

# ACTS & FACTS

INSTITUTE FOR  
CREATION RESEARCH

ICR.org

MAY 2021

VOL. 50 NO. 5

Refusing to Live by Lies

*page 4*

*Archaeopteryx* by the  
Numbers

*page 10*

The Fossils Still Say No:  
Enigma of the  
Carboniferous Explosion

*page 11*

Zion National Park: Evidence  
of Deep Water Sand Waves

*page 16*

**Vertebrate Origins On  
the Ropes...Again**

*page 14*



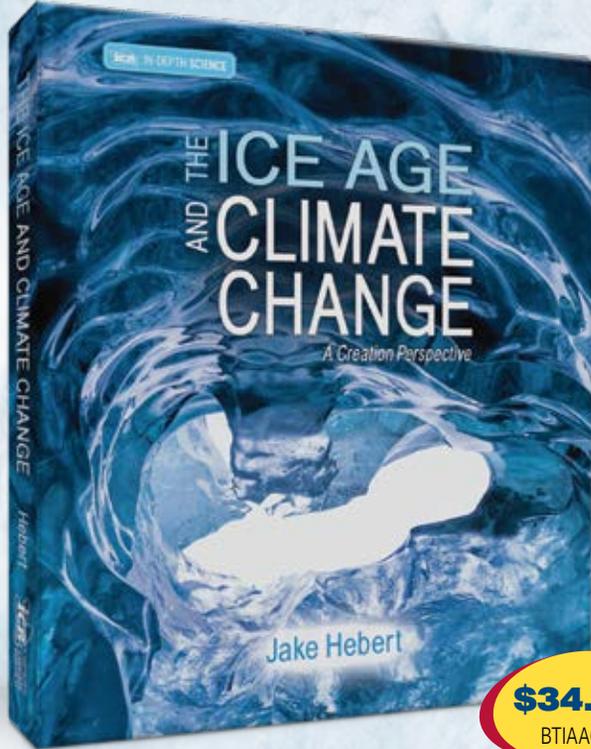
**NEW!**

**ICR IN-DEPTH SCIENCE**

# THE ICE AGE AND CLIMATE CHANGE

## A Creation Perspective

Dr. Jake Hebert



**\$34.99**  
BTIAACC



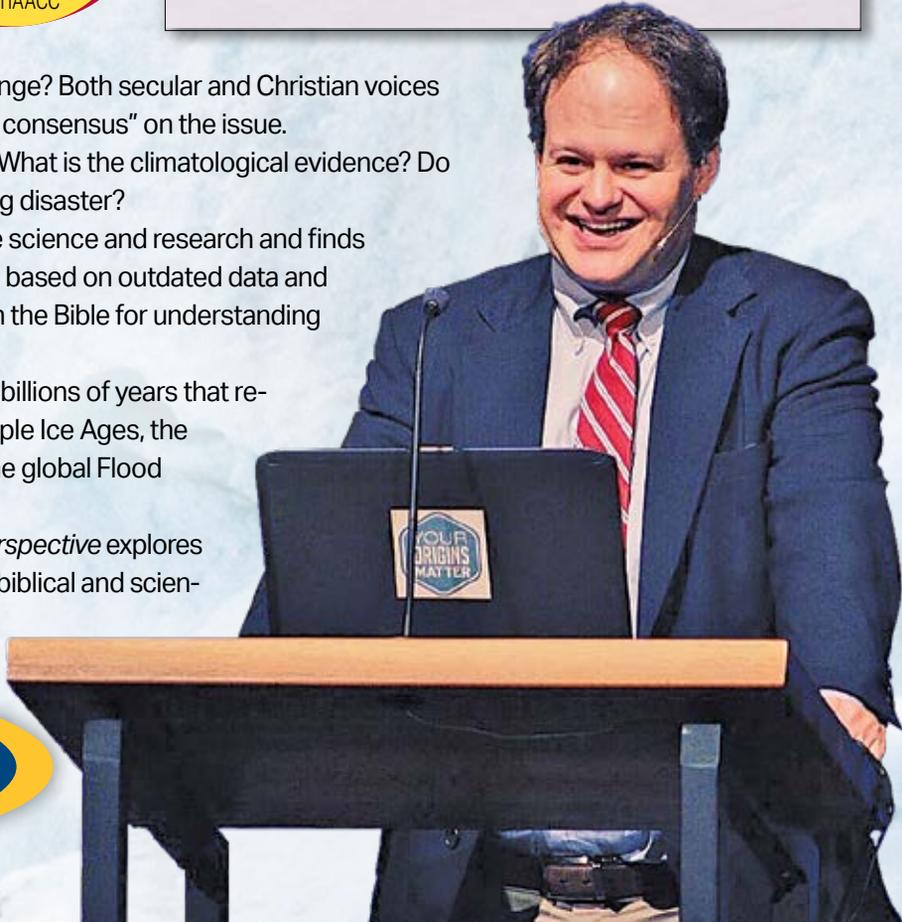
Should Christians be alarmed over climate change? Both secular and Christian voices urge them to heed the "all-but-unanimous scientific consensus" on the issue.

But is that consensus based on solid science? What is the climatological evidence? Do we need to take drastic action to stave off impending disaster?

ICR physicist Dr. Jake Hebert examines climate science and research and finds flawed theories, circular reasoning, and conclusions based on outdated data and uniformitarian preconceptions. He also finds a key in the Bible for understanding where we are in the debate.

Secular scientists point to climate swings over billions of years that resulted in several major Ice Ages. But instead of multiple Ice Ages, the evidence points to one Ice Age that resulted from the global Flood and lasted just hundreds of years.

*The Ice Age and Climate Change: A Creation Perspective* explores the evidence and argues that Christians have good biblical and scientific reasons to reject climate change alarmism.



Call **800.628.7640** or visit **ICR.org/store**  
Please add shipping and handling to all orders. Offer good through May 31, 2021, while quantities last.

Published by  
**INSTITUTE FOR CREATION RESEARCH**

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

*Acts & Facts* is a free publication.  
For subscription information,  
call 800.337.0375,  
visit [ICR.org/subscriptions](http://ICR.org/subscriptions),  
or write to ICR at the above address.

#### EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Jayne Durant

#### SENIOR EDITOR

Beth Mull

#### EDITORS

Michael Stamp  
Christy Hardy  
Lori Fausak

#### DESIGNER

Dennis Davidson

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

Copyright © 2021

Institute for Creation Research

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



Front cover: Sea lamprey with mouth full of teeth  
Image credit: Bigstock



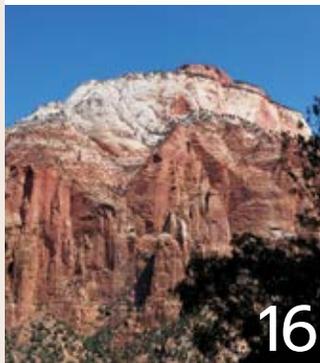
4



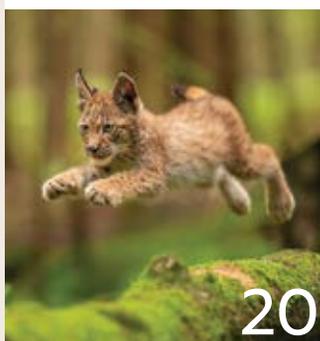
10



14



16



20

### feature

## 4 Refusing to Live by Lies

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

### research

## 10 *Archaeopteryx* by the Numbers

BRIAN THOMAS, PH.D.

### impact

## 11 The Fossils Still Say No: Enigma of the Carboniferous Explosion

JEFFREY P. TOMKINS, PH.D.

### back to genesis

## 14 Vertebrate Origins on the Ropes... Again

FRANK SHERWIN, M.A.

### creation q & a

## 15 Is the Bible Evidence for Creation?

JAKE HEBERT, PH.D.

### park series

## 16 Zion National Park: Evidence of Deep Water Sand Waves

BRIAN THOMAS, PH.D., AND TIM CLAREY, PH.D.

### apologetics

## 20 Guided by Lynx to Appreciate Christ

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

### stewardship

## 21 Tributes of Honor and Remembrance

HENRY M. MORRIS IV

### creation kids

## 22 Volcanoes

CHRISTY HARDY AND SUSAN WINDSOR



# REFUSING TO LIVE BY

# LIES

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

## article highlights

- We are taught to trust authority figures, but authorities can lie to us.
- Lies told by government, media, and scientists are increasingly common.
- God created two sexes, but “experts” claim there are more than two.
- Governments have a God-ordained role, but we are to trust and follow the authority and truth of the Bible above their authority when they’re at odds.
- Christians must refuse to live by lies.

Perhaps my parents were naïve. They raised me to respect my teachers, the government, and other authorities, and to believe these entities acted in my best interests and certainly wouldn’t lie to me. I was warned about the duplicity of politicians and used-car salesmen, but they were mostly grouped in classes by themselves.

Now I know I was misled by these authorities on some very important things. For instance, in biology class I was taught as scientific fact a totally fanciful—and atheistically religious—story that “survival of the fittest” caused the evolution of life on Earth. Disseminating that lie was an abuse of youthful trust in authority.

The lying has gotten far worse. Back then, I never felt institutional coercion to join a perverse government-led movement that affirms as truth many things I and most other people can clearly see are false. For example, until recently it was basic common sense to recognize that male and female are the two biological sexes. Today, anyone daring to speak common sense is publicly pummeled with disparaging names (or worse) by members of a rapidly growing deviant movement. They use a hostile crowd to systematically isolate people from each other by making everyone afraid to be associated with the pummeled person lest it also happen to them—a method to strong-arm conformity in thinking and control the behavior of an entire group.

As many Christians ponder whether to acknowledge more than the two sexes Christ created, they need to consider more than the “science” that floods schools and the media. The real issue is whether Christians, pastors, and seminary presidents will reject clear biblical teaching just to avoid the nasty social outrage against their ministries or themselves if they dare speak a truth the world finds offensive—that male and female are the only two human sexes.

Christians have faced the decision of whether to cast aside clear biblical teaching and embrace the world’s so-called science for a far longer period when it comes to Darwinian selection and evolution. Lies spread by government-sponsored institutions can be so absurd that they require years of forced, repetitive indoctrination for people to believe them. One government lie sits atop them all: that over a time frame far too slow for anyone to observe—and without the mind and power of God—life spontaneously started and nature exercised a type of selective agency to mold that “proto-life” into the diversity of creatures on Earth. We may not know how many people silently question this lie because dissenting views are quashed through government-tolerated academic oppression.

For illustration we’ll consider the above-mentioned lie that humans can be classified into a sex other than male and female. Perhaps it will serve as a contemporary wake-up call for Christians to refuse to live by the world’s lies.

### Biological Sex and the Institutional Lie

In George Orwell’s classic novel *1984*, the Ministry of Truth produced lying propaganda and the Ministry of Love dispensed torture. In Orwell’s farsighted story, reality was totally inverted through the government’s highly coordinated actions to manipulate its citizens’ thinking. What’s remarkable in the book is that almost all citizens eventually became willing promoters of government lies themselves.

