

ACTS & FACTS

INSTITUTE FOR
CREATION RESEARCH

ICR.org

FEBRUARY 2019

VOL. 48 NO. 2



The Importance of Recent Creation

page 5

Earth's Thick Ice Sheets Are Young

page 11

Can Intelligent Design Prove Evolution?

page 15

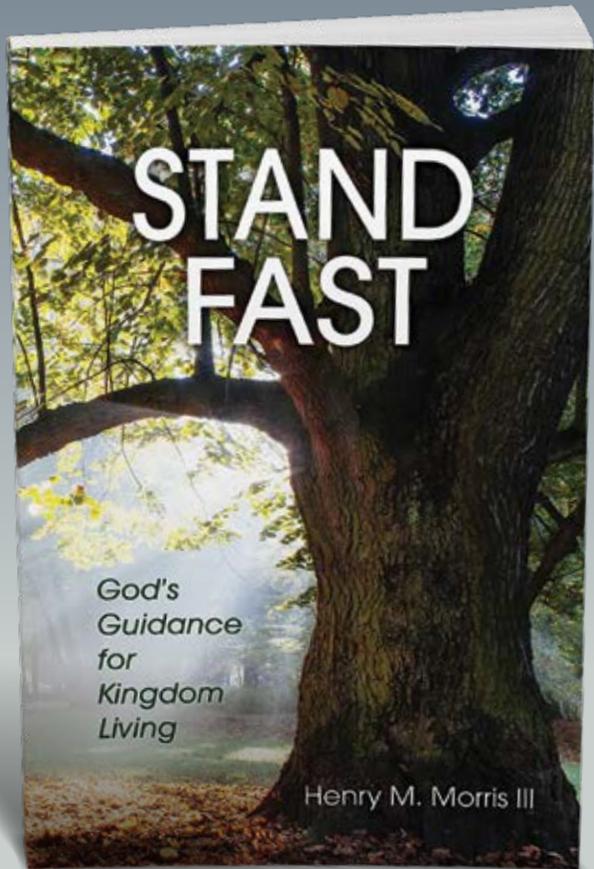
Trait Selection Is Internal, Not External

page 18

Beware the Bait of False Hypotheticals

page 22

NEW!



STAND FAST

God's Guidance for Kingdom Living

\$2.99

BSF

We live in a world that constantly opposes the things of God. The people of the Kingdom face challenges both inside and outside the church as our Adversary does what he can to derail the work the Lord has given us to do.

God has provided what we need through His Spirit and in His Word to guide us through the tests, trials, and temptations we encounter on a daily basis. In *Stand Fast: God's Guidance for Kingdom Living*, Dr. Henry M. Morris III reviews some of the Scriptures that provide encouragement for God's redeemed people, as well as the responsibilities, warnings, and promises that shelter our life in Christ.

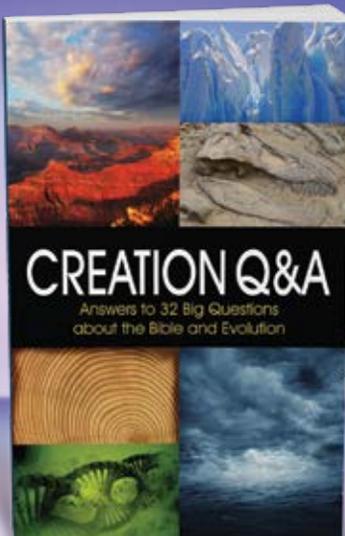
"Therefore, my beloved and longed-for brethren, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord."

(PHILIPPIANS 4:1)

ALREADY IN ITS 2ND PRINTING!

CREATION Q&A

Answers to 32 Big Questions about the Bible and Evolution



\$2.99

BCQAA

\$10.00

Buy five *Creation Q&A* books for \$10.00 and give four away to your family and friends!

Call **800.628.7640** or visit **ICR.org/store**

Please add shipping and handling to all orders. Offer good through February 28, 2019, while quantities last.

Published by
INSTITUTE FOR CREATION RESEARCH

P. O. Box 59029
Dallas, TX 75229
214.615.8300
ICR.org

Acts & Facts is a free publication.
For subscription information,
call 800.337.0375,
visit ICR.org/subscriptions,
or write to ICR at the above address.

EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Jayne Durant

SENIOR EDITOR

Beth Mull

EDITORS

Michael Stamp
Truett Billups
Christy Hardy

DESIGNER

Dennis Davidson

No articles may be reprinted in whole or in part without obtaining permission from ICR.

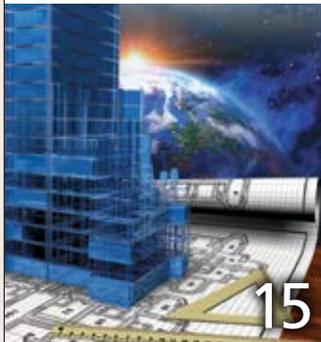
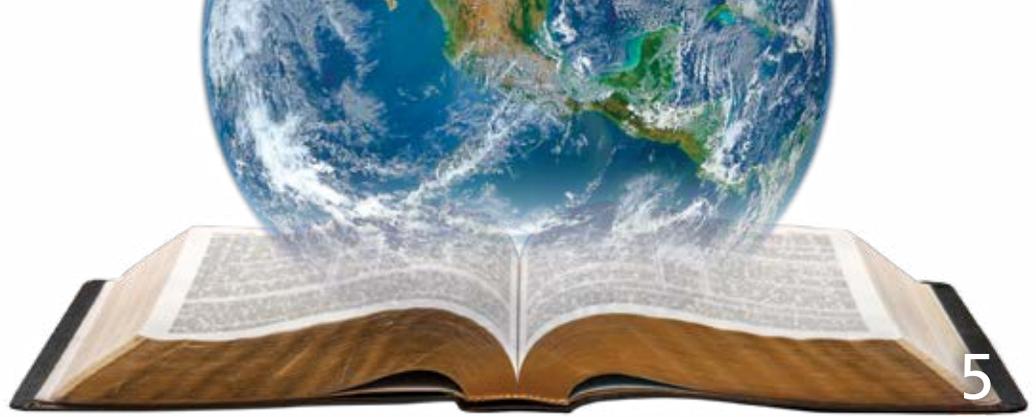
Copyright © 2019

Institute for Creation Research

All Scripture quotations are from the New King James Version unless otherwise indicated.



Cover image: Galapagos marine iguana
Image credit: Copyright © K. Jorgen. Used in accordance with federal copyright (fair use doctrine) law. Usage by ICR does not imply endorsement of copyright holder.



feature

5 The Importance of Recent Creation

HENRY M. MORRIS, PH.D.

research

9 A Rock-Based Global Sea Level Curve

TIM CLAREY, PH.D.

impact

11 Earth's Thick Ice Sheets Are Young

JAKE HEBERT, PH.D.

back to genesis

15 Can Intelligent Design Prove Evolution?

JEFFREY P. TOMKINS, PH.D.

16 Are People and Fruit Flies Related?

FRANK SHERWIN, M.A.

18 Trait Selection Is Internal, Not External

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

creation q & a

21 Is Young Earth Creation Crazy?

BRIAN THOMAS, M.S.

apologetics

22 Beware the Bait of False Hypotheticals

JAMES J. S. JOHNSON, J.D., TH.D.



Look Up and See His Handiwork

The Institute for Creation Research staff recently had a sneak peek at the ICR Discovery Center’s planetarium show that will soon be open to the public. As I sat there, gazing up at the dome “sky” and witnessing things in space we don’t normally see when we stargaze on a backyard blanket, I was overwhelmed by the majesty of our Creator.

planets, the sun, the dwarf planet Pluto, and other wonders in space. Viewers experience a sense of awe as they witness the sun’s fiery surface churning right before them, observe evidence of recent creation with the magnetic fields of Earth, Mercury, and Jupiter, and dive into the misty-looking rings of Saturn to find they are actually boulders that reflect design and order as they circle their planet.

we discover that the creation account in Genesis is true.”

The planetarium is another way for ICR to bring creation truth to a world that isn’t always eager to embrace the idea that science and the Bible are in harmony. Most science classes, museums, and textbooks present science through the eyes of humans who often do not acknowledge God as the Creator of the universe. And they get the science wrong because they base their teaching on presuppositions that deny the existence of a Creator—they follow their imaginations rather than good science methods. They fail to observe His handiwork and therefore don’t really see the truth.

In this month’s feature, ICR founder Dr. Henry M. Morris reminds us to “use the Bible to interpret scientific data rather than using naturalistic presuppositions to direct our Bible interpretations” (“The Importance of Recent Creation,” pages 5-7). Though Dr. Morris went to be with the Lord in 2006, his legacy lives on. ICR scientists remain true to these convictions in every *Acts & Facts* article as they examine the latest scientific claims in the light of Scripture.

God’s design in the universe is always on display, even without the advantage of a state-of-the-art planetarium. We only need to look up. That blazing sun didn’t get there by accident, and neither did the orbiting moon and twinkling stars. We can align what we see with what we know to be true in Scripture—it’s all the work of His hands.

Jayme Durant

Jayme Durant
EXECUTIVE EDITOR



I wonder if that’s how Abram felt when the Lord told him to look at the sky and count the stars (Genesis 15:5). While God often reveals mysteries by telling us about them, He loves to teach us by *showing* us His work. God doesn’t just put words in a book and say “learn this important stuff.” He shows us! He told Abram to *look*.

The planetarium show, *Creation in the Solar System*, features up-close looks of the

The message is one the viewer won’t hear at a secular planetarium: “The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork” (Psalm 19:1). We see how the sun is perfectly calibrated to support life on Earth and how planets and moons demonstrate God’s creativity. The film underscores the foundational theme “The more we explore the solar system and find evidence for a young universe, the more

article highlights

- The Bible is the inspired and inerrant Word of God, and is authoritative on all subjects including science.
- If one accepts billions of years, then there was suffering and death before Adam's sin—a direct contradiction of Scripture.
- If death wasn't the penalty for sin, then Christ's death on the cross wasn't necessary to pay for sin and thus was a miscarriage of justice on God's part.
- Embracing compromise inevitably leads to a compromised faith.

THE IMPORTANCE OF RECENT CREATION

HENRY M. MORRIS, PH.D.

Those of us who still believe that the Bible is the inerrant Word of God and that God intended it to be understood by ordinary people—not just by scholarly specialists in science or theology—have been labeled “young-earth creationists.”

We didn't choose that name for ourselves, but it's true that since we believe God is capable of saying what He means and means what He says, we believe that the whole creation is far younger than evolutionists accept.

It would be much more comfortable for us not to believe in a young earth, of course. Not only are the scientific and educational establishments committed to old-earth evolutionism, but so also are the supposedly more intellectual segments of the religious world. The seminaries and colleges of the mainline

denominations have almost all capitulated to theistic evolutionism, and most evangelical colleges and seminaries espouse old-earth creationism, or what many call progressive creationism.

So, young-earth creationism isn't a comfortable position to hold, especially for scientists or ambitious students, and it would be tempting either to give it up (as many have, under the persuasive influence of speakers such as Hugh Ross and other popular evangelicals), or else to just say it really doesn't matter how or when God created (as do most modern churches and parachurch organizations) as long as we believe He is our Creator.

But it does matter, and that's why the Institute for Creation Research was formed in the first place. Our very statement of faith specifies this position. In this article, I want to emphasize why it's vitally important to continue to believe, as our Christian forefathers did, that "in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day" (Exodus 20:11).

literally billions of such fossils buried in the earth's crust. This fact leads to the following very disturbing chain of conclusions.

1. God is not really a God of grace and mercy after all, for He seems to have created a world filled with animals suffering and dying for a billion years, and He did so for no apparent reason, assuming that His ultimate goal

The Bible is the inerrant, infallible, inspired Word of the living, gracious, omnipotent Creator, and the Lord Jesus

Implications of the Old-Earth Position

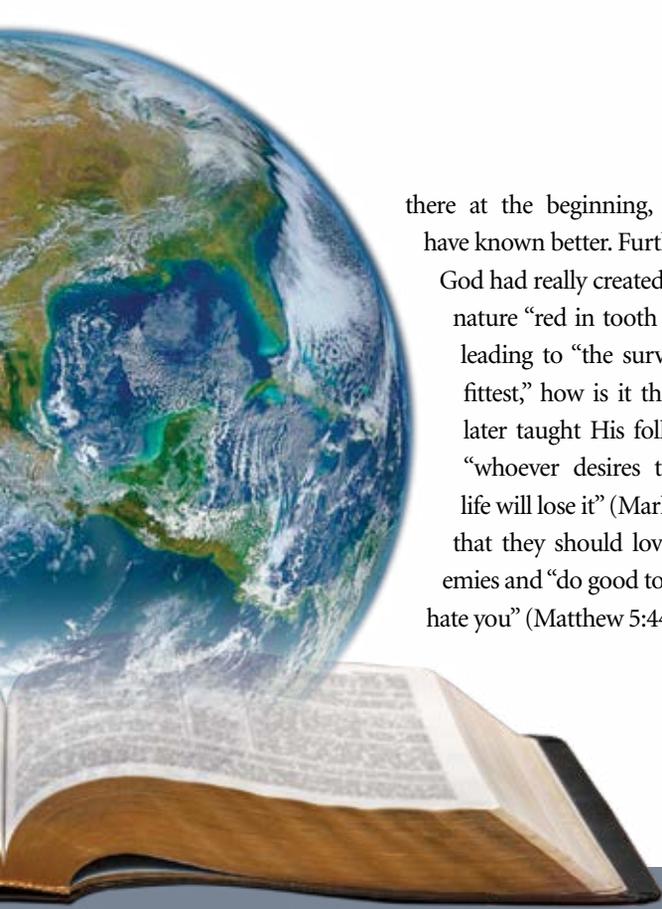
It's obvious that belief in a 4.6 billion-year-old earth and a 15 billion-year-old universe didn't come from the Bible, for there is not a hint of evolution or long geological ages anywhere in it. My book *Biblical Creationism* examines every relevant verse in every book of the Bible, and there is no suggestion anywhere of the geological or astronomical ages that are widely assumed today. The concepts of evolution and an infinitely old cosmos are often found in the ancient pagan religions, but never in the original Judeo-Christian literature.

Therefore, Christians who want to harmonize the standard geological/astronomical age system with Scripture must use eisegesis, not exegesis, to do so. That is, they have to try to interpret Scripture in such a way as to make it fit modern scientism. We believe, on the other hand, that the only way we can really honor the Bible as God's inspired Word is to assume it as being authoritative on all subjects with which it deals. That means we use the Bible to interpret scientific data rather than using naturalistic presuppositions to direct our Bible interpretations.

Those who choose the latter course embark on a slippery slope that ends in a precipice. If the long geological ages really took place, that means there were at least a billion years of suffering and death in the animal kingdom before the arrival of men and women in the world. Each geological "age" is identified by the types of dead organisms now preserved as fossils in the rocks of that age, and there are

was to create human beings for fellowship with Himself.

2. The Bible is not really an authoritative guide, for if it's wrong in these important matters of science and history, which we supposedly can check for ourselves using the usual criteria of scientific and historical investigation, then how can we trust it in matters of salvation, heaven, and everlasting life, which we have no means of verifying scientifically? Jesus said, "If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things?" (John 3:12).
3. Death is not really the wages of sin, as the Bible says, for violence, pain, and death reigned in the world long before sin came in. God is directly responsible for this cruel regime, not Adam. Furthermore, when God observed the completed creation of "everything that He had made...the heavens and the earth...and all the host of them," it was all "very good" (Genesis 1:31; 2:1). This seems to imply that God is sadistic, taking pleasure in observing the suffering and dying of His creatures.
4. The Bible teaches that Jesus Christ was our Creator before He became our Savior (John 1:1-3, 10; Colossians 1:16; etc.). But Christ taught that it was "from the beginning of the creation" (not billions of years after the beginning of the creation) that "God made them male and female" (Mark 10:6), quoting from the record of the creation of Adam and Eve (Genesis 1:27). If He had really been



there at the beginning, He would have known better. Furthermore, if God had really created a world of nature “red in tooth and claw”¹ leading to “the survival of the fittest,” how is it that His Son later taught His followers that “whoever desires to save his life will lose it” (Mark 8:35) and that they should love their enemies and “do good to those who hate you” (Matthew 5:44)?

Where We Must Stand

Therefore, no matter how much more convenient it would be to adopt the old-earth approach or the “it doesn’t really matter” approach, we can’t do it. We could have more speaking engagements, more book sales, larger crowds, and better acceptance even by the evangelical Christian world if we would just take the broad road, but we can’t do it.

The Bible is the inerrant, infallible, inspired Word of the living, gracious, omnipotent Creator, and the Lord Jesus Christ is our crucified and risen Savior, and all the real facts of science and history support these truths.

On the other hand, there is no genuine scientific evidence for evolution. No true evolution from one kind of organism to a more complex kind has ever been observed in all human history, and there is no recorded history beyond the 6,000 or so years of biblical history. Any alleged earlier ages have to be postulated on the discredited assumption of uniformitarianism. Even if these imaginary ages ever

Christ is our crucified and risen Savior, and all the real facts of science and history support these truths.

5. Still more significantly, if physical human death wasn’t really an important part of the penalty for sin, then the agonizingly cruel physical death of Christ on the cross wasn’t necessary to pay that penalty and thus would be a gross miscarriage of justice on God’s part.
6. This would lead us to conclude further that we have no real Savior. Christ is no longer here on Earth, but sin and death are still here, so the promises in the Bible concerning future salvation seem to have been just empty rhetoric. If God’s Word was wrong about creation and about the meaning of Christ’s death, it becomes obvious that its prophecies and promises concerning the future are of no value either.
7. Finally, there remains no reason to believe in God at all—at least not in the personal, loving, omniscient, omnipotent, holy, righteous God the Bible makes Him out to be. If that kind of God really exists, He would never have created the groaning, suffering, dying world implied by the long ages required for evolution. If suffering and death in the world—especially the suffering and death of Christ—are not the result of God’s judgment on sin in the world, then the most reasonable inference is that the God of the Bible doesn’t exist. The slippery slope of compromise finally ends in the dark chasm of atheism, at least for those who travel to its logical termination.

existed, they left no credible fossil records of real evolutionary transitions among the billions of fossils preserved in the rocks.

What the fossils do show is death—rapid death and watery burial, in fact—or else they wouldn’t have been preserved at all. And death speaks of sin and judgment, not evolution and long ages. Pain and death are not good things, and a loving God would not call them good. They are instead “the wages of sin” (Romans 6:23). This judgment by our all-holy Creator necessarily fell on Adam and his descendants, and also on all the dominion over which God had placed them in charge.

In the new earth that God in Christ will create after sin is finally purged out of this groaning creation, however, “there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain” (Revelation 21:4). Once again, God’s creation will all be very good!

In the meantime, we do well to continue to believe His Word just as it stands. God forbid that we should ever “love the praise of men more than the praise of God” (John 12:43). ❧

Reference

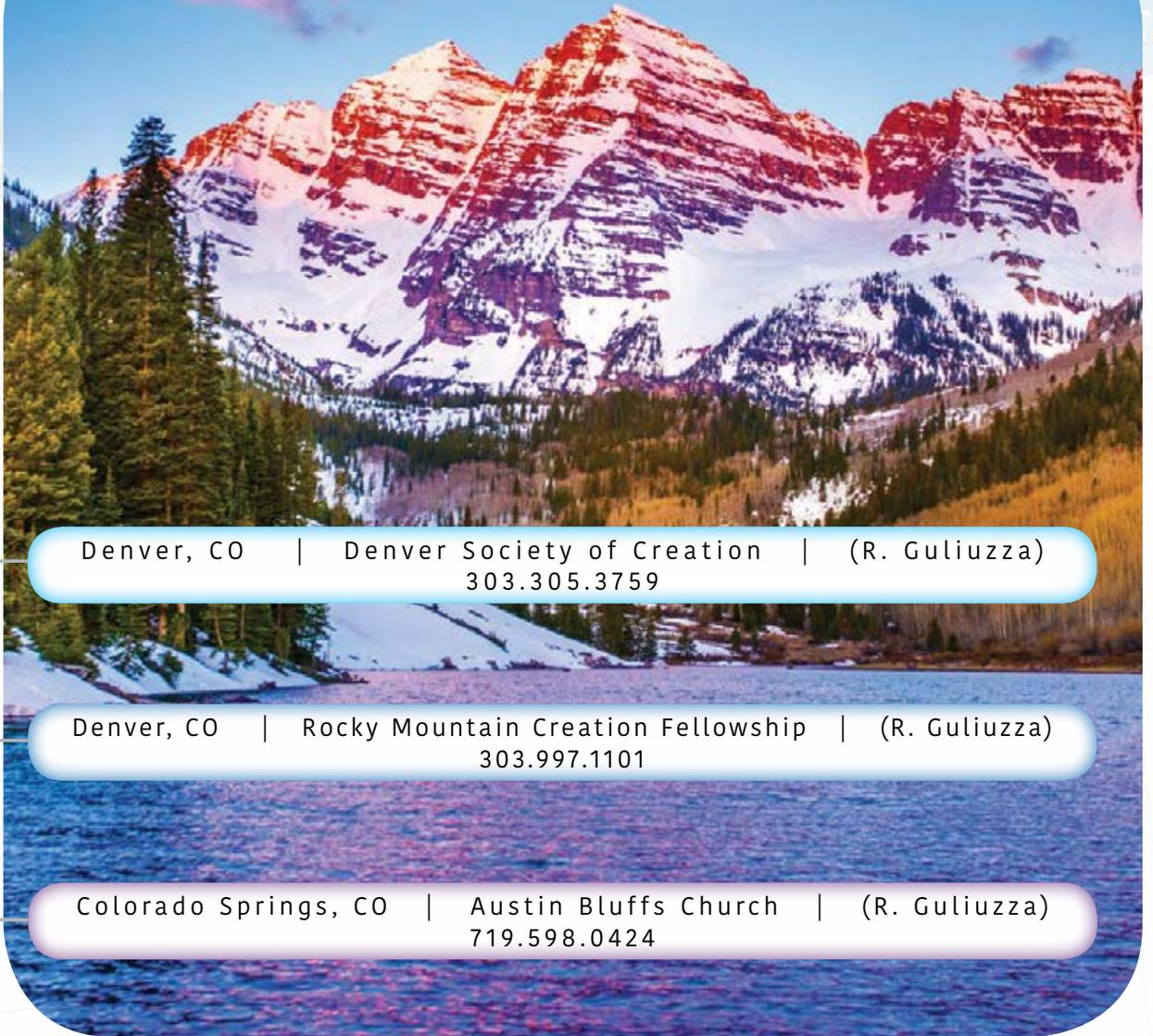
1. Alfred, Lord Tennyson’s description of nature in his 1849 poem *In Memoriam A. H. H.*, Canto 56. Evolutionists adopted the phrase to depict the process of natural selection.

Adapted from Dr. Morris’ article “The Vital Importance of Believing in Recent Creation” in the June 2000 edition of *Acts & Facts*.

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



CENTRAL COLORADO EVENTS



FEBRUARY

7

Denver, CO | Denver Society of Creation | (R. Guliuzza)
303.305.3759

FEBRUARY

8

Denver, CO | Rocky Mountain Creation Fellowship | (R. Guliuzza)
303.997.1101

FEBRUARY

9

Colorado Springs, CO | Austin Bluffs Church | (R. Guliuzza)
719.598.0424

FEBRUARY

10

Ft. Worth, TX | Bear Creek Bible Church | (J. Hebert, F. Sherwin, B. Thomas) 214.615.8325

FEBRUARY

22-23

Dallas, TX | HeartStrong Faith Women's Conference (Booth only) | 214.969.7741

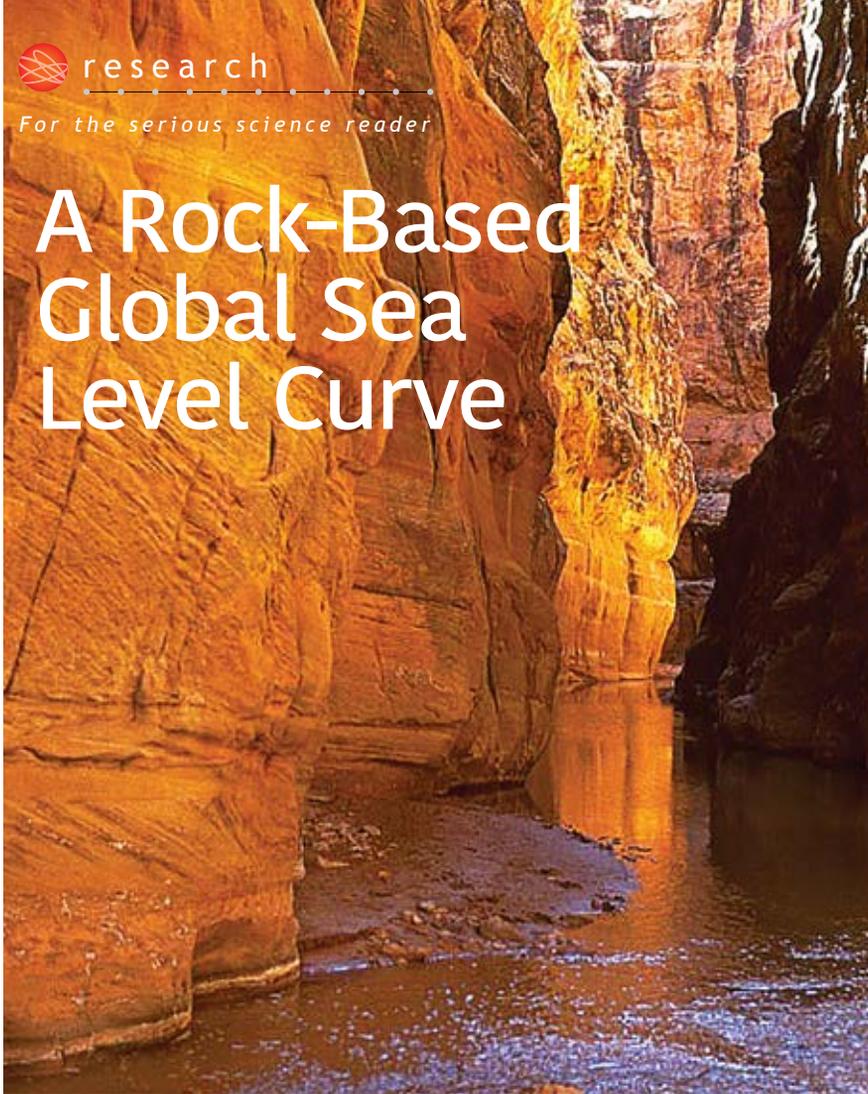
FEBRUARY

22-24

Bella Vista, AR | New Life Church | (R. Guliuzza) 214.615.8364

For information on event opportunities, call **800.337.0375** or email **Events@ICR.org**

A Rock-Based Global Sea Level Curve



article highlights

- Rock data from around the world indicate the vast majority of the continents' sedimentary layers were deposited by water.
- This supports the Genesis Flood but contradicts evolutionary models.
- The continental sedimentary patterns match each other and show the Flood left progressively thicker and more extensive layers as the floodwaters rose to a maximum in the Zuni Megasequence.
- The sedimentary rocks of the Tejas Megasequence show progressively less extensive layers—just what we would expect from the receding Flood.

Evolutionary geologists compiled a global sea level curve from the Cambrian system to the present using assumed environmental interpretations and deep time (Figure 1).¹ They infer global sea level was lower during deposition of the Permian system because they believe that many sedimentary layers, like the Permian Coconino Sandstone, were

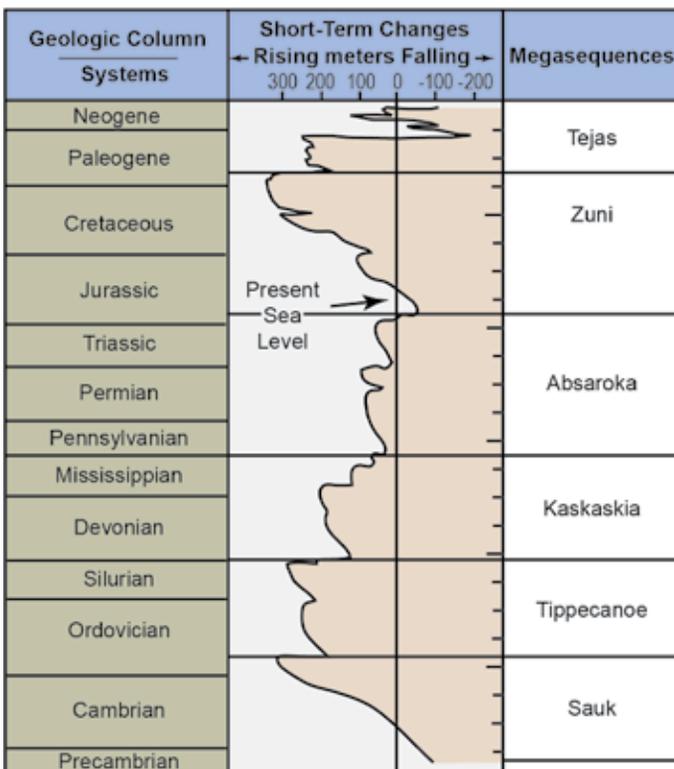


Figure 1. Secular global sea level curve, modified from Vail and Mitchum.¹

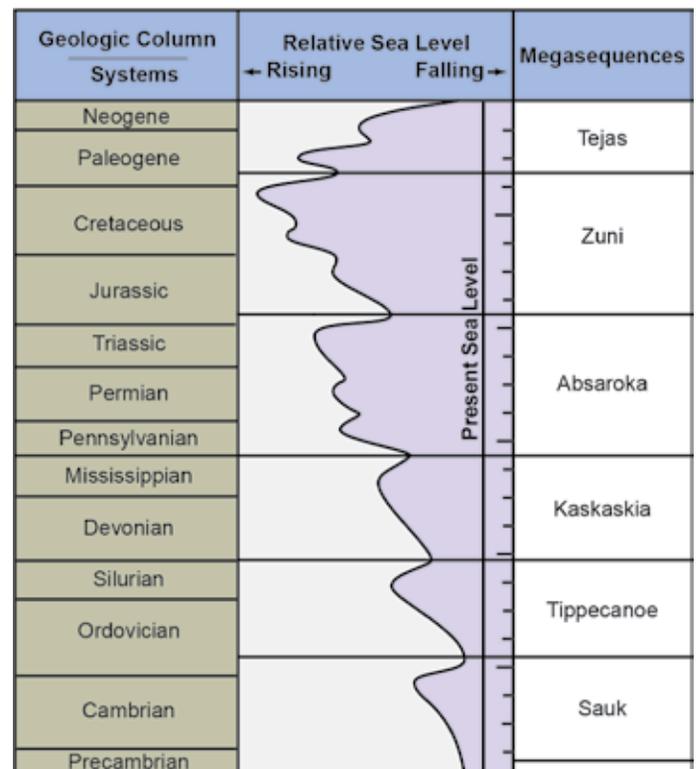


Figure 2. New conceptualized sea level curve based on the volume and extent of Phanerozoic sedimentation across three continents.

deposited across dry land. For this reason, they show a lowering of sea level during the Permian. But creation geologist John Whitmore has shown that the rock data better support deposition in a marine setting—further evidence for the global Flood of Noah’s day.²

ICR compiled stratigraphic data from over 1,500 columns across North and South America and Africa. These data have allowed us to clarify the true nature of global sea level. If we look only at the extent and volume of the rocks across these continents, we see that the generally accepted secular sea level curve doesn’t match the actual rock data. Instead, we see evidence of a single, progressive flood event that began slowly in the Sauk Megasequence, peaked in the Zuni, and receded in the Tejas (Figure 2). All of the continents show the same general pattern, making the result even

more compelling.

To create our new sea level curve, we used the maps and sedimentary data we compiled across three continents. Table 1 shows the surface area, volume, and average thickness of each megasequence across each continent and the global totals. Collectively, these data show limited amounts of sediment deposited in the earliest megasequences. All three continents show progressively greater accumulations until the maximum volume is reached in the Zuni. The subsequent Tejas, although likely the receding phase of the Flood, is second in volume and extent to the Zuni.

The evidence for a single, progressive flood is probably best shown by the sedimentary patterns across Africa. Here, the Sauk shows the least surface extent, followed by more and more coverage, until the Flood reached its maximum level dur-

ing the Zuni, likely Day 150 of the Flood. Unsurprisingly, the Tejas shows a nearly identical amount of surface extent as the Zuni; recall, the Tejas was the receding phase that began on Day 150. The surface extent of both should be nearly identical, barring subsequent erosion.

Note in Table 1 the massive jump in sediment volume and extent in the Absaroka Megasequence across the three continents. We interpret this as about Day 40 in the Flood, when the Ark began to float (Genesis 7:17). It also coincides with the first major coal seams and the first occurrences of numerous land fossils in the rock record. Also note the even greater jump in volume and extent in the Zuni. This is when the dinosaurs were completely inundated and the water levels reached their peak around Day 150.³

The totals column on the far right side of Table 1 also confirms the Flood account. These data indicate a flood event that began slowly, reached a maximum in the Zuni, and then receded. This is why the Zuni has the maximum volume, thickness, and extent of sedimentary rocks globally. It was the high point of the Flood—Day 150.

There is no other reasonable way to explain these data. Simultaneous sedimentary patterns across multiple continents are strong evidence of a global flood. The secular sea level curve, based on evolutionary biases, is wrong. 🚫

References

1. Vail, P. R. and R. M. Mitchum, Jr. 1979. Global Cycles of Relative Changes of Sea Level from Seismic Stratigraphy. *American Association of Petroleum Geologists Memoir*. 29: 469-472.
2. Whitmore, J. H. and R. Strom. 2009. Petrographic Analysis of the Coconino Sandstone, Northern and Central Arizona. *Geological Society of America Abstracts with Programs*. 41 (7): 122.
3. Clarey, T. L. and D. J. Werner. 2017. The Sedimentary Record Demonstrates Minimal Flooding of the Continents During Sauk Deposition. *Answers Research Journal*. 10: 271-283.

Dr. Clarey is Research Associate at the Institute for Creation Research and earned his Ph.D. in geology from Western Michigan University.



