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JANUARY | FEBRUARY 2023

What a Wonderful Year! 2022 in Review

Badlands National Park: Flood Features and Fossils

page 10

Creation *Ex Nihilo* Through Christ Jesus

page 14

Eating Like a Bird



FASCINATING CREATERST'S HANDIWORK

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VOLUME 52 NUMBER 1 JANUARY | FEBRUARY 2023

Published by INSTITUTE FOR CREATION RESEARCH

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

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

DESIGNER

Dennis Davidson

[Jesus Christ] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence. For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross. (Colossians 1:15-20)

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



Front cover: Winter in the Badlands Image credit: iStock | ImagineGolf





feature

4 What a Wonderful Year! 2022 in Review RANDY J. GULIUZZA, P.E., M.D.

<mark>r e s e a r c h</mark>

7 Surface Fish Embryo

park series

10 Badlands National Park: Flood Features and Fossils TIM CLAREY, PH.D.

impact

14 Creation Ex Nihilo Through Christ Jesus JEFFREY P. TOMKINS, PH.D.

back to genesis

17 Toothed Fish Fossil Rewrites Evolutionary Fish Story

 $\label{eq:FRANKSHERWIN, D.Sc. (Hon.)} FRANK SHERWIN, D.Sc. (Hon.)$

18 Building a Human Body: Jesus Christ's Amazing Engineering

GREG BREWER, PH.D.

apologetics

20 Eating Like a Bird

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

stewardship

21 Creation Evangelism

HENRY M. MORRIS, PH.D.

creation kids

23 Arctic Hare

MICHAEL STAMP AND SUSAN WINDSOR

WHAT A WONDERFUL YEAR! 2022

IN REVIEW

ongtime readers of *Acts & Facts* may fondly recall how in the January issue ICR founder Dr. Henry M. Morris would sum up ICR's major activities and blessings of the prior year. When he pulled together all the things that had been accomplished, it was exciting to see the hand of the Lord Jesus empowering ICR's progress in creation science. The thrill that this brought to my heart was a blessing for me, and I'm sure that it was for you as well.

As much as I wanted to write a year-in-review article for the January 2021 issue of *Acts & Facts* in my first year as president, I felt compelled to write "Unity Worthy of Our Creationist Heritage" because of the urgent need in this area.¹ It was also time to give a long overdue thank you to many smaller creationist ministries that have worked with ICR for decades. The January 2022 article "Finding Biblical Clues to Design" targeted the pressing need to spell out the biblical basis underlying the new engineering-based approach to biological research that ICR is pioneering.²

But this January we can quickly walk through 2022 in review. While I'll mention several ICR staff members, we all know that the credit belongs to the Lord Jesus. Together we can thank Him for His abiding presence with ICR as demonstrated by the many good things He has done for and through us.

New Ministry Logo

(4)

We kicked off 2022 by revealing our new ICR logo that emphasizes our concerted effort to begin organism-focused, engineering-based biological research. Susan Windsor of our Communications department crafted the initial design of the logo, and then the entire ICR staff collectively added refinements for the final design. We produced an announcement video for those interested in learning more about our new logo.³



New Mailing Center for Donor Relations

Our Donor Relations team worked for years in a cramped room producing donor receipts, spring and fall appeals, and thank you letters. In January 2022, they moved into a brand-new space specifically designed for their needs. This new space has improved working conditions and has also enabled us to begin sending a variety of postcards and announcements by ourselves rather than using outside sources.



ICR Discovery Center Director Chris Kinman and several of his crew did an incredibly professional job in remodeling a classroom into a new mail center and three additional offices. In fact, Mr. Kinman and his staff did essentially *all* of the construction shown in this article's pictures in order to modify our facilities to support our greatly increased efforts in biological research and digital media. Their efforts produced not only high-quality rooms on time and under budget, but also saved thousands in construction costs.

New Blind Cavefish Laboratory

This new laboratory is vital to our engineering-based, organism-focused research into biological adaptation. Our approach is completely contrary to Darwin's magical concepts of "selection pressures" and "selection events" that always lead to faulty interpretations of biological outcomes. This lab will support future investigations of various creatures as we quantify specific adaptations under controlled conditions.



Scott Arledge checks the progress of ICR's cavefish research.

New Molecular Biology Laboratory

We refitted our existing laboratory with new equipment that will allow us to prepare samples for genetic sequencing and analyzing to determine which proteins are made in different environmental exposures. All engineered adaptive systems, whether man-made or inside creatures, must have several specialized parts. This laboratory will help us identify those parts within creatures and explain their operation.