An NBC News report demonstrates the combined power of

government, academia, and the media to bring about a *1984*-like adoption of total nonsense. In this case, even highly educated leaders of independent corporations participate. NBC stated that “[the brand] Always announced it will remove the Venus symbol from its menstruation products packaging” in response to protests by “transgender and nonbinary people” who were born female but now believe they’re male.<sup>1</sup>

Procter & Gamble, Always’ parent company, has come to regret placing the female symbol on their packages. In response to the out-



**“For when people renounce lies, lies simply cease to exist, Like parasites, they can only survive when attached to a person.”**

rage of these “men,” Always now recognizes that the packages were offensive “by not acknowledging that they [men], too, can experience menstruation,” and they dismiss the criticisms of

people upset over the symbol’s removal as being “rooted in the misconception that [male] transgender and nonbinary people cannot experience menstruation—a claim medical experts have debunked.”<sup>1</sup>

How do you get people to assent to completely bizarre flights of fancy? By repeating them incessantly. Several months after their story on Always, NBC added a personal account and reported, “When transgender model and activist Kenny Ethan Jones experienced his first period, he faced both physical and psychological pain.”<sup>2</sup> Kenny Jones was born female but is now considered by many (including “medical experts”) to be male. Perhaps to make it easier for readers to jettison their common sense, NBC adds Jones’ personal testimony:

“Having a period already causes me a lot of [gender] dysphoria, but this dysphoria becomes heightened when I have to shop for a product that is labeled as ‘women’s health’ and in most cases, is pretty and pink,” Jones explained.<sup>2</sup>

How powerful are the combined forces of government, aca-

demia, and the media targeted against individual citizens? Pretty powerful, it seems. After presenting stories like that of Kenny Jones, it's as if those in power sit back and watch to see if ordinary people will compliantly speak about "his first period" without a tinge of humiliation over the mental confusion or muddled judgment needed to state something so nonsensical. A power that conditions a mass of people to embrace such ridiculous notions should grab the attention of Christians.

We are witnessing authorities use the stamp of scientific authority as a propaganda tool to dishonestly assert that something everyone knows is true—that men *cannot* have monthly cycles—has been debunked. Most people likely resent being coerced into accepting something that has never been observed and is utterly foolish.

What many Americans don't recognize is that the train long ago left the station and took our country along the line to nonsensical beliefs. That happened when they swallowed the lie that over a long period of time one kind of creature can morph into another—something else that has never been observed. What's worse is that these lies about both evolving creatures and interchangeable sexes are not just ludicrous, they're intellectually and morally perverse.

### Government Perverting Its God-Ordained Role

God denounces the government-sanctioned corruption of truth: "Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!" (Isaiah 5:20). Moral perversion goes hand in hand with governments acting in perverted ways.

Two passages in the New Testament detail the God-ordained role of government. Those in authority today should rule by these mandates: "For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. . . . For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil" (Romans 13:3-4); and government leaders "are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good" (1 Peter 2:14).

The Bible's teaching is plain. Government is responsible to promote good and punish evil, but today's rulers often oppress—if not outright persecute—people doing good and exult in the evil behavior they promote, which they mischaracterize as good. The destruction of the moral fiber of its citizens through lying and coercive tactics is a perversion of government's mandate and authority.

### Lessons Learned from the Soviet Union

Citizens of the United States now face increased institutional

deception. People in other lands have endured habitual governmental lying, and their experiences may prove useful to Christians who refuse to live by the world's lies.

Last year someone forwarded the link to a very helpful essay titled "Live Not by Lies" written in 1974 by the late Soviet dissident Alexander Solzhenitsyn. Solzhenitsyn's essay isn't long, and I'd recommend that everyone read it since the actions he encourages other Soviets to adopt are valuable for Americans today. He sets the stage of the sad state of isolation and fear oppressing the Soviet people.

There was a time when we dared not rustle a whisper. . . . [We] heartily complain to each other of all they [the government] are muddling up, of all they are dragging us into! . . . They put whomever they want on trial, and brand the healthy as mentally ill. . . . Already a universal spiritual demise is upon us. . . . while we continue to smile sheepishly. . . . We have so hopelessly ceded our humanity that for the modest handouts of today we are ready to surrender up all principles, our soul, all the labors of our ancestors, all the prospects of our descendants—anything to avoid disrupting our meager existence. . . . [We] fear only to take a civic stance! We hope only not to stray from the herd, not to set out on our own.<sup>3</sup>



Alexander Solzhenitsyn, 1974

Image credit: Bert Verhoeff

Solzhenitsyn then explains why government-sanctioned violence alone can never enslave an entire population. Real enslaving power is wielded through institutional lying.

But it [breaking the oppressive cycle] will never come. . . if we all, every day, continue to acknowledge, glorify, and strengthen it, if we do not, at the least, recoil from its most vulnerable point. From lies. . . . Violence ages swiftly. . . . To prop itself up, to appear decent, it will without fail call forth its ally—Lies. For violence

**The challenge facing Christians is whether we will cast aside clear biblical teaching and embrace the world's so-called science.**

has nothing to cover itself with but lies, and lies can only persist through violence. And it is not every day and not on every shoulder that violence brings down its heavy hand: It demands of us only a submission to lies, a daily participation in deceit—and this suffices as our fealty.<sup>3</sup>

Thus, the road to freedom is to refuse to live by lies. “And therein we find, neglected by us, the simplest, the most accessible key to our liberation: a personal nonparticipation in lies!...For when people renounce lies, lies simply cease to exist. Like parasites, they can only survive when attached to a person.” The first of eight vital behaviors Solzhenitsyn says are necessary to shake off enslavement begins with each citizen declaring they “will not write, sign, nor publish in any way, a single line distorting, so far as he can see, the truth.”<sup>3</sup>

Creationists have historically demonstrated the courage to resist institutional lying. Maybe that's why the world uses the name “creationist” as a title of derision. Nevertheless, we must remember “let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall” (1 Corinthians 10:12). If we don't want to unknowingly advance any of the world's lies, shouldn't we examine ourselves to see whether our own minds have been “evolutionized” to some degree?

### Recognizing How Lies Are Built into Terminology

Evolutionists invent terms all the time that simultaneously express evolutionary concepts and are used as more evidence for evolution. For instance, the literature is full of terms like convergent evolution, vestigial organs, pseudogenes, and highly conserved sequences. These terms have a

built-in presupposition of evolution that makes them inherently misleading. Thus, just by speaking the jargon, a person is assisting the deceitful evolutionary indoctrination of society. The same type of built-in lying occurs when we talk about people as being transgender—as if that's a real state of being—just because the world imagines more than two human sexes.

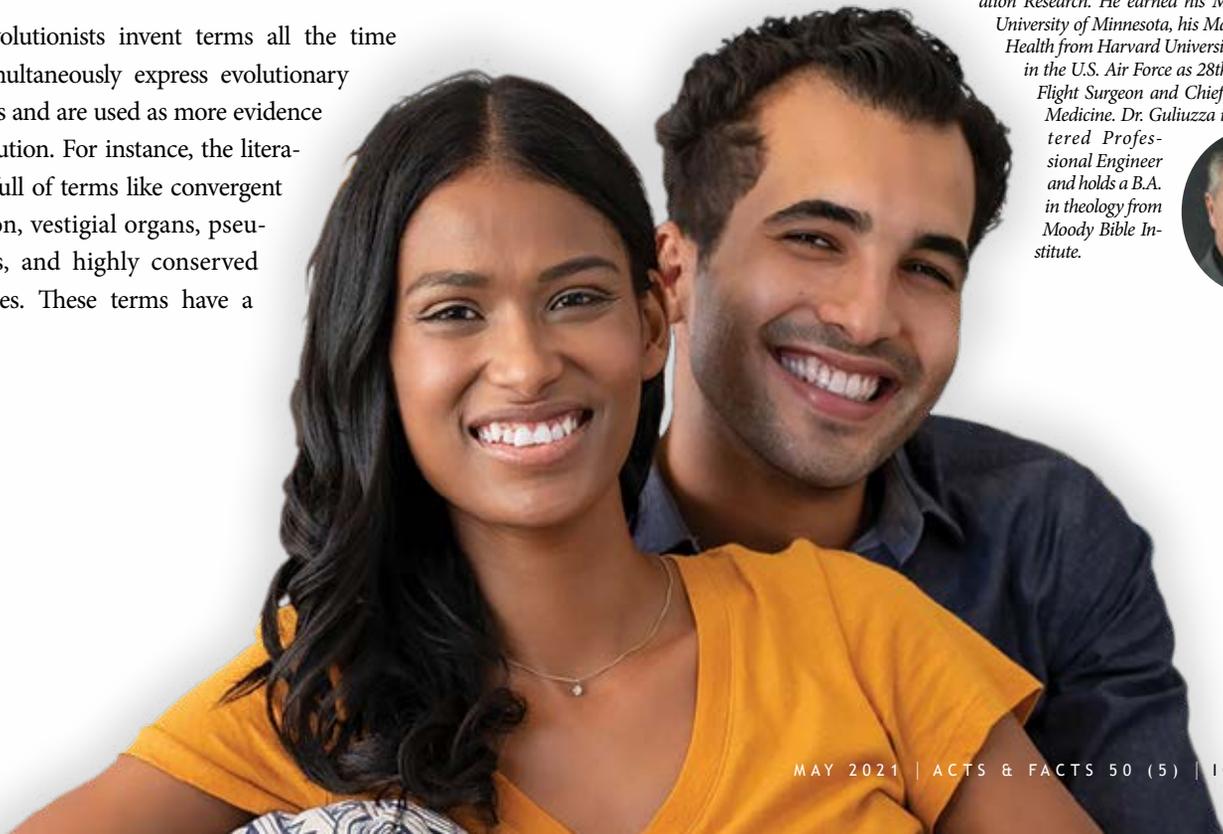
Evolutionary theory is full of imaginary, misleading scenarios. The most egregious is when nature is personified, presented as exercising agency, and then invoked as a substitute god to explain the origin and diversity of life. Selectionists project onto the environment abilities to “select,” “favor,” “act,” “send information,” and similar verbs indicating the work of an intelligent agent. The terminology they use therefore embeds a potent lie—that nature has some type of innate volition. The constant personification of nature as exercising creative agency transfers credit from the Lord Jesus as Creator to the creation itself...the principal lie described in Romans 1:25.

The denial of two biological sexes as illustrated by the Kenny Jones nonsense shows how serious the scope of these institutional lies and the coercion to conform is. The challenge facing Christians is whether we will cast aside clear biblical teaching and embrace the world's so-called science. We belong to the Lord Jesus, who promised, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:31-32). Christians need to be a sanctuary of truth; we must refuse to live by the world's lies. ✎

#### References

1. Aviles, G. Always to ax female symbol from sanitary products packages in nod to trans users. NBC News. Posted on nbcnews.com October 21, 2019, accessed February 4, 2021.
2. Atkins, C. For transgender men, pain of menstruation is more than just physical. NBC News. Posted on nbcnews.com January 11, 2020, accessed February 4, 2021.
3. Solzhenitsyn, A. Live Not by Lies, February 12, 1974. Posted on solzhenitsyncenter.org.

*Dr. Guliuzza is President of 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. Dr. Guliuzza is also a registered Professional Engineer and holds a B.A. in theology from Moody Bible Institute.*



MAY 2

Forney, TX  
**First Baptist Church**  
 (F. Sherwin)  
 214.615.8325



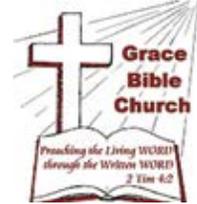
MAY 7-8

Mercersburg, PA  
**Fellowship of Bible Churches  
 Spring Retreat**  
 (T. Clarey, F. Sherwin)  
 CampTohiglo.org | 717.597.8127



MAY 9

Gillette, WY  
**Grace Bible Church**  
 (R. Guliuzza)  
 214.615.8325



MAY 15-16

Ponca City, OK  
**Creation Weekend at  
 Northeast Baptist Church**  
 (B. Thomas, T. Clarey, C. Morse)  
 ICR.org/PoncaCityOK



Fossil walks!

SAVE THE DATE

JUNE 8-11

Dallas, TX  
**ICR Discovery Center for Science & Earth History  
 Christian Educator's Conference**  
 (ICR and CTI Staff)  
 ICR.org/Educators-Conference



CTI President Mike Riddle



CTI speaker Dr. Anthony Silvestro



CTI speaker Dan Kreft



ICR President Dr. Randy Guliuzza

MAY 23

Altus, OK  
**Creation Sunday  
 at First Baptist Church**  
 (B. Thomas, F. Sherwin)  
 ICR.org/AltusOK



For the latest ICR Discovery Center live science presentations, check our schedule at [ICRdiscoverycenter.org/Live-Presentations](https://www.icrdiscoverycenter.org/Live-Presentations)

Providing a safe and enjoyable experience is a priority for ICR, and we are closely monitoring the COVID-19 situation. Since the public health recommendations are changing on a frequent basis, please check [ICR.org/events](https://www.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](mailto:events@icr.org) or call 800.337.0375 and press 6.

# Blessings Recounted – ICR Events



ICR's Dr. Brian Thomas speaks on the topic of human origins to a group of high school students at the Answering Why Student Apologetics Conference held on February 10, 2021, at the Lavon Drive Baptist Church in Garland, Texas. This event was sponsored by the Mid-South American Association of Christian Schools and hosted by Garland Christian Academy.



ICR's Drs. Randy Guliuzza, Tim Clarey, and Brian Thomas converse with Dallas Theological Seminary staff members during their visit to the ICR Discovery Center for Science & Earth History in Dallas, Texas, on February 8, 2021.



Dr. Brian Thomas fields a question at the Uncovering the Truth about Creation Conference at Immanuel Baptist Church in Marshall, Texas, on March 20, 2021.



ICR Events Director Chas Morse presents *Why Biblical Creation?* at Lighthouse Church in Dallas, Texas, on January 17, 2021.

Also at Lighthouse Church, ICR's Frank Sherwin describes how reflected light creates the remarkable blue color on the Morpho butterfly's wings.



# Archaeopteryx by the Numbers

Sometimes scientists get a chance to collaborate. This happened last year when a fellow creation-based researcher invited me to contribute comments about bird and dinosaur anatomy to his statistical analysis of relevant fossils. The end result was a technical (i.e., peer-reviewed) article published in the *Journal of Creation*.<sup>1</sup> Our main question asked if certain fossils' features fall into an evolution-friendly or Genesis-fitting classification. This experience illustrated how shared talents can lead to a more defensible worldview.

We scientists too often believe our results came from objective analyses, not seeing the subjective ideas that crept in unnoticed. Evolutionary workers now call dinosaurs “non-avian dinosaurs” to distinguish them from birds, which they call “avian dinosaurs.” They have classified some fossil birds as reptiles and certain fossil reptiles as birds. Many bolster these beliefs by citing analyses backed with numbers from measurements, formulae, and statistics. What could be more objective than numbers?

But the statements “birds evolved from dinosaurs” and “God created...every winged bird according to its kind”<sup>2</sup> cannot both be true.<sup>3</sup> Do the numbers really support this evolutionary perspective? Our analysis showed that those kinds of numbers are more subjective than they at first appeared.

Computational biologists use formulae to assign numbers to estimates of how different one specimen is from another. The raw data are the fossils in the ground—fossils that are almost always incomplete. Someone has to measure various parameters, like the number and placement of holes in the skull, teeth in the jaw, or claws on a foot.

## article highlights

- Scientists debate which group to place *Archaeopteryx* in—bird, reptile, or its own category.
- Measurements are objective, but the groupings scientists place the measurements into can be quite subjective.
- Fiddling with formulae can produce numeric results that fit either evolution or creation-friendly groups.



Then, formulae turn those initial measurements into values that indicate how likely it looks for creatures to belong to different kinds. A simple example formula uses a calculation to estimate the anatomical distance between two specimens:  $d_{ij} = m_{ij}/n_{ij}$ .<sup>4</sup> Workers can add to this an assigned cutoff value, usually different for each set of fossil measurements. Stricter cutoffs produce more groups and looser cutoffs lump more specimens into fewer groups. Which slant would you prefer?

These processes present plenty of room for bias. Subjectivity enters when selecting fossil sets, creature traits, the importance of each trait, completeness of data sets, which

formulae to use, cutoff values, and more.

Prior studies have grouped the extinct bird *Archaeopteryx* with certain extinct reptiles. But *Archaeopteryx* was no reptile, despite what someone's numbers may say. Its body balanced over its knees like modern birds, not over its hips as in heavier-tailed theropods. It had flight feathers like birds and unlike theropods. However, it had teeth in its beak and long tails, unlike most birds.<sup>5</sup>

Numeric results that lump this creature with reptiles play into the impossible story that theropods evolved into birds.<sup>6</sup> That's why we did our own study. Our new filters recategorized some of the same specimens using the same trait lists that others had used. And our equally numeric results separated *Archaeopteryx* from reptiles.

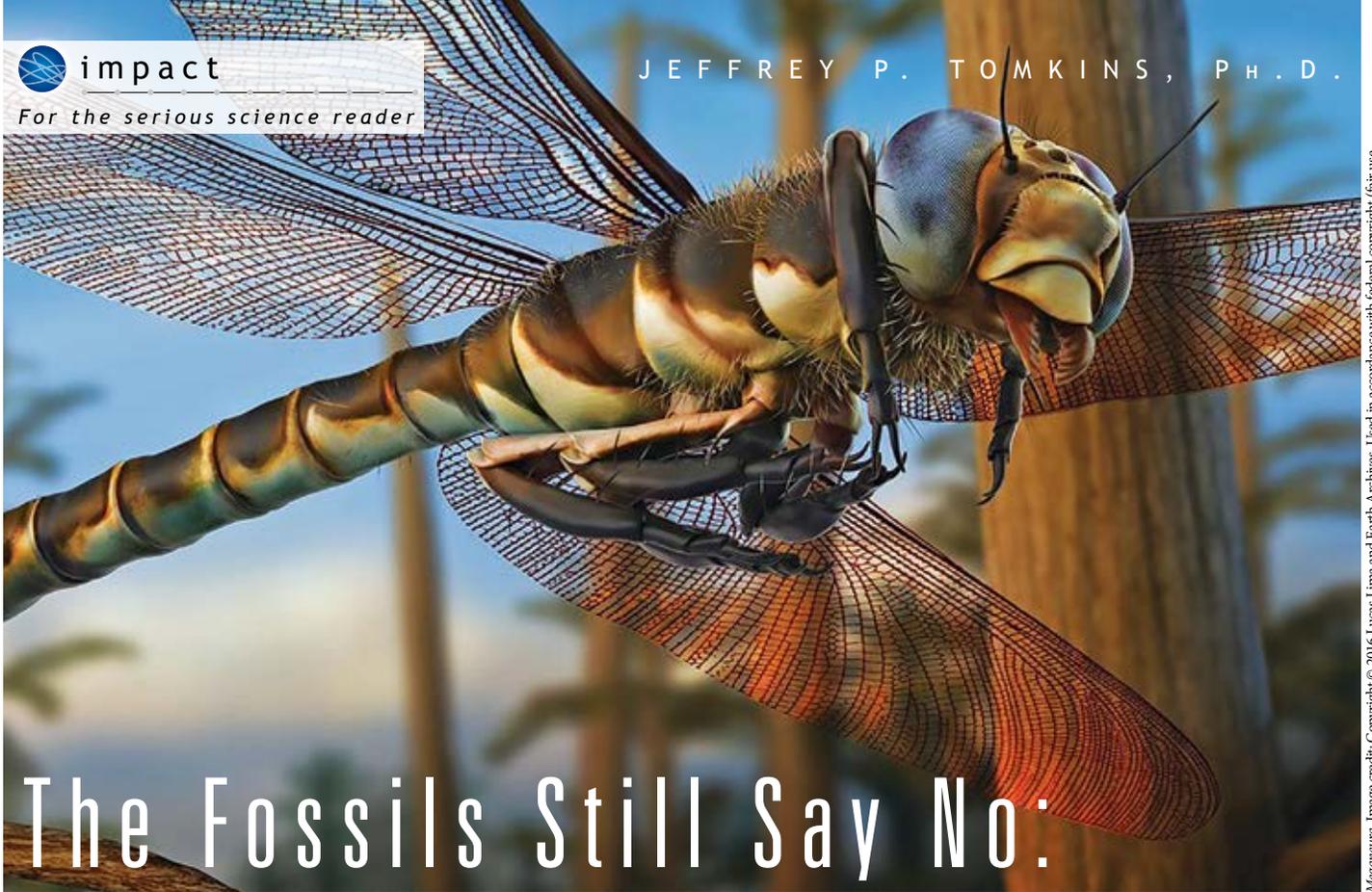
What does all this show?

My small part in this project helped me see even more ways that subjectivity creeps into the classification process. In response to the one who says *Archaeopteryx* was a dinosaur and that numbers back it up, I can now ask, “Whose numbers?”

## References

1. Cserhati, M., B. Thomas, and J. Tay. 2020. Hierarchical clustering in dinosaur baraminology studies. *Journal of Creation*. 34 (3): 64-73.
2. Genesis 1:21.
3. To evolve implies a series of forms *in between* basic kinds, but Genesis 1 says creatures reproduce *according to* their kinds.
4.  $d_{ij}$  is the distance between two species  $i$  and  $j$ ;  $n_{ij}$  is the number of comparable characters between them; and  $m_{ij}$  is the number of mismatched characters.
5. *Archaeopteryx* was more like birds than extinct reptiles, but for all we know it may lie outside both groups. Whatever man-made group category we place it in, *Archaeopteryx* was no evolutionary link but a fully formed flying animal.
6. Evolutionist Alan Feduccia listed anatomical challenges for theropod-to-bird evolution, citing “such problems as the transformation of teeth and tooth replacement, the transformation of a dinosaurian septate, hepatic-piston breathing system to a bird flow-through lung, the complete abandonment of a balanced seesaw body plan to the avian model, and the reelongation of already foreshortened forelimbs, to mention a few” Feduccia, A. 1999. 1,2,3 = 2,3,4: Accommodating the cladogram. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. 96 (9): 4740-4742.

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



Megawatts. Image credit: Copyright © 2016 Lucas Lima and Earth Archives. Used in accordance with federal copyright (fair use doctrine) law. Usage by ICR does not imply endorsement or copyright holder.

# The Fossils Still Say No:

## Enigma of the Carboniferous Explosion

**M**any creationists and evolutionists alike are familiar with the initial huge explosion of complex marine life buried in the Cambrian rock layers at the beginning of the fossiliferous strata,<sup>1</sup> but few people know about the explosion of land-based life in the Carboniferous and Early Permian. While evolutionists have engendered a great deal of speculation about amphibians somehow morphing into reptiles as a central part of the grand evolutionary story and the early colonization of land, the supporting fossil evidence for this conjecture is lacking. Instead, we see a massive explosion of diverse amphibia and reptile-like creatures alongside a huge diversity of plant life and arthropods representing lowland coastal ecosystems.<sup>2-6</sup>

When we consider these fossils in the Carboniferous and Early Permian rock layers, we have a direct witness to the enormous destruction and burial of lowland coastal ecosystems during the first phase of global land inundation in the Genesis Flood.<sup>7</sup>

### Amphibian Evolution Missing

Modern ecology of amphibia and reptile-like creatures is diverse. Most types live on land, underground, in trees, or in freshwa-

#### article highlights

- Amphibians have complex life cycles, and their fossils, which appear suddenly, provide no evidence to support evolution.
- Amphibians and reptiles appear alongside each other in the fossil record, demonstrating that amphibians didn't somehow evolve into reptiles.
- Carboniferous means "coal bearing," and the lowland coastal forests that make up its massive coal deposits had to have been violently ripped up and buried rapidly.
- The fossil-rich Carboniferous rock layers—often sandwiched between marine-deposited limestone—reflect the Flood's deposition by ecological zonation.

ter aquatic environments such as streams, lakes, and rivers. They are categorized as ectotherms (cold-blooded) because their body temperature is heavily influenced by external sources such as sunlight or warm surfaces. Many amphibians will start their lives in water, but some types have specific mechanisms to bypass this. They generally have complex life cycles, undergoing metamorphosis from a larva with gills to an adult with lungs that breathe air. One of the most amazing features of some amphibians is the ability to use their skin

with their lungs to breathe. In fact, there are even a few small terrestrial frogs and salamanders that have no lungs and breathe completely through their skin.

The three main groups or orders of living amphibians are Anura (frogs and toads), Urodela (salamanders), and Apoda (the serpentine caecilians). Among secular scientists, the origins and evolutionary relationships between the three main groups of amphibians are hotly debated.<sup>6</sup> About 90% of the approximately 8,000 known amphibia are frogs, including a tiny frog that is the smallest known vertebrate, having a length of only 0.30 inches. Frogs and salamanders have no evolutionary history and show up suddenly in Jurassic strata looking similar to their living counterparts. Caecilians are a group of limbless amphibians shaped like earthworms. They are one of the least familiar amphibians because they live hidden in the ground and in stream beds. Their evolutionary origins are a complete mystery, with one alleged legged variant showing up in the Jurassic.

As far as the big picture of biological evolution goes, the idea of an amphibian as a transitional form plays an important role. Based solely on the premise of evolution (rather than fossil evidence), it is believed that the earliest amphibians evolved in the Devonian system (the so-called Age of Fishes) from lobe-finned fish with lungs (e.g., lungfish) and bony-limbed fins to somehow leave a watery life and live on dry land. As I showed in several previous articles, this whole claimed fish-to-tetrapod transition is absent in the fossil record.<sup>6,8</sup> Nevertheless, it is taught that after arriving on land, these ancient hypothetical amphibians diversified and became the dominant land creatures during the Carboniferous and Permian periods but were later displaced by reptiles and other vertebrates. Then, as the story goes, over millions of years amphibians became smaller and decreased in their diversity.

The problem with this amphibian evolutionary story is that extinct amphibian-like creatures appear suddenly and already diversified in the Carboniferous layers, while the three major groups of living amphibians appear suddenly without prior ancestors in the Jurassic. In previous articles, I showed how the Devonian strata contained only diverse types of fish and fish-like creatures, and how complex terrestrial life emerged suddenly afterward with no window for evolution.<sup>6,8,9</sup>

### Temnospondyli and Reptiliomorphs

Temnospondyli are a diverse group of small to giant amphibian-like creatures whose fossils have been found in the Carboniferous, Permian, and in the layers above on every continent. Their systems enable them to fill a wide range of habitats, including fresh water, terrestrial, and possibly coastal marine environments. They are considered amphibian-like based on a range of fossils representing a complex amphibian lifestyle (larval stage, metamorphosis, and maturity). Their bodily traits indicated they were semi-aquatic, although some were thought to be almost fully terrestrial—possibly returning to wa-

ter to breed. In fact, it's possible that some temnospondyls were not amphibians at all since they had scales, claws, and armor-like bony plates.

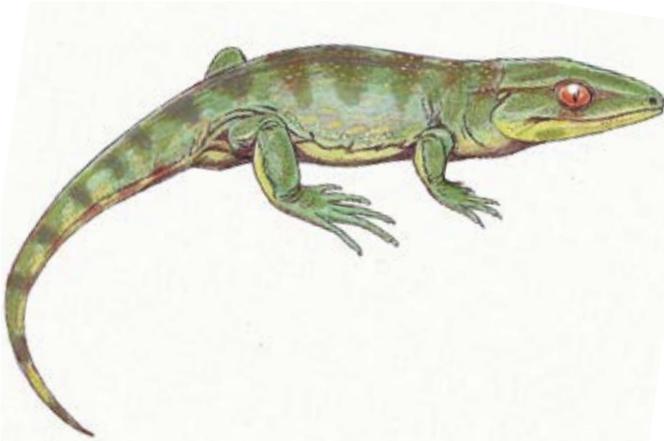
Reptiliomorphs (or Anthracosauria) are a group of reptile-like tetrapods that appear suddenly and unexpectedly in the fossil record alongside the Temnospondyli, leaving virtually no room for amphibian-to-reptile evolution to occur. For example, *Westlothiana* (nicknamed “Lizzie”) was discovered in early Carboniferous rocks, and although it clearly looked like a terrestrial lizard, it was not con-



*Westlothiana lizziae*

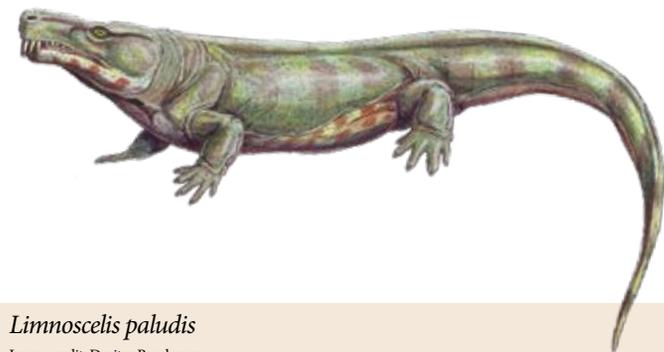
Image credit: Nobu Tamura

sidered a true lizard largely because it was out of place in the tetrapod evolution story. In addition, many other lizard-like reptile creatures have been found in Carboniferous rock layers, such as *Gephyrostegus* and *Limnoscelis*. The main evolutionary problem is that terrestrial amphibian-like and reptile-like creatures appear in the same strata with no room for evolution to take place from one to the other.



*Gephyrostegus bohemicus*

Image credit: Dmitry Bogdanov

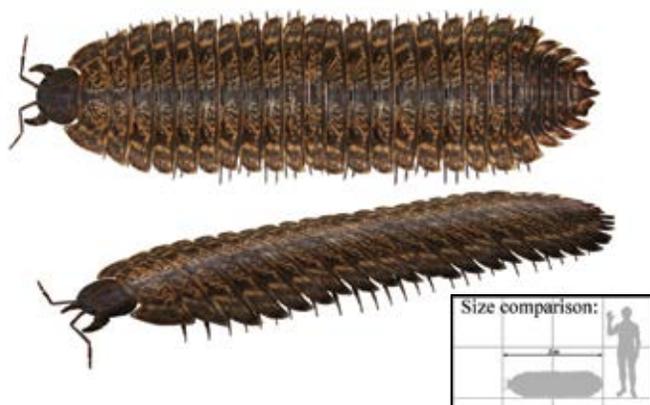


*Limnoscelis paludis*

Image credit: Dmitry Bogdanov

## Arthropods Galore

In my previous article I mentioned the sudden appearance of land life in the early Carboniferous, which also included arthropods such as giant scorpions.<sup>6</sup> The appearance of monster arthropods throughout the Carboniferous included huge dragonflies (*Meganeura*) with two-foot wingspans and a type of millipede called *Arthropleura* that was up to six feet long. While most believe that *Meganeura* preyed upon smaller arthropods and freshwater creatures, *Arthropleura* was actually a plant eater. We know this because the remnants of a lowland coastal tree called a lycopod have been found in its gut and coprolites (fossil feces). The presence of extremely sophisticated creatures like a dragonfly early in the rock record of land creatures does little to help the evolutionary story. Adult dragonflies have a complex life cycle. Their larvae live underwater as a vicious predator and then eventually metamorphose into an adult dragonfly, one of the most complexly engineered insects known.



*Arthropleura*

Image credit: Tim Bertelink

## Carboniferous Coals

Another interesting aspect of the Carboniferous and Early Permian rock layers is the sudden appearance of true ferns and seed plants representing coastal lowland forests. Some of these plants like the *Lepidodendron* grew as tall as 100 feet. Not only does this sudden appearance of diverse plant life without any evolutionary ancestors to indicate a transition from growing in water to living on land present a problem, but so does the nature of the extensive mass burial of this plant matter. This huge mass of ripped-up plant debris had to have been buried rapidly to form the massive coal seams that are observed in various parts of the world. In fact, this is where we get the name Carboniferous, which means “coal bearing.”

Even more interesting is that these Carboniferous coal layers are buried with marine sediments. Marine limestone layers are common right above and below many of these coal beds. This has completely perplexed evolutionists who have for decades erroneously claimed that coals form slowly over deep time in freshwater envi-

ronments. The late paleontologist Jennifer Clack noted that these massive Carboniferous coal seams indicate an “extensive, large-scale event” and “the coal forest sediments are covered by marine deposits.” When trying to surmise the sort of ecosystem that they might have represented, she said, “The lowlands and marshy regions can support such extensive plant growth.”<sup>4</sup>

## Putting It All Together with the Global Flood

How is it that we find entire coastal lowland ecosystems catastrophically buried and preserved as fossils and coal—a fossil fuel—along with sediments of marine origin in these Carboniferous rock layers? The answer is simple. If one abandons the false paradigm of evolution, which has little to offer in explaining the trends and complexities found in the fossil record, one finds a loving Creator specializing His creatures for their environments. As noted in this article, immediately above the Devonian strata (which is full of fish and other marine life) comes the Carboniferous layer where land arthropods, lizard and amphibian-like creatures, and coastal forest plants all suddenly appear together. In the global Flood model, we can easily explain this as the progressive destruction caused by the tsunami-like global floodwaters. A sweep of massive waves violently inundated the major landmasses in their lowland coastal regions. Because these coastal low-lying areas had very tropical climates and likely contained a lot of marsh-like forest habitats, we see in these layers both plants and animals that were specially adapted to these conditions.

According to the global mapping of Flood layers known as megasequences, the deposition of the Late and Early Carboniferous (and Permian) corresponds to the end of the Kaskaskia Megasequence and the beginning of the Absaroka. These two megasequences were part of the continual advance of the floodwaters across higher and higher elevations described in Genesis 7. These rock layers perfectly represent the global destruction of lowland ecological systems and reinforce a creationist model of paleontology based on global Flood burial by ecological zonation. 🦋

### References

1. Tomkins, J. P. 2020. The Fossils Still Say No: The Cambrian Explosion. *Acts & Facts*. 49 (12): 10-13.
2. Clack, J. 2012. Emerging Into the Carboniferous: The First Phase. In *Gaining Ground: The Origin and Evolution of Tetrapods*. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press.
3. Clack, East Kirkton and the Roots of the Modern Family Tree, *ibid*.
4. Clack, The Late Carboniferous: Expanding Horizons, *ibid*.
5. Benton, M. J. 2015. Early Tetrapods and Amphibians. In *Vertebrate Paleontology*. West Sussex, UK: John Wiley & Sons Ltd.
6. Tomkins, J. P. 2021. The Fossils Still Say No: Missing Early Evolution of Land Vertebrates. *Acts & Facts*. 50 (4): 12-14.
7. Clarey, T. 2020. *Carved in Stone: Geological Evidence of the Worldwide Flood*. Dallas, TX: Institute for Creation Research.
8. Tomkins, J. P. 2021. The Fossils Still Say No: The Fins-to-Feet Transition. *Acts & Facts*. 50 (3): 12-14.
9. Tomkins, J. P. 2021. The Fossils Still Say No: The Mystery of Jawed Vertebrates. *Acts & Facts*. 50 (2): 12-14.

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



# Vertebrate Origins on the Ropes...Again

In 1859, the Western world was turned upside down by the publication of Charles Darwin's *The Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection or the Preservation of Favoured Races in the Struggle for Life*.

Ironically, one thing Darwin never actually addressed in this difficult tome was the origin of the world's species. For example, he didn't address the origin of the vertebrates—animals with a brain and spinal column—or any other group of creatures. He only speculated.

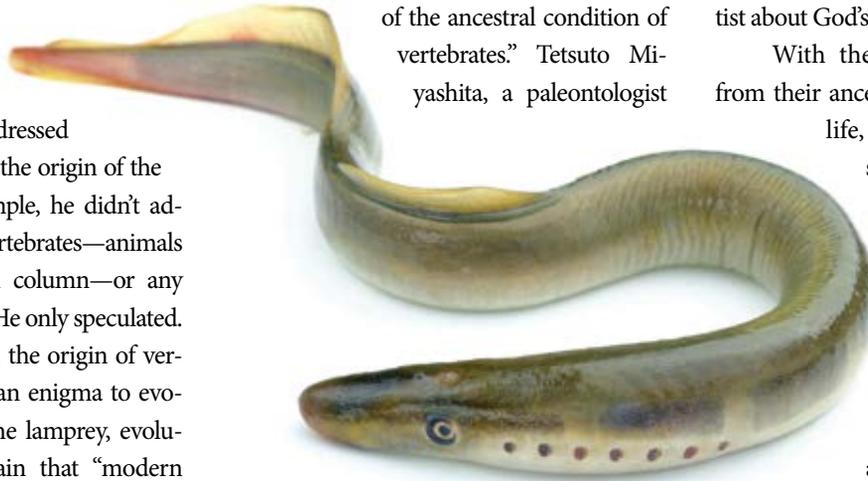
In the 21st century, the origin of vertebrates continues to be an enigma to evolutionists. Considering the lamprey, evolutionists generally maintain that “modern lampreys are a holdover from the distant past, resembling the ancestors of all living vertebrates, including ourselves.”<sup>1</sup> *Nature* magazine recently stated that the larva of the lamprey (ammocoete) “appears to recapitulate [repeat] widely accepted scenarios of vertebrate origin. However, no direct evidence has validated the evolutionary antiquity of ammocoetes, and their status as models of primitive vertebrate anatomy is uncertain.”<sup>2</sup>

Lampreys (order Petromyzontiformes) are a unique fish without jaws, scales, or paired fins. Their mouths are heavily toothed and funnel-like, used to bore into the flesh of fish to extract body fluids (see cover photo). The fossil record shows, unsurprisingly, that lampreys have always been lampreys and have remained “almost unchanged throughout the past 360 million years,” according to evolutionary dating.<sup>3</sup>

But the ancestry of vertebrates tracing back to lampreys has fallen upon hard times with recent fossil discoveries strongly showing “ammocoetes are specializations of modern-lamprey life history rather than relics of vertebrate ancestry.”<sup>2</sup>

In other words, the now complete fossil record of the lamprey life cycle doesn't

show any of the alleged evolutionary recapitulation that secular zoology predicted. What this means is lampreys have basically been removed “from the position of the ancestral condition of vertebrates.” Tetsuto Miyashita, a paleontologist



## article highlights

- Fossil lampreys appear to be exactly like those we see today.
- Lamprey larvae and life cycles are unique to lampreys.
- Secular scientists look for a creature to serve as the basis for alleged vertebrate evolution, but evolutionists are still at an impasse 162 years after Darwin's book was published.
- The missing links are still missing.

at the Canadian Museum of Nature, went on to say, “So now we need an alternative.”<sup>1</sup> Margaret Docker, “an expert on lamprey biology and genetics at the University of Manitoba, calls the findings ‘very exciting.’ She agrees that the fossils ‘rule out modern lampreys as a model for the earliest vertebrates.’”<sup>4</sup>

An unofficial rule of secular biology is that when someone uses the word “exciting,” it means they were wholly unprepared for such a discovery because their expectations were built on the theory of evolution. The findings raise two new questions for them: why did the lamprey evolve into such a confusing creature, and what did the earli-

est vertebrates actually look like?<sup>4</sup>

Creationists suggest lampreys are designed by the Creator, Jesus Christ, not to confuse the scientist but to inform the scientist about God's glory.

With the elimination of lampreys from their ancestral position in the tree of life, evolutionists are back to square one when it comes to vertebrate origins. But because they will not accept the biblical narrative of living creatures reproducing “after their kind,” secular scientists must look for an alternative that, like the lamprey, will never be satisfactory to their reasonable mind.

Even so, they still try to make it work. They are now suggesting extinct armored fishes called ostracoderms as “the root of the vertebrate family tree.”<sup>1</sup> But there are serious problems with this suggestion.<sup>5</sup> For example, although lampreys have been removed as the claimed ancestor of vertebrates, the internal structures of the head of ostracoderms resemble those of living—you guessed it—lampreys.

All wisdom raised against God will prove futile. Yet evolutionists continue to search the sedimentary rocks for missing links that, per God's Word, will never be found. 📖

## References

1. Caldwell, A. Long-accepted theory of vertebrate origin upended by fossilized fish larvae. The University of Chicago Medicine news release. Posted on uchicagomedicine.org March 10, 2021.
2. Miyashita, T. et al. 2021. Non-ammocoete larvae of Palaeozoic stem lampreys. *Nature*. 591: 408-412.
3. Long, J. 2011. *The Rise of Fishes*, 2nd ed. Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press, 30.
4. Kiefer, P. These fossilized lamprey hatchlings disprove an age-old evolutionary theory. Popular Science. Posted on popsci.com March 11, 2021, accessed March 12, 2021.
5. Sherwin, F. 2020. Osteostracans Aren't Ancestors. *Acts & Facts*. 49 (12): 14.

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



# Q. Is the Bible Evidence for Creation?

**A** Have you ever had a skeptic tell you to keep the Bible out of it when discussing origins? Skeptics claim we Christians argue in a circle, that we are using the Bible to prove the Bible. Although this objection has an air of wisdom to it, Christians shouldn't fall for it.

Bible skeptics claim to be open-minded people who fairly weigh the evidence. If so, they won't object when Christians show that the Bible makes better sense of the scientific and historical data than other worldviews.

The Bible's creation account (Genesis 1–2) provides a logical explanation for the staggering complexity and design of living things. But it also resolves a paradox. Why do disease and degeneration cause such exquisitely designed bodies to malfunction and eventually die? Why do bad things happen? Why is there suffering in the world? The Bible provides the answers in its account of the Fall (Genesis 3).

The Bible makes sense of our spiritual condition. That God has written His law on our hearts explains why we feel guilt for doing wrong despite our frequent efforts to rationalize or justify our wrongdoing.<sup>1</sup> It also explains how God provided a way to remove our estrangement from Him. We can be forgiven of our wrongdoings by turning from those wrongs and believing that our Creator became a man, the Lord Jesus Christ, who paid for our wrongdoing by living a perfect life, dying in our place, and proving His claims by rising from the dead!<sup>2</sup>

Genesis explains facts of our existence that could easily be overlooked were it a human invention. It explains why, despite the awesome, obvious design behind human reproduction (especially at the microscopic level),<sup>3</sup> women experience pain in childbirth.

It also explains why we experience shame at nakedness. If you were inventing your own cosmology, would *you* have thought to include those details?

The Bible makes sense of recorded history. Despite the claims of skeptics, evidence of the Bible's historical reliability, even from the earliest chapters of Genesis, is abundant.<sup>4</sup>

Finally, the Bible makes sense of Earth history. God's judgment in the Flood makes

## article highlights

- Many skeptics assume the Bible is biased and therefore unreliable as a historical source.
- But the Bible has been shown to be historically accurate—including Genesis.
- The Bible makes good sense of the facts of our existence.
- The Bible is powerful evidence for creation.

sense of the billions of fossilized plants and animals entombed within water-deposited rocks around the world. Marine and land fossils are often jumbled together, as one would expect from a global cataclysmic flood. The hundreds of cultural memories of the Flood retained by people groups around the world is exactly what one would expect from a global cataclysm like the Flood.<sup>5</sup> The Flood even provides a framework for explaining the Ice Age that's vastly superior to secular explanations.<sup>6</sup> In light of the Bible's ability to make sense of these observations, how can you possibly justify leaving it out of

the discussion?

Note, however, that Scripture's strength in explaining these observations depends on it being taken as written. The Bible can't explain these facts of our existence if one allegorizes Genesis. This is precisely why secularists have tried so hard to impeach the Bible's creation account over the years with pseudoscientific claims of evolution and millions of years. It also shows why creation ministries like the Institute for Creation Research are so important.

It's absolutely legitimate to use the Bible as evidence for creation, and Christians should not hesitate to do so. Since it is the testimony of an infallible Eyewitness who never lies or makes mistakes, one should not be at all surprised that it does such a good job of explaining the facts of our existence. ✎

## References

1. Romans 2:14-16.
2. Roman 10:8-10; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4.
3. Guliuzza, R. *The Miracle of Human Life: Darwin or Design?* DVD. Dallas, TX: Institute for Creation Research.
4. Cooper, B. 2012. *The Authenticity of the Book of Genesis*. Portsmouth, UK: Creation Science Movement.
5. Morris, J. D. 2014. Traditions of a Global Flood. *Acts & Facts* 43 (11): 15.
6. Hebert, J. 2018. The Bible Best Explains the Ice Age. *Acts & Facts* 47 (11): 10-13.

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.





# ZION NATIONAL PARK: EVIDENCE OF DEEP WATER SAND WAVES

BRIAN THOMAS, PH.D., AND TIM CLAREY, PH.D.



## article highlights

- It appears that water laid down the colorful sandstone layers at Zion National Park.
- Physics, mineralogy, and cross-bed angles clearly point to water deposition rather than the conventional story of wind deposition.
- Water waves that laid down part of the sedimentary layers may have been about 500 feet tall, which perfectly fits the Flood model.
- Zion National Park showcases powerful evidence for the Genesis Flood.

It was like driving into another world when we emerged from Zion-Mount Carmel Tunnel right at dawn. Zion National Park opened up to us in brilliant colors, and our jaws dropped at the splendor of sunlit sandstone cliffs. We joined the procession that picked its way down the switchbacks as passengers begged their vehicles' drivers to slow down for photos of the spectacular valley walls.

How many of the millions of annual visitors wonder how and when these awesome rocks arrived?

