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CARVED IN STONE
Geological Evidence of the Worldwide Flood
Dr. Timothy Clarey

Genesis records a worldwide cataclysm that reshaped Earth’s surface and destroyed almost all land-dwelling creatures. Secular geologists insist the global Flood is a myth—but they’ve never studied the rock record across multiple continents simultaneously.

ICR geologist Dr. Timothy Clarey does just this in Carved in Stone: Geological Evidence of the Worldwide Flood. With an oil industry background, Dr. Clarey utilizes drill and seismic data to explain what the rock strata actually reveal about Earth’s past. Rather than reflecting millions of years, the rock record demonstrates that a progressive, year-long global flood occurred thousands of years ago.

RETHINKING RADIOMETRIC DATING
Evidence for a Young Earth from a Nuclear Physicist
Dr. Vernon R. Cupps

Many believe Earth to be around 4.6 billion years old and accept it as a scientific fact. But are the dating methods that appear to verify this age valid? With decades of experience in nuclear physics laboratories, ICR’s Dr. Vernon Cupps examines the major radiometric dating methods and the significant problems with the dating methodology employed by many scientists.

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Moving Forward with a New ICR Leader

As the Institute for Creation Research celebrates 50 years of ministry, we’re also experiencing a significant transition. Dr. Henry M. Morris III will retire as Chief Executive Officer in October 2020. He’s been at ICR’s helm for 13 years, and even before that he worked as Executive Vice President for Strategic Ministries alongside his brother Dr. John Morris. Both men followed their father, ICR founder Dr. Henry M. Morris, into this ministry, and we honor each one’s commitment to uphold the authority and accuracy of Scripture and build the confidence of Christian believers in the Bible as God’s inspired and inerrant Word. The Lord used their courageous leadership to establish a truly unique and Christ-honoring ministry.

The Lord has now provided another leader to advance ICR’s mission in a new chapter. This month, Dr. Randy Guliuzza takes the helm as President and Chief Operating Officer of the Institute for Creation Research. After a focused international search, ICR’s Board of Trustees voted unanimously to appoint him to this position.

Regular Acts & Facts readers will be familiar with Dr. Guliuzza’s articles, but I’d like to provide more information about this person I’m blessed to know. Dr. Guliuzza served as ICR National Representative for almost 12 years, speaking throughout the United States on biblical apologetics, engineering, and the human body, and conducting research into the mechanisms that enable creatures to rapidly adapt to environmental changes. His resume speaks volumes about the breadth of his knowledge and expertise. He earned a B.S. in Engineering from the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, a B.A. in theology from Moody Bible Institute, an M.D. from the University of Minnesota, and a Master of Public Health from Harvard University. He served nine years in the Navy Civil Engineer Corps and is a registered Professional Engineer. In 2008, he retired as a lieutenant colonel from the Air Force, where he served as 28th Bomb Wing Flight Surgeon and Chief of Aerospace Medicine, to join ICR.

Dr. Guliuzza’s commitment to the creation message is evident from his research, publications, and dedication to ICR. His devotion to this ministry guided many of his career decisions for decades. He is the author of numerous creation science resources, which are listed in his online bio at ICR.org/Randy_Guliuzza.

Dr. Guliuzza’s heart for God’s Word is demonstrated in this month’s feature article, “Insight for Today from an Old Prayer” (pages 5-7). He says, “What is wonderful about the Bible is that it is always relevant to any generation in any culture.” He reminds us that “this ‘world system’ opposes the spread of the gospel by...blinding people’s minds through lies and confusion,” and he exhorts us to “pray for supernatural insight” and “be biblically informed.”

In the years I’ve worked at ICR, I’ve seen not only Dr. Guliuzza’s love for the Lord and His Word, but also his heart of compassion and concern for others. I’ve watched him go through times of unjust criticism, and he’s handled it graciously. And even as he experienced great success in his research, I’ve never seen him take credit for himself—he points others to the glory of God. He often says “the normal response to science is worship,” and we can see this truth demonstrated in the way he lives his life.

You’ll hear more from Dr. Guliuzza in the coming months as he moves forward in his new responsibilities. With new leadership in place, we’re excited to see what will come next, knowing the Lord will be faithful to enable the good work He has yet for ICR to do.

Jayme Durant
EXECUTIVE EDITOR
What is wonderful about the Bible is that it is always relevant to any generation in any culture. Christians have also been blessed by reading many of the thoughts and prayers enlightened by biblical truth.

A dear friend gave me a book of Christian prayers with a somewhat odd title, *The Valley of Vision*. He said, “These prayers are hundreds of years old, but trust me, you are going to be challenged and blessed by them!” He was right. This book of prayers has been a joy. One prayer by a Puritan minister from the 1600s combined wonderful thoughts of the Lord Jesus with four perceptive requests for help. It says, in part:

Thou God of all grace, 
Thou hast given me a Saviour, produce in me a faith to live by him, 
to make him
all my desire
all my hope
all my glory....

May thy dear Son preserve me from this present evil world, 
so that its smiles never allure, 
nor its frowns terrify, 
nor its vices defile, 
nor its errors delude me.¹

I was struck by how insightful his request was for deliverance from four specific ways that the world could ensnare him: smiles, frowns, vices, and errors.

This prayer is applicable today for anyone confronting Darwin's personification of nature as the substitute creator in lieu of the Lord Jesus Christ.

This Present Evil World

As a new believer in the 1970s, I heard much about “the world” in church. It was usually in the context that there were the *ways* of the world as contrasted with the *ways* of the Christian. The apostle Paul admonished Christians, “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”²

At Moody Bible Institute, I was taught “the world” included the cursed physical realm and the nations of fallen humanity that, throughout history, are under the control of Satan. He manipulates them through an organized system of corrupted governmental, educational, entertainment, and even religious institutions. Taken together, this “world system” opposes the spread of the gospel by 1) blinding people’s minds through lies and confusion, 2) fostering the enslaving pleasures of sin, and 3) intimidating believers through sanctioned harassment and persecution. The Bible describes the world not merely as a concept but a substantive entity that can be manipulated and even weaponized.

