from any place in the direct human lineage.<sup>18</sup>

*Australopithecus*, the group to which Lucy belongs, means “southern ape,” and creationists maintain that’s exactly what these dozens of fossilized bone pieces were. As far as can be determined, Lucy was an extinct ape. People, on the other hand, were created in God’s image, just as the Bible says (Genesis 1:27). ✂

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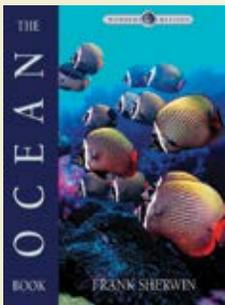
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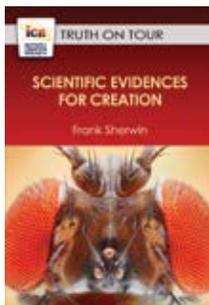
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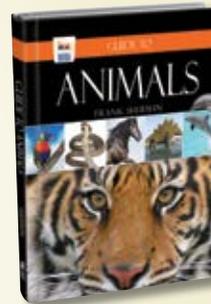
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# Pervasive Genome Function Debunks Junk DNA

The genome, the complete set of chromosomes in a cell, is like a computer hard drive that encodes the information stored in its DNA. Protein-coding genes are segments of DNA carrying instructions for making proteins. These segments are copied (transcribed) into RNA in a temporary fashion, just like copies of software programs are put into temporary memory on a computer. These temporary RNA instructions are then used as templates to make proteins.

laboratories around the world integrated numerous large-scale data sets to ascertain function for lncRNAs in the human genome.<sup>6</sup> The project's goal was to find multiple lines of evidence for function that overlapped with lncRNA genes in the genome. In doing so, researchers identified over 19,000 lncRNA genes with multiple indicators of function. Interestingly, many of these genes had functional characteristics that were also directly associated with protein-coding genes, in which they likely play some regulatory and interactive role.

In the evolutionary paradigm, the incredible complexity of the genome is believed to have somehow evolved by random processes, and much of it is therefore thought to be nothing but useless evolutionary junk. The leading proponents of evolution are steeped in this type of speculation, called theoretical evolution, and have tried to play down recent discoveries of pervasive function across the genome. However, the biomedical genomics community is pragmatically focused on curing disease and is not nearly as limited by these naturalistic false presuppositions. Thanks to their

efforts, the incredible functionality of the entire genome and all of its seemingly infinite complex workings are glorifying the omnipotent Creator who made it all. ✨

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## The Design and Complexity of the Cell

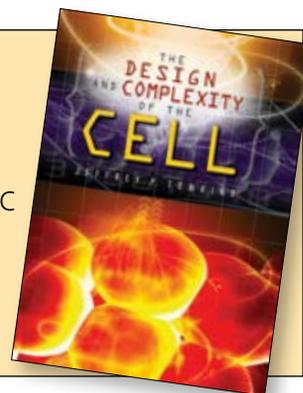
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As genomics technology advanced and studies became more comprehensive, scientists realized that protein-coding genes are only a portion of the genes transcribed into RNA. In fact, researchers have discovered that nearly the entire genome is transcribed.<sup>1,2</sup>

This idea of pervasive transcription led some scientists to call the genome an "RNA machine."<sup>3</sup> One significantly large component of this transcriptional landscape is produced from long non-coding RNAs (lncRNA), a diverse class of genes that do not code for proteins. These lncRNA genes, which outnumber protein-coding genes by at least two to one, perform a wide variety of functions in the cell.<sup>4,5</sup>

Because evolutionists didn't understand lncRNA gene function, they originally labeled much of the RNA produced from these genes as nothing but transcriptional noise and prematurely assigned their sequences the now-defunct label "junk DNA." A variety of these genes have since been investigated and found to have important functions,<sup>4,5</sup> although it has been difficult to assign specific function to many of the human lncRNAs. Even many protein-coding genes in humans still have unknown function because of the ethical limitations of doing laboratory research on human subjects. And human cells grown in the lab, which are commonly studied for RNA transcription from both protein and non-coding RNA genes, are not necessarily indicative of what goes on inside a living human being.

Despite the limitations on gene function research in humans, a new study was published in which a large team of researchers in

# Actual Feathers on Mystery Fossil Indicate “Bird”

Most people, when they see something new, quickly try to categorize it. They want to associate it with something familiar. They say, “That’s an odd piece of jewelry,” or “That’s a rock.” But getting careless with this generally helpful tendency can lead to error, like when the “jewelry” turns out to be a memory stick on a lanyard or the “rock” turns out to be a piece of man-made building material. So, what about people who categorize certain fossils as “feathered dinosaurs”? New descriptions of the Chinese fossil *Anchiornis* give reasons to rethink this popular categorization.