New Microscopic Imaging Center

Another vital tool for our biological research is observing the microscopic changes that occur as a fertilized egg develops. This is often the time when biological adaptations begin to be apparent. A gift from the William B. Dean, MD Foundation enabled us to procure new compound and confocal laser microscopes. These will work in tandem with a new stereomicroscope we procured in March. We plan on publishing some of the micrographs in Acts & Facts.



New Discovery Center Exhibits Highlight ICR Research

We marked the third anniversary of the ICR Discovery Center on September 3, 2022, with a huge celebration that attracted over 900 guests. One highlight was unveiling five new exhibits highlighting ICR's latest research-human-chimpanzee DNA comparisons by Dr. Jeffrey Tomkins that show only 80-85% similarity; ICR's new continuous environmental tracking model of biological adaptation; Dr. Jake Hebert's work on the Ice Age; identification of matching sedimentary

layers-in the same orderon continents by Dr. Tim Clarey's analysis of boreholes across the world; and Dr. Brian Thomas' research on unmineralized, soft biological tissues in fossils that indicate they aren't millions of years old as evolutionists claim. We also refreshed many of our original exhibits and added four new ones for children.



New Approach to Educate Families about Creation

We added educational resources that provide a fun approach for families to learn about creation. Drs. Brian Thomas and Tim Clarey worked with Communications Director Jayme Durant to produce a visually appealing resource to counteract

the imaginative evolutionary speculations that families are saturated with when they visit United States national and state parks. The result is the striking Parks Across America: Viewing God's Wonders Through a Creationist Lens and the full-color Parks Across America map.





Podcasts Produced in a New Film Studio

The formation of our Digital Media department is another testament to the provision of the Lord Jesus. This is the first time ICR has ventured into the digital world on a scale of this magnitude, but we felt the Lord prompting us to better use this avenue. New Digital Media Director Michael Hansen put together an aggressive agenda for 2022 of diverse podcasts and videos that appeal to different age groups and interests. The Lord has provided ICR with a very talented team to script, film, animate, and edit these products. He also provided the resources to equip the studio with the necessary tools to produce high-quality media.

Important Events

The Lord blessed us with multiple opportunities to strengthen our ties with some wonderful creationist ministries that desired to work on events together with us. These included two training seminars with Mike Riddle and Creation Training Initiative; the Denver Society of Creation with Judy Finessy and the Rocky Mountain Creation Fellowship; the Biblical Worldview Conference with Dr. Kevin Horton of the Institute for Biblical Authority; Eric Hovind of Creation Today in filming at our Discovery Center; the monthly Day4 Astronomy meeting at the Discovery Center; and a unique film premiere with David Rives Ministries and Dr. Jobe and Jenna Dee Martin of Biblical Discipleship Ministries.

ICR's Dr. Tim Clarey lectured on several Grand Canyon tours led by Kevin Turley of Landmark Events. Dave Ackerman of Alpha Ministries organized an incredible seminar in Spokane. Dr. George and Darlene Matzko of Bob Jones University wowed over 1,000 children at our Discovery Center Homeschool Days event. We hosted The Great Recital with Tom Meyer, the Bible Memory Man, and several other Bible memory specialists in a recital of the entire New Testament from memory! We're also thankful to have been included in the Biblical Worldview Institute hosted by Prestonwood Baptist Church that ministered to over 3,000 Christian students and teachers.

As the year closed, I ministered with Mission Imperative. This is a wonderful creationist ministry led by Mike and Carrie Snavely. I'm grateful that they offered me a complimentary seat on their Southwest Safari that visited the "Grand Circle" of national parks such as Zion, Bryce, and Grand Canyon. Not only was it extremely well organized, but I can highly recommend it as the best experience I've had in seeing firsthand the geological evidences for Noah's Flood. I captured photos and videos to share with you. Subscribe to ICR's YouTube channel and social media to see when they're available. We're grateful for every seminar and all of the wonderful churches that invited us to speak.

We completed our second scientific expedition in which we collected multiple samples in a search for fossilized pollen, excavated several dinosaur bones including a portion of an *Allosaurus* tooth, and filmed interviews for upcoming media productions. In addition, our scientists spoke at four secular universities and were guests on many Christian and secular radio programs.

That covers some of the highlights for 2022—what a year it was. It's still exciting to see the hand of the Lord Jesus empowering ICR's progress in creation science. We know that for many *Acts & Facts* readers, prayer for ICR is included in your regular devotions with the Lord Jesus. He will continue to use your love, generosity, and prayers in 2023.

Please pray for us to have scientific insights, creativity in our communications, creationist unity, and spiritual protection for the ICR family. Thank you for strengthening us in this important work.