The gospel of John says much about...
the world. We are barely into the first chapter when we read the Lord Jesus “was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him.” In His prayer in John 17, Jesus identified Christians as His people whom the Father has called “out of the world.” Then our Savior focuses this prayer on the Christian’s relationship to the world:

“I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours….Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are. While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name….I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one….Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.”

An instructive picture emerges. On the one hand, the well-known verse John 3:16 says, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son.” But on the other hand, this world system (ruled by the “prince of this world,” Satan) opposes the Lord’s work and His people. Christians are called to love lost sinners but to keep the world’s system at arm’s length.

The Romans 12 passage highlights one other important characteristic of the world: People must demonstrate strict conformity and allegiance in both behavior and thought to the norms set by the world. In a colloquial way, the world could be seen as “the crowd,” or if whipped up into frenzy it would be called a “mob.” Even people who are part of the world must be guarded when dealing with the world’s system. It is like a pack of wild animals that will turn on them—with great delight—and eat any of their own who strays in the slightest way from the crowd. The world is particularly intolerant of independent thinking, fearing any emergence of nonconforming or oppositional ideas. Thus, the world is triumphant when someone surrenders autonomous thinking and willingly brings it into conformity with the masses.

We share the same struggles today that our Puritan brother did hundreds of years ago. His request that “its smiles never allure, nor its frowns terrify, nor its vices defile, nor its errors delude me” is really an appeal for help to resist the world’s pressure for conformity.

So That Its Smiles Never Allure

This type of pressure comes under the guise of friendship—in this case friendship with the world. Who doesn’t like friends? Not only do the smiles of the world offer friendship, but they also offer approval and acceptance. Friendship pressure is common and perhaps the most successful way to breed conformity. It opens the door that leads to further willing conformity.

But it can be resisted. When Ezra began reconstruction of Jerusalem, his enemies initially approached him with alluring smiles. He recounts:

Now when the adversaries of Judah and Benjamin heard that the descendants of the captivity were building the temple of the LORD God of Israel, they came to Zerubbabel and the heads of the fathers’ houses, and said to them, “Let us build with you, for we seek your God as you do.”

Ezra didn’t fall for this lie. Nehemiah’s enemies sought to allure him in the same way. “Sanballat and Geshem sent unto me, saying, ‘Come, let us meet together in some one of the villages in the plain of Ono.” But Nehemiah was not ignorant of this device and wisely understood the real intent: “But they thought to do me mischief.”

Solomon warned that “the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.” When a Christian goes along with the world, he should know that he is never walking with a true friend but a mischief maker. Soon, his Christian distinctives are blurred, his witness is muddled, and then it grows silent. James’ rhetorical question brings clarity: “Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.”

Nor Its Frowns Terrify

Soon, Nehemiah found himself facing hired prophets foretelling that he would be murdered in his sleep to frighten him into abandoning his work.9 Similarly, King Hezekiah of Judah was sent threatening letters from Sennacherib king of Assyria, who had captured all the fortified cities of Judah.10 Sennacherib intended to terrify Hezekiah,
or at least the inhabitants of Jerusalem, into surrendering the city without a fight.

Threats and intimidation directed toward Christians are meant to incite fear primarily through sowing doubt about Christ’s promise “I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

Just as in the cases of Nehemiah and Hezekiah, the world’s threats are designed to stimulate thoughts of uncertainty and misgiving, such as: “You are weak, and they are strong. You are just being a fool.” And possibly the most familiar and effective: “You are all alone.” Fear can be paralyzing.

But Christ has not left us alone, and He never will. The reality of His resurrection can replace fear with boldness. The Hebrew Christians were encouraged to consider:

Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself [Christ Jesus] likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

Nor Its Vices Defile

We do not need to go into detail about vices. We all know what they are and the ones that most easily beset us. A reminder of the personal cost of defilement is appropriate. “Defile” is defined as: debase, pollute, corrupt, to make unclean or impure, to desecrate oneself. The Bible mentions it 112 times. The Lord’s graphic picture of defiled Canaanite practices reveals His thoughts:

“Do not defile yourselves with any of these things; for by all these the nations are defiled, which I am casting out before you. For the land is defiled; therefore I visit the punishment of its iniquity upon it, and the land vomits out its inhabitants.”

A sober warning for all—especially Christians in public ministry—is found in this rarely discussed sentence in the prophet Nathan’s indictment of King David, “However, because by this deed you have given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme…. “

Nor Its Errors Delude Me

The apostle Paul cautions Christians not to be deluded, “that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting.” This appropriately highlights the deceptive ways of our opposition. Trickery and cunning craftiness sound like carefully planned actions intended to mislead even the most perceptive Christians.

Worldly thinking infiltrates education, entertainment, the entire political spectrum, your friends, the internet, and even Christian publishers. To not allow ourselves to be deluded, we should beware of doubt-fostering questions similar to these: Do you think you’re smarter than the experts? Why can’t you just be reasonable and meet in the middle? Why do you always have to be so hardline? It wouldn’t be working if it weren’t true, right?

Like our Puritan brother, we must pray for supernatural insight. Be biblically informed. We can’t afford to be ignorant of Satan’s cunning devices, and if we are tricked once we must learn from that mistake so we don’t repeat it.

The Lord raised up the Institute for Creation Research to aid Christians to avoid being deluded by Darwin’s misleading worldview that personifies nature as the substitute creator in lieu of the Lord Jesus Christ. Darwin’s worldview promotes other falsehoods, like biological evolution and geological frameworks prompting a belief that rocks have existed for billions of years.