Scientists aimed violet lasers at eight representative *Anchiornis* fossils, causing remnants of the original tissues—not minerals—to glow in a dark room. This shed new light on the creature’s former soft parts, including its feathers and flesh.<sup>1</sup>

*Anchiornis* was the size of a chicken. Michael Pittman, a coauthor of the laser study, reported that the animal had “drumstick-shaped legs, a slender tail and an arm that looks just like a modern bird wing.”<sup>2</sup> Skin behind its forewings showed small, regularly spaced divots that the researchers identified as covert feather follicles. A few specimens revealed “pebble-shaped”<sup>1</sup> skin scales on toe pads that Pittman said “are just like chickens today.”<sup>2</sup> Scales covered its lower

legs and ankles “like modern birds.”<sup>1</sup>

The animal even had a flight-crucial propatagium—the elastic skin flap that runs along the wing’s leading edge to shape wings for flight. The study authors wrote, “The propatagia also suggest that *Anchiornis* could produce a relatively straight arm, a posture broadly found in many living gliding birds (for example, comorants [sic], albatrosses and pelicans).”<sup>1</sup>

But not all its features match modern birds. The most obvious differences are wings on its hind legs, and long tail. Do these features require researchers to fit it into a dinosaur category? Not necessarily.

With so many bird qualities, especially its feathers, shouldn’t these researchers categorize *Anchiornis* as a bird and not a dinosaur?<sup>3</sup> Perhaps some factor other than anatomy plays a role in calling these extinct creatures “dinosaurs.” One factor that comes to mind is the story that dinosaurs evolved into birds. Without actual fossils to illustrate that story, though, it sounds more like fantasy than fact.

In other words, we have clearly defined, anatomy-based categories for “bird” and “dinosaur,” but evolution needs a third, bird-dinosaur transition category. Even if feathered dinosaurs existed—and at this point evolutionists themselves disagree over all the feathered dinosaur candidates—they

would not necessarily represent these transitions. In fact, anatomy demands that dinosaurs did not evolve into birds. The required step-by-step transitional skeletal and other body changes would deliver an immobile monster.<sup>4</sup> *Anchiornis* may be a challenge to categorize, but it certainly fits no evolutionary category.

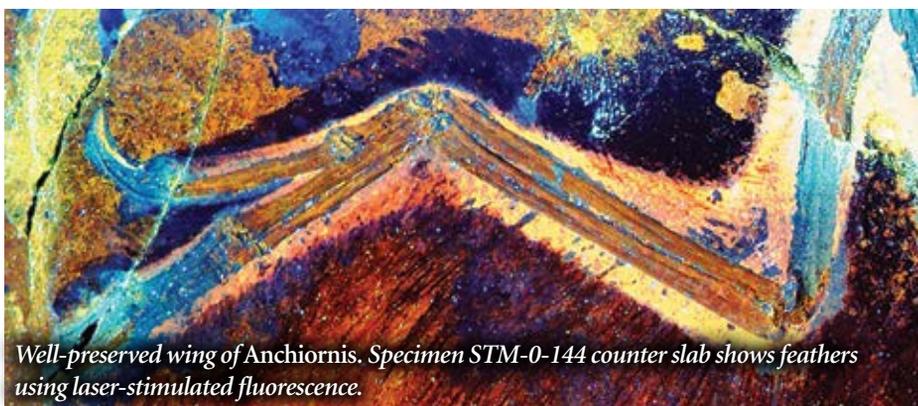
Why couldn’t God have made *Anchiornis* as a four-winged bird with a long tail? Its long tibia and drumstick-like legs show that *Anchiornis* could walk like today’s chickens. Bird paleontologist Alan Feduccia suggests that it used its wing-claws to climb trees.<sup>5</sup> Its fore and aft wings suggest that it could possibly glide through the air, too.<sup>6</sup> At least one modern bird climbs trees and glides to the ground today—the kakapo. This endangered New Zealand “flightless” parrot uses its wings for controlled descents.

Including *Anchiornis* among birds would widen the “bird” umbrella to include its odd but uniquely created features, perhaps in ways that scientists widened the “mammal” category—after almost a century of debate—to include the odd but unique platypus features. If *Anchiornis* best fits a bird category, then it was not a feathered dinosaur and thus cannot illustrate evolution. So far, *Anchiornis* as a four-winged tree-climber perches nearest the creation-friendly category of “bird.” ❧

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Well-preserved wing of *Anchiornis*. Specimen STM-0-144 counter slab shows feathers using laser-stimulated fluorescence.

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# EVOLUTIONISTS STRIKE OUT WITH IMAGINARY JUNK DNA

## PART 2



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

“**C**asey at the Bat” is one of America’s best-known poems. Surprisingly, even operas have dramatized the story of Mudville Nine’s baseball slugger. In Ernest Thayer’s 1888 poem, a smugly overconfident Casey was ready to wallop a game-winning home run, only to dash the hopes of Mudville by totally whiffing the ball with a massive—and embarrassing—swing-and-a-miss.

Last month's article outlined a similar situation for evolutionists.<sup>1</sup> For three decades, they overconfidently declared that the messiness of "junk DNA" confirms how nature exercises creative agency over organisms through evolutionary tinkering. These supposedly useless non-coding bits of genetic sequence were flaunted as leftovers of the evolutionary process. Now we'll see how the true facts about DNA are like a fastball blowing by evolutionists and exposing their overblown claim as a blundering swing-and-a-miss.