Surface Area (km ²)	North America	South America	Africa	Total
Sauk	12,157,200	1,448,100	8,989,300	22,594,600
Tippecanoe	10,250,400	4,270,600	9,167,200	23,688,200
Kaskaskia	11,035,000	4,392,600	7,417,500	22,845,100
Absaroka	11,540,300	6,169,000	17,859,900	35,569,200
Zuni	16,012,900	14,221,900	26,626,900	58,861,700
Tejas	14,827,400	15,815,200	23,375,100	55,017,700
Volume (km ³)	North America	South America	Africa	Total
Sauk	3,347,690	1,017,910	6,070,490	10,436,090
Tippecanoe	4,273,080	1,834,940	6,114,910	12,222,930
Kaskaskia	5,482,040	3,154,390	3,725,900	12,362,330
Absaroka	6,312,620	6,073,710	21,075,040	33,461,370
Zuni	16,446,210	23,198,970	57,720,600	97,374,780
Tejas	17,758,530	32,908,080	28,855,530	79,522,140
Average Thickness (km)	North America	South America	Africa	Total
Sauk	0.275	0.703	0.675	0.462
Tippecanoe	0.417	0.430	0.667	0.516
Kaskaskia	0.497	0.718	0.502	0.541
Absaroka	0.547	0.985	1.180	0.941
Zuni	1.027	1.631	2.168	1.712
Tejas	1.198	2.081	1.184	1.445

Table 1. Surface area, sediment volume, and average thicknesses for North America, South America, and Africa for each of the six megasequences defined in Figure 1. Totals for the three continents are listed at the far right side for each category.

Earth's Thick Ice Sheets Are Young

article highlights

- Secular scientists believe polar ice cores prove “millions of years.”
- Volcanic ash layers known as *tephra* strongly suggest that secular ages for the bottom halves of long Antarctic cores are greatly inflated.
- The rock surface beneath the Antarctic ice sheet isn't eroded enough to have been ground by moving ice for millions of years.

Secular scientists have assigned vast ages—multiple hundreds of thousands of years—to the Dome Fuji, Vostok, and EPICA Dome C ice cores in Antarctica.¹⁻³ They also claim to have counted more than 110,000 annual layers in Greenland's deep GISP2 core.⁴ For this reason, some biblical skeptics think ice cores prove an old earth. However, the argument is not as strong as it appears, and there is positive evidence the ice sheets are young.

Thick Ice Sheets Can Form Rapidly

Secular scientists claim today's Greenland and Antarctic ice sheets are millions of years old, but they admit that thick ice sheets could form in about 10,000 years.⁵ Since the Flood occurred 4,500 years ago, this is admittedly more time than is allowed by the Bible's history.

However, most creation scientists think that Earth's tectonic

plates moved much faster during the Flood than they do today, leading to the rapid creation of hot new seafloor. The resulting heating greatly warmed the world's oceans.⁶ This caused increased evaporation, putting much more moisture into the atmosphere, which led to greatly increased rainfall as well as snowfall on mountaintops and at high latitudes.

The Flood also triggered many volcanic eruptions. Volcanoes continued to erupt with decreasing intensity for many years after the Flood. The resulting volcanic aerosols caused cooler summers, which prevented winter snow and ice from melting. This, combined with the much higher snowfall rates, allowed thick ice sheets to form in less than 4,500 years.⁷

Dating Details

Secular scientists depend on theoretical models to assign ages to the Antarctic cores because low snowfall on the Antarctic plateau

makes it impossible to count visible layers.^{8,9} These models simply *assume* the ice sheets are millions of years old.¹⁰ So, the vast ages secular scientists have assigned to the deep Antarctic ice cores actually prove nothing.

Informed skeptics would acknowledge this. But they would claim the deep Greenland cores still prove long ages since scientists used “simple” counting of visible layers in the cores to assign ages to the ice. However, counting layers is very difficult and subject to much uncertainty, especially in the deep parts of the cores. Creation scientists plausibly argue that uniformitarian scientists are greatly overcounting the true number of annual layers.^{7,11,12} In fact, creation skeptic Bill Nye recently highlighted evidence (surely by accident!) that one *cannot* naively assume that visible bands in the Greenland cores necessarily represent annual layers. An account of this is archived on ICR.org.¹³

Secular models assign nearly all the ice cores’ time to the bottoms of the cores. For instance, the secular model assigns a total of 680,000 years to the bottom half of the 3200-meter-long EPICA Dome C core but only 122,000 years to the top half.³ These models predict that annual layers of ice will become much thinner at greater depths (Figure 1). We’ll see a little later why these two facts are very important.

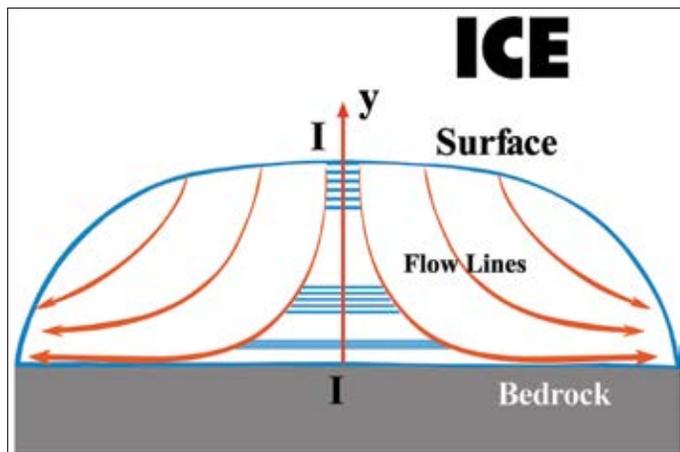


Figure 1. The weight of the ice causes annual layers to become thinner over time, with the thinnest layers at the bottoms of the cores.

Volcanic Layers, Evidence for Creation

Volcanic clues within the ice cores agree well with the creation model. Volcanic eruptions produce sulfuric acid droplets that fall on the ice, and the cores preserve the acid layers. By inspecting such layers in the GISP2 ice core, secular scientists concluded that hundreds of powerful volcanic eruptions occurred during the Ice Age. The eruptions were each large enough to noticeably affect the climate.¹⁴

However, secular scientists think that overall these eruptions did not have much of a “big picture” effect on climate because they occurred over a 100,000-year timespan. In the creation model, this

intense volcanism took place within just a few hundred years, providing a potent cooling effect, especially during summers. The Flood Ice Age model predicts intense volcanic activity during the post-Flood Ice Age, and these acid layers bear this out.

Volcanoes sometimes deposit ash and glass fragments called *tephra* on the ice sheets. The tephra layers provide a test between the creation and secular age models. Remember that secular age models assign truly vast ages to the bottom halves of the deep Antarctic ice cores. If the ages assigned to the lower halves of the cores are greatly exaggerated, as creation scientists claim, these excessive bottom ages will cause the deepest tephra layers to appear extremely infrequently. Ash layers from eruptions that in reality may have been separated by just decades or centuries will seem to be separated by hundreds of thousands of years.

This is what we observe!^{12,15} Figure 2 shows the depths at which tephra layers appear in the EPICA Dome C (EDC), Vostok, and Dome Fuji ice cores. Figure 3 shows the ages that secular scientists have assigned to these tephra layers. On the time graph, the layers are

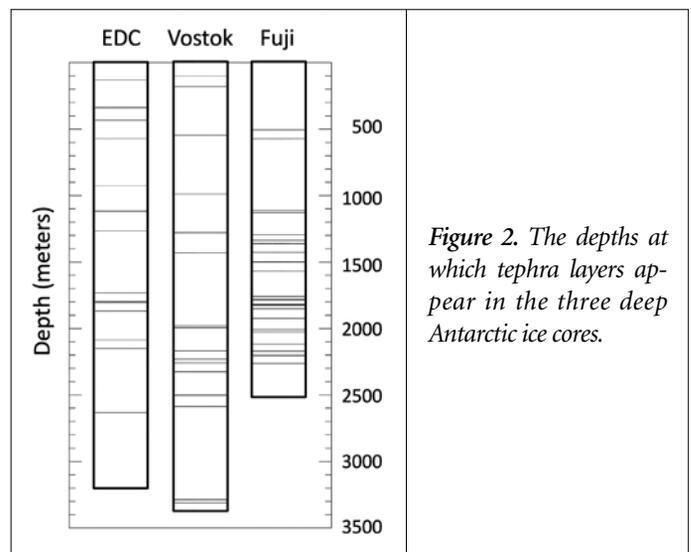


Figure 2. The depths at which tephra layers appear in the three deep Antarctic ice cores.

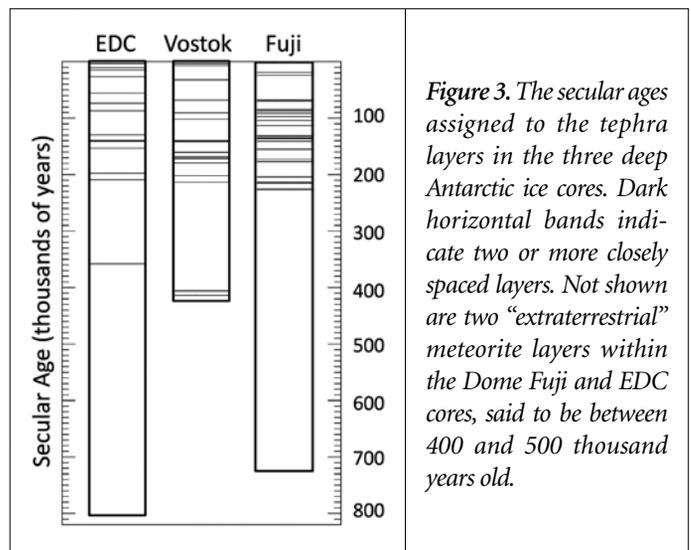


Figure 3. The secular ages assigned to the tephra layers in the three deep Antarctic ice cores. Dark horizontal bands indicate two or more closely spaced layers. Not shown are two “extraterrestrial” meteorite layers within the Dome Fuji and EDC cores, said to be between 400 and 500 thousand years old.

much more infrequent in the supposed distant past. The pattern was so striking that secular scientists commented on it:

A striking feature emerging from our study is that the frequency of visible tephra in the Vostok and EDC cores decreases dramatically in the ice older than ca 220 ka [220,000 years]....The last [i.e., the most recent] 220-ka sections of both records contain about a dozen discrete tephra layers while only one event is identified at EDC and two at Vostok in the interval 220-414 ka, encompassing more than two complete climate cycles [about 200,000 years]. Tephra layers even disappear from 414 to 800 ka, i.e. the bottom of the EDC core.²

An Alternate Explanation?

But annual ice layers become thinner at greater depths. As the deeper ice layers thin, so do the tephra layers within them. Could it be that tephra layers *are* present in the core bottoms but are just too thin to be seen? Secular age models predict that the deepest annual ice layers will be quite thin, but these layers should be thick enough that deep tephra layers, if present in the ice, would still be visible.

Also, note that two tephra layers are visible at the very bottom of the Vostok core. If even the thinnest tephra layers at the very bottom of this core are visible, then the thicker tephra layers in the middle sections, if real, should *also* be visible. Hence, secular scientists ruled out this and other possible explanations. They concluded that this apparent decrease in tephra frequency was real.

Secular scientists tried to explain this pattern by claiming that for some reason volcanic eruptions near Antarctica were once much more infrequent. But this violates their uniformitarian assumption that “the present is the key to the past.” Likewise, these three cores are widely separated geographically. How likely is it that no ash layers *at all* would fall on much of Antarctica for hundreds of thousands of years?

These three Antarctic cores are the only Antarctic cores with assigned ages greater than 400,000 years whose tephra layers have been carefully studied. This apparent decrease in tephra frequency is present in all three of them. Coincidence—or an indication that secular age models are assigning far too much time to the bottoms of the deep Antarctic ice cores?¹⁵

Lack of Antarctic Erosion

Most secular scientists believe the East Antarctic ice sheet formed about 34 million years ago.^{7,16} Eventually the pressure of the accumulating ice would have become great enough to allow the ice next to bedrock to melt despite the cold temperatures. This would have allowed the ice to slide over the rocks. Moving ice scraping and bulldozing the rocks over millions of years would have greatly eroded the underlying Gamburtsev Mountains.¹⁷ Yet, secular scientists were stunned to learn that the Gamburtsev Mountains showed very little erosion (Figure 4).