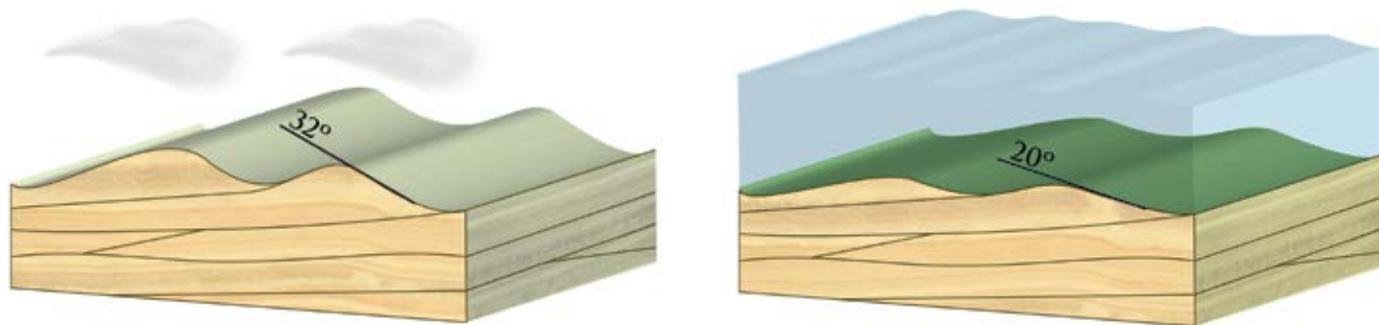
### Cross-Bedded Sandstones

Zion National Park exposes some of the largest and clearest cross-bedded patterns among Earth's immense and extensive

sandstone layers. In the past, continuous flow piled sand dunes on top of one another, preserving the internal structures that cut at an angle across the flat bedding surfaces. Cross-bed is the technical term for this angle. The U.S. Geological Survey says about Zion's dunes that "the cross-bedding found in the Navajo Sandstone is the result of sand being moved by wind."<sup>1</sup> This anticipates a vast desert. Of course, wind does build sand dunes on land, but few know that sand dunes also form underwater. Could the sandstone layers at Zion be from water?

Scientists experiment with wind and water to make sand dunes in the lab. Their findings reveal a straightforward method to discern between dunes caused by wind and dunes caused by water. Figure 1 shows the key difference between these two sediment transport modes.

Image credit: Brian Thomas



**Figure 1.** Experiments show that wind deposits sand dune slopes at angles of about 32°, whereas water deposits sand dune slopes closer to 20°. Wind and water flow direction is left to right.

Image credit: Susan Windsor

Generally, cross-beds form when wind or water transports sand up the gentle windward side of a dune. Sand drops as it reaches the slower flow on the leeward (downwind) side, creating a steeper slope in front. Even after the sand becomes sandstone, the sharp angles (cross-beds) against the flatter bedding below are preserved. Cross-beds formed by air are steeper than the ones formed by water.

Cross-beds from windblown sand form near the stable slope angle of dry sand at between 32° and 35° from horizontal. In contrast, angles not much greater than 20° indicate that fast-flowing water put the sand there. So, the angle measure of a cross-bed layer reveals whether wind or water formed the original dune. Figure 2 shows cross-beds from stacked dunes in a mesa at Zion. Figure 3 shows them in black and white for ease of analysis.

Try it yourself. Use a protractor to discover which deposition mode best matches the angle you find. Center the protractor on a point where a cross-bed intersects the flatter bedding plane. Our measurements at Zion’s Checkerboard Mesa were all between 17°

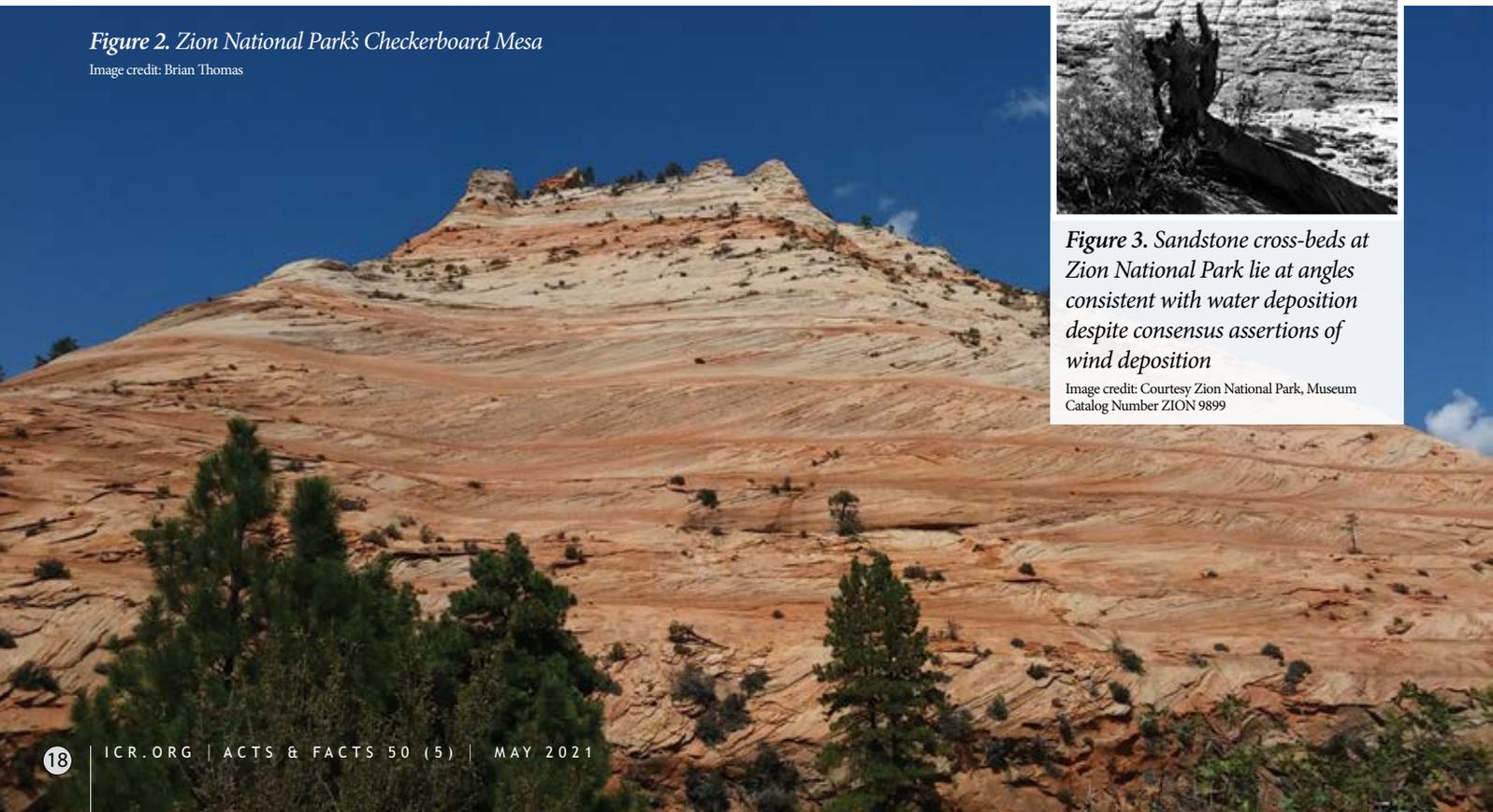
and 16°—the angle water would have caused. The Navajo Sandstone even has limestone and dolomite mixed with some of the sandstone layers.<sup>2</sup> These carbonate minerals form in water. The area was certainly covered in water. So much for dogmas about desert dunes in Zion.

### What Difference Does This Make?

If wind built these dunes long ago, then the narrative would have to change. The water-deposited rock formations found above and below them in adjacent regions suggest it took eons for deserts to replace oceans and that it took more eons for oceans to cover deserts. But empirical evidence of water-deposited rocks all the way up flushes the eons far away.

**Figure 2.** Zion National Park’s Checkerboard Mesa

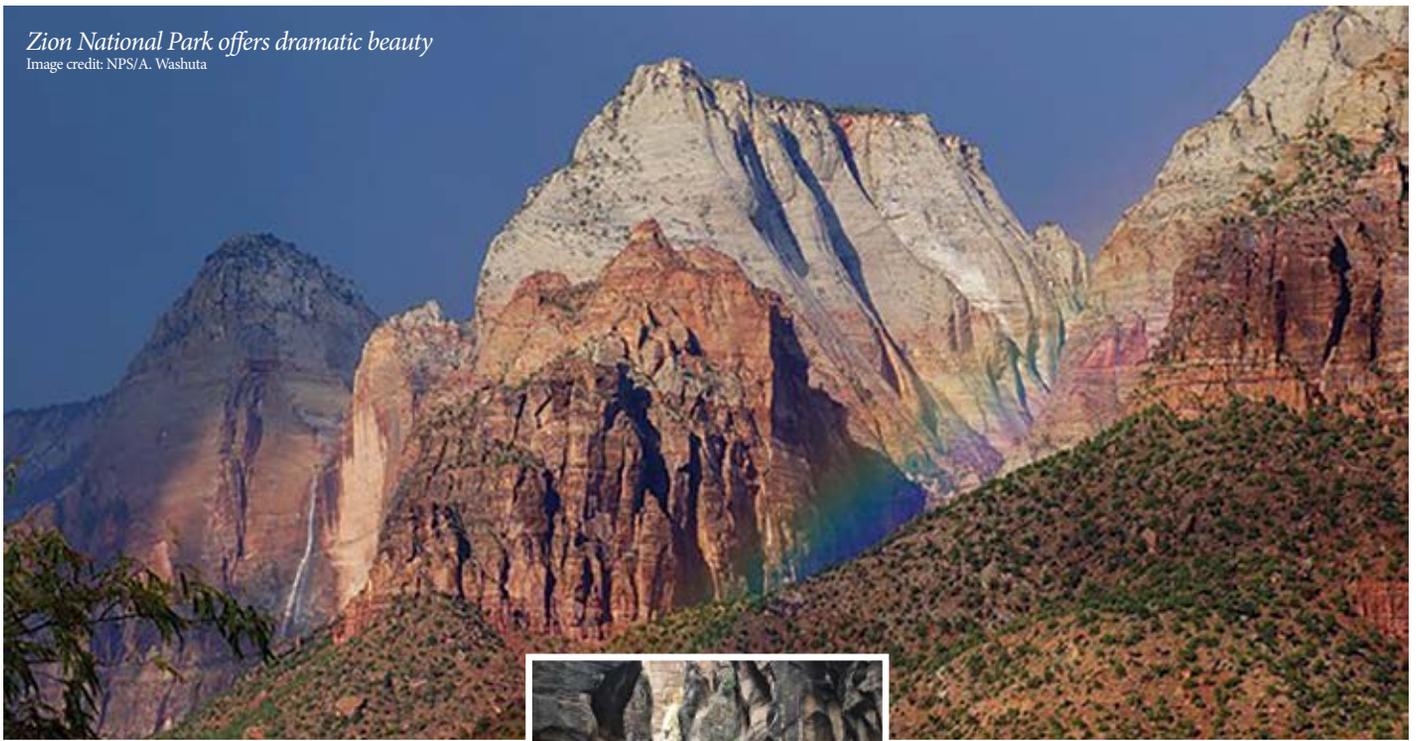
Image credit: Brian Thomas



**Figure 3.** Sandstone cross-beds at Zion National Park lie at angles consistent with water deposition despite consensus assertions of wind deposition

Image credit: Courtesy Zion National Park, Museum Catalog Number ZION 9899

Zion National Park offers dramatic beauty  
Image credit: NPS/A. Washuta



## Deep, Deep Water

Experiments with dunes have taught us about more than just angle measurement. They've taught us that if the dune is bigger, the water must be deeper. Sand dune heights are equal to about one-fifth of the water depth that forms them.<sup>3</sup> Some dunes in the Navajo Sandstone reach 95 feet high,<sup>4</sup> meaning they formed beneath about 500 feet of fast-flowing water! The tsunamis that made these sand waves must have been gigantic—and larger than any observed in recent history.



Image credit: Brian Thomas

## Science, Scripture, and Salvation

When we take the history of Scripture at face value, we can model some expectations of how Noah's Flood transformed the landscape of the world. Then we can compare these expectations with what we find in the real world. When we see what destructive and devastating scars the Flood cut into the earth, we behold the judgment of God. As 2 Peter 3:6 says, "...by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water." Here, Peter warns that since God has judged the whole world with water once already, we'd better prepare for the judgment to come. Massive, water-formed dunes bolster Peter's warning.

The Flood model uses data from the effects of tsunamis and amplifies the patterns of destruction. Models of waves larger than today's tsunamis show them ripping up rocks and depositing layer upon layer of sediments for months during the Flood year.<sup>5</sup> Water deposition in a rising flood would leave stacked sandstone layers that match the ones we observe in Zion—layers stacked flat with no erosional channels filled in.

Other stratigraphic data suggest the sandstones at Zion National Park were deposited while the floodwaters were approaching their zenith on a global scale.<sup>6</sup> Ocean crust formed rapidly during the Flood to help push water higher and higher, generating larger and larger tsunami waves.<sup>6</sup> This was the perfect recipe to stack thick cross-bedded sands on top of each other. The Flood model shows that the rock stack exposed at Zion formed in a few weeks during the Flood year, and experiments confirm that the model fits.

In this way, science increases confidence that the Bible's history makes the clearest sense of our world. No wonder it also makes the most sense of spiritual realities like our need for rescue from our sins through the Lord Jesus Christ. He paid our penalty and offers everlasting life to all who repent of sin and trust in Him. Reading the clues from underwater dunes at Zion National Park increases the urgency of the message in 2 Peter 3. 📖

### References

1. Zion National Park: Sandstone Cross-bedding. National Park Service. Posted on nps.gov, accessed March 8, 2021.
2. Weaver, L. Navajo Sandstone. Posted on UtahGeology.com April 16, 2015, accessed March 10, 2021.
3. Allen, J. R. L. 1970. *Physical Processes of Sedimentation*. New York: American Elsevier, 78. Cited in Austin, S. A. 1994. *Grand Canyon: Monument to Catastrophe*. San Diego, CA: Institute for Creation Research, 33.
4. Parrish, J. T. and H. J. Falcon-Lang. 2007. Coniferous tree associated with interdune deposits in the Jurassic Navajo Sandstone Formation, Utah, USA. *Palaeontology*. 50 (4): 829-843.
5. Clarey, T. 2015. Dinosaur Fossils in Late-Flood Rocks. *Acts & Facts*. 44 (2): 16.
6. Clarey, T. 2020. *Carved in Stone: Geological Evidence of the Worldwide Flood*. Dallas, TX: Institute for Creation Research, 114-151.

Dr. Thomas and Dr. Clarey are Research Associates at the Institute for Creation Research. Dr. Thomas earned his Ph.D. in paleochemistry from the University of Liverpool, and Dr. Clarey earned his Ph.D. in geology from Western Michigan University.



Not all tour guides in Alaska are human. Amazing animals of Alaska can guide us into learning creation truth. In fact, such animals should direct us—like projected arrows<sup>1</sup>—toward understanding the greatness of our Creator. This guidance is illustrated in Alaska’s land creatures, birds of the air, and beasts of its coastal seaways.<sup>2</sup>

“But now ask the beasts, and they will teach [literally guide or direct] you; and the birds of the air, and they will tell you;...and the fish of the sea will explain to you...that the hand of the LORD has done this.” (Job 12:7-9)

Alaska’s lynx (*Lynx canadensis*) lives throughout most of Alaska, especially in its boreal forests. Its favorite fare is snowshoe hare (*Lepus americanus*). About every 10 years, this rabbit-like hare’s population explodes—and the lynx population surges soon after. If the lynx population didn’t respond in this manner, hungry hares would strip forests and brush of young vegetation, starving out other herbivores.<sup>3,4</sup>

But hares quickly flee danger, so how can lynxes locate and leap upon lagomorph lunches? The answer is found in the anatomy of the lynx. Christ the Creator caringly endowed the lynx with physical traits to match the lynx’s post-Fall diet of hares, squirrels, voles, and birds.<sup>4</sup>

Lynx ears, like those of their bobcat cousins, hear fainter and higher-pitched frequency sounds than we do. Tufts atop lynx ears act as antennas, providing precision when matching sounds to their locations. Lynx night vision—also used during twilight—is sixfold superior to ours, with better peripheral vision, noticing even the slightest movements in brush or snow.<sup>3</sup>

Lynxes are designed to spring and pounce—their spinal vertebrae are “held together largely by muscles rather than ligaments,...[so the lynx] backbone is extremely flexible and can lengthen, contract, and even twist” while sprinting or leaping.<sup>3</sup> Lynx hind legs spring quickly, adding an early advantage to a chase. Its paw pads are huge and broad like snowshoes, just right for chasing small game without sinking into snowdrifts. Lynx claws are retractable, so claw sharpness isn’t dulled when walking or running. Its long canine teeth puncture well; like garden shears, its carnassial teeth cut and snip the flesh of its prey.<sup>3</sup>

Not only are lynx fitted to fill their habitats, they are designed to be fruitful and multiply. Their reproductive system adjusts for habi-

tat conditions.<sup>4</sup> Lynx mothers in the colder northern ranges average three kittens per litter. This links latitudinal weather extremes (that limit available prey and thus increase starvation risk) with reproductive success (for procreative replacement of parental generations).

However, in milder southern ranges the lynx mothers average two kittens per litter. Due to climate-related food scarcity challenges, in northern ranges survivability is riskier for both newborn lynx kittens and for their mothers because lactation is bioenergetically demanding—i.e., providing hungry kittens with milk is a recurring activity that’s metabolically expensive for nursing mothers.<sup>3,4</sup>



article highlights

- Lynx eyes, ears, and bodies are perfectly designed to hunt small game.
- Lynx bodies sense their climate and respond with litter sizes that match the risk level.
- Complex traits are built-in and beneficial for helping the lynx thrive.

Thus, God’s providence in ecology comes to bear with splendid craftsmanship. It makes sense that lynx mothers use built-in phenological sensors that provide continuous environmental tracking of daylight hours (per 24-hour cycle) to recognize the latitude of their respective range. The lynx mother’s internal response to that tracked geographical data influences her fertility and litter size

to match the relative survivability risks linked to latitude challenges.

Surely this fleet-footed feline is intentionally designed for a cool, carnivorous lifestyle. Thanks to the creative providence of the Lord Jesus Christ, Alaska’s lynx is fitted to fill its habitats on the earth. ✨

References

1. The Hebrew verb translated “teach” in Job 12:7 is also translated “cast” (Genesis 31:51; Proverbs 26:18), “shoot [arrows]” (1 Samuel 20:20, 36-37; Psalm 11:2; 2 Kings 13:17; 2 Chronicles 35:23), and “direct” (Genesis 46:28), with the common concept being aim, direction, or guidance toward an archer’s target or goal-like destination.
2. Due to space limitations only one land mammal example is given here. Regarding humpback whales, one of Alaska’s marine mammals, see Guliuzza, R. J. Whale Fin Inspires Safer Racing Wheels. *Creation Science Update*. Posted on ICR.org January 11, 2018, accessed March 11, 2021. Exemplifying Alaska’s birds, see Johnson, J. J. S. Alaskan Alcids: Efficiently Designed for Air and Water. *Creation Science Update*. Posted on ICR.org July 20, 2020, accessed March 11, 2021.
3. Kobalenko, J. 2005. *Forest Cats of North America: Cougars, Bobcats, Lynx*. Buffalo, NY: Firefly Books, 46-47.
4. Koehler, G. M. and K. B. Aubry. Lynx. In *The Scientific Basis for Conserving Forest Carnivores: American Marten, Fisher, Lynx, and Wolverine in the Western United States*. Ruggerio, L. F. et al, eds. Fort Collins, CO: USDA Forest Service, 74-98.

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



# Tributes of Honor and Remembrance

At the end of a long day, a boss I had early in my career would often tell me, “No more today, Henry. My brain is full.” I found his comments rather amusing at the time, but the older I get the more truthful his words become. Memories can slowly fade away as the cares and pressures of the present drown out the recollections of the past. It’s so easy to forget.

This is one reason I’ve always enjoyed the month of May—it ushers in a special season of honor and remembrance. We honor our mothers on Mother’s Day, remember our fallen heroes on Memorial Day, and then honor our fathers on Father’s Day just before summer begins. It’s surely a good thing to remember and thank God for our parents and those who gave their lives in defense of our nation. Without them we wouldn’t be here today, so it’s right and important to honor the blessing of their influence and sacrifice in a meaningful way.

The Institute for Creation Research, too, has greatly benefited from gifts made in honor or memory of loved ones. We received many tributes to my father, Dr. Henry M. Morris III, soon after his homegoing in December, and these were a very special encouragement to me. They are often the most personal expressions of support we receive and are usually accompanied by touching stories of the person and their love for our ministry. ICR is deeply humbled by these gifts, knowing that the donors made them with a great deal of thought and care.

Gifts are made in memory of loved

## article highlights

- Remembering those who’ve influenced our lives is important.
- The gifts the Institute for Creation Research receives in honor of loved ones are precious to us.
- If you’d like to pay tribute to someone special, you can make a memorial gift to ICR in their honor.

ones long after the Lord has called them home. To this day, ICR still receives memorial gifts for my grandfather, ICR founder Dr. Henry M. Morris, who went home to glory over 15 years ago. Still others are made in honor of a living person who significantly impacted the donor’s life. In every case, these gifts produce a deep sense of connection—not only with the person being honored but also with the ministry the gift supports.

We count it a sweet privilege to partner with supporters who wish to acknowledge a loved one this way. For memorial gifts, ICR will send a letter to the family with words of comfort and encouragement. For gifts in honor of a special person, ICR is delighted to send your designee a grateful letter informing the person of your gift in his or her honor. ICR will provide a copy of every letter prepared on your behalf, along with our grateful thanks and a tax-deductible receipt for your gift.

If you’d like to pay tribute to someone in this special way, please provide ICR with the following information—either in writing or online at [ICR.org/donate](https://www.icr.org/donate)—along with your gift.

- Name of the person to honor (living) or remember (in glory)
- Names and addresses of those to be notified of your gift (amounts will not be mentioned)
- His or her relationship to you and to those being notified

It is good to remember loved ones who have gone on to glory and honor those whose lives have deeply touched ours. ICR stands ready to work with you. But most importantly, we must remember the One whose work and name established the greatest memorial of all. “I will remember the works of the LORD; surely I will remember Your wonders of old...and talk of Your deeds” (Psalm 77:11-12). “But You, O LORD, shall endure forever, and the remembrance of Your name to all generations” (Psalm 102:12). May we daily remember and honor the name of the Lord. ✞

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



Prayerfully Consider Supporting **ICR** Online Donations Stocks and Securities IRA Gifts Matching Gift Programs CFC (Federal/Military Workers) Gift Planning • Charitable Gift Annuities • Wills and Trusts

GALATIANS 6:9-10

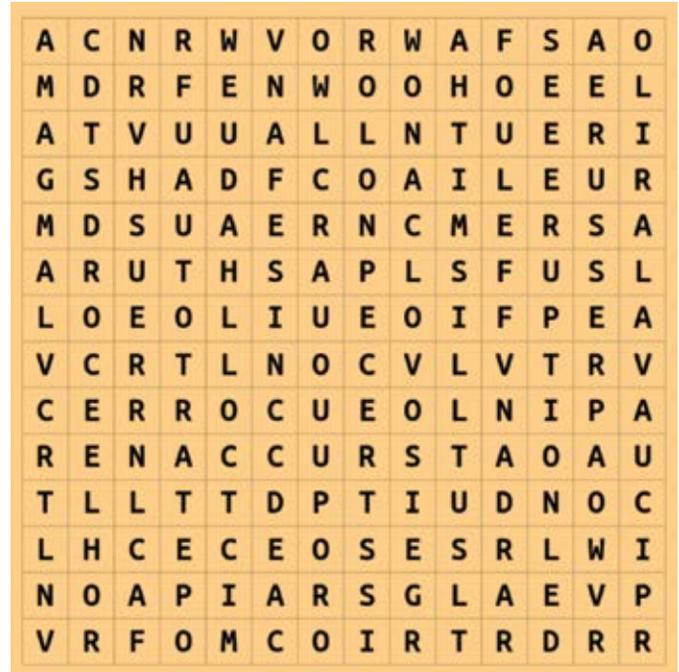
ICR is a recognized 501(c)(5) nonprofit ministry, and all gifts are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

Visit [ICR.org/donate](https://www.icr.org/donate) and explore how you can support the vital work of ICR ministries. Or contact us at [stewardship@icr.org](mailto:stewardship@icr.org) or [800.337.0375](tel:800.337.0375) for personal assistance.