References

Dr. Guliuzza is President of the Institute for Creation Research. He earned his Doctor of Medicine 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.



^{1.} Guliuzza, R. J. 2021. Unity Worthy of Our Creationist Heritage. Acts & Facts. 50 (1): 4-6.

^{2.} Guliuzza, R. J. 2022. Finding Biblical Clues to Design. Acts & Facts. 51 (1): 4-6.

^{3.} ICR Logo, posted on ICR.org/logo.



SURFACE FISH EMBRYO

Micrograph of a developing fish embryo of the surface-dwelling form of a Mexican tetra (Astyanax mexicanus). A cap-like band of brownish cells partially encircles the top of a single large yolk cell that "feeds" the growing embryo. This embryo contains 60 to 70 cells undergoing cell division after two hours of development following fertilization. The transparent sphere surrounding the embryo is the egg envelope (chorion)

that protects the embryo from drying and injury. The chorionic rays (upper left) radiate from the micropyle, where a sperm cell entered the chorion during fertilization of the egg. The egg diameter is 1.0 mm (about ¹/₃₂ inch). This image was prepared from a series of focal planes that were captured and edited by Michael J. Boyle, Ph.D., with the new Zeiss Discovery.V20 stereomicroscope in ICR's William B. Dean, MD Imaging Center.

"You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created."



JANUARY 8, 15, 22

Pflugerville, TX First Baptist Church Pflugerville **Revolution Student Ministry**

(D. Napier) 214.615.8306

JANUARY 14

Dallas, TX ICR Discovery Center **Made in His Image Seminar**

ICRDiscoveryCenter.org/ Special-Events or 214.615.8325

JANUARY 21 and FEBRUARY 18

Dallas, TX

ICR Discovery Center

Day 4 Astronomy Meeting

Free event, no registration needed

parker@day4.org or 214.615.8325



JANUARY 26-28

Jasper, TX Hillcrest Baptist Church

Uncovering the Truth About Creation Conference

Featuring Dinosaur Fossil Display

(B. Thomas, T. Clarey) ICR.org/JasperTX or 214.615.8306

JANUARY 15

Tampa, FL Bayside Community Church (J. Johnson) 214.615.8325

FEBRUARY 11

Dallas, TX ICR Discovery Center

Darwin Dethroned Seminar

ICRDiscoveryCenter.org/ Special-Events or 214.615.8325



FEBRUARY 21-23

Dallas, TX ICR Discovery Center **Homeschool Days** ICRDiscoveryCenter.org/Special-Events or 214.615.8325

FEBRUARY 22-28

Hawaii Tour (R. Guliuzza) ICR.org/HawaiiTour or 214.615.8325

SAVE THE DATE



Dallas, TX ICR Discovery Center **Get Bold! Student Conference** For grade 8 through college *Featuring Carl Kerby of Reasons for Hope** Register at ICR.org/GetBold or call 214.615.8333

APRIL 19-MAY 3

Biblical Byways Study Tour of New Testament Turkey and Greece Visit BiblicalByways.com or email BiblicalByways@gmail.com

MAY 5-7

Harris, MN Dale Evangelical Free Church **Uncovering the Truth About Creation Conference** (R. Guliuzza, J. Hebert, T. Clarey) ICR.org/HarrisMN or 214.615.8325

JUNE 7-11

Rapid City, SD Black Hills Creation Adventures and Conference

ICR.org/BlackHillsCreation or 214.615.8306







For the latest ICR Discovery Center live science presentations, check our schedule at ICRDiscoveryCenter.org/Special-Events

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.



◄ Fossilized tip of a maxillary tooth from an Allosaurus. This specimen was excavated by June Guliuzza on September 30, 2022, from the Morrison Formation in northeast Wyoming near Devil's Tower National Monument. Stereomicrograph, approximately 1.4 cm, 4.7x magnification. This image was prepared from a series of focal planes that were captured with the new Zeiss Discovery. V20 stereomicroscope in ICR's William B. Dean, MD Imaging Center.