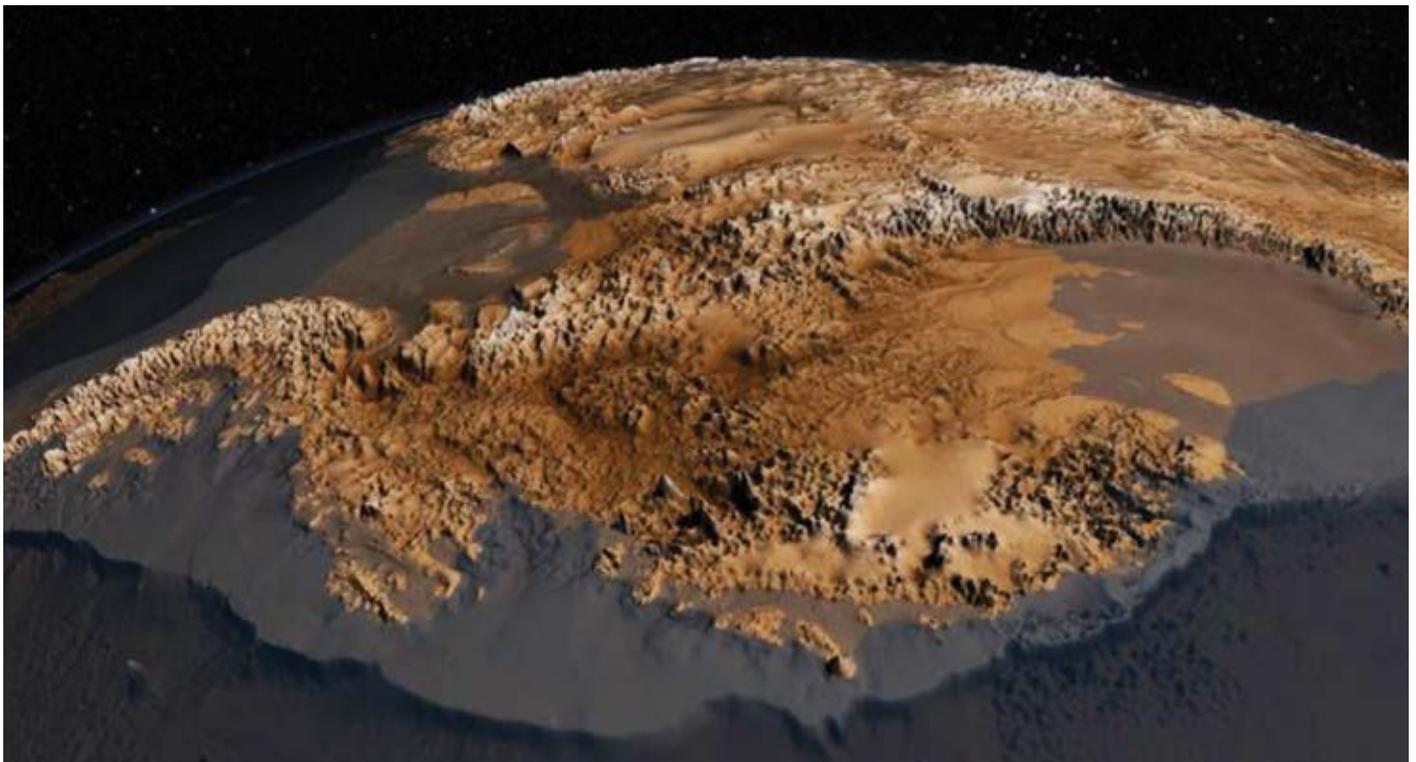


Figure 4. The East Antarctic plateau is shown at the top of the image. The Gamburtsev Mountains are near the center of the plateau. Elevations are exaggerated for clarity.

Image credit: NASA/GSFC



“It’s really hard to imagine that there are mountains under there [the ice]. It doesn’t matter which way you spin – it’s pretty flat,” said [geophysicist Robin] Bell, who has studied the area for years. Yet, she added, the truly mysterious part of the hidden mountains is not *that* they exist, but how they *still* exist. The inexorable march of geological time erodes mountains away (if we came back in 100 million years, the Alps would be gone, Bell said) and the Gamburtsevs, at the ripe old age of 900 million to a billion years old, should have been worn down eons ago.¹⁷

Secular scientists suggested that perhaps the eroded mountains were somehow “reborn” two hundred million years ago.^{17,18} However, they admitted that the details of how this could have happened are unclear.¹⁷ Another problem with this idea is that other scientists insist, based upon radioactive dating methods, that the mountains are at least 500 million years old.^{19,20}

Other scientists proposed that meltwater at bedrock flowed uphill (this is theoretically possible) and then refroze above the mountains, protecting them from erosion.²¹ But even so, the mountains would still have been eroded by wind and rain for hundreds of millions of years *before* the ice formed. Of course, this lack of erosion makes sense if the ice and Gamburtsev Mountains are just thousands of years old.

Conclusion

Despite the claims of some, deep ice cores do *not* present an invincible argument for an old earth. The Flood Ice Age model provides a better overall explanation for the Ice Age, during which the thick ice sheets formed. Furthermore, clues within the ice suggest that

the ice sheets are quite young, just as one would infer from a straightforward reading of Scripture. ❄️

References

- Petit, J. R. et al. 1999. Climate and atmospheric history of the past 420,000 years from the Vostok ice core, Antarctica. *Nature*. 399 (6735): 429-436.
- Narcisi, B., J. R. Petit, and B. Delmonte. 2010. Extended East Antarctic ice-core tephrostratigraphy. *Quaternary Science Reviews*. 29 (1-2): 21-27.
- Lambert, F. et al. 2008. Dust-climate couplings over the past 800,000 years from the EPICA Dome C ice core. *Nature*. 452 (6763): 616-619.
- Yau, A. M. et al. 2016. Reconstructing the last interglacial at Summit, Greenland: Insights from GISP2. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. 113 (35): 9710-9715.
- Caltech Division of Geological and Planetary Sciences, Caltech Division of Geological and Planetary Sciences, ESE/GE 148a class lecture notes. Posted on gps.caltech.edu May 3, 2018, accessed December 1, 2018.
- Clarey, T. 2016. Embracing Catastrophic Plate Tectonics. *Acts & Facts*. 45 (5): 8-11.
- Oard, M. J. 2005. *The Frozen Record*. Santee, CA: Institute for Creation Research.
- Palermé, C. et al. 2014. How much snow falls on the Antarctic ice sheet? *The Cryosphere Discussions*. 8 (4): 1577-1587.
- Dating by forward and inverse modelling. Centre for Ice and Climate. Niels Bohr Institute. Posted on iceandclimate.nbi.ku.dk, accessed May 3, 2018.
- Cuffey, K. M. and W. S. B. Paterson. 2010. *The Physics of Glaciers*, 4th ed. Burlington, MA: Butterworth-Heinemann, 617. Secular age models treat the heights of the ice sheets as more or less constant, ignoring the thousands of years it took for them to form. This only makes sense if the ice sheets are much older than just a few thousand years.
- Hebert, J. 2014. Ice Cores, Seafloor Sediments, and the Age of the Earth, Part 2. *Acts & Facts*. 43 (7): 12-14.
- Hebert, J. 2015. Thick Ice Sheets: How Old Are They Really? *Acts & Facts*. 44 (6): 15.
- Hebert, J. Bill Nye, PBS Highlight Young-Earth Evidence. *Creation Science Update*. Posted on ICR.org April 27, 2018, accessed July 10, 2018.
- Zielinski, G. A. et al. 1996. A 110,000-Yr Record of Explosive Volcanism from the GISP2 (Greenland) Ice Core. *Quaternary Research*. 45 (2): 109-118.
- Hebert, J. 2018. Tephra and inflated ice core ages. *Journal of Creation*. 32 (3): 4-6.
- Oard, M. J. 2016. Little erosion beneath Antarctica and Greenland Ice Sheets. *Journal of Creation*. 30 (1): 11-14.
- Mustain, A. Antarctica’s Biggest Mysteries: Secrets of a Frozen World. LiveScience. Posted on livescience.com December 14, 2011, accessed July 18, 2018. Emphasis in original.
- Amos, J. Gamburtsev ‘ghost mountains mystery solved.’ *BBC News*. Posted on bbc.com November 17, 2011, accessed August 20, 2018.
- van de Flierdt, T. et al. 2007. Pan-African age of the Gamburtsev Mountains? U.S. Geological Survey and The National Academies. USGS OF-2007-1047, Extended Abstract, 176.
- van de Flierdt, T. et al. 2008. Evidence against a young volcanic origin of the Gamburtsev Subglacial Mountains, Antarctica. *Geophysical Research Letters*. 35 (21).
- Creyts, T. T. et al. 2014. Freezing of ridges and water networks preserves the Gamburtsev Subglacial Mountains for millions of years. *Geophysical Research Letters*. 41 (22): 8114-8122.

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.



Can Intelligent Design Prove Evolution?



BioLogos is a theistic evolution-based organization that promotes the secular model of molecules-to-man evolution. The group’s adherents not only champion the secular model of evolution, they also deny intelligent design in living systems. As a result of this position, they end up rejecting a literal interpretation of the creation account in Genesis.

The mission of BioLogos is to convince people to accept both naturalistic evolution and God in some sort of compromise. A key aspect of their internet outreach is a series of short videos pushing an evolutionary agenda. One video in particular titled *Is God the Creator?* attempts to explain the central premise of theistic evolution.¹ But despite the BioLogos position against intelligent design, the video uses an example of a complex human-designed and engineered system in an attempt to prove evolution.

Two key statements in the video need careful scrutiny:

1. “There are many ways that God creates.”
2. “Did God create the building you’re sitting in? We don’t believe that God said, ‘Let there be a building’ and it popped into existence out of nothing.”

Before we unpack the central logic problem with this analogy, we as Christians must first ask ourselves, “Are these statements biblically correct?” First, the Scriptures clearly reveal there was only one way God created, and this is a foundational aspect of our faith. In Genesis 1, we repeatedly see the phrase “then God said” as He uses the power of His Word to speak each fundamental feature of creation into existence over the course of six 24-hour days. Psalm 33 says:

By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and all the host of them by the breath of His mouth...For He

article highlights

- BioLogos holds to a concept called *evolutionary creation* (theistic evolution), a combination of Darwinism and creation that is at odds with Scripture.
- They use the analogy of an intelligently designed building to support their position, but the analogy actually illustrates the complete opposite of evolution.
- Evolutionary creation is countered by Scripture as well as scientific discoveries.

spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast. (Psalm 33:6, 9)

This creation methodology is validated in Hebrews 11:3, which states, “By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God.” Even the many creative miracles of Jesus Christ the Creator documented in the gospels were performed by His spoken word.

Second, BioLogos attempts to use an analogy of how a man-made building comes together to support their belief in how God supposedly used evolution to create things. In unpacking this idea, it’s important to understand that BioLogos promotes the traditional secular neo-Darwinian idea of evolution. This involves random processes of mutation and selection over eons of time that somehow resulted in the unimaginably

complex all-or-nothing biological systems we study as scientists.²

So ask yourself this question: Did the building you are sitting in evolve by self-assembling itself bit by bit over eons of time through chance random processes? What about the highly engineered components it’s made of such as thermostats, water heaters, garbage disposals, ceiling fans, etc.—did they also randomly self-assemble and evolve?

The reality is that intelligent humans designed and engineered the building, along with all its complex components. The BioLogos analogy actually illustrates the complete opposite of evolution. The obvious fact is that complex systems—whether they are buildings, cars, washing machines, or computers—must be engineered and assembled with a high level of intelligence all at once for them to work. A partially assembled car or computer is nonfunctional and worthless. The Bible follows this line of commonsense reasoning by describing how an omnipotent, omniscient Divine Engineer constructed our complex, interconnected world in a short period of time as described in the first chapter of Genesis.

The Bible, not evolution, is in perfect agreement with the factual scientific reality of engineered biological systems that are so complex we are only beginning to understand them. The truth of God’s Word needs to be trusted and upheld, not the man-made myth of evolution. ✎

References

1. Stump, J. and A. DeSelm. *Is God the Creator?* BioLogos. Posted on biologos.org, accessed November 1, 2018.
2. Tomkins, J. P. and J. Bergman. 2017. *Neutral Model, genetic drift and the Third Way - a synopsis of the self-inflicted demise of the evolutionary paradigm.* *Journal of Creation.* 31: 94-102.

Dr. Tomkins is Director of Life Sciences at the Institute for Creation Research and earned his Ph.D. in genetics from Clemson University.



Are People and Fruit Flies Related?

There are around 152,000 named species of flies (the order Diptera) representing approximately 10% of all species on Earth. One genus in particular, the pesky fruit fly *Drosophila*, is found all around the globe. It's used in fields of scientific research that include behavior, physiology, genetics, and development.

Thomas Hunt Morgan, a geneticist and Darwin critic, studied this fascinating insect at the turn of the last century in his famous Fly Room at Columbia University. He later found the creatures could be mutated by X-rays. Indeed, in 1926 Hermann Muller discovered that heavy doses of X-rays could cause mutation rates to rise by 15,000%. In following decades, strange and lethal mutations were given colorful names such as *spook*, *bazooka*, *bladder-wing*, *popeye*, and *hunchback*.

Scientists have conducted over a century of detailed fruit fly research. If real evolution were to be observed, it would be in a lowly insect like the fruit fly.¹ They're small, fairly easy to handle, sexually mature in just days, and have four pairs of chromosomes. This means it isn't too difficult to locate a mutated gene in the *Drosophila* genome.

Developmental biologists know that in order for macromutations to affect body-plan formation in such a way that could change one kind of animal into another kind, the mutations must occur early in the animal's development.² Ironically, it has been consistently found that early developmental mutations damage a creature.

Those genes that control key early developmental processes are involved in the establishment of the basic body plan. Mutations in these genes will usually be extremely disadvantageous, and it is conceivable that they are *always* so.³

article highlights

- For decades scientists have bombarded fruit flies with X-rays to increase their mutation rates.
- Researchers wanted to observe evolution in action, but the mutations showed genetic damage instead.
- Evolutionists now claim fruit flies and humans are related because they share common genes.
- This similarity indicates a common Creator, not a common ancestor.



Evolutionists, frustrated by not seeing any real evolutionary change in fruit flies no matter how much they mutate, have now resorted to trumpeting the similarities of flies and people in a strange hypothesis called *deep homology*.⁴ These scientists maintain that the fruit fly genome shares widespread genetic content with people. Of course it does...who would doubt it? So do mice, oceanic invertebrates, birds, and a host of other creatures—even plants!

Fruit flies must breathe, eat, and drink

water, so it follows that much of their genome is made up of genes involved with basic respiratory and digestive (carbohydrate, fat, and protein) physiology just like other animals and people. But having a few similar genes during embryonic development doesn't mean the creatures have a common *and unknown* ancestor. As evolutionist V. Louise Roth recently stated, "Homology is a hypothesis and an inference."⁵ Creation scientists couldn't agree more.⁶ The idea of homology is shot through with evolution-based presumptions and suppositions. Even anti-creationist Michael Allaby said homology was "the fundamental similarity of a particular structure in different organisms, which is assumed to be due to descent from a common ancestor."⁷

God has designed the embryonic development of people and fruit flies (as well as virtually all bilateral animals) to be similar at certain basic levels, having corresponding aspects of their body plans. But this is hardly proof of evolutionary continuity. It is, however, clear evidence of a common Designer. ✎

References

1. Sherwin, F. 2006. Fruit Flies in the Face of Macroevolution. *Acts & Facts*. 35 (1); Thomas, B. 100 Years of Fruit Fly Tests Show No Evolution. *Creation Science Update*. Posted on ICR.org July 29, 2010, accessed December 18, 2018.
2. Thomson, K. S. 1992. Macroevolution: The Morphological Problem. *American Zoologist*. 32 (1): 106-112.
3. Arthur, W. 1997. *The Origin of the Animal Body Plans: A Study in Evolutionary Developmental Biology*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 14. Emphasis in original.
4. Held Jr., L. I. 2017. *Deep Homology?: Uncanny Similarities of Humans and Flies Uncovered by Evo-Devo*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
5. Roth, V. L. 2018. Book Review of *Deep Homology?* By Lewis I. Held, Jr. *The Quarterly Review of Biology*. 93 (4): 384.
6. See also Section 4.3 in Denton, M. 2016. *Evolution: Still a Theory in Crisis*. Seattle, WA: Discovery Institute Press.
7. Allaby, M. 2014. *Dictionary of Zoology*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 296.

Mr. Sherwin is Research Associate Senior Lecturer, and Science Writer at the Institute for Creation Research and earned his M.A. in zoology from the University of Northern Colorado.



Discovery Center activity is ramping up as we pull together all the exhibit components that have been in process for months.

More animatronic creatures arrived, including the two pictured on this page. These raptors will follow other animals entering the Ark two by two. Many people have questioned whether the Ark could really fit two of every land animal and bird. Others wonder whether or not dinosaurs even boarded the vessel. The Discovery Center will provide solid, sensible answers to these questions and more.

Our muralist has added an icy mountain backdrop to the Ice Age exhibit, which will display our life-size woolly mammoth and rhino. What caused the Ice Age? When did it happen? Was there more than one? A short film in the nearby Ice Age Theater will offer visitors a better understanding of this frigid period in Earth's history.

ICR volunteers and friends from First Baptist Dallas recently enjoyed the first showings in the Discovery Center's planetarium. We were pleased by their encouraging response to our new program *Creation in the Solar System*. We look forward to wowing your family with the wonders of God's creation when the planetarium officially opens later this year.

On top of all that's happening inside with the exhibits, there's lots of hustle and bustle outside the facility as well. Landscapers added plants and trees out front, and more exterior wall panels were shipped to us. These two new panels showcase *T. rex* and mosasaur fossils. Soon, we'll post all nine panels along the wall facing busy Royal Lane.

ICR's Discovery Center will put creation and Flood evidence in the limelight like never before. We can't wait for you to see it!



The Discovery Center at dusk



First Baptist Dallas friends in the Discovery Center lobby



The planetarium wows its first audience



Animatronic raptors



Exterior wall panels of a mosasaur (above) and a T. rex (above right)



Ice Age mural

Help Us Complete the Exhibits

We're developing the most educational and inspirational exhibits possible to point people to the truth of our Creator, the Lord Jesus Christ. Visit ICR.org/DiscoveryCenter to find out how you can partner with us in prayer and help us finish strong!



Galapagos marine iguana. Image credit: Copyright © K. Jørgen. Used in accordance with federal copyright (fair use doctrine) law. Usage by ICR does not imply endorsement of copyright holder.

Trait Selection Is Internal, Not External

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

article highlights

- An organism’s programmed “if-then” logic enables it to internally select possible solutions to different challenges.
- Immanent selection mimics the adaptive strategy engineers use to anticipate challenges and provide built-in solutions in advance.
- Darwin perpetrated the greatest intellectual swindle in the history of ideas when he ascribed the power to choose to unintelligent natural forces.
- ICR’s continuous environmental tracking model predicts the way creatures use programmed logic mechanisms to regulate the internal selection of adaptable responses.

Crime dramas tend to involve several potential suspects. Some suspects have a good motive to commit the crime but also a good alibi. Viewers presented with the exact same details can develop different theories about the culprit, and at some point one onlooker might blurt out “who done it” while another says, “Don’t tell me!” Often the climax arrives when a brilliant detective or defense attorney not only proves why their client didn’t commit the crime but why another person—usually seated in the room for dramatic effect—was the real culprit. It isn’t enough to prove who *didn’t* do it; viewers want to know what actually happened.

In a similar fashion, researchers could have very different interpretations for a common observation in adaptation-related mysteries. When a population of organisms is exposed to changing conditions, quite often we find that over time some adapt to live in a new environment. What seems to have happened is a non-random—indeed, preferential—sorting of some of the original members (and their offspring) whose traits are highly suited to the new environment. Researchers face two equally important questions: “What mechanisms enabled the original population to diversify,” and “How do we explain the *preferential* sorting of organisms?”

Examining Explanations for Preferential Sorting

A potential explanation is blind chance or luck. But the preferential sorting of organisms with certain traits that match changed conditions is often predictable.¹ This fact, coupled with evidence from population statistics,² indicates that chance is an unlikely explanation for most sorting events.

Physicists could provide another explanation. Some might claim that physical forces can cause sorting similar to the way dynamic fluid environments use phenomena like momentum and drag to sort suspended particles with different traits into different zones. But physics alone doesn’t seem enough for the preferential sorting of creatures.

A theologian might say God selects each organism to live at a particular time and environment of His choosing in order to accomplish a specific purpose. Scientists who believe in the sovereignty of God and His active involvement with His creation could readily agree with this. But they would be hard-pressed to devise a scientific test or device that measures God’s activity.

Nevertheless, the theological explanation makes intuitive sense since it explains preferential sorting by the means familiar to everyone—an intelligent agent. Not surprisingly, even those who promote evolution or intelligent design use some manifestation of volition to explain preferential sorting. For example, when a fish with normal eyes is observed living in an open stream but its blind cousin resides in a cave, the question arises: Did a volition-based selection preferentially sort out these fish to the appropriate environment?

Yes, it did, but not the non-identifiable “selection event” that evolutionists attribute to unconscious nature. That’s what *didn’t* happen in this mystery. What did was an identifiable selective activity in fish embryos. In a bona fide selection between the “on” or “off” mechanisms regulated by logic-based information, “control switches” for eye development were turned off in the blind fish.³

ICR’s article series “Darwin’s Sacred Imposter” covered a few



Two blind cave fish—Mexican tetra—native to Texas and Mexico.

reasons why we should reject attributing volition to nature. But first, let's consider a more precise way to express how certain traits may be truly selected to fit specific environments.

Immanent Selection Describes Responses from Internal Logic-Based Systems

The most recent articles in the Engineered Adaptability series described an indispensable element of tracking systems (together with sensors), which is logic mechanisms.⁴ We found that an organism's programmed "if-then" logic enables an *internal* selection of the correct solutions to different challenges. When specific conditions are detected, the adaptive response is a particular and necessary consequence of these complicated, logic-based systems.

There appears to be a link to real volition. An organism's logical programming carries out the conscious logical intentions of an intelligent agent—the organism's programmer. Thus, what we observe in nature are biased responses that result in the preferential sorting of creatures with different traits that fit different environments.

From an engineering standpoint, if organisms are going to live in ever-changing environments, they need an adaptable design. Creatures use an array of mechanisms to continuously track environmental changes. One fascinating aspect of innate self-adjusting mechanisms appears to be a programmed "strategy" for adaptation that corresponds in function to programs that human engineers produce.

This aspect could be described as *immanent selection*.⁵ Immanent refers to something inherently within—i.e., built in. So, immanent selection is a type of internal selection. If it is the outworking of a strategy, how does it work?

Engineers try to anticipate every challenge their designed entity will encounter so they can engineer specified solutions that *precede* the challenge. The predictive plan that engineers develop is called an *adaptive strategy*. The inherent selectivity of "if-then" logic mechanisms is integral to implementing a strategy. When engineers write specifications, they select one component or process over another. Thus, specificity is linked to an intelligence-based selectivity.

Take the Galapagos marine iguana. It's heralded as an evolutionary example of "selective pressures" over time adapting mainland

iguanas for life in the sea. One evolutionist envisions that certain "favored" genetic mutations coupled with the struggle to survive have "modified a different cranial exocrine gland to serve as a salt-excreting gland."⁶

But in reality, the same author explains that many mainland and all marine iguanas *already* possess sodium and potassium secretion glands. In fact, the salt secretion rate and composition and concentration of the secreted fluid are usually rapidly and repeatedly self-adjusted by marine and mainland iguanas when salt is orally ingested or water with dissolved salt is introduced intravenously. This suggests an internal salinity sensor and innate programming that selects the appropriate response, and thus "the ability to modify the composition of the secreted fluid may give animals flexibility in acclimating or adapting to changes in dietary salinity."⁶

Immanent selection is also evident in the inherent selectivity of the membranes that regulate the internal access of an organism's cells. As one report astutely put it, "A cell that cannot control what comes in or leaves its interior cannot survive."⁷ That same selectivity is seen in an organism's sensors for specific molecules. These exist in abundance within another selective barrier called *epithelium*, or skin.⁸ Remarkably, selective control of biochemical reactions has also been observed in intracellular zones that are delimited by the characteristics of specific protein combinations. One report states:

These protein-based liquid globules, called membraneless organelles, selectively permit entry of enzymes and substrates to carry out various cellular functions that would be less efficient or not possible at all in the cytoplasm.⁹

Immanent selection seems like a fitting collective depiction of precise selective characteristics and adaptive responses of both cells and organisms...characteristics and responses that can be traced back to identifiable internal information.

Engineering-Based Explanations Expose the Mysticism of Natural Selection

As noted earlier, an internal selective activity happens that shuts down eye development in certain fish embryos—but enhances development of other senses—so that these fish can pioneer into caves. In other words, creatures are active, problem-solving entities that take on environmental challenges and continuously fill different niches.

But as we saw in a previous article in this series, Darwin revolutionized how biology views organisms by mischaracterizing them as "passive modeling clay" that is shaped by nature over long periods of time.¹⁰ Intelligent design advocate William Dembski explains how Darwin illegitimately projected selective capacity onto nature and deflected it from the designed specificity within organisms.

In short, evolutionary biology needs a designer substitute to coordinate the incidental changes that hereditary transmission passes from one generation to the next, and there's only one nat-

uralistic candidate on the table, to wit, natural selection....Before Darwin, the ability to choose was largely confined to designing intelligences, that is, to conscious agents that could reflect deliberately on the possible consequences of their choices. Darwin's claim to fame was to argue that natural forces, lacking any purposiveness or prevision of future possibilities, likewise have the power to choose via natural selection. In ascribing the power to choose to unintelligent natural forces, Darwin perpetrated the greatest intellectual swindle in the history of ideas.¹¹

Though selectionists today routinely project selective abilities onto inanimate natural forces, before Darwin that was not the case, as Dembski observed. Evolutionist M. Hodge confirms "that no one would easily or inadvertently slip into talking of nature as a realm where anything like selection was located; and, indeed, we find few authors before Darwin making that transition."¹²

Engineers neither project non-quantifiable powers onto nature, nor do they assert that a problem can somehow "select" its solution. Engineers recognize that solutions either solve a problem or they don't. In fact, projection of power onto a statue, a rabbit's foot, or even nature is a spiritual issue.

The intrinsic spiritual problem with natural selection has been derided by non-theist observers from the outset. Back in 1861, the Perpetual Secretary of the French Academy of Sciences described Darwin's *Origin of Species* as "metaphysical jargon thrown amiss in the natural history," "pretentious and empty language!" and "puerile [silly] and supernatural personifications!" and said that Darwin "imagines afterwards that this power of selecting which he gives to Nature is similar to the power of man."¹³

Conclusion

Darwin needed a substitute designer. He succeeded by cleverly personifying nature and projecting onto it the God-like capability of exercising an agency to "favor" organisms via some mystical volition. Few evolutionists themselves understand that the imaginary notion that "nature selects" transfers real agency from creatures to the environment. But some do realize it, and one complains, "Evolutionary biologists routinely speak of natural selection as if it were an agent."¹⁴ But then again, he notes:

Many evolutionary biologists, in fact, assure us that the idea of a *selecting agent* is "only a metaphor"—even as they themselves succumb to the compelling force of the metaphor....And so we are to believe that natural selection, which "is not an agent, except metaphorically," manages to design artifacts; and the organism...is not, after all, a creative or originating agent itself. Its [the organism's] agency has been transferred to an abstraction [natural selection] whose causal agency or "force" is, amid intellectual confusion, both denied and universally implied by biologists. Natural selection becomes rather like an occult Power of the pre-scientific age.¹⁴

ICR's continuous environmental tracking (CET) model, currently in development, lifts evolution's mystical mists by explaining adaptation in terms of engineering principles. Since engineering causality exposes the mysticism of belief in "selection events" or "nature exercises agency," it reveals what *doesn't* happen.

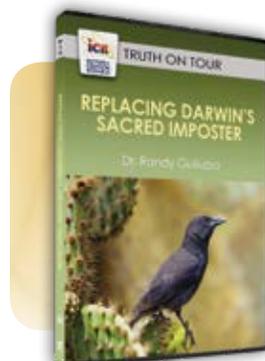
But even more than that, CET hypothesizes what *does* happen. It predicts that organisms track environmental changes using elements that correspond to those found in human tracking systems. Research shows that creatures not only have such elements, they do, in fact, use them to track changing conditions. CET expects a type of immanent selection through the selective nature of "if-then" logic—an internal selection during development (and afterward) of pathways that express traits suitable to specific conditions.

Therefore, organisms are not passive modeling clay. They are instead active, problem-solving entities that solve challenges and fill new niches...just as the Lord Jesus designed and purposed them to do. ✂

References

1. Guliuzza, R. J. 2018. Engineered Adaptability: Adaptive Changes Are Purposeful, Not Random. *Acts & Facts* 47 (6): 17-19.
2. Thomas, B. New Genomes Project Data Indicate a Young Human Race. *Creation Science Update*. Posted on ICR.org November 9, 2010, accessed December 4, 2018.
3. Tomkins, J. P. Blind Cavefish Illuminate Divine Engineering. *Creation Science Update*. Posted on ICR.org October 23, 2017, accessed November 27, 2018.
4. Guliuzza, R. J. 2018. Engineered Adaptability: Logic Mechanisms Direct Creatures' Innate Adaptability. *Acts & Facts* 47 (11): 17-18; Guliuzza, R. J. 2019. Engineered Adaptability: Biological Networks Feature Finest Engineering Principles. *Acts & Facts* 48 (1): 17-19.
5. Phil Gaskill, coauthor of the research paper about continuous environmental tracking presented to the 2018 ICC, crafted the descriptor "immanent selection." See Guliuzza, R. J. and P. B. Gaskill. 2018. Continuous environmental tracking: An engineering framework to understand adaptation and diversification. In *Proceedings of the Eighth International Conference on Creationism*. J. H. Whitmore, ed. Pittsburgh, PA: Creation Science Fellowship, 158-184.
6. Hazard, L. C. 2004. Sodium and Potassium Secretion by Iguana Salt Glands: Acclimation or Adaptation? In *Iguanas: Biology and Conservation*. A. C. Alberts et al, eds. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 84-93.
7. Membrane Channels Show Astonishing Specificity. *Evolution News & Science Today*. Posted on evolutionnews.org August 30, 2018, accessed 28 November 2018.
8. Coppedge, D. F. Be Thankful for Skin. *Creation Evolution Headlines*. Posted on crev.info November 23, 2018, accessed November 27, 2018.
9. Crabtree, M. and T. Nott. These Organelles Have No Membranes. *The Scientist*. Posted on the-scientist.com December 1, 2018, accessed December 1, 2018.
10. Guliuzza, R. J. 2017. Engineered Adaptability: Adaptability via Nature or Design? What Evolutionists Say. *Acts & Facts* 46 (9): 17-19.
11. Dembski, W. A. 2004. *The Design Revolution: Answering the Toughest Questions about Intelligent Design*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 263. Emphasis in original.
12. Hodge, M. J. S. 1992. Natural Selection: Historical Perspectives. In *Keywords in Evolutionary Biology*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 213.
13. Huxley, T. H. 1894. *Darwiniana*. New York: D. Appleton and Company, 65.
14. Talbott, S. L. Can Darwinian Evolutionary Theory Be Taken Seriously? *The Nature Institute*. Posted on natureinstitute.org May 17, 2016, accessed September 14, 2018. Emphasis in original.

Dr. Guliuzza 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. Guliuzza is also a registered Professional Engineer.



REPLACING DARWIN'S SACRED IMPOSTER

\$7.99 \$9.99

DRDSI

Call **800.628.7640** or visit
ICR.org/store

Q. Is Young Earth Creation Crazy?

A creation-believing friend of mine attended a dinner with various scientists. One of them who favored intelligent design said that any scientist who believed in a young earth was “crazy.” Then, remembering one in his audience, he turned to my friend and said, “No offense.” The reply came, “None taken!” This brief banter illustrates popular scorn for belief in a 6,000-year-old world. Can recent creation sound remotely rational in a climate so soaked in millions-of-years thinking?

The 6,000-year estimate comes from counting the number of years the Bible gives between various events from creation to Christ. This view of history is called *recent creation*. In contrast, the world’s way of thinking denies creation from the get-go. It needs millions of years, called *deep time*, to imagine creatures evolving from goo to you.

Many trails lead toward recent creation. Take the limits of science, for example. Some scientists think that science can firmly answer questions about the past. But it can’t. Science directly tests only that which is observable and repeatable. History is neither. The best science can do is weed out unlikely scenarios.

For example, scientists can measure isotope ratios in a rock, but those numbers must be cranked through a formula that includes unknown, unmeasurable variables to output a time estimate. Secularists make sure those variables receive deep-time-friendly values. They assume the rock’s starting state and that no outside process tinkered with the ratio since the rock hardened long ago. Then in a crazy twist, they often invoke special starting states of rocks or outside tinkering to explain out-of-place isotope-based age estimates.¹

Since science fails to pinpoint historical events, how can we know when past events happened? Simple—we consult those who were there. We read what they wrote.² And it turns out the Bible is the ultimate history book. Not only did eyewitnesses write or help write it, but God Himself carried the prophets and apostles along as they or their associates penned the Word

article highlights

- A 6,000-year-old earth can sound crazy to a world that bandies about the phrase “millions of years.”
- The scientific method tests and observes the repeatable present. It can’t go back in time and test the past.
- Many dating methods involve criteria that assume deep time. This circular reasoning is not science.
- If one digs deeper into science and history, the evidence points to the young earth described in Genesis.

of God.³ Recent creation isn’t crazy. It uses the most reliable record around. Trusting in science to answer all our questions about the past is the crazy option.

Lousy logic in secular approaches to ancient history offers another trail that leads to recent creation. Deep-time defenders resort to circular arguments instead of observation. They say things like “Science has proved the Bible is wrong, so the world must be billions of years old.” Ask them what they mean by “science” and they often equate science with billions of years. Thus, they reason in a circle. It’s like saying “The world is billions of years old, therefore the world must be billions of years old.” Science cannot verify such a claim since science deals strictly with the observable here and now. Only by first refusing to include the Bible’s history do they then declare the Bible unfit to convey history. Now *that’s* crazy.

Besides all this, natural time clocks from many disciplines help confirm biblical creation. ICR.org has dozens of articles that describe everything from an abundance of blue stars,⁴ helium in minerals,⁵ and soft tissues in fossils,⁶ to a scarcity of creature mutations.⁷ Even these science-based observations cannot pinpoint history, but they do weed out deep-time options. Misplaced faith in science, a lack of logic in secular arguments, natural time clocks, and the very Word of the Creator all lead to recent creation. ✂

References

1. Woodmorappe, J. 1999. *The Mythology of Modern Dating Methods*. El Cajon, CA: Institute for Creation Research.
2. Thus, historians find no certain dates for events for which eyewitnesses left no documentation like court records or coins.
3. 2 Peter 1:21.
4. Lisle, J. 2012. Blue Stars Confirm Recent Creation. *Acts & Facts* 41 (9): 16.
5. Cupps, V. R. 2019. Helium Retention in Zircons Demonstrates a Young Earth. *Acts & Facts* 48 (1): 10-13.
6. Thomas, B. 2014. Original-Tissue Fossils: Creation’s Silent Advocates. *Acts & Facts* 43 (8): 5-9.
7. Jeanson, N. T. 2014. New Genetic-Clock Research Challenges Millions of Years. *Acts & Facts* 43 (4): 5-8.

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



Beware the Bait of False Hypotheticals

At a recent ICR event in Massachusetts, an attendee asked a trap-loaded question: “Some say that minor errors in the Bible are okay because they don’t hurt the Bible’s main message—but how do you deal with the Bible’s errors?” The scoffer added, “How do you fix your theology when new scientific discoveries prove that your literal belief in the Bible doesn’t work?”

Notice how the critic’s leading questions included built-in assumptions: “The Bible contains errors. Your theology is broken. Science disproves the Bible. A literal belief in the Bible is unreasonable.” They are similar to this unfair question: “Yes or no, have you stopped beating your wife?”

Beware! Before you let a critic’s question put your faith on trial, put the question itself on trial. Judge it for legitimacy—it might be deceptively illegitimate.

Speaking of trials, such sophistry is routinely rejected in real-world courtroom trials, such as when a witness is asked a question that prematurely presupposes unproven facts. What if the question assumes wet weather associated with some event yet there was no report of rain at that time and place? Or what if the question is about how certain medicine dosages affect humans yet there is no evidence of those dosages being tested on humans?

The proper response to a false hypothetical in a courtroom context is: “Objection, the question assumes facts that are not supported by the evidence.”¹ However, most people don’t play by forensic evidence rules, so unsubstantiated assumptions (including groundless name-calling) are often used as a substitute for real proof.² So, how should we, as believers, respond? Reply that such questions are defective and misleading as asked because they contain false hypotheticals that require assuming unproven allegations.

To the Massachusetts challenger,

article highlights

- Questions with built-in assumptions are often illegitimate.
- One response is to question the questioner and ask for proof for the question’s built-in assumptions.
- Christ dismissed false hypothetical questions by confronting the illegitimate assumptions.
- When false hypotheticals are posed in an argument, don’t take the bait.



I countered: “You assume that Scripture contains scientific errors, but I reject that assumption. You need to identify a few examples of these so-called errors—or even just one—then we can discuss your question using specific topics that exist in the real world.” Unsurprisingly, the challenger had no example available despite his boast that Scripture contained lots of errors.³ Like him, other skeptics often ask similar questions us-

ing false hypotheticals as bait in debate-like discussions.

When they do, tell them they may be entitled to their own hypotheticals but not to their own universe—God rules the real universe. The Lord Jesus illustrated this when He dismissed a question as illegitimate while faulting the Sadducees for ignoring God’s Word and God’s sovereign power over human affairs.⁴ Random hypothetical scenarios are not guaranteed to occur in the universe just because we can imagine them.

In summary, don’t automatically assume that a hypothetical scenario can occur unless and until there is real evidence that it actually does occur. God’s Word is sure. God makes sure that the universe never contradicts what He has said in Scripture. God’s truth rules and matches the real world. So, don’t be baited by false hypotheticals! ☒

References

1. *Missouri, Kansas & Texas Railway Company of Texas v. Williams*, 133 S.W. 499, 502 (Tex. Civ. App. 1910). “The question assumes that the [train station] depot room was wet. The evidence does not show that the depot was wet, and therefore the question was error. Hypothetical questions must be based on facts proved... [otherwise] the answers to such questions are merely speculative and not pertinent to the investigation.” See also *McDowell v. Eli Lilly & Company*, 2015 WL 845720, *6 (S.D.N.Y. 2015). “False hypotheticals are not accepted as reliance evidence.” *Dallas I.S.D. v. Simms*, TEA Dkt. 130-LH-705 (CIHE 9-10-AD2005), page 10 (allegations alone, unsupported by reliable proof, are inadequate, because this would require assuming critical “facts” not provided as evidence), applying *Peaster I.S.D. v. Glotfelty*, 63 S.W.3d 1 (Tex. App.—FW 2001, n.w.h.).
2. To illustrate name-calling devoid of supporting proof, read Wikipedia’s entry on Institute for Creation Research to see how it unjustifiably labels ICR as “pseudoscientific” because ICR rejects deep time, natural selection theory, and Big Bang cosmogony.
3. Nevertheless, the skeptic argued that his question deserved an answer, because maybe “modern science” would/could/might somehow disprove some Scripture details. Obviously, Christ Himself disagreed with that attitude—and Christ’s knowledge outranks any skeptic’s speculations—so accommodating and endorsing skeptics’ speculations are both needless and unwise (Matthew 5:18; John 5:44-47; Luke 16:31). Also, notice in 1 Timothy 6:20-21 that careless attention to so-called science causes many to err from the biblical faith.
4. Not all imaginable hypotheticals are possible in a real world because God ultimately selects which scenarios He is willing to allow. Consider the discussion in Matthew 22:23-29 about serial marriages.

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





A model that makes sense! Excellent!

— A. M.



I have been praying for years for the truths that you share with atheists, evolutionists, and those training their children to know biblical truth about creation and science based on biblical guidances. Amen. This is a great ministry.

— S. H.

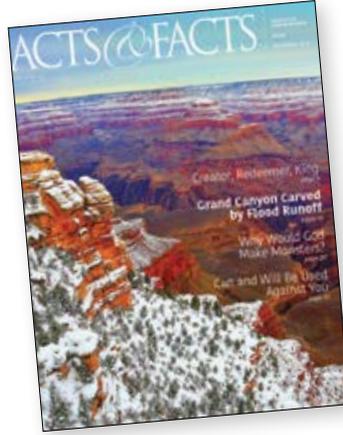


My sons (7 and 8) love your videos! Whenever they hear “millions/billions of years” now, they just shake their head and say, “No, that’s not true, Papa.”



Look forward to coming out someday with them to see the new center when it’s complete!

— D. A.



One of the great magazines I love to read. It tells you what really happened.

— D. T.

Dr. Clarey’s December 2018 [“Grand Canyon Carved by Flood Runoff”] was for me the best article I have ever read on the Grand Canyon’s origin! Excellent and thank you.

— W. T.



I’ve been subscribed to *The Creation Podcast* for so long, but I’ve never really listened to any podcasts until this week. I’m loving it! I think I’m going to change our [homeschool] science curriculum to just listening to these in the car for a while.

— M. P.



If podcasts are your thing, then I have the BEST kind for you! Scientific and theological podcasts of the highest standard. These scientists do research and publish their articles in peer-reviewed journals. @icrscience has



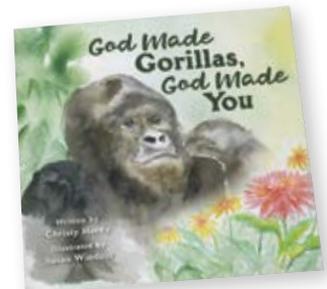
launched a creation podcast, and they have lots of topics on science and faith! Go to their website and discover the various topics they address, or go on iTunes to get the podcasts FREE!

— A. G.

Mr. Brian Thomas, your work is appreciated. I quote from you every opportunity I can. Great job, your work is changing lives!

— M. R.

Editor’s note: Visit ICR.org/podcasts for information about the podcasts we offer. You can also click the Media menu button for other options.



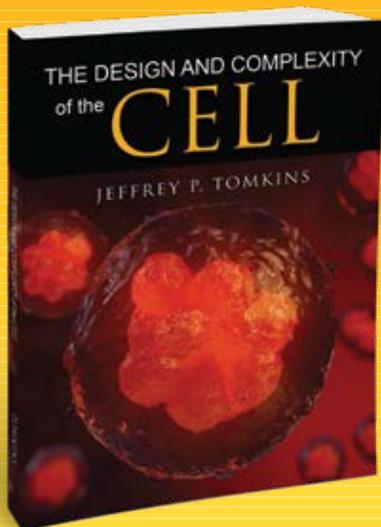
I’ve been buying your books to give to our homeschooled grandchildren. They love them.

— A. M.

Have a comment? Email us at Editor@ICR.org or write to Editor, P. O. Box 59029, Dallas, Texas 75229. Note: Unfortunately, ICR is not able to respond to all correspondence.

SOFTCOVER VERSION

THE DESIGN AND COMPLEXITY OF THE CELL



\$14.99
~~\$19.99~~

BTDACOTC2

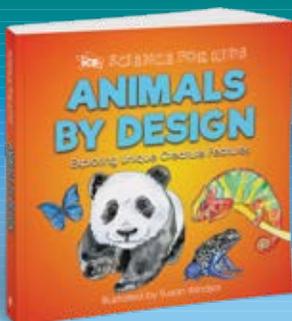


P. O. Box 59029, Dallas, TX 75229
ICR.org

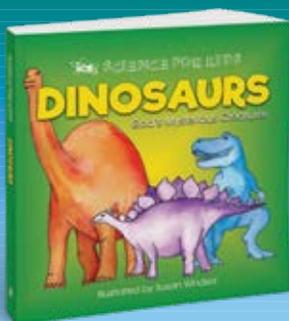
SCIENCE FOR KIDS!

\$8.99

BABDEUCF



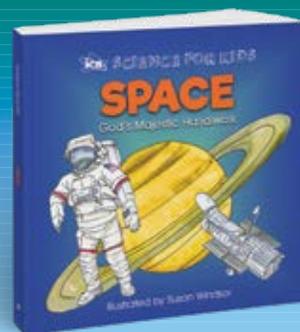
ANIMALS BY DESIGN
Exploring Unique Creature Features



\$8.99

BDGMC

DINOSAURS
God's Mysterious Creatures

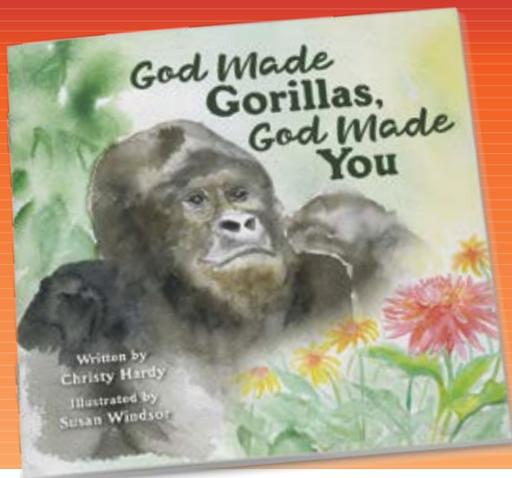


\$8.99

BSGMH

SPACE
God's Majestic Handiwork

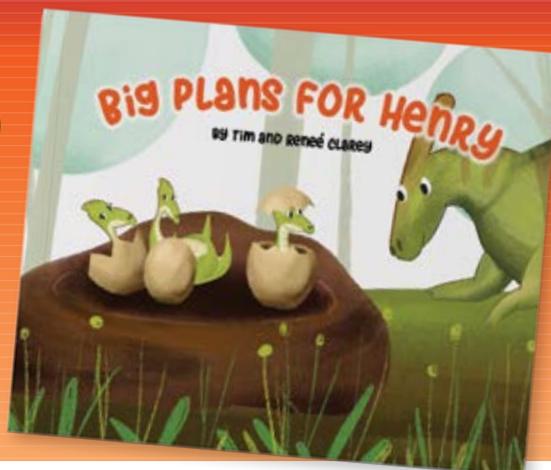
GOD MADE GORILLAS, GOD MADE YOU



\$7.99

BGMGMY

BIG PLANS FOR HENRY



\$8.99

BBPFH

Call **800.628.7640** or visit **ICR.org/store**

Please add shipping and handling to all orders. Offer good through February 28, 2019, while quantities last.