ICR’s research, written resources, and Discovery Center are vital to countering the world system and help pastors lead, feed, and defend their flock.

References
10. 2 Kings 18, 19.

Dr. Guliuzza is President and Chief Operating Officer at the Institute for Creation Research. 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. He is also a registered Professional Engineer and holds a B.A. in theology from Moody Bible Institute.
Providing a safe and enjoyable experience is a priority for ICR, and we are closely monitoring the COVID-19 novel coronavirus situation. Since the public health recommendations are changing on a frequent basis, please check ICR.org/events for the most up-to-date event information. If you have questions about a specific event, please send an email to events@icr.org or call 800.337.0375 and press 6.
Recent geological discoveries are defying standard uniformitarian explanations. First, there was the massive Whopper Sand found in the deep water of the Gulf of Mexico. And then there was the dinosaur bone washed 70 miles offshore and buried 1.5 miles deep. And now, researchers have come across another startling discovery—coal beds hidden far beneath the South China Sea.

Peter Lunt reviewed recent oil well drilling data in an area in the South China Sea known as North Luconia, about 175 miles off the coast of Borneo. The oil wells were drilled in over 3,000 feet of water and yet penetrated a thick section of bedded coals at the bottom. Coal deposits form when land plants are buried between sedimentary layers, but no land is near these particular deposits. So, how did these coals form in such deep water so far offshore?

Lunt claims these coals were not transported to the deep water but were buried where the plants grew. He believes the coal was only found in such deep water because the land sank nearly two miles.

Lunt tried to explain: Coal-bearing Late Oligocene beds are known in several wells in North Luconia, but now in water depths of more than 1000 m [about 3,300 feet], with these coals typically 3 km [1.9 miles] or more below modern sea level. These wells therefore indicate 3 km or more of basement [crustal] subsidence since the Late Oligocene.

Lunt also found that the coal-bearing sediments are as much as 5,000 feet thick, adding the second mile to the mystery. Lunt added: Geohistory analysis of the G10-1 well shows that the Oligocene section [containing coal beds] drilled there is both thick and rapidly deposited. The facies [perceived environment] is remarkably consistent over the 2100 m [1.3 miles] of section, with facies…suggesting coastal to very shallow marine throughout.

Lunt explained that the lack of variation within the coal-rich Oligocene section, and across an area greater than 10,000 square km (3,861 square miles), was simply because these thick coal beds sank at exactly the same rate as the coal was accumulating to keep the surface near sea level. To maintain such a balance for a mile-thick section would be a very tricky prospect indeed.

Lunt also found that a thick deep-water Miocene section was deposited directly on top of the coal beds. This implies that the land surface had to instantly drop about a mile from one deposit to the next. Lunt discovered that the Mulu-1 well “is quite exceptional in the extremity of events it shows,” adding more coincidences to the story.

In total, he proposes over two miles of subsidence to place the coals so deep below the ocean surface—one mile for the Oligocene coal beds and then a second mile to accommodate the deep-water Miocene rocks deposited on top. This second act of subsidence had to be nearly instantaneous to change from “coastal” to a “deep-water” environment across the Oligocene-Miocene boundary. This is highly improbable in itself.

Speculations about rapid “yo-yo” movements of the crust are common in uniformitarian explanations because it’s the only way to maintain their worldview. In reality, these Oligocene coal beds are better explained by the tremendous water runoff that occurred toward the end of the global Flood. This interpretation doesn’t require any extreme up-and-down movement. The energy of the receding phase of the Flood could easily transport land plants 175 miles or more out to the deep sea, just like it did the Whopper Sand, and then rapidly bury them in marine sediments. We can add coal beds in deep water of the South China Sea to the ever-growing list of evidence for the global Flood.

Reference:

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

Deep Water Coals Discovery Supports Flood

- Secular scientists were surprised to discover coal beds far from shore, deep under the South China Sea.
- They concluded that the land sank about two miles at two different times and at two different rates—an unlikely scenario.
- But receding water from the Genesis Flood could easily transport land plants over great distances and bury them in deep water to form the coal beds.
- Time and again, new geological discoveries confound uniformitarian explanations and confirm the global Flood.
s evidence for creation ambiguous? Could an honest seeker of truth reasonably conclude there is no God? Is the evolutionary, old-earth story a reasonable inference from the scientific data?

The Institute for Creation Research would forcefully argue that the answer to these questions is no, but surprisingly some young-earth creationists claim otherwise. They have been called “young-earth evolutionists” (or YEEs) by their critics. This group is heavily influenced by a philosophy called fideism, which holds that it isn’t possible to make a truly logical or evidential case for the Christian faith. Fideists claim that true faith demands ambiguity. Although their reasoning isn’t always explicitly spelled out, they seem to think that ambiguity is necessary to preserve human free will. In other
words, fideists would argue that God would not provide mankind with a self-evident case for His existence because that would rob people of the choice to accept or reject God’s love.

Advocates of this position also argue that God deliberately built ambiguity into His creation in order to show mercy to the rebellious. They reason that the condemnation of the unregenerate would be more severe if everyone knew there was a God, so He deliberately made the fact of His existence obscure or uncertain.4

**Bad Theology**

Fideism is terrible theology. Regardless of where a Christian falls on the Calvinist-Arminian scale (the free-will-and-God’s- sover-eignty spectrum), the Bible is adamant that God has not given us a choice when it comes to this fundamental knowledge concerning His existence. Romans 1:18-20 states:

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse.

Yes, people can choose to ignore or suppress their knowledge of God. But, like it or not, God has made this knowledge known to them, even to professing atheists. On the Great Day of Judgment, no mouth will “talk back” to God, claiming He failed to make His existence sufficiently clear—that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.5

This passage also refutes the idea that God has veiled mankind’s knowledge of Him in order to protect humanity from judgment. In fact, it is precisely because “His invisible attributes are clearly seen” that the wrath of God is being revealed from heaven.