Dr. Brian Thomas interacts with students at the "Ape Chat" station at the University of Missouri in Columbia, Missouri



Dr. Jake Hebert interviews a student at Missouri University of Science and Technology in Rolla, Missouri



Dr. Brian Thomas presents "Adam or Apes" at Truman State University in Kirksville, Missouri



Dr. Tim Clarey presents "Do Dinosaurs Support Evolutionary Theory?" at the University of Idaho in Moscow, Idaho



BADLANDS NATIONAL PARK FLOOD FEATURES AND FOSSILS

IM CLAREY, PH



article highlights

- Laterally continuous clay layers and clastic dikes show that Badlands National Park rocks were rapidly deposited by moving water.
- The escarpment of the Wall divides smooth upper and lower prairies, a result of massive sheet-wash erosion during the Flood's receding phase.
- The park's rocks contain remarkably varied fossils that include reptiles, birds, and mammals former residents of high pre-Flood uplands.
- Badlands National Park is another testament to the Genesis Flood.

isited by over a million people a year, Badlands National Park is just over an hour east of Rapid City, South Dakota, and covers around 380 square miles. National park status was designated in 1978, but it was previously established as a national monument in 1939. The Native American Lakota people called the area "mako sica," literally "bad lands." French fur trappers called it "les mauvaises terres á traverser," or "bad lands to travel through."¹

Although early people groups might have had little use for this rugged terrain, it contains spectacular multicolored pinnacles, cliffs, buttes, and gullies that exhibit Flood depositional processes and erosion. The fossils found in the park also reveal a pre-Flood ecological habitat.

Rapid Flood Deposition and Catastrophic Dewatering

Clay layers and clastic dikes are two features indicating that Badlands rocks were rapidly deposited by moving water. Conventional science has maintained that clay-rich rocks were deposited over vast ages as sediment slowly settled out of stagnant water. Many scientists have used these claims as arguments for an old earth. Clay, the most common sediment on Earth, does settle out of stagnant water today, but the rocks we observe across the globe didn't form that way.

Clay-rich rocks like shale and mudstone exhibit fine laminations, or thin-bedded layers. Experiments demonstrate that laminated clays form only in energetic settings involving moving—not stagnant—water.² These results match predictions of creation geologists, who interpret clay, mudstones, shales, and nearly all sedimentary rocks as being deposited rapidly during the yearlong Flood.



Clastic dikes formed when builtup water pressure fractured overlying sediments. Catastrophic sediment dewatering filled these fractures with a slurry of sediment as water and sediment were expelled upward during the rapid compaction of clay and sand.

Clastic dikes are dispersed throughout the park's rocks and are about six inches to a foot thick. These features are another indicator of rapid deposition. A clastic dike is essentially sedimentary material that's forced through fractures during dewatering. Clays hold water in the spaces between minerals. In fact, water content is sometimes as much as 50%.

As more sediment piles on top, it squeezes the layers below, pushing the water out. The built-up water pressure fractures the sediments above. Because the water is released under high pressure, it carries some of the clastic (clay and sand) sediment up the fractures along with the water. This leaves the sediment-filled fracture as a clastic dike.

Why did this occur in Badlands? It's because all the clay layers were deposited quickly. They didn't have

time to dewater slowly since too much material was being continually deposited during the Flood. Instead, we see evidence of catastrophic dewatering that formed a vast network of clastic dikes. These features are clear evidence of fast watery deposition.

Rapidly Receding Sheet-Wash Erosion

The Wall, as it's known, is an erosional escarpment that runs roughly east-west through Badlands, dividing the upper smooth prairie from the nearly flat prairie about 200 feet lower.¹ It's about 60 miles long and three to five miles wide. The Wall delineates the upward edge of erosion of the soft clay and volcanic sediments that make up Badlands. Erosion of this cliff provided the park's rugged topography.



Members of the ICR science and digital media staff during filming at Badlands National Park

Conventional scientists claim the Wall's erosion occurred slowly over a half-million years through the action of rivers and streams.¹ But the lower prairie is nearly devoid of badlands remnants. Where did the eroded sediments go? Rivers mostly transport material in defined channels, carving solitary gullies. They don't erode broad swaths of the landscape like we see across the lower, nearly flat prairie.

The best explanation for the Wall and the mostly level prairie landscape below is the receding phase of the Flood. Early in this phase, the area experienced catastrophic deposition, providing the clays and ash layers that compose Badlands park. But as the floodwaters continued to recede, massive sheet-wash stripped away the sediments that were freshly deposited, completely transporting the sedimentary layers south of the Wall.

The lack of erosional remnants across the prairie is one evidence of this massive sheet-wash. It carried the Badlands sediments to locations as far away as the Gulf of Mexico.⁴ The Wall and the badlands we observe today mark the location where the massive erosion ended after the floodwaters drained off the continent. This resulted in the cliffs, gullies, and pinnacles of the Wall and the flatter topography of the lower prairie surface. Today's erosion is much slower by contrast, at mere inches per year.¹



Diverse Mammal Fossil Assemblage

The rocks of the park contain a remarkably varied collection of fossils, including lizards, alligators, and turtles, along with birds such as eagles, owls, gulls, and pelicans.3 Large mammals are also foundhorses, camels, rhinos, tapirs, pigs, squirrels, beavers, rabbits, