Climate change is a hot topic. From politics to theology, debate rages over whether we face an imminent climate catastrophe and whether drastic action is needed to stop it. But how much is real science and how much is just political alarmism? In The Climate Change Conflict: Keeping Cool over Global Warming, Dr. Jake Hebert dives into the confusing world of climate change science and brings much-needed clarity from a scientific and biblical perspective. This booklet is a welcome introduction to the topic of climate change. Buy one for yourself and others to give away. Buy five and save 10%! Buy 20 and save 20%!

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How Has ICR Changed Your Life?

When we recently asked our Facebook followers how ICR has changed their lives, we received so many compelling stories. One reader said, “It’s made a few gray areas a lot clearer.” Others posted “I can debate the scoffers better” and “it helped to repair the damage done by a public ‘education.’” I really liked the comment from B.H., who said, “It’s changed the way I view science and history forever.” (See other comments on page 23.)

How has ICR impacted you? Have you considered the evidence for creation and allowed it to change your perspective of science and history? As you’ll see in this issue of Acts & Facts, our scientists and scholars consistently remind us of God’s work in creation, and they carefully show us how science fits with the Genesis account.

Dr. Henry Morris III assures us that “the message of Genesis isn’t confusing…. The words of Scripture insist that God’s work was recent, complete, and good” (“Genesis and the Character of God,” pages 5-7). He goes on to explain why belief in a recent, complete, and good creation helps us align our understanding of origins with the character of God.

Belief in recent creation also aligns us with good science. Geologist Dr. Tim Clarey provides evidences for the recent creation of Earth. He says, “The very existence of Earth’s continents, coupled with erosion rates, testifies to the youth of our planet and the truth of God’s Word” (“Four Geological Evidences for a Young Earth,” pages 10-12).

If Earth is young, evolution could not possibly have formed the creatures and people who live here. Paleobiochemist Dr. Brian Thomas says, “Unimaginably long time-spans form the backdrop for all evolutionary speculations…. Erase the time and you erase evolution” (“How Mount St. Helens Refutes Evolution,” page 14). Geneticist Dr. Jeff Tomkins refutes evolution from a different angle. He notes that “a key problem with the evolutionary position is that there’s no evidence of an ape-human transition in the fossil record” (“A Literal Adam Is a Gospel Issue,” page 15).

Many who believe in an old earth point to radiometric dating. That’s why nuclear physicist Dr. Vernon Cupps authored his new book Rethinking Radiometric Dating to show how the radiometric dating methods used to “prove” an old earth are unreliable. His research demonstrates that “radiometric dating is not based on the scientific method but rather on assumptions that cannot be observationally verified” (“The Truth about Radiometric Dating,” page 9). This beautiful full-color book contains in-depth science, so prepare to tackle some technical concepts when you open it!

We hope the truth you find in these articles and other ICR resources will encourage you in your faith and give you a greater confidence in God’s Word. If they do, we’d love to know about it. We enjoy reading your comments and seeing your participation in our social media posts. Thank you for taking the time to share your stories with us! I’ll include one more. Our friend M.M. tells us he received some ICR resources 30 years ago. He says, “I was a newer Christian and a staunch evolutionist—but looking for answers. With each successive tape in the series, my questions were answeredrationally again and again. Everything fell into place for me theologically, scientifically, and ideologically. It was the start of a new understanding.”

Have you come to a place in your understanding of creation where you see things differently? Does your view of science and history point you to the Creator? We encourage you to join the conversation (@ICRscience), ask questions, and discover for yourself how science confirms biblical creation.

Jayme Durant
Executive Editor
The message of Genesis isn’t confusing. The information throughout the Bible is consistent: The universe was created by an omnipotent, omniscient, and transcendent Being. The words of Scripture insist that God’s work was recent, complete, and good. Our struggle with that message is that everything we observe is tainted by evil and death.

Secular history presupposes that the “normal” of today has been the dominant operational force behind everything. Geological processes, fossil evidence, sociological development—all are interpreted without God in the story. Some theologians attempt to explain the differences between the biblical message and secular naturalism by suggesting that dying processes are a normal part of God’s creation. Some religions embrace the idea that good and evil are just two sides of the same reality—that our perception of such contrasts is merely a product of our experience and culture.

How can we resolve the conflicting message of a good creation with the evil that surrounds us? For those of us who believe an omnipotent and omniscient God has existed from eternity past, we must use God’s divine nature as the controlling factor to correlate what God has revealed to us with our growing understanding of science. What does the revealed nature of God demand of the original creation? How does natural revelation (what we observe in today’s universe) help us understand the written words of Scripture?

Some have suggested the original creation’s processes of nature couldn’t have included a deathless universe since all current natural processes function around deterioration and death. Living things would have worn out and perished, even if the environment then were much better than it is today. Animals would have died as they do now, and Adam and Eve would have died eventually unless they
ate of the tree of life God planted in the garden “eastward in Eden” (Genesis 2:8-9).

But the Bible tells us that death is the result of Adam’s sin, and as a result of God’s judgment “death spread to all men” (Romans 5:12). When God tells us death is the “last enemy” to be conquered by the Lord Jesus (1 Corinthians 15:26) and death won’t exist in the new heaven and the new earth (Revelation 21:4), are we to expect the new bodies promised upon our resurrection to be still mortal in eternity?

Before we approach these issues, it’s absolutely necessary to acknowledge what has been recorded about the origin of the universe.

God’s Own Commentary

The repetition of God’s observation in Genesis 1 is worth noting. On five days of the creation week, the Creator pronounced the results of His work “good.” On the sixth day, “everything…was very good” (Genesis 1:31). It’s the same Hebrew word each time and means just what would be expected: good, pleasant, agreeable, excellent, of benefit, etc. There’s nothing unusual about God’s use of the word, except that it’s repeated often and it is God who uses the term.

Given that the Creator is saying it, we should consider the character of the Evaluator. We should gain some understanding of His attributes before we render an opinion of the meaning of “good”—especially as it applies to the original creation.