Have you ever shaken a soda bottle and then unscrewed the cap? Increasing pressure pushes the bubbling liquid upward, and soda explodes out the top! Well, deep in the earth, hot liquid rock can build up pressure—like a shaken soda bottle. When it explodes onto Earth's surface, we're seeing a volcano in action! Did you also know...

- ✓ A volcano releases hot lava, rocks, dust, and gas from deep within the earth.
- ✓ Volcanoes can trigger earthquakes and tsunamis.
- ✓ Volcanoes erupted for many years during and after the worldwide Flood described in the Bible (Genesis 7-8). The mix of volcano dust and mud from the Flood buried plants and animals. This formed some of the fossils we find today.
- ✓ Earth still has more than 1,500 active volcanoes, and at least 80 of them are under the oceans.

Find the volcano words.



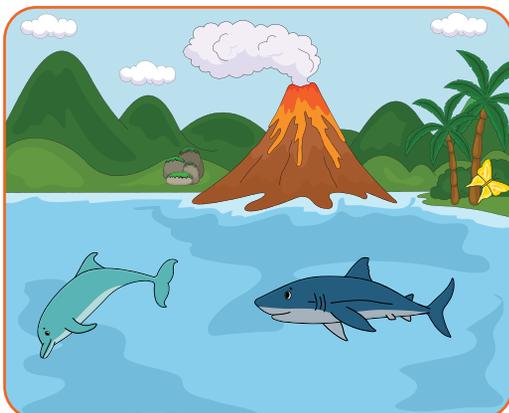
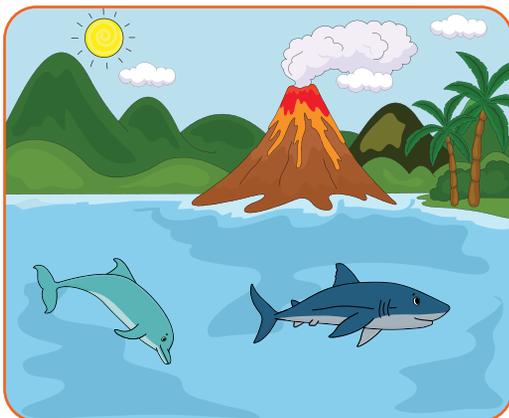
crater  
vent  
lava

cloud  
volcano  
ash

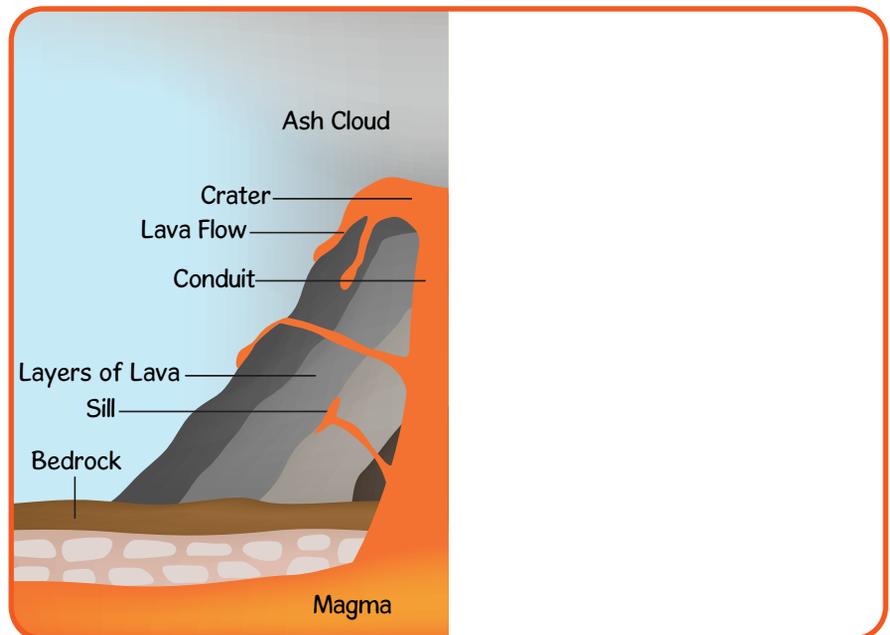
magma  
eruption  
conduit

pressure  
flow  
sill

Find 10 differences between the pictures.



Complete the other half of the volcano drawing below.

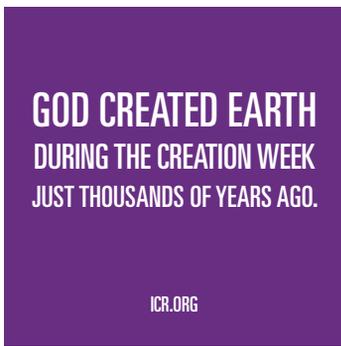


Picture answers: cloud added to top left, sun removed, ash cloud flipped, different color of lava, cloud removed from the right of the volcano, rocks added, different color of hill, butterfly added, dolphin flipped, shark flipped



I think [*The Book of Beginnings* by Henry M. Morris III] is one of the best books ever! **Packed full of scientific facts backing up Genesis.** A super easy, interesting read. And a great place to start! I bought one, gave one away!

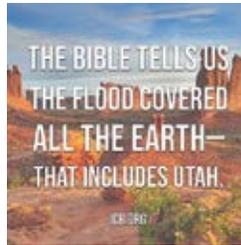
— C. E.



I used to be one who would scoff at this [young earth view], but only because of what I'd been taught, not because of actually knowing proven facts. Anyone who wants to truly follow the science can confidently conclude this: Animals reproduce after their kind; there is abundant evidence for a global flood; the magnificent order of nature demands an intelligent Designer. And the fact that mankind doesn't want to admit they will be judged by Him is all the reason we need to make up some other story of origin. **I don't like the reality that I'm accountable to who made me either, except for the wonderful news that He not only re-**

**quires something of us but provided for us all that He requires: Jesus.**

— J. F.



I live in Utah. I can attest to the evidence of a worldwide flood. It's abundant.

— K. G.

When I'm in Utah's Arches National Park and Canyonlands, I'm reminded of God's created dirt majestically rearranged by the biblical global Flood during Noah's day.

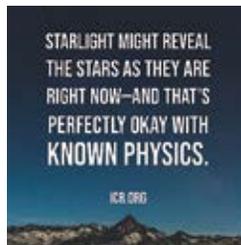
— A. M.

**Yep! You can totally see it....I live here in Southern Utah now. So much evidence of a global flood.**

— J. O. C.

And lots of sea salt in Utah.

— S. W. B.



Some people say that science can or will draw you away from God. ICR has not only helped me draw closer to God but also strength-

ened my faith in Him. For this I am forever grateful for your contribution in furthering God's Kingdom. **You have seamlessly married the science OF God's truth with the science IN God's truth.** Thank you!

— T. M.



One grand design transforms into a totally different grand design, and yet scientists still can't see a Designer behind it!

— N. T. B.

The whole life cycle of the butterfly disproves Darwinian evolution!

— D. C.



ICR and its leaders have had an incredible, important ministry.

**Dr. [Henry] Morris III was one of the incredible leadership team.**

— A. M. S.

He will continue building [heavenly] reward each time someone consults a commentary or an article, because they're based on the right foundation: God's inspired Word. Thank you, Lord, for men of integrity, men of Your Word, men like Dr. Henry Morris.

— J. & A. B.



**ICR By the Numbers**

ICR fans spent around **\$318,000** on Amazon during the last quarter of 2020. They'd selected ICR as the recipient of AmazonSmile's charitable contribution, and we received **\$1,593.96!**

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

# SAVE ON PACKS!

## SCIENCE FOR KIDS

Full of information and beautifully illustrated, these books will bring joy to any budding scientists!

**Buy the whole set and save \$10!**

**\$24.99** ~~\$35.96~~ PSFK4

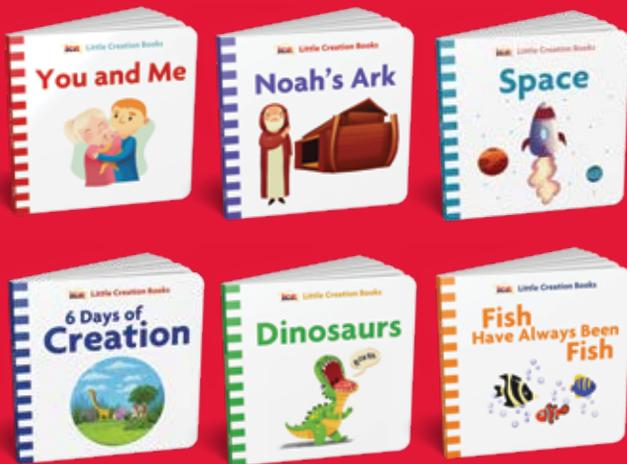


- *Dinosaurs: God's Mysterious Creatures*  
**\$8.99** BDGMC
- *Space: God's Majestic Handiwork*  
**\$8.99** BSGMH
- *Animals by Design: Exploring Unique Creature Features*  
**\$8.99** BABDEUCF
- *Earth: Our Created Home*  
**\$8.99** BEOCH

## LITTLE CREATION BOOKS

**Buy the whole set and save \$10!**

**\$24.99** ~~\$35.94~~ PLCB



*You and Me*  
**\$5.99** BYAMBB

*6 Days of Creation*  
**\$5.99** B6DOCB

*Noah's Ark*  
**\$5.99** BNABB

*Dinosaurs*  
**\$5.99** BDBB

*Space*  
**\$5.99** BSBB

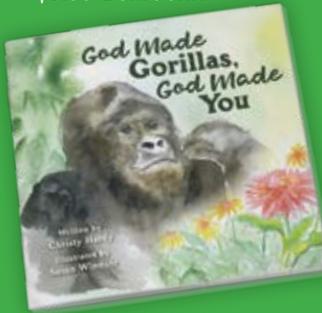
*Fish Have Always Been Fish*  
**\$5.99** BFHABFBB



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

**God Made Gorillas,  
God Made You**

**\$7.99** BGMGGMY



**Big Plans for Henry**

*A Little Book with a Big Plan*

**\$8.99** BBPFH



Henry Plush Toy | **\$12.99** GHTH

**Buy both for \$15.99 and save \$6!**  
PBPFH

## GUIDE TO BOOKS

**Buy all five Guide To books and save \$20!**

**\$64.95** ~~\$84.95~~ PBGTB Hardcover

- *Guide to Creation Basics*  
**\$16.99** BGTBCB
- *Guide to Animals*  
**\$16.99** BGTA
- *Guide to Dinosaurs*  
**\$16.99** BGTD
- *Guide to the Human Body*  
**\$16.99** BGTTHB
- *Guide to the Universe*  
**\$16.99** BGTU