### Junk DNA Claims Are Stunningly Wrong

Akin to how evolutionists visualized evolutionary characteristics to validate Piltdown Man and vestigial appendixes—characteristics that research has shown only existed in their minds<sup>2</sup>—creationists maintain that hastily labeling any DNA as "junk" is another misguided flight of imagination. In 2006, Human Genome Project Director Francis Collins offered a coy taunt against that view:

Of course, some might argue that these ["junk DNA" sequences] are actually functional elements placed there by a Creator for a good reason, and our discounting them as "junk DNA" just betrays our current level of ignorance.<sup>3</sup>

His statement proved ironically predictive. By 2015, Collins admitted that a level of ignorance had indeed betrayed the consensus of evolutionists. Numerous discoveries showed functions for DNA once discounted as junk. One science reporter noted:

In January [2015], Francis Collins, the director of the National Institutes of Health, made a comment that revealed just how far the consensus has moved. At a health care conference in San Francisco, an audience member asked him about junk DNA. "We don't use that term anymore," Collins replied. "It was pretty much a case of hubris to imagine that we could dispense with any part of the genome—as if we knew enough to say it wasn't functional." Most of the DNA that scientists once thought was just taking up space in the genome, Collins said, "turns out to be doing stuff."<sup>4</sup>

Reviewing online reports from 1994 until today reveals how espousing notions of junk DNA is simply ill-informed. These carry titles such as "Hidden Treasures in Junk DNA"; "Junk RNA molecule found to play key role in cellular response to stress"; "Not 'junk' anymore: Obscure DNA has key role in stroke damage"; "Junk? All That Separates Humans From Chimps"; "The Unseen Genome: Gems among the Junk"; "Live Chat: New Treasures in the Genome"; "Far From 'Junk,' DNA Dark Matter Proves Crucial to Health"; "Breakthrough study overturns theory of 'junk DNA' in genome."

Thus, for scientists motivated to cure disease, searching DNA for jewels among the "junk" is valuable. Recently, "researchers have shown that when parts of a genome known as enhancers are missing, the heart works abnormally, a finding that bolsters the importance of DNA segments once considered 'junk' because they do not code for specific proteins."<sup>5</sup> And an MIT report noted that "several years ago, biologists discovered a new type of genetic material known as long noncoding RNA...[in] sections of the genome once believed to be 'junk DNA.' Now, in a related study, biologists have discovered how an enigmatic type of RNA helps to control cell fate."<sup>6</sup>

Once again, research has uncovered newly demonstrated function for biological objects that evolutionists simply declared to be nonfunctional—as if a lack of knowledge of functionality somehow equated to basic evidence that established non-functionality.

### Are Tandem Repeats and Pseudogenes Really Junk?

Several reports by ICR geneticist Jeffrey Tomkins cataloged functions for DNA that was considered junk. In regard to repetitive DNA called *tandem repeats* (TRs), Tomkins explained:

Because human reasoning essentially views the repetition of words in spoken languages as errors, these DNA sequences were first written off as meaningless junk.... Now it appears nothing could be further from the truth since these repetitive words are linked with pervasive biochemical function.<sup>7</sup>

Tomkins reported on one group of researchers that approached TRs supposing they actually had a purpose. They concluded, "Our results suggest that there are potentially thousands of TR variants in the human genome that exert functional effects via alterations of local gene expression or epigenetics."<sup>8</sup>

Evolutionists have touted *pseudogenes*—supposedly non-functional vestiges of currently functional genes—as junk. Tomkins wrote:

Pseudogenes were once thought to be genomic fossils—the broken remnants of genes that mutated long ago. However, research is progressively showing that many pseudogenes are highly functional and critical to life. Now, a newly characterized pseudogene has been shown to produce a functional protein, but only in cells where it is required—leading researchers to coin a new term *pseudo-pseudogene*.<sup>9</sup>

Tomkins described how the concept of pseudogenes "was based on an over-simplistic view and a lack of advanced information about the complexity of protein production" and "how looking at the genome as a product of evolution hinders scientific discovery."<sup>9</sup>

One massive research project, dubbed ENCODE, examined non-coding DNA for function. Discoveries published in 2012 identified biochemical functions for about 80% of the genome. Tom-



kins summed up:

Results from 30 simultaneously published high-profile research papers [proclaim] that the human genome is irreducibly complex and intelligently designed. From an evolutionary perspective, this is yet another massive blow to the myth of “Junk DNA.” This evolutionary idea was exposed as a fraud from a scientific perspective in Jonathan Well’s recent book *The Myth of Junk DNA*.<sup>10</sup>

Further, Tomkins noted, “And what about the remaining 20 percent of the genome—is it functional too?” It’s probably not worthless either. Tomkins added that the lead analysis coordinator commented, “It’s likely that 80 percent will go to 100 percent....We don’t really have any large chunks of redundant DNA. This metaphor of junk isn’t that useful.”<sup>11</sup>

### Rage and Bullying for a Hopeless Cause

Science reporter Carl Zimmer described one scientist’s professional reaction to the idea that junk DNA is an invalid concept:

When the N.I.H.’s [National Institutes of Health] official Twitter account relayed Collins’s claim about not using the term “junk DNA” anymore, Michael Eisen, a professor at the University of California, Berkeley, tweeted back with a profanity.<sup>12</sup>

The rising tide of public denunciations of the concept of junk DNA by scientists evoked some high-profile anger from a few evolutionary biologists, notably Dan Graur of the University of Houston in Texas, T. Ryan Gregory from the University of Guelph in Ontario, Larry Moran at the University of Toronto, and some others. Zimmer added, “To these biologists, a fully efficient genome would be inconsistent with the arbitrariness of our genesis....Where some look at all those billions of bases and see a finely tuned machine, others, like Gregory, see a disorganized, glorious mess.”<sup>12</sup>

Biology declared to be a “glorious mess”—and not neatly designed—is cherished evidence for those who embrace deadly struggles as the fuel for biological change.

Graur understood the negative implications for evolutionary theory if people learned that the idea of junk DNA was an evolutionary swing-and-a-miss. So, he published harsh public attacks against ENCODE research teams in peer-reviewed evolutionary literature. In one paper meant to shame ENCODE researchers into recanting the conclusion that most of the genome had function, he declared:

This absurd conclusion was reached through various means, chiefly by employing the seldom used “causal role” definition of biological function...by committing a logical fallacy... [and] by failing to appreciate the crucial difference between

“junk DNA” and “garbage DNA.”<sup>13</sup>

Some interpreted his attacks as nitpicking over the definition of “function” and quibbling about his arbitrary DNA “junkiness” scale.

“In the social-media age, scientific disagreements can quickly become public—and vitriolic,” the science journal *Nature* reported regarding ENCODE’s new “framework for quantifying the functional parts of the human genome,” which clarified their finding “that 80% of the genome is biochemically functional”...and they narrated Graur’s abruptly hostile reaction.<sup>14</sup> He “weighed in on this latest report,” saying:

ENCODE’s “stupid claims” from 2012 have finally come to back to [sic] “bite them in the proverbial junk”....Through it all, he admittedly showed very little tact. “I believe science is a search for the truth, not a lesson in manners,” he says. “I don’t do politeness.”<sup>14</sup>



Most of the DNA that scientists once thought was just taking up space in the genome, Collins said, “turns out to be doing stuff.”

By nature, thugs “don’t do politeness” by either slashing tires or trashing reputations when enforcing their notion of conformity. Graur-like Darwinists know that research teams often need years to discover the function of one segment of “junk DNA.” Since enormous amounts still need careful study, they can use the rest of their lives to co-

cursively defend junk DNA by browbeating others to withdraw conclusions. However, the trend in discovering new functions is decidedly against junk DNA, so they are strong-arming others for a lost cause.

### Defend Junk DNA or Risk Supporting Creationists

Zimmer disclosed why Graur and Gregory unleash attacks:

It’s no coincidence, researchers like Gregory argue, that bona fide creationists have used recent changes in the thinking about junk DNA to try to turn back the clock to the days before Darwin... whose 1859 book, “On the Origin of Species,” set the course for our understanding natural selection as a natural “designer.”<sup>15</sup>

Revealing a metaphysical bias, peer-reviewed evolutionary science journals sounded alarms. One published book review savaged the works of two other evolutionists who criticized junk DNA. It warned that “they will also certainly provide ammunition for intelligent design proponents and other creationists. The debunking of junk DNA and the quest to find function for the whole of the human genome have constituted major focus points for such groups in their crusade against evolution.”<sup>16</sup>

Graur takes another swipe at ENCODE by reminding Darwinists to respect their theory’s highest purpose:

We urge biologists not be afraid of junk DNA. The only people that should be afraid are those claiming that natural processes

are insufficient to explain life and that evolutionary theory should be supplemented or supplanted by an intelligent designer...ENCODE's take-home message that everything has a function implies purpose, and purpose is the only thing that evolution cannot provide.<sup>17</sup>

Scientific thuggery aims to intimidate colleagues into silence or bully others into shading their conclusions to not supply “ammunition” against evolution.

### Christ's Creative Agency Confirmed

The fact is, evolutionists' definitive declarations that certain enigmatic DNA sequence was junk were spectacularly wrong. Speaking in *Scientific American*, Australian geneticist John Mattick concurred:

I think this will come to be a classic story of orthodoxy derailing objective analysis of the facts, in this case for a quarter of a century....The failure to recognize the full implications of this [important parallel information derived from non-coding DNA] may well go down as one of the biggest mistakes in the history of molecular biology.<sup>18</sup>

Junk DNA has been exposed as another evolutionary whiff—an embarrassing, science-obstructing swing-and-a-miss.

Notwithstanding reality, Graur-like evolutionists remain hopeful about smashing a home run for Darwin by swinging away in their labs straining to find a junky genome...but that target just gets harder to hit. *Scientific American* forecasts these efforts as vain: “No one knows yet just what the big picture of genetics will look like once this hidden layer of information is made visible. ‘Indeed, what was damned as junk because it was not understood may, in fact, turn out to be the very basis of human complexity,’ Mattick suggests.”<sup>18</sup>

Junk DNA amounts to one inning in a bigger contest between two irreconcilable beliefs. One holds that the Lord Jesus Christ exercised creative agency over creatures whose intricate craftsmanship reveals His infinite wisdom and power. The second is a glory-robbing notion that nature exercises agency over organisms through evolutionary tinkering.

Indeed, the known treasures of DNA—and those yet to be discovered—all showcase the Lord Jesus' endless engineering greatness, as implied by ENCODE's continuing search for genetic functions:

Yet with thousands of cell types to test and a growing set of tools with which to test them, the project could *unfold endlessly*. “We're far from finished,” says geneticist Rick Myers of the HudsonAlpha Institute for Biotechnology in Huntsville, Alabama.

“You might argue that this could go on *forever*.”<sup>19</sup>

For those with open hearts, the thrill of endless scientific discovery arouses justifiable awe of the Lord's profound mind. “O LORD, how great are Your works! Your thoughts are very deep. A senseless man does not know, nor does a fool understand this” (Psalm 92:5-6). ☞

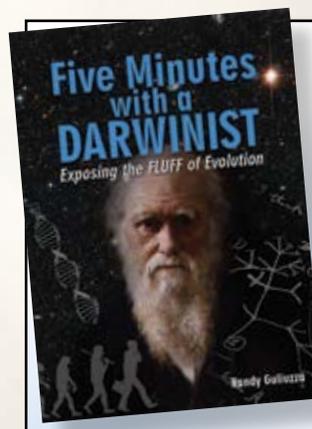
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“The failure to recognize the full implications of this [important parallel information derived from non-coding DNA] may well go down as one of the biggest mistakes in the history of molecular biology.”

Dr. Guliuza is ICR's National Representative. He earned his M.D. from the University of Minnesota, his Master of Public Health from Harvard University, and served in the U.S. Air Force as 28th Bomb Wing Flight Surgeon and Chief of Aerospace Medicine. Dr. Guliuza is also a registered Professional Engineer.



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# Q: Do Dinosaurs Disprove the Bible?

**A:** My family and I saw an interesting car emblem while on a road trip. It showed a *T. rex*-like dinosaur taking a bite out of a Christian fish. This led to a healthy in-car discussion. Does the existence of dinosaurs really take a bite out of Christianity? For those willing to see the right details, dinosaurs actually bolster the Bible.



I tried to crystallize the emblem's core evolutionary message: Since dinosaurs died millions of years before man existed, and since the Bible doesn't include millions of years, then dinosaurs disprove the Bible. This conclusion appears logical, but at least three details challenge the first premise and wreck the argument.

First, what if Bible verses describe a dinosaur? In that case, dinosaurs must have lived much more recently than millions of years ago. The more we study the behemoth of Job 40, the more convinced we become that the passage describes a then-living dinosaur. Uninspired Bible notes suggest it was an elephant or hippo, but the description does not fit either animal. For example, elephants and hippos have their center of mass closer to their shoulders, but behemoth's mass centered over its hips. And neither have tails that look or move like a long tree trunk. Sauropods like *Diplodocus* balanced upon their hips and swung tree-like tails.

Their side-to-side tail motions when walking even suggest a tree swaying in the wind. Paleontologists have reconstructed sauropod muscles based on their bones' muscle attachment points.<sup>1</sup> Large muscles connected their upper legs to their tails, causing the tails to gently sway with each step. Perhaps these muscles match the sinews of Job 40:17: "He moves his tail like a cedar; the sinews of his thighs are tightly knit."

Job 40:18 says, "His bones are like beams of bronze, his ribs like bars of iron." Other translations render the "beams" as bronze "tubes" and his "ribs" as "limbs." This language synchs with sauropods. Fossils show the bones along their spine were mostly hollow, like tubes. Their ribs and limb bones were solid, like bars.

Many have argued that behemoth cannot possibly be a dinosaur because dinosaurs went extinct millions of years before man. But doesn't that simply beg the question of when dinosaurs lived instead of weighing the available evidence?

Second, not only does Job describe a dinosaur, but so do other ancient historical accounts of monstrous serpents. Ancient paintings, mosaics, tapestries, carvings, and moldings from all around the world depict dinosaur look-alikes. These independent eyewitnesses



*This ancient Mesopotamian cylinder seal, rolled across a bar of clay, suggests birds and behemoths.*

testify that dinosaurs lived not too long ago. From this history-based perspective, dinosaur fossils formed from Noah's Flood only thousands of years ago. And that leads to a final detail.

Third, scientific problems plague the premise that dinosaurs died millions of years ago. For example, dozens of dinosaur and other fossils still retain remnants of their original proteins. Rare cases even include whole tissues, intact and flexible. So far, nobody has found a way to preserve proteins for even one million years—to do so without temperatures like those liquid nitrogen might maintain would violate fundamental physics.<sup>2</sup>

Dinosaur protein remnants, an extensive history of documented dinosaur encounters, and a dinosaur description in the Bible all refute the premise that dinosaurs died millions of years ago. These three details unveil a new argument: Since history describes dinosaurs, and since the Bible describes dinosaurs, then history confirms the Bible. Now, who's going to invent a new auto emblem to reflect this idea? ✂

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1. For example, see the interview with Dr. Marcus Ross in episode two of *Uncovering the Truth about Dinosaurs*.
2. Thomas, B. 2015. Original Biomaterials in Fossils. *Creation Research Society Quarterly*. 51 (4): 234-247.

*Mr. Thomas is Science Writer at the Institute for Creation Research and earned his M.S. in biotechnology from Stephen F. Austin State University.*

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# Sloppy Religion and Sloppy Science

In 1633, Galileo Galilei faced hostile inquisitors who opposed his astronomical discoveries. Galileo claimed that Earth moves around the sun while the sun stays stationary, which was opposite to what Galileo's church taught.<sup>1</sup> This confrontation is often labeled as a "religion versus science" trial because it involved a disagreement about the meaning of Psalm 93:1:

The LORD reigns, He is clothed with majesty; the LORD is clothed, He has girded Himself with strength. Surely the world is established, so that it cannot be moved.

The latter part of Psalm 93:1 allegedly clashed with Galileo's analysis of our solar system. His telescopic measurements of movements in the heavens (i.e., sun, moon, planets, etc.) proved that Earth orbited the "stationary" sun, not vice versa. However, Roman Catholic interpretations of Scripture at the time disagreed with Galileo's astronomical analysis, claiming the opposite was true.<sup>1</sup> Actually, both sides were partly wrong because both sides relied on errors.

1. Both the sun and Earth are moving in very predictable orbits (and thus neither is absolutely stationary), yet when described contextually both are moving in relation to one another—and to the Milky Way galaxy, as well. Plus, all motion must be described with respect to a frame of reference, so it's most practical for observers to use their own positions as locational indices.<sup>1,2</sup>
2. The Hebrew phrase translated "it cannot be moved" in Psalm 93:1 means that Earth cannot be yanked away (i.e., pulled off course) from its divinely prescribed and established program of movements—as opposed to describing a state of absolute motionlessness.<sup>2</sup>

The lesson? When religion clashes with science, expect to see examples of sloppy religion in the form of inaccurate Bible interpretations, or sloppy science as evidenced in inaccurate scientific observations and/or analysis, or both.

This is nothing new. During the heyday of the so-called Enlightenment (1700s–1800s), a fad called *deism* flourished. Deism was, and still is, a "free thinking"-dominated theism that exalts human reason (ignoring how fallen reason is) while keeping the Bible closed whenever science is discussed. Prioritizing popularity with secular culture, deists strive to retain some Christianity. But this unbalanced compromise over-tips the boat, eventually sinking the ship under an ocean of self-contradictions.

Accordingly, deism artificially cherry-picks fashionable Bible

teachings while ignoring and discarding others that are undesirable or inconvenient.<sup>1</sup> Modern-day deists, such as Intelligent Design (ID) proponents, often react to apparent "religion versus science" conflicts by siding with science over what the Bible teaches. Consequently, to favor science over Scripture, deists employ straw-man caricatures of biblical truth. Jonathan Sarfati highlights the approach taken by ID leader Dr. William Dembski.

Dembski justifies his *Scriptura sub scientia* approach (i.e., Scripture [ranked] under science) by raising the tired old canard about geocentrism....

**WD:** Yet, during that time [of Galileo's trial for teaching heretical science], church teaching also held that the earth was stationary.

Unfortunately, this [ecclesiastical error] is because they kowtowed to the prevailing Aristotelian *science* of the day, which included the Ptolemaic cosmology....

**WD:** Psalm 93 [verse 1] states that the earth is established forever and cannot be moved.... A literal interpretation of Psalm 93 seems to require geocentrism.<sup>3</sup>

William Dembski's misunderstanding of Psalm 93:1 shows his failure to properly analyze the Hebrew philology. Similar approaches are taken by others who place a reliance on science over the truth of Scripture. Making the assumption that the Bible is not to be trusted in matters of science will always lead to error.

Pity poor Galileo. If only he had today's Newtonian astrophysics and geokinetics, a good Bible concordance, and a Bible in his own language! He could have seen that the Bible's descriptions of God's choreographed heavens are corroborated—not opposed—by true science. ❄

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2. The Hebrew verb *mōtāh* appears often in contexts that portray a pulling-away motion (e.g., Proverbs 24:11; Psalm 82:5 ("out of course"); Isaiah 54:10); also, the related noun *mōtāh* is routinely translated as "yoke" (e.g., Leviticus 26:13; Jeremiah 27:2). See Wigram, G. V. 2001. *The Englishman's Hebrew Concordance to the Old Testament*. Peabody, MA: Hendricksen Publishers (reprint of 1874 3rd edition), 670. Regarding interrelated positions and motions of the sun and Earth, see also Psalm 19:1-6 (19:2-7 BH); Psalm 104:2-5; Ecclesiastes 1:5; Isaiah 40:22.
3. Quoting Sarfati, note 1 above.

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



Children who are taught the Bible from the very beginning have a marvelous advantage. Studies show overwhelmingly that most born-again Christian adults accepted Christ during childhood. While fathers wield the greatest influence in setting the spiritual emphasis within the family, it's often the mother who actually teaches the Scriptures to her children.

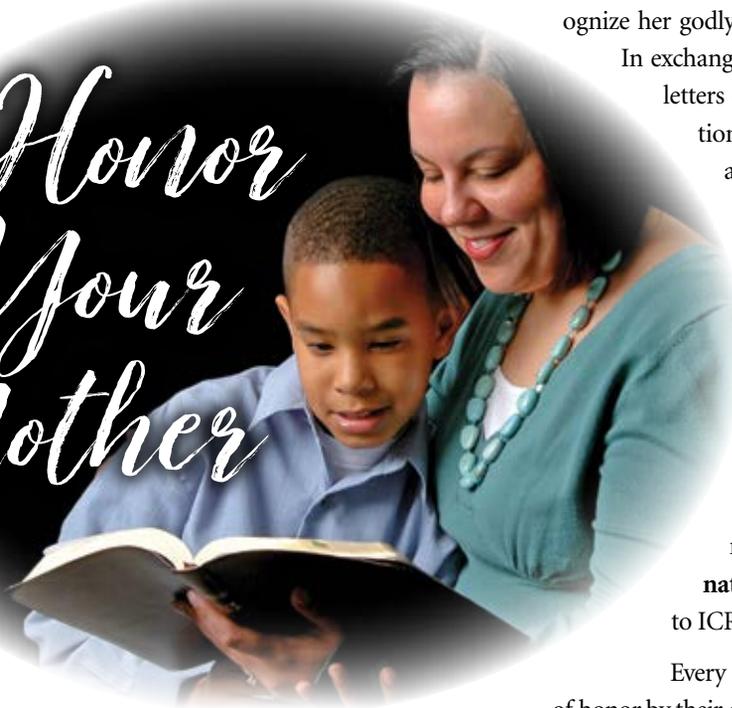
Such was the case with young Timothy. Long before the apostle Paul led him to a saving knowledge of Christ, Timothy had “from childhood... known the Holy Scriptures, which [were] able to make [him] wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus” (2 Timothy 3:15). This knowledge grew from the instruction of two godly women, and Paul would later “call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice” (2 Timothy 1:5).

The love of a good mother is invaluable in the life of a child. But that value is exponentially greater when the mother is a follower of Christ. A godly father or grandfather may exert great influence for good in a child's life, but a godly mother—one who loves the Lord, studies the Scriptures, and teaches them to her children—has a value “far above rubies” (Proverbs 31:10).

I am blessed to have such a mother. Some of my earliest memories are of my mother teaching Bible stories in Sunday school from an old flannel board she balanced on her lap. And during my boyhood she encouraged me to memorize Scripture, often testing me as I practiced my verses to earn merit badges for Boys' Brigade and Awana. Most of

all, I am thankful for her constant prayers throughout my life. My mother is the most fearsome prayer warrior I know, and much of my spiritual growth is due to her faithful intercession. A good mother's love for her children never fades—but in my experience, the prayers of a godly mother, along with her love, always increase with the passage of time.

## Honor Your Mother



The fifth of God's Ten Commandments tells children to honor their parents (Exodus 20:12), and it's significant this is the only one that carries a special promise. Centuries later, Paul confirmed and even strengthened this mandate when he wrote, “Honor your father and mother,” which is the first commandment with promise: “that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth” (Ephesians 6:2-3). God

considers this to be of such importance that long and productive lives are promised to those children who obey.

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Every godly parent is worthy of honor by their children—every day, not just once a year. But those godly mothers who taught us the ways of God deserve special praise! Such mothers will indeed have occasion to “rejoice in time to come” as her “children rise up and call her blessed” (Proverbs 31:25, 28). ✉

Adapted from Mr. Morris' article “Arise and Call Her Blessed” in the May 2013 issue of *Acts & Facts*.

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



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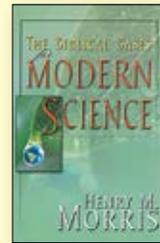
“The article “God’s Threading Machines” by Brian Thomas, M.S., (*Acts & Facts*, March 2017) brought to mind Psalm 139:15: “My frame was not hidden from You, when I was made in secret, and skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.” ...Now important scientific research is revealing the undeniable marvelous and stupendous detail skill of our Creator. **An article like this produces awe, respect, and praise for the reliability of His Word.** Thank you for encouraging, expanding, and strengthening our knowledge and faith.”

— D. S.



**ICR are absolutely invaluable tools for Him to reach the lost,** especially in our world today.”

— S. C.



“While I believed in the creation account from a young age, Henry Morris’ book *The Biblical Basis for Modern Science* gave me excellent scientific information that deepened the conviction already in place—giving me facts that confirmed what I already believed. For me, the facts didn’t bring about my faith in Christ—they strengthened it.”

— L. H.

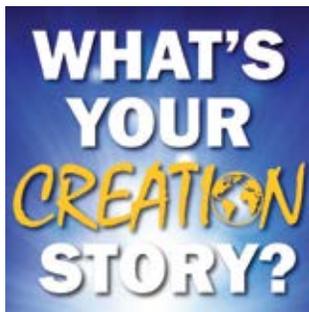
“I just wanted to tell ICR how much I appreciate *Acts & Facts*. I have read it over the years (since around 1980) and always enjoy the research, attention to detail, and biblical openness and honesty. Occasionally, I have given to ICR, but honestly, not a lot. I hope to be able to change that. I am retired from electrical engineering and live in the Philippines. If it weren’t for your online resource, I couldn’t get *Acts & Facts* here. **It is a refreshing feeding each time I read one of the articles,** and they always encourage me, especially in light of so much negative science.

I have traveled enough of the world to have seen a lot of topography which is best explained by a global flood. I appreciate that there are scientists who are believers and are willing to put their faith out there for a skeptical world to see.”

— B. G.

“I was a dedicated atheist for many years, fully confident in evolution, deep time, and humanism’s ambition, until late 2010 when the Lord saw fit to open my eyes to the evidence for creation. ICR was one of the first resources I turned to, and I was overwhelmed by the reality I

had no idea existed around me. Since my acceptance of Christ in early 2011, I have come a long way and strive each day to do as much as I can to reach others who may be as lost and confused as I once was. God is so good, and so faithful, and **organizations like**



“I use to be an atheist and was taught evolution in school, but I never believed in evolution. I always pondered the question, **“How can something in the beginning come from nothing?”** Evolution never made any sense to me, but I just remained an atheist. God finally called me to Himself seven years ago when the gospel was preached to me, and by the power of God I believed and was saved through His Word the Bible by the Holy Spirit. We have a choice: we can either suppress the gospel, even when we are convicted of sin, or we can accept the gospel, believe, and repent of our sins. We have the choice to either accept or reject the salvation and eternal life He offers in Christ.”

— R. S.

“Whenever I read *Acts & Facts*, I am reminded to pray for the ministries and lives of the contributors and the research of Institute for Creation Research. **I am blessed to read the articles and responses to questions,** but mostly to learn of what the Lord would teach through their upright lives and godly commitments, especially to the truth of God’s Word. May the Lord bless and keep Randy Guliuzza as he ministers in Jesus’ name.”

— K. H.

“For a long time I bought into the gap theory, even after attending an evangelical seminary as a young man. **Thanks to ICR, and other like-minded scientists and teachers, I now know the truth about our heavenly Father’s creation.** And can see the depth of the deception coming from those misled individuals... who would deny the worldwide Flood. Keep up the good work, ICR!”

— B. A. S.

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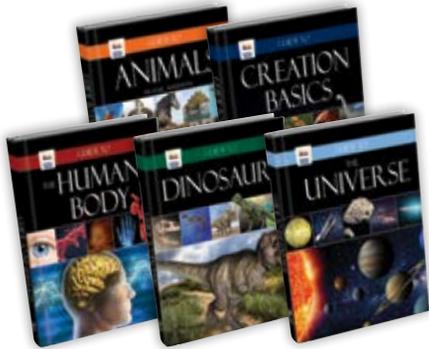
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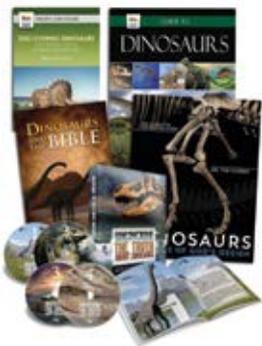
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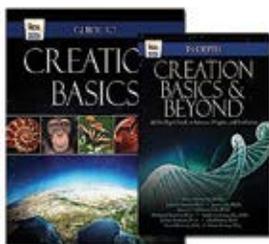
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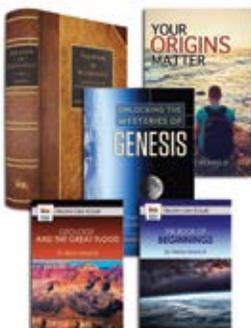
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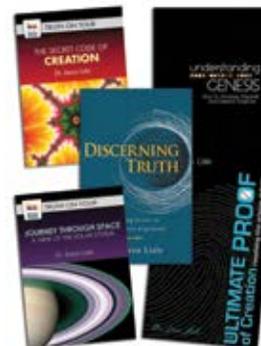
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