God Is Holy

Holiness is the preeminent attribute of God. Everything God does is subject to the unchangeable rock of His holy nature. Even the love that drove Him to become man and die a substitutionary death for our sins is driven by the holiness that demands justice for man’s rebellion against that holiness.

“Who is like You, O L ORD…glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders?” (Exodus 15:11)

“No one is holy like the L ORD, for there is none besides You.” (1 Samuel 2:2)

“For I proclaim the name of the L ORD…He is the Rock, His work is perfect; for all His ways are justice; a God of truth and without injustice, righteous and upright is He.” (Deuteronomy 32:3-4)

Because God is holy, He must reveal truth in the created things of the universe. He cannot lie (Titus 1:2). God’s words and deeds are “true and righteous altogether” (Psalm 19:9).

God Is Omniscient

Everywhere we look—into the deepest recesses of space or the minutia of the microscope—the intricacy, precision, and complexity of all things stagger us with the enormity of details and vastness of information.

O L ORD, how manifold are Your works! In wisdom You have made them all. (Psalm 104:24)

“For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done, saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure.’” (Isaiah 46:9-10)

“Known to God from eternity are all His works.” (Acts 15:18)

This is the consistent message of Scripture. God cannot be progressively aware. His knowledge is immediate. He knows all there is to know. His purpose and order flow from His omniscience. His decisions are unchangeable and without confusion. God’s specific will and pleasure are always implemented.

God’s Flawless Good

Whatever God pronounced good would have to be in harmony with His divine nature. Since God is holy, He couldn’t deceive us about the order of the creation week. Since God is omniscient, He couldn’t guess or use trial-and-error methodology. God wouldn’t experiment. He wouldn’t produce inferior things. He can’t create, make, or shape nonfunctional processes. All of this clear evidence requires that we who read Genesis 1 understand “good” to mean “flawless function.”

• God’s Good Functions Properly

God’s own account of His work specifies His organization and purpose. Because God is omniscient, everything in the universe works as designed. Because God is omnipotent, everything has all it needs to operate, live, reproduce, and populate under the orders of and in agreement with the Creator’s design. Each component was designed to function without flaw. Every part works as ordered, and all living things function under the limits and in the places for their lives. Nothing was misplaced. Nothing was left to chance.

• God’s Good Could Not Include Sin

For the holy, omniscient, omnipotent, loving Creator to conclude that everything He had created was “very good,” there could be nothing in the completed creation that didn’t function as designed. Nothing existed in conscious rebellion against the immutable nature of the Creator—there was no sin. Sin became part of human nature through Adam. Death was introduced into creation through the Creator’s sentence upon Adam.

• God’s Good Could Not Include Death

God is life. Everything that is revealed about God centers on His eternal Being. The most personal name God gives is “I AM”—the One who exists by the right and nature of who He is. Jesus in-
sists He is “the way, the truth, and the life” (John 14:6). The awesome *apokalypse* of Jesus Christ opens with a loud voice “as of a trumpet, saying, ‘I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last’” (Revelation 1:10-11).

There’s absolutely no indication anywhere in Scripture that the God of life created death. Nothing in the Bible suggests that death was a part of the good God designed into His creation. Death in Scripture is separation from God. Death stops life. Death intrudes into and destroys everything.

When God completed His work, He pronounced it “very good.” If words mean anything at all, “good” must include the flawless functioning of every molecule and all systems and all life. “Good” demands that nothing be out of order or in rebellion to God’s nature. No sin or death existed in all of creation—until the third chapter of Genesis.

**Rebellion in the Garden**

How much time elapsed between the end of Day 7 and the world-changing events that took place at the tree of the knowledge of good and evil? No specific time period is stated, but it doesn’t appear it was very long. Eve didn’t conceive her first child until after the pronouncement of God’s judgments and she and the man were cast out of the garden (Genesis 4:1). Given God’s command to “be fruitful and multiply” (Genesis 1:28), it’s unlikely either Adam or Eve delayed attempting to fulfill this mandate.

However one interprets the information, it could not have been “ages.”

**A Mixed Message**

If death is part of God’s original creation design, that makes God the Author of death. Since the creation is part of the revelation of the nature of God (Romans 1:20), such a design would require that death be part of the holiness of God. How could this be? The Bible calls death the “last enemy” and insists the Lord Jesus will destroy it. If God Himself created death, then why would He destroy it later?

If death is *not* the judgment for sin as the Bible insists, then the gospel message is foolishness. What would salvation rescue us from? If death isn’t the judgment for sin, then the death of the Lord Jesus on the cross is nothing more than a foolish end to an idealist—a martyrdom for an illusionary cause.

The Bible demands an innocent sacrifice be substituted for the sin of humanity. Christ’s death is required for salvation. We are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ on Calvary (Hebrews 10:10), done once, and with and for eternal consequences (Hebrews 10:12-14).

Twisting the words of Scripture so that Christ’s physical death has no meaning is a terrible heresy. If eons of pain, suffering, and death existed before Adam’s rebellion, then a whole sweep of biblical teaching is thrown into the black hole of allegory.

**The Demands of God’s Nature**

God is omnipresent Spirit (John 4:24). He is not nature. He is not the universe. He is not a cosmic consciousness or a mysterious force. God is *not* man—He is greater than man (Job 33:12) and does not change His mind (Numbers 23:19).

Since God is holy, He does *not* author confusion. He is Light (1 John 1:5). God is the truth (John 3:33; 14:6); therefore, He cannot deceive us.

Because of who God is, we can be assured of an original creation that functioned as it was designed—a creation that fits the Creator. The “groaning” of the creation now (Romans 8:22) is a constant reminder that rebellion against the holiness of the Creator required His judgment. God Himself reconciles His creation to Himself through the death of His sinless Son in substitution for our well-deserved guilt.

**The Good News**

The gospel message insists on the birth from above (John 3:3) that brings about a transfer from death to life (John 5:24). It involves a “new creation” (2 Corinthians 5:17) made possible by the death of the Creator Himself (Hebrews 2:9).

The earthly condition of flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God. Physical changes are required. Resurrection is the absolute opposite of physical death. Corruption must become incorruption. Dishonor must become glory. Weakness must become power. The natural must become spiritual (1 Corinthians 15:50-54). Physical death is an intrusion into the eternal order of things, and it takes a resurrection to correct it.

The “new man” must be created in God’s righteousness and true holiness (Ephesians 4:24). We await the fulfillment of the promise when the Creator “will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself” (Philippians 3:21).


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.
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The Truth about Radiometric Dating

Prove it. That’s the challenge biblical creationists often face when discussing the scientific validity of the Genesis creation account with skeptics. Many people leave the church, especially young adults, when they think that the Bible and science can’t be harmonized. But what if incredible harmony actually exists?

Those who believe in millions and billions of years often point to radiometric dating as indisputable scientific proof that Earth is old. Since the biblical timeline indicates a young Earth that’s only about 6,000 years old, creation scientists must address the radiometric dating issue. We need someone with great expertise to take a critical look at these methods and pull all the findings together.

ICR Research Associate Dr. Vernon Cupps' new book *Rethinking Radiometric Dating: Evidence for a Young Earth from a Nuclear Physicist* fulfills this need. It kicks off ICR’s new In-Depth Science book series by demonstrating that radiometric dating is not based on the scientific method but rather on assumptions that cannot be observationally verified.

The chapters in his book cover the following topics, among others:

- Hijacking the Scientific Method
- Genesis and the Question of Entropy
- Order Points to a Recent Creation
- Clocks in Rocks?
- The Iconic Isochron
- Earth’s Magnetic Field
- Radiohalos: Nature’s Tiny Mysteries
- Radiocarbon Dating Can’t Prove an Old Earth
- Soft Tissue Time Paradox

Skeptics often claim creation scientists aren’t really scientists, supposing they don’t conduct actual research or publish in scientific journals. Dr. Vernon Cupps earned his Ph.D. in nuclear physics from Indiana University and has 73 publications in secular scientific journals. In addition to working at Fermilab for 23 years, where he managed the operation of the Radioisotope Analysis Facility, Dr. Cupps also researched at Los Alamos National Laboratory and Canada’s TRIUMF Accelerator.

ICR scientists like Dr. Cupps conduct scientific research to show the abundance of evidence that confirms the accuracy and authority of the Bible. Our ministry has published numerous resources that explain why evolution is scientifically untenable, how most of Earth’s rock layers formed during the Genesis Flood, and why soft tissue in dinosaur fossils couldn’t possibly be millions of years old. Now we offer *Rethinking Radiometric Dating* to challenge the dating methods undergirding secular science’s deep-time ages, to help Christian believers confidently defend their faith, and to invite skeptics to reevaluate their deep-time beliefs.

For ordering information, see page 24 or visit ICR.org/store

“Radioisotope dating is the pillar upon which the deep-time paradigm stands. If it fails, then deep time fails as a viable explanation for origins.”

“If you look at the totality of information and data we have on the earth and solar system, it all points to a very young earth and a very young solar system, not to something billions or millions of years old.”

“The Lord gave us our minds to use—to search out His truth.”

— Vernon Cupps, Ph.D.
Most people believe rock layers require millions of years to form. This assumption has been taught as fact to geology students and the public for generations. In reality, rocks of any type can and do form quickly under the right conditions.

This article reviews four geological evidences that point to a young world. Collectively, this strong evidence also tips the scale in favor of a 6,000-year-old earth. The scientific data demonstrate that our world’s sedimentary rocks cannot be millions of years old.

1 Erosion Is Too Rapid for an Ancient Earth

What would rocks that are millions of years old look like? According to the empirical measurements of today’s erosion rates, rocks that are that old shouldn’t even exist if they are exposed at the earth’s surface.

Modern erosion rates are so fast that according to secular geologists the continents themselves should have been reduced to sea level long ago. A recent study confirmed that outcrops (rocks visible above ground) erode at an average rate of about 40 feet every one million years. This means the time needed to completely erode most continents would be less than 50 million years.

Secular geologists have had to resort to imagined rescuing devices like episodic uplift due to tectonic forces in order to explain the existence of today’s continents. However, much of Canada and the eastern United States have not experienced any significant geologic uplift since the creation of the Appalachian Mountains over 250 million years ago, according to the secular timescale. Considering that much of these areas is less than 1,000 feet above sea level, it’s a wonder there’s any dry land at all in these regions.

2 Shale and Limestone Are Deposited Rapidly by Moving Water

Secular science has long taught that many of Earth’s sedimentary rocks were deposited slowly over vast ages. It says the slow rates of deposition for sediments like clay and lime mud are arguments for an old earth, claiming these layers form through sediments slowly settling out of stagnant water. People have been indoctrinated with the notion that enormous periods of time are necessary to explain these thick rock layers.

Yes, we do see clay settling out of stagnant water today, but the rocks we observe didn’t form that way. Clay, Earth’s most common sediment, doesn’t slowly settle out of still water to form rocks. Clay-rich rocks like shale and mudstones often exhibit fine laminations or thin-bedded layers that only form through moving, not stagnant, water. How do we know? Recent empirical evidence demonstrates that laminated clays must be deposited in energetic settings by moving water. Finely laminated clays rarely form today since biological activity (burrowing or bioturbation) usually destroys the thin layers.

The concept of slow-forming limestone strata has been taught as fact for generations. Such carbonate rocks comprise 20 to 25% of the total sedimentary strata on Earth’s continents. The Redwall Limestone in Grand Canyon is 400 to 800 feet thick, but some carbonates can exceed 3,000 feet. Uniformitarians have used the presence of...
these rocks to criticize the Genesis Flood account, pointing out that thick layers of “quiet water” carbonates must have taken millions of years to form.

But now, all that has changed, and another long-held uniformitarian belief has been exposed as a non-truth. Flume studies verified that carbonate mud is not deposited slowly but instead is laid down rapidly by wave and current action. Laboratory experiments demonstrate that water flowing between 10 and 20 inches per second creates ripples and laminated carbonate mud layers identical to those observed in carbonate rocks. Dr. Juergen Schieber and his co-authors wrote:

These experiments demonstrate unequivocally that carbonate muds can also accumulate in energetic settings. Observations from modern carbonate environments and from the rock record suggest that deposition of carbonate muds by currents could have been common throughout geologic history.

These results match the predictions of creation geologists, who interpret mudstones, shales, and nearly all sedimentary rocks as rapid deposits from the yearlong Flood.

### There's a Lack of Time Between Layers

When we look at the sedimentary rocks and the various mega-sequences they form, we most commonly see the layers stacked like pancakes—each one paralleling the layers below and above. There’s little indication within the sedimentary strata of the vast amounts of missing time claimed by secular geologists. The boundaries between strata often extend for tens and even hundreds of miles in all directions.

Secular scientists often place hundreds of thousands or millions of years between parallel sedimentary units, such as the boundary between the Hermit Shale in Grand Canyon and the overlying Coconino Sandstone. But when you examine the contact between these particular layers, it’s nearly perfectly planar in all directions for tens of miles. There may be small, smooth undulations of a few feet in some locations, but for the most part it’s level with sharp contacts from one rock type to the next. Where are the gullies and the uneven topography that should have resulted from erosion over hundreds of thousands of years? The contact looks like brick-upon-brick with no evidence of any time delay whatsoever across the entire expanse of Grand Canyon and beyond.

Many other sedimentary units are also supposed to have vast amounts of time missing between their boundaries in Grand Canyon and elsewhere. Examples include the base of the Redwall Limestone where it rests on the Muav Limestone, supposedly missing 160 million years, and the base of the Tapeats Sandstone where it rests on the crystalline basement in western Grand Canyon, supposedly missing one billion years.

The Redwall Limestone and the Tapeats Sandstone were deposited nearly perfectly flat across Grand Canyon. And recall that the Tapeats and equivalent sandstones extend over much of North America. Nearly everywhere across the expanse of North America, the base of the Tapeats Sandstone layer is a near planar surface. How could so much time for erosion to take place have left such flat surfaces? Instead, the evidence indicates rapid scouring and erosion, creating a planar surface, followed almost immediately by the deposition of new sedimentary layers as tsunami-like waves advanced across the continents.
Cold Subducted Slabs Exist Deep in the Mantle

One of the strongest evidences to support catastrophic plate tectonics, runaway subduction, and rapid plate movement during the Flood is the seismic tomography imaging of cold subducted oceanic lithosphere deep in the mantle. If these lithospheric slabs were really moving just a few centimeters per year as secular scientists claim, then they should have assimilated into the hot mantle long ago and not show such strong density contrasts (indicating a much cooler temperature) with the surrounding material. Instead, the coldness of the lithospheric slabs indicates they were rapidly emplaced just thousands of years ago.

ICR physicist Dr. Jake Hebert summarized the findings from mantle tomography:

An imaging process called seismic tomography has revealed a ring of dense rock at the bottom of the mantle. Since its location corresponds approximately to the perimeter of the Pacific Ocean, it appears to represent subducted ocean crust. Located inside this ring of cold rock is a blob of less-dense rock that appears to have been squeezed upward toward the crust. If one assumes that the density of the cold ring is comparable to that of the surrounding material, which is the most straightforward assumption, this ring is 3,000 to 4,000°C colder than the inner blob. This is completely unexpected in the conventional plate tectonic model since it can take about 100 million years for a slab to descend all the way to the base of the mantle. In that time, one would expect any such temperature differences to have evened out. However, in the catastrophic plate tectonics model, such a temperature difference is to be expected if the slab rapidly subducted into the mantle just a few thousand years ago.8

These findings validate runaway subduction and rapid plate motion.9 Catastrophic plate tectonics did happen in the past, but only during the Flood about 4,500 years ago. Once all of the original oceanic lithosphere was completely consumed and a new seafloor was created, the runaway motion ceased. Today, we witness the mere residual motion from this event.

Conclusion: The Earth Is Young

These four strong geological evidences demonstrate that Earth is just thousands of years old, as the biblical narrative and genealogies indicate. In fact, there is no empirical evidence to the contrary. Only biased interpretations based on unverifiable assumptions, such as the radioisotope dates that secular science relies on so heavily,10 continue to argue for an old earth. The rocks do not show great age. The fossils do not show great age.11 Earth is young.

References

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

Some Christians claim that insisting on a literal Genesis is a hindrance to evangelism. Since science has supposedly proved that the creation and Flood it describes weren’t real, historical events, they see a literal Genesis as an intellectual stumbling block to potential converts. However, this thinking is completely backward. It is the denial, not the affirmation, of Genesis that is damaging to effective evangelism.

It’s logically inconsistent for Christians to accept the Bible’s testimony about Jesus Christ while at the same time rejecting its testimony about creation and the Flood. The Lord Jesus Himself confirmed the occurrence of Noah’s Flood (Luke 17:26-27) and implicitly affirmed the doctrine of recent creation (Mark 10:6; 13:19; Luke 11:50-51). Since Jesus Christ is the Creator (John 1:3), it makes no sense for Christians to ignore His testimony regarding Genesis.

There is a second, more subtle way that a denial of Genesis—particularly a denial of the Flood—harms evangelism. The apostle Peter hints at it in 2 Peter 2:4-9:

For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell... and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly... then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment.

Peter uses the past examples of God’s judgment to make two points. First, God can and will deliver the righteous. Second, God can and will punish the ungodly. Every example Peter cites comes from Genesis. Because God has already demonstrated His ability and willingness to punish sin, we cannot afford to dismiss the Bible’s solemn warnings about the coming final judgment (Revelation 20:11-15).

Christians who deny or downplay the reality of the Flood are blunting the effectiveness of their own evangelistic appeals. Why should sinners feel the need to “flee from the wrath to come” (Luke 3:7) if the Genesis Flood, the most spectacular example of God’s wrath in the entire Old Testament, never actually happened?

Skeptics assert that there’s no evidence for a global flood. But should Christians really be surprised that scoffers “willfully forget” and deny the reality of God’s past judgment? Peter told us such scoffers would come (2 Peter 3:3).

No, the Genesis Flood really happened. The testimony of Scripture and of the Lord Jesus Himself confirms its reality, as does science. The trillions of fossils entombed in water-deposited rocks are exactly what one would expect from a global flood. Instead of dodging or downplaying the Genesis Flood, Christians ought to be using it to help impress upon people their need for a Savior.

That is one reason ICR exists. Our articles, DVDs, and books show how the scientific evidence, rightly interpreted, strongly confirms the claims of Scripture. And this evidence provides a wonderful opportunity to show both Christians and non-Christians alike that the Bible is completely true—starting in Genesis.

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.
ICR was recently pleased to host Gary Bates, CEO of Creation Ministries International-USA, for a private tour of the under-construction ICR Discovery Center for Science and Earth History. While we watched busy workers add greenery to the Mount St. Helens model, Gary told of a time years ago when evidence from ICR’s research of the 1980s eruptions in Washington State led him to switch from evolution to creation.

Within days of becoming a Christian, Gary began struggling to fit evolution with the Bible. His struggle ended when he saw geologist Dr. Steve Austin present ICR research on Mount St. Helens. By the end of that hour, he had learned enough geology to refute fish-to-fishermen evolution. What does a volcanic eruption have to do with belief in evolution? Gary explained his logic.

First, he learned that Mount St. Helens released the energy of 20 million tons of TNT on the morning of May 18, 1980. The blast pulverized rock and ejected tons of steam-infused ash and sediments throughout that day. Over three billion cubic yards of avalanche material slid down. Eventually, the muddy wreckage settled. At this point, Gary expected that the debris had settled haphazardly.

But Dr. Austin spoke of a 1982 mudflow that carved deep channels through the thick 1980 deposits, exposing mud made solid in just two years. It shocked Gary to learn that the initial explosion formed distinct layers. Giant cross-beds and fine, flat layers both formed fast. He realized that it doesn’t take a million years to make layers. You just need plenty of fast-moving water.

The Mount St. Helens events only needed hours and months to form the same features found in sedimentary rocks around the world. Common features include:

- Sharp, flat contacts between layers
- Larger particles toward the bottom of a rock bed
- Cross-beds
- Steep-walled canyons
- Drainage systems
- Material moved far away before becoming part of new rock
- De-limbed, sorted, and reburied logs
- Volcanic ash mixed with mud and hardened into rock

As soon as Gary learned that rock layers can form fast, he knew Noah’s Flood could have produced enormous rock stacks in one year. We don’t need long ages to solidify sediments. But what about the age-dating schemes that supposedly prove those ages?

Within six years of the eruption, a new lava dome in the crater atop Mount St. Helens had hardened. Standard radioisotope methods pointed to an isotopic age of around 350,000 years for the 10-year-old rock. Gary learned then that the highly regarded radioisotope dating methods are broken. This made Noah’s recent Flood that much more sensible.

He reasoned that if rock layers formed fast, then the earth could be only thousands of years old—not enough time for fish to evolve into people.

Unimaginably long timespans form the backdrop for all evolutionary speculations. But the world’s rocks show evidence of rapid deposits. Erase the time and you erase evolution. I respect Gary for following the evidence where it led—to biblical creation and thus to the trustworthiness of the God who inspired His Holy Word.

References
1. Based near Atlanta, Georgia, Creation Ministries International-USA promotes biblical creation.

Dr. Thomas is Research Associate at the Institute for Creation Research and earned his Ph.D. in paleo biochemistry from the University of Liverpool.
As there a literal Adam? Does it matter? Many academics and even Christians claim humans descended from apes through an evolutionary process over millions of years. This contradicts the biblical account of mankind's unique creation in God's image about 6,000 years ago. A key problem with the evolutionary position is that there's no evidence of an ape-human transition in the fossil record.

*Homo* are ape-like fossils thought to represent the first precursor to the genus *Australopithecus* or human. However, nothing has been found to bridge the gap between the two groups. In a 2016 Royal Society paper titled "From *Australopithecus* to *Homo* the transition that wasn't," two secular paleontologists state:

Although the transition from *Australopithecus* to *Homo* is usually thought of as a momentous transformation, the fossil record bearing on the origin and earliest evolution of *Homo* is virtually undocumented.¹

Even the field of human-ape DNA similarity research has come up empty in this regard. Both creationists and evolutionists recently documented that the human and chimp genomes are no more than 85% similar.² For humans and chimps to have evolved from a common ancestor over an alleged period of three to six million years, a 98 to 99% similarity is required. The scientific data from both paleontology and genetics demonstrate a chasm of discontinuity between humans and apes, a situation that is clearly on the side of the Bible's account of human history.

Many Christians think they should not be overly concerned about the veracity of a literal Adam because it's not directly related to the gospel of Jesus Christ. But this is simply not true. Not only are humans created uniquely in the image of God, but the story of a historical Adam is foundational to the gospel.

Through a literal Adam and Eve, sin entered the picture, along with death, misery, and corruption. This curse accounts for the central problem of evil in the world. Romans 5:12 says, “Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned.” This foundational gospel truth is repeated in 1 Corinthians 15:22: “For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.” And the pervasive and disastrous effect of mankind’s sin on the whole creation is stated in Romans 8:21-22: “Because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption….For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now.”

Jesus Christ clearly affirmed the historicity of a literal human couple during His earthly ministry. In Matthew 19:4 He tells us, “Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning made them male and female.” The Lord not only confirmed the Genesis account of humanity’s creation but also affirmed that this occurred at the very beginning of Earth’s time frame. And we know from detailed genealogies throughout the Bible combined with scriptural data on times of birth and death³ that Earth is approximately 6,000 years old.

The idea that after billions of years of primeval Earth history, followed by millions of years of evolution, humans somehow magically emerged from apes is completely un biblical and also unsupported by sound science. There truly is no need for Christians to compromise on this important issue. Adam was a real person.

**References**


Dr. Tomkins is Director of Life Sciences at the Institute for Creation Research and earned his Ph.D. in genetics from Clemson University.
A local TV reporter recently visited ICR’s campus in Dallas to do a brief news story highlighting the ICR Discovery Center for Science and Earth History.* While we’ve shared about the Discovery Center in ICR resources like Acts & Facts and through the platforms of some of our friends in Christian media, this was the first introduction of the Discovery Center to a broad audience within the Dallas-Ft. Worth area. Excitement is building as we anticipate the impact of this resource for generations to come.

The latest Discovery Center display under development is the Dragon Encounters exhibit. Since the word “dinosaur” wasn’t coined until the 1800s, evidence suggests that historical references to “dragons” were likely based on real sightings of dinosaurs. Some of these dragon legends and artifacts date as recently as the Middle Ages. Genesis makes it clear that people and land animals were created on Day 6 of the creation week, so the idea that people would have seen dinosaurs in the past makes perfect sense from a biblical perspective.

May 18, 2019 marked the 39th anniversary of the 1980 Mount St. Helens eruption. Did you know the Discovery Center will showcase a model of this well-known volcano? You may wonder what Mount St. Helens has to do with creation science. ICR scientists studied Mount St. Helens in the 1990s and discovered it to be an ideal laboratory for investigating the significant and rapid geological effects that can come from large-scale catastrophes, including the global Flood described in Genesis.

ICR is building the Discovery Center to encourage Christian faith with scientific evidence that supports the accuracy and authority of Scripture. We look forward to opening our doors to visitors from near and far once the exhibit hall is complete.

*To view this news coverage, click on the link within our article “WFAA News Highlights the ICR Discovery Center” at ICR.org/article/11284

Help Us Complete the Exhibits

We’re developing exhibits that point people to our Creator and Redeemer, the Lord Jesus Christ. Visit ICR.org/DiscoveryCenter and partner with us!
Tardigrades are the toughest creatures yet discovered. According to Copley, they have “steadfastly defied our attempts to define their limits.” One sample group spent 10 days in outer space with no oxygen. They were exposed to UV radiation 1,000 times greater than at Earth’s surface, but after they were retrieved they proceeded to reproduce normally.

Not only can tardigrades endure the vacuum of space, they can also withstand pressures six times greater than the deepest spot in the ocean. They can persist in nearly boiling water and at temperatures approaching absolute zero. They’ve been known to exist in a dehydrated state for over a century and return to normal activity when exposed to water. Copley remarks:

What the few biologists who study them have discovered, however, is that the secret of their survival is the ability to shut down their metabolism completely while maintaining their cellular structure. … [They have] the ability to switch off all living processes and then start them up again.\(^1\)

The article highlights:

- An entity’s traits—not what it’s exposed to—determine its design success or failure.
- Engineered solutions to problems must precede the problem; the arrival of a solution is not “due to” the problem.
- Traits are engineered to solve challenges. Success or failure is due to the design, not the challenges.

Tardigrades, also known as moss piglets or water bears, are microscopic eight-legged, segmented aquatic animals. Numerous species possess traits that can withstand extreme environmental conditions. Tardigrades’ remarkable capabilities clearly demonstrate that an organism’s traits—not exposures—determine its success or failure. Tardigrade fossils have been recovered from rocks dating from the Cambrian period.

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Clearly, if tardigrades, humans, and other creatures were all exposed to identical conditions, they would not respond in the same way. Each has some unique traits, features, or combinations of these that determine their capabilities. This inherent capacity is what explains different responses ranging from no effect to potential disease to possible death. Could this explanation support a theory of biological design whose basic premise is that biological functions are best explained by engineering principles? Yes, especially as it highlights two design principles that all engineers utilize:

1. It is an entity’s traits—not its exposures—that determine its design success or failure.
2. Engineered solutions to problems must precede the problem. The existence of a solution is not “due to” the problem.

To help clarify the application of this approach to biology, we’ll consider some examples of how designed traits contribute to successful performance.

When Hurricane Michael blew through Mexico Beach, Florida, in October 2018, the homes in entire neighborhoods were flattened. But in one neighborhood, a single home surrounded by devastation was left virtually unscathed. A Fox News headline called it a “miracle home.”3 But miraculous explanations aren’t needed. The home was engineered with traits—design features—specifically intended to solve the problems associated with hurricanes.

On April 25, 2015, an extremely powerful earthquake occurred in Nepal. Tragically, over 9,000 people died. Many lived in the city of Kathmandu. Fortunately, not all buildings collapsed when exposed to the same geological forces. Some buildings had
built-in features that withstood the challenges of the earthquake.

Engineers are rarely able to redesign external exposures. Conditions like wind, waves, and geology aren’t economically feasible to control. It is the traits and features designed into entities that are controllable. These can be engineered to solve a range of uncontrollable and uncertain challenges. These features, not the conditions, determine both whether a design is successful and if that engineered solution becomes dominant in a trade.

The engineers assess if they have correctly gauged the external challenges the designs were purposefully intended to solve. When failures happen, they focus more on an entity’s traits than its exposures. They search for possible poorly or under-designed traits and correct them—not the challenges.

Tardigrades and hurricane-resistant homes in Mexico Beach have traits that produce solutions that precede exposure to the problem. A precise explanation of how creatures actively track environmental changes should incorporate implications of the fact that an organism’s traits—not its exposures—determine its success. We will explore this further in the next article of the Engineered Adaptability series.

References

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.
Q: What Happened to Dinosaurs after the Flood?

A: Genesis says that “every beast after its kind…went into the ark to Noah, two by two, of all flesh in which is the breath of life.” Dinosaurs were beasts, and their fossil nostrils show they had the breath of life. So, if a breeding pair of every dinosaur kind entered the Ark, why don’t we see dinosaurs alive today?

Many other animal kinds also died out after the Flood. Mammal-like reptiles called synapsids left Flood fossils and then later went extinct. Other animals that vanished include the “bear dogs,” rat-size morganucodonts, and Leptictidium, which walked like a tiny, hairy tyrannosaur. We can’t know specifics about their extinction without going back in time, but three key clues sketch an answer.

We find one such clue in fossils. Fossil evidence suggests that, like dinosaurs, these other animals preferred watery homes. The Flood buried dinosaur and synapsid fossils along with water plants, fish, and wetland animals like turtles and crocodiles. Swamp-loving creatures that got off the Ark probably sought post-Flood wetlands.

The history of wetlands forms the second clue. To this very day, “habitat destruction is the leading cause of the global biodiversity [plant and animal] loss in the world.” Ancient lakes and marshes dried up for two main reasons. First, people drained swamps. Consider the Loire Valley in central France. By the 1700s, locals had stabilized the Loire River’s banks with planted trees. They drained its marshes to make farms. But the medieval hunting lodges show there that the land once held prized prey. The game disappeared with the loss of their wetland homes.

A few castles show images of dinosaurs that people may have hunted. One famous tapestry at Chateau de Blois shows a swamp scene with a baby maiasaur (duck-billed dinosaur) amidst Belgian plants. Chateau de Chambord is covered with carvings of a possible prosauropod like Plateosaurus. Similarly, ancient English records identify fens, or marshes, that once held immense reptiles. No wonder the monsters left—locals had long since flushed and fenced the fens.

Wetlands in the Middle East dried up, too, but for a different reason. A recent dig at Azraq in Jordan identified rhinoceros, lion, horse, elephant, duck, and human remains in Ice Age sediments. It’s mostly desert today. Another study surveyed crocodiles stranded in isolated lakes in today’s Sahara Desert. They could not have crossed the desert to get there, so they must have migrated during a wet past. The study authors wrote, “Increased aridity [drying] combined with human persecution led to local extinction.” These stranded crocs are all that remain after rain slowed as oceans cooled and the Ice Age ice melted.

The first clue came from fossils. The second clue tracked the history of wetland loss. A final clue comes from the Bible. In Job 40 God seems to describe a dinosaur called behemoth living near the Jordan River after the Flood. The animal with a tail like a tree was so immense that even if the river raged, “he is not disturbed.” Like other vast regions, the Jordan River Valley dried up long ago—as did its lotus trees, reeds, willows, and behemoths.

What happened to dinosaurs and many other wetland creatures after the Flood? They probably died out as each region dried. 

Dr. Thomas is Research Associate at the Institute for Creation Research and earned his Ph.D. in paleobiology from the University of Liverpool.

References
Does Global Warming Threaten Bird Habitats?

If you love birds, should you fight petroleum production in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions? How you answer depends on whether you believe man-made global warming is threatening Earth’s climate. That crisis scenario is actually based on evolutionary old-earth assumptions, and constant media stories feed the fear.

An amateur naturalist recently sounded the global-warming alarm over tricolored herons expanding their range. He reported that about three-quarters of the population lived in Louisiana in 1976, but now many are relocating northward up the Atlantic coast. He had little trouble identifying the culprits:

Isolated islands, prime breeding grounds safe from land-based predators, are being lost everywhere to rising sea levels and devastating storms. The tricolor I was watching was apparently trying to adapt to a rapidly warming planet. It had arrived earlier and farther north than its ancestors ever did. Birds everywhere are being threatened by the climate crisis. The fossil fuel lobby and its enablers in Washington, DC, are handing tricolors and thousands of other species a life-threatening legacy.

But wait! Are the fossil fuel lobby and the politically powerful petroleum industry really villains that are forcing the poor tricolored herons to migrate—in temperature-troubled desperation—to a Virginia wildlife refuge “farther north” than their ancestors had ever been? No, because the same writer admitted that earlier heron generations had populated eastern America outside of Louisiana in large numbers.

In the mid-20th century, ornithologists counted tricolored herons as the second most common long-legged wader in the United States (only outnumbered by cattle egret).

**Article Highlights**

- Tricolored herons recently moved their range up the Atlantic coast.
- Some think their northward relocation illustrates a global warming crisis.
- However, tricolored herons previously lived in those same ranges, so there’s no need for alarm.
- Christians should reject pseudo-scientific scare tactics that disagree with what the Bible teaches.

So, why are the tricolored heron range expansions cause for alarm? Should America’s government take action to prevent habitat-warming by greenhouse gas production?

Some say “yes.” On March 19, 2019, a federal district judge ruled from Washington, DC, that public lands in Wyoming could not be leased for petroleum exploration due to unmeasured and perhaps “significant” risks of anthropogenic (man-made) climate change in Wyoming and elsewhere.

In a 60-page ruling against the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), District Judge Rudolph Contreras rejected BLM’s FONSI (“finding of no significant impact”):

Having reviewed the record [of evidence] and the relevant law [especially the National Environmental Protection Act, which governs Environmental Impact Statements and FONSIs], the Court concludes that...BLM did not sufficiently consider climate change when making those [oil and gas lease] decisions...[and failed] to provide the information necessary for the public and agency decisionmakers to understand the degree to which the leasing decisions at issue would contribute to those [environmental] impacts. In short, BLM did not adequately quantify the climate change impacts of oil and gas leasing.

This ruling shows that climate change science is serious business. Federal judges often trust speculative claims of global warming alarmists. Judge Contreras expects temperatures in western Wyoming to go up “0.25 to 0.40 degrees Fahrenheit per decade” and those in Utah, eastern Wyoming, and Colorado to “increase by 0.40 to 1.2 degrees Fahrenheit per decade.” Even if they did, that’s no killer heat wave!

This perceived threat is advocated and marketed by those who assume evolutionary old-earth theories. Blaming bird range changes on global warming is sloppy science—even when prior range data show the birds lived there not long ago. Christians should reject pseudo-scientific scare tactics that disagree with what the Bible teaches about Earth’s post-Flood stability.

**References**

2. Burke, M. 2019. Tricolored herons: Here today, but where tomorrow? Chesapeake Bay Journal, 29 (1): 39. Burke’s rush to blame global warming ignores habitat range history such as the impact of cattle egrets introduced from Africa during the 20th century, as well as range dynamics involving other bird populations.