Oddly, YEEs will occasionally offer resounding affirmations of the above truth, but will then negate those affirmations by making contradictory statements such as “Truly, many people have doubted the existence of God because of the absence of logical and evidential proofs—because God hasn’t just come out and said so.”6 This suggests that a denial of God is somehow reasonable or understandable, which is flatly at odds with the testimony of Scripture.7

God might withhold additional revelation from us to protect us from further judgment, depending upon how we respond to the light we have already received. An example of this could be Christ’s use of parables to hide truth from the multitudes. However, Scripture offers no hint or suggestion that this fundamental “knowledge of God” is in any way ambiguous or uncertain. If it were, then sinful men and women might indeed have an excuse on the Day of Judgment.

**What About the Flood?**

YEEs might object that even if our knowledge of God Himself is certain, knowledge of the global Flood must be ambiguous since the only way we can know of the Flood is from Scripture. And since uniformitarians reject Scripture, so the argument goes, their denial of the Flood is reasonable or at least understandable. However, the Bible says otherwise. Scripture makes it clear that those who deny the Flood are “scoffers...walking according to their own lusts” who “willfully forget” this fact of history.9

Moreover, uniformitarian geologists testify against themselves that there is sufficient geological data to infer a past watery cataclysm here on Earth, even if one did not have access to the Bible. Geological features on Mars, such as cross-bedding and canyons that appear to have formed rapidly, led uniformitarian geologists to conclude that past catastrophic flooding has occurred there, even though today no liquid water can be found on its surface (Figure 1). Clearly, uniformitarian geologists did not get the idea of past flooding on Mars by reading the Bible.

Yet, the same kinds of geological features that led them to infer flooding on Mars are also present here on Earth. More than 70%
of Earth’s surface is underwater, and the continents are covered by water-deposited sediments that hardened into rock. Moreover, the fossilized remains of billions of plants and animals are entombed within those water-deposited rocks, and fossils of terrestrial and aquatic creatures are often jumbled together. Sedimentary mega-sequences stretch across entire continents (Figure 2). If flooding on Mars is a reasonable inference from the geological data, then how much more so is flooding here on Earth! Furthermore, the existence of these continent-spanning sedimentary sequences implies that this was at least a regional watery cataclysm.

Although it is certainly true that one needs Scripture to learn the historical details of the worldwide Flood, there is nothing ambiguous or uncertain about the geological evidence for that event.

Faith, Fideism, and Certainty

Can’t all Christians agree that biblical faith, or belief, at least implies a certain conviction that the claims of the gospel are true? How can you believe the gospel if you aren’t sure that it is true? Faith or belief seems to demand certainty. And the Bible places a great emphasis on certainty and assurance when it comes to faith. The Bible’s very definition of faith contains the word evidence in it. That doesn’t sound at all like the unsupported, subjective “faith” of the fideist.

However, some clarifications are necessary. One must be certain that the gospel is true in order to believe it, but belief does not necessarily require the ability to articulate why one believes. Yes, we are commanded to “be ready to give a defense” for our hope, but the very fact that the apostle Peter gives us this command makes it clear that Christians, unfortunately, might not always be fully prepared to do so.

Likewise, belief does not require that I know the answer to every objection that a skeptic could raise to Christianity or biblical creation. Given our limited knowledge, this is clearly impossible. However, it is possible to be so certain and confident in the truth of the gospel that I am not swayed, even when presented with an argument or objection to which I do not know the answer.

A Scientific Double Standard

If a fideist is convinced that faith is supposed to be uncertain, then he will oppose claims that the truths of Scripture can be known with certainty. This will be true not just of doctrinal truths but of the historical facts presented in Scripture. YEEs tend to be very critical of “traditional” creationist ministries like ICR, claiming that we frequently overstate the strength of our position. I once heard a fideist-leaning creationist tell a group of creationist college students that when he was young there were no creationist resources that he could trust, a not-too-subtle denigration of the work of creationist pioneers Drs. Henry M. Morris and Duane Gish.

Yet, YEEs credulously accept absurd evolutionary claims at face value. One YEE suggested that “walking whales” on Noah’s Ark evolved into today’s whales after the Flood! When one considers the enormous anatomical challenges involved in such a transformation (Figure 3), the idea is simply preposterous. It’s hard to be-

Figure 2. The sandstone bottom (basal) layer of the Sauk Megasequence (shown in yellow) stretches across multiple continents.
lieve that a creationist would endorse it.

YEEs uncritically accept the claim that evolutionists have many fossils that are good candidates for “missing links.”20 They also claim the earth is young but looks old.21 ICR has addressed this fallacious claim elsewhere.22 Not too surprisingly, evolutionist and bitter opponent of biblical Christianity Richard Dawkins has given one YEE qualified praise for being an “honest” creationist.23

One notices a pattern: YEEs tend to play up supposed evidence for evolution while playing down evidence for creation. Is this because the evidence is truly equivocal and we creationists have been overstating our position? Or is it because YEEs are philosophically opposed even to the possibility that the evidence could strongly favor creation?

What’s Really at Stake

It’s easy to see why a world hostile to Christianity would brace the notion that evidence for the Christian faith is lacking. It lets rebellious sinners off the hook. They have no reason to “flee from the wrath to come.”24 If past evidence for God’s wrath displayed in the global Flood is ambiguous.

And it would certainly be tempting for persecuted Christians in academia to take this position. Likely it isn’t our belief in creation and the Flood per se that offends so many people, it is our claim that these things really happened and that the judgment of the Flood is a solemn warning of God’s future judgment. So, telling the world that our belief in a future judgment isn’t based on evidence would certainly make Christians more popular in academia. It would also be a quick and easy way to remove the “conflict” between the claims of Scripture and secular scientists.

However, the faithful Christian cannot do this. The Bible makes it clear that God-deniers are without excuse and that fearful judgment awaits those who do not repent and believe in Christ. Telling a hell-bound sinner that his denial of God is in any way reasonable is one of the cruelest things a Christian can do. It might be just as bad as saying “A loving God would never send anyone to hell.” To suggest that the evidence for creation and God’s past judgment of the earth is somehow ambiguous is to lull the lost person into a dangerous sense of complacency regarding the spiritual danger confronting him.

Here at ICR, we see evidence that young-earth evolutionism is bearing some very bad fruit. A reliable firsthand witness told me that a graduate student at a conservative creationist university is in danger of falling away from the faith after prolonged exposure to the YEE teachings of that school’s faculty members. Is anyone really surprised by this?

Biblical creationists cannot afford to get this wrong. Affirming a recent creation and a global flood is meaningless if one claims evidence for these things is ambiguous or equivocal. Biblical creation is true, and the scientific and historical evidence strongly confirms this.

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9. 2 Peter 3:3-6.
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18. 1 Peter 3:15.

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.
Biological Bounceback at Mount St. Helens

Early one bright Sunday morning, Mount St. Helens looked as picturesque as it had for hundreds of years. Suddenly, an earthquake shook loose the north side of the mountain. This uncorked a torrent of heat, ash, and steam that torched trees, pulverized rock, emptied and elevated Spirit Lake, and blasted debris across the nearby landscape. New land formed, mudflows wrecked bridges, and sediment clogged waterways far downstream. That was 40 years ago, but the eruption still brings valuable lessons today.

United States Geological Survey research hydrologist Jon Major has published several reviews in remembrance of the radical eruption of Mount St. Helens in Washington state. He described rapid recolonization of the utterly devastated landscape. The vicious May 18, 1980, eruption was supposed to have wiped all life from the north slope, but some survived the blast. Major wrote in a review for the American Geophysical Union publication Eos, “Even some of the most heavily affected landscapes were not as sterile as initially assumed.” He wrote in Science, “Notably, remnants of the pre-eruption biota—biological legacies—that persisted even in what appeared to be a lifeless landscape critically affected ecological recovery.”

Before the eruption, conventional ecologists thought that living things would slowly creep back into the ash and mud from surrounding areas. They thought it could take a century or more for biology to brave the barren blast zone. Evolutionary thinking influenced those preconceived ideas. Nowadays, ecologists see the rapid recolonization at Mount St. Helens as a good reason to recalibrate their old ways of thinking. And these updated expectations for how fast life can colonize mesh well with creation thinking.

Genesis says that God created creatures to multiply and fill the earth. If true, then He would have equipped them with the proper tools to do just that. No wonder keystone species, which support other species in the ecosystem, soon took root, even in nutrient-poor soil.

Major cited research showing that alder trees and lupines began to grow in the mud first. These pioneering plants form symbiotic relationships with microbes that partner with their root tissues, pulling vital nitrogen from the air and plugging it into the soil.

Unexpectedly, pocket gophers’ burrowing brought that newly nutritive soil to the surface. In far less time than expected, ground that was near keystone species had enough nutrition to support other plants. Today, tall alder and other trees sprinkle the grassy landscape that not too long ago looked quite like the moon’s surface.

Major wrote in Eos, “The importance of biological legacies in promoting recovery emerged as an epiphany.” This biological recovery research has influenced land management philosophy. Major wrote of “using variable-retention harvesting, rather than clear-cutting.” Creation thinking fits this idea, too. Instead of wiping out every single tree when harvesting wood, we should wisely leave keystone species behind. God equipped them with the tools to quickly reestablish a new forest that harbors habitats, builds biodiversity, and makes more wood that much faster.

In contrast to the pre-1980s evolutionary-inspired thinking that each organism struggles for its own survival, the big ecological lesson from Mount St. Helens is that plants and animals often work together. Creatures partner to pioneer new lands just like Genesis says they were made to do.

References

Dr. Thomas is Research Associate at the Institute for Creation Research and earned his Ph.D. in paleobiochemistry from the University of Liverpool.
God gave mankind a dominion mandate and expects us to exercise responsible stewardship “over all the earth.” After the Flood, God reaffirmed the mandate in Genesis 9:1-10.

But humans are being blamed by secular scientists for threatening—of all things—vertebrate evolutionary history! A recent article speaks of “the evolutionary history of the world’s terrestrial vertebrates: amphibians, birds, mammals and reptiles” and how the “evolutionarily distinct species” of today are supposedly being obstructed by the “human footprint.” Ironically, there is nothing known for sure about the alleged evolutionary history of vertebrates—they have always been distinct from other life forms. In fact, the article admits as much when it states:

You are alone on your branch of the evolutionary tree of life. Aardvarks, crocodiles, and kiwis were all separated from their closest evolutionary relatives tens of millions of years ago and bear a unique evolutionary history.

The fossil record shows that aardvarks, crocodiles, and kiwis have always been aardvarks, crocodiles, and kiwis. However, “phylogenetic [evolutionary] relationships among the animal phyla are very difficult ones to resolve.” Their “closest evolutionary relatives” are unknown, conveniently existing tens of millions of years ago. A couple of evolutionists have clearly stated the problems:

Faced with these intrinsic obstacles and with little evidence from the fossil record to help, it is hardly surprising that disagreement over the origin of chordates [a large phylum containing all vertebrates] has been common.

The emergence of gnathostomes [a superclass of the above-mentioned vertebrates] from jawless vertebrates marks a major event in the evolution of vertebrates. This transition was accompanied by many morphological and phenotypic innovations.... How these novelties emerged and how they facilitated the divergence, adaptation and dominance of gnathostomes as the major group (99.9%) of living vertebrates are key unresolved questions.

Vertebrates have no deep evolutionary past. The article addresses the threat to the world’s animals—a valid concern—but corrupts the issue unnecessarily with the unobserved process of vertebrate evolution and deep evolutionary time. “Using extinction-risk data for around 25,000 species, the researchers found at least 50 billion years of evolutionary heritage to be under threat.”

The article also states, “The researchers found that regions under high human pressure coincided with those containing irreplaceable reptilian diversity.” It cryptically addressed “high human pressure” but didn’t mention, for example, that huge amounts of lava can release as much CO₂ as mankind will produce for the entire 21st century.

Paul tells us to worship the Creator and not the creation, warning against those “who exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshipped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.” One does not have to bring up unknown and unobserved vertebrate evolution and its extreme ages in order to exercise care for the created environment and the animals it contains.

References
9. Romans 1:25.

Mr. Sherwin is Research Associate at the Institute for Creation Research and earned his M.A. in zoology from the University of Northern Colorado.
Before reopening, we took the opportunity to make some improvements to our facility. We installed monitors to help us provide the most up-to-date information on our featured shows and live presentations. We also incorporated some new footage in the Origin of the Universe and The Returning King films.

Plan your trip at ICRdiscoverycenter.org, where you’ll find ticket information, discounted rates for nearby hotels, and links to other family-friendly attractions in the Dallas area. You’ll also find out what we’re doing to ensure your visit is safe, faith-building, and fun.
The Origin of the Universe exhibit is often a guest favorite. In this theater, visitors journey back to the dawn of time to marvel at the size, complexity, and youth of the universe, learn faith-building facts about astronomy, and watch the Genesis creation week unfold in a stunning multimedia presentation.

Readers of ICR geologist Dr. Tim Clarey’s new book, *Carved in Stone*, will enjoy seeing his multi-continent rock research on display using a 48-inch Omnimove projection system in the Flood exhibit hall. The globe demonstrates the transformation of Earth through each phase of the global Flood. After learning about this catastrophic event, guests then board the Ark, where they’ll get a sense of what life may have been like for Noah and his family.

We invite you to bring your family and friends to the Discovery Center to journey through Earth’s history from a biblical perspective, explore the wonders of God’s creation through stunning planetarium shows, and shop for creation science resources in our Discovery Store! We’re confident you’ll enjoy your visit. Here are just a few of the enthusiastic comments we’ve received:

We enjoyed everything and look forward to returning many times. We purchased a Family Premium [Membership] package so we can take our grandchildren over and over. That’s convenient as well because we won’t stay as long each visit, allowing them to fully experience one area at a time without getting too tired. Praise God for all this wonderful and factual research! — S. H.

This is a well-thought-out museum that provides compelling scientific evidence confirming creation as recorded in the Bible. — B. H.

State-of-the-art technology, fantastic speakers, and the attention to detail on the exhibits was very impressive. Our homeschool group had an absolute blast and spent 4½ hours exploring the center. As a mom I appreciated that it appeals to all ages and held the kids’ attention. We are so thankful to have this in our city and are excited to visit again with our membership! — S. W.

Amazing! The center surpassed my expectations. It was so well done and affirmed creation and a Creator. — S. W. H.

What an amazing experience! The facilities were top notch and the content was thought-provoking. Would highly recommend a visit for believers and non-believers. Come with your questions and be prepared to be challenged! — B. S.

*The ICR Discovery Center reopened with new hours of operation, limited occupancy, specialized cleaning protocols, and social distancing measures in place. Due to the Dallas County court order, guests age 3 and older must wear a mask inside the Discovery Center. Learn more at ICRdiscoverycenter.org.*
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Some within the creation community make the claim that they would believe God’s Word about the age of the universe even if all the evidence pointed otherwise. Trusting God, no matter what, is certainly a good thing. However, then they claim that He intentionally made the universe “look old.” Did God make an old universe but describe a young one in Genesis just to test our faith?

A comparison is sometimes made between creation’s supposedly old features and Adam’s appearance of age, or the water that Jesus miraculously turned into wine. These creationists argue that these examples make it reasonable for God to have created the universe with the appearance of age as well. Should we expect that a creation spoken into existence would somehow look billions of years old? Young-looking features of our world dissolve arguments for its apparent old age.

If a person were given science tools but had no preconceived notions about the universe, would purely objective observations lead that person to believe in a billions-of-years-old earth and universe? By no means, since so many features look so young.

A close examination of the geologic column reveals sedimentation from a flood so recent that the countless creatures it buried, including dinosaurs, have decomposing tissues that sometimes still stink. Mass spectrometers, chemical stains, and microscopes reveal original protein remnants in them. These results suggest burial only a few thousand years ago.

The objective, unbiased person would also understand a century’s worth of magnetometer results that show Earth’s magnetic field is fading fast. That looks young too.

Telescopes reveal comets in long orbits around the sun. These balls of ice follow orbits that every once in a while bring them close to the giant ball of fire. It would be like putting a snow cone half an inch from a space heater set on high. No wonder comets routinely fizzle in front of our eyes when they’re near the sun. They can’t last billions of years. Did God put them into the sky to make sure observers would know the creation isn’t very old?

We see many features that fade fast. Cliffsides crumble and mountains erode. The rate at which our DNA is mutating sets a limit on the human race as a whole. This mutation clock, if run backward from the present amount of DNA damage in our body’s cells, indicates an age for mankind of only thousands of years.

Do features of this creation clearly show a universe that is billions of years old? Do Christians have to believe in recent creation despite mountains of contrary evidence? Quite the opposite. Instead, those who deny creation must believe in deep time despite both the world’s youthful features and the Word’s plain speech.

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**References**

2. In so doing, they mistake “age” for “maturity.” Jesus needed no age to mature water into wine, and He needed no age to mature dust into Adam. It only looks “old” to those who insist that maturity requires age and essentially dismiss those miracles.

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Dr. Thomas is Research Associate at the Institute for Creation Research and earned his Ph.D. in paleo-biochemistry from the University of Liverpool. Mr. Arledge is Research Coordinator at the Institute for Creation Research.
Q: Why Don’t Raindrops Bomb Butterfly Wings?

Okay, I admit most folks have probably not thought to ask this creation question. But a bigger question gets answered when we examine the fantastic butterfly features that counter the force of falling raindrops.

Butterfly wings are quite thin. How do these tiny creatures cope with raindrops that land at 22 miles per hour? Cornell scientist Sunghwan Jung led a project that tested water drop impacts at real raindrop speeds.1 It turns out that special surface structures on butterfly wings manage the drop impacts, which Professor Jung compared to the force of bowling balls falling from the sky on humans!2

How do these special surfaces manage killer raindrops?

At the level seen only with a microscope, we find the wings covered in rough bumps. If a drop hits flat on a sheet of glass, its force spreads in a widening wave. But when a raindrop hits a butterfly wing, the tiny bumps rupture that spreading force so that one big drop shatters into dozens of tiny droplets.

Zoom in even closer to nanoscopic levels and we find wax structures that make the wings water-resistant. The droplets bounce right off. Without them, water would stay on the wings longer, and that would wick too much heat from tiny insect bodies. The research team found that this ingenious, thin surface cuts the water contact time by 70%.1 The wings stay dry and whole, and the tiny flying animals stay warm and airborne.

So, these scientists found the answer to our question: Butterfly wings resist raindrop power using clever micro-bumps and nano-waxes. The researchers also discovered these structures on dragonfly and moth wings, plant leaves, and even bird feathers.

That leads us to the bigger question: If these amazing features help keep these creatures alive and in flight, how did such structures arise?

Many scientists attribute creature designs to random changes guided by natural factors over eons. But whoever crafted these super-surfaces must have done it with flight in mind right from the start. These surfaces combine with the lightweight but strong materials and structures, navigation systems, functional landing gear, and aerodynamic shapes that all work together to make a butterfly flutter. Nature knows nothing, let alone the precise placement of parts required for flight. Truly the Lord Jesus, not natural processes, deserves all the credit for rainproofing butterfly wings before the first rain fell.

References

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

Watch out! Dangers lurk everywhere—these are surely perilous times.¹ One of the apologetics-exhorting themes in Jude’s epistle is the need to beware of—and to forewarn others about— scoffers who distort and resist God’s truth, as we contend earnestly for it.²

Even bird populations must watch out for lurking hazards and airborne threats in their nesting neighborhoods and during migratory stopovers. Creatures such as wolves and hawks threaten them on a daily basis.³,⁴

One habit that prey populations often exhibit is the practice of appointing a sentinel—a dedicated “watchman on the wall,” so to speak.⁵,⁶

One bird is assigned the role of warning (called alarming) the rest of the flock that is foraging or otherwise occupied. In some groups, sentinel duty is rotated, while in other groups the responsibility is sorted as a division-of-labor assignment, such as male birds more often serving as sentinels.⁶-⁸

This behavior is quite puzzling to evolutionists, who assume that ultimately there needs to be a selfish advantage for every activity, as opposed to some creatures behaving altruistically because that is what they do or are programmed to do.⁷,⁸

Sentinel behaviour, where individuals take turns to watch for danger and give alarm calls to approaching predators, has been observed in a number of animal societies. However, the evolutionary causes of this behaviour remain unclear. There are two main, competing hypotheses regarding the evolution of sentinel behaviour. The first hypothesis is that it is a cooperative behaviour, where group members benefit from the detection of danger but share the workload of acting as a sentinel. The second is that it is a safe, selfish behaviour. Under the second hypothesis, once an individual is satiated, being a sentinel is safer because sentinels can detect threats more readily and can therefore escape from predators faster.⁷

But what are the observable facts about sentinels? Is their service somehow a selfish benefit when they serve as their group’s watchmen? Or are some sentinel creatures actually behaving in altruistic ways, protecting the group they belong to at greater risk to themselves?

We examined whether sentinels are safer than foragers in a wild, free-living cooperative bird (the pied babbler, Turdoides bicolor) with a well-described sentinel system. We found that sentinel behaviour was costly because (a) sentinels were targeted by predators more often, (b) they were further from cover than foragers, and (c) they took longer to reach the safety of cover following a predator alarm.⁷

Animals exhibit some behaviors that if practiced by humans would be called selfish and cruel, as well as other behaviors that we would call altruistic and self-sacrificing.

These results suggest that individuals do not become sentinels because it is safer. This is the first study to demonstrate that sentinels are at greater risk of predator attack than foraging group members and suggests sentinel activity may have evolved as a form of cooperative behaviour.⁷

For humans, giving a warning can be a moral duty. Moral accountability is unique to human behavior because only we humans—being uniquely made in God’s image—are Earth-dwelling creatures who have true moral accountability for our activities.⁹

It’s important to sound the alarm early when doing so can prevent or mitigate an approaching disaster. Sometimes the messenger of bad news pays a price for delivering an unwelcome message, but it’s better to sound the alarm—hopefully early enough to prevent harm—than to delay a warning that leads to damage-control problems that grow costlier with time.¹,²,³,⁶

Caringly sharing the gospel of redemption in Christ is the best warning of all, even if it involves costly risks.⁵

References
5. Ezekiel 33:2-10. Also compare 2 Corinthians 2:14-17 with John 3:14-21.