Dr. Johnson is Associate Professor of Apologetics and Chief Academic Officer at the Institute for Creation Research.
With the arrival of warmer weather, the full beauty of the ICR Discovery Center for Science and Earth History’s park and surrounding grounds is now on glorious display. By day, visitors are welcomed by the sight of lush lawns, meandering pathways of natural stone, and neat planters filled with native and exotic species. By night, fascinating features like the DNA sculpture and reflecting pool, fossil wall display, and the glass-skirted main atrium glisten in the glow of soft accent lighting. ICR couldn’t be more pleased with the final “fit and finish” of this gorgeous facility.

It is truly amazing to consider what this three-acre portion of ICR’s campus looked like just a few years ago. This now beautiful parcel of land was once filled with weeds and dying trees, decrepit and abandoned buildings, and old trailer pads left over from the 1960s. But through the hard work of many laborers, it has been transformed into an inviting greenspace that ICR will use to communicate the matchless work of our Creator to thousands of visitors in the very near future.

On my walks through our park, I am keenly aware that every plant, bench, and sprinkler head was made possible by God’s provision through ICR supporters. In a real sense, everyone who contributed to this project is a co-laborer with ICR in this new ministry. The apostle Paul made this very point to the believers in Corinth. While Paul “planted” and fellow minister Apollos “watered,” it is God who “gives the increase” (1 Corinthians 3:6-7). There is no difference in the importance of who does what—in God’s eyes they “are one,” and every believer “will receive his own reward according to his own labor” (1 Corinthians 3:8). Then “both he who sows and he who reaps will rejoice together” (John 4:36) when God blesses the work and makes it grow.

We are excited by this new phase in our ministry and so very grateful for those who have labored alongside us with their prayers and gifts of support. It won’t be long till the ICR Discovery Center opens, but we haven’t crossed the finish line yet. Please prayerfully consider joining with us. Your earthly “labor” with ICR today will lead to great rejoicing in eternity.

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

ICR is a recognized 501(c)(3) nonprofit ministry, and all gifts are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

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I just got my purchase from you a couple of days ago, including Unlocking the Mysteries of Genesis [DVD series] and others, and couldn’t stop watching them. I think even my family will be able to understand them. Excellent work.
— N. D.

My father started out believing in evolution. At a doctor’s appointment some 30-odd [years ago], he picked up an ICR pamphlet. He read it in scoff and decided to study creationism and evolution side by side in order to come to a conclusion ON HIS OWN based on study. It was a matter of months before he realized that evolution is impossible based on the complexity of every scientific system in our world. He has spent over 30 years dedicated to educating himself and others on the truth of Genesis. If you are scoffing at the idea of God as Creator, please take the time to educate yourself before assuming that science and the Bible are incompatible. If you deny Christ as Creator, you are missing out on a huge part of who God is. My dad is highly intelligent, and so are the Morrises (the founders of ICR). There have been men and women of science who were highly respected in their fields with multiple Ph.D.s who [suffered unfair consequences] once it “came out” that they weren’t supporters of evolution. Again, I implore you to educate yourself before making such a serious topic into a joke and assuming that any and all creationists are idiotic and uneducated.
— E. C.

I’m empowered with science to help doubters better process the truth in the Bible. God bless your work!
— J. W.

It helped to repair the damage done by a public “education.”
— S. F.

It’s changed the way I view science and history forever.
— B. H.

Thirty years ago a good friend and mentor introduced me to [ICR resources]. I was a newer Christian and a staunch evolutionist—but looking for answers. With each successive tape in the series, my questions were answered rationally again and again. Everything fell into place for me theologically, scientifically, and ideologically. It was the start of a new understanding.
— M. M.

I can debate the scoffers better.
— S. A.

In public education I had a hard time understanding evolution....Evolution made no sense to me—basic questions it couldn’t answer like “which came first, the female or the male?” Innately I knew it wasn’t true and eventually found ICR, which makes quite a compelling argument for creationism.
— C. W.

It has strengthened my faith in the Word of God.
— B. B.

Years ago, I was a gap proponent who thought old-age Earth could exist with a recent re-creation. ICR showed how one can believe the Bible from the start with a literal 6-day creation, and [Henry Morris] explained in The Genesis Flood that the whole fossil strata [are] much better explained by one worldwide event. I appreciate ICR showing how science is actually on the side of the Bible, unlike what is falsely taught in our secular atheistic educational system.
— J. G.

It’s made a few gray areas a lot clearer. Thanks.
— G. H.

Wow...education of facts about evolution and creation are a must for all who want to be free of this world’s propaganda...ICR is one of the best sites in this indispensable issue.
— H. H.

ICR caused me to realize that I was compromising on the fundamental truth that God created the heavens and the earth in 6 days...not millions/billions of years. I realized I had been discrediting God’s Word and His character by doubting His Word.
— E. W.
RETHINKING RADIOMETRIC DATING

Evidence for a Young Earth from a Nuclear Physicist

Vernon R. Cupps, Ph.D.

“Radiometric dating is a key evolutionary icon that needs to be addressed because those who adhere to a millions-of-years-old earth always point to it. The research laid out in this book demonstrates that radiometric dating is unreliable. It’s not based on the scientific method, it’s based on assumptions that can’t be definitively verified through direct observation and that in fact are contradicted by rocks of known age.”

— Vernon Cupps, Ph.D.

How old is Earth?

In secular circles, it’s believed to be around 4.6 billion years. This number is used so often that most people accept it as a scientific fact. But are the dating methods that appear to verify this age valid?

With decades of experience in top nuclear physics laboratories, ICR’s Dr. Vernon Cupps tackles this question from a scientific and biblical perspective. He examines the major radiometric dating methods and the significant problems with the dating methodology currently employed by scientists.

This first in a series of In-Depth Science books from ICR will show why Christians don’t need to rely on flawed science to tell them about origins.

Call 800.628.7640 or visit ICR.org/store | Please add shipping and handling to all orders. Offer good through June 30, 2019, while quantities last.