Dr. Johnson is Associate Professor of Apologetics and Chief Academic Officer at the Institute for Creation Research.
No doubt many of you, like me, have been earnestly looking for the return of the Lord Jesus Christ. He called all believers to be godly “salt” and “light” in this sin-darkened world (Matthew 5:13-16), but the unrest we’ve witnessed in recent days has only increased my longing for the Creator’s return. While the promise of His Second Coming is assured—perhaps today might be the day—it’s far too easy for us to grow weary and discouraged while we wait for His glorious appearing.

In times like these, we do well to remind ourselves that God’s truth never changes—no matter how humanity may warp and twist it. Rejection of God’s Word was rampant in the days of Noah, Abraham, and Paul (Genesis 6:5; 18:20-21; Romans 1:20-25), so rebellion against God in this once-Christian nation should come as no surprise. But we must also remember Christ’s command to “do business till I come” (Luke 19:13). Rather than anxiously hiding and waiting for the storm to pass, Christ has called us to stay active using whatever abilities and opportunities we have to sow, water, and reap in fruitful service to Him. Then “blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes” (Luke 12:43). With that mindset, there is still much work left to do!

As you’ve probably heard, ICR had to temporarily close the ICR Discovery Center for Science & Earth History in mid-March in response to stay-at-home mandates in Dallas. While this “forced pause” was certainly challenging, we continued to “do business” and made excellent use of the downtime by giving everything a deep clean, working on a myriad of maintenance projects, and installing significant upgrades to various exhibits. We are thrilled about reopening the Discovery Center and reengaging with people once again.

The most noticeable improvements include adding new signs throughout the exhibit hall, improving acoustics and restroom facilities, and installing information monitors outside the planetarium and Founder’s Hall. Based on visitor feedback, we made significant changes to the short theatrical films in the Origin of the Universe and The Returning King exhibits. And sharp-eyed visitors will note the subtly animated portrait of ICR founder Dr. Henry Morris in the Founder’s Library exhibit. If you have the opportunity to visit, please do so. This world-class facility is now better than ever, and you’ll be amazed to see what God enabled ICR to create. All glory belongs to Him (Revelation 4:11)!

As the Institute for Creation Research celebrates its 50th year of service, we are thankful for God’s many blessings upon our ministry. Through good times and bad, His providential hand has unmistakably guided our steps and enabled us to expand for the future. God especially met ICR’s needs during the mandatory closures of the past few months and helped us persevere through a most unexpected and turbulent time. We are so very grateful for the gifts, prayers, and encouraging notes from our supporters, and while He tarries, we welcome your continued support of the unique work God has called us to. “Even so, come, Lord Jesus” (Revelation 22:20)!

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

Living in this fallen world makes us yearn for Christ’s return.
We are called to obedience to Christ and His kingdom work during our time on this earth.
During the coronavirus shutdown, ICR upgraded its Discovery Center for Science & Earth History.
God is good and has always provided our every need through the generosity of faithful supporters.
I am less than 50 pages into Carved in Stone, and I feel like God has been preparing me for a lifetime to read this book. I have been asking God to help me love Him more this year, and He has lovingly answered that prayer. I am so in awe of His ways as a Creator. I am excited about a God who so carefully planned and executed His plans with perfect timing and using what He created in only six days but set in motion for the future. My mind is whirling even with the new appreciation of Scripture and I am sure a deeper understanding as I learn to know the Author in a fuller way. Just had to share and once again express my appreciation.

— G.

I read all of ICR’s magazines cover to cover and enjoy every last word. This month [May 2020], Dr. [Jake] Hebert’s article [“Delighting in God’s Handiwork in the Classroom”] struck a familiar chord. I was given a book, The Fossils Say No, by Dr. [Duane] Gish decades ago. I was hooked, and read so much more. It led to my salvation....Then went on a Grand Canyon Trip in the mid-1990s. After that trip I heard our local community college had a very good astronomy instructor, so I signed up for his class, also Geology 101 and Archeology. I experienced the connection that Dr. Hebert mentions. Perhaps best of all, when sitting in Geology 101 I learned that because dating methods are so expensive, the geologic layers are dated by the index fossils found in them. Two days later in Archeology 101, I heard that the fossils are dated by the geologic layer they are found in. Wait a minute! That’s circular reasoning, and I discovered it for myself....I only wish I had known all this when I was younger....You make such a difference, you’ll not know how much until we all get to bow before the Throne.

— P. W.

What You Need to Know About Mount St. Helens by Dr. Brian Thomas on DC Facebook
This was a good addition to our homeschooling Bible time. We read the Bible and also introduce a topic that is faith-building and will give my boys tools to counter interpretations of the natural world that are antithetical to God.

— A. M. P.

Mount St. Helens talk by Dr. Tim Clarey on DC Facebook
This is the best presentation on the geology and rapid formation of the canyons, rock layers, and petrifaction all in one video! — J. A.

Mount St. Helens talk by Frank Sherwin on ICR Facebook
Best ready-made science lessons ever. — D. G.

Creation Q&A shows on Facebook Live
• Mr. Frank is so knowledgeable! I’m blown away by what you know about random species. — M. T.
• Great and informative chat. Watching from Thailand. Thank you all.
• I really enjoyed the Facebook live video by Dr. Hebert. I have been reading Dr. Hebert’s new book on climate change. This video and that book have given me more evidence to advocate that climate change is naturally occurring and has very little to do with CO2 level. The series in the March and April Acts & Facts on how solar sunspot activity greatly correlates to global temperatures. — D. D.
• One of the best things about the quarantine is that ICR is now online more! — C. H.
• Keep up the FANTASTIC WORK. My family has a number of your books...my seven-year-old loves to read. — I. I. N.
• Great questions asked today and great responses... thanks for starting these Q&As. A great way to evangelize and share info! — T. L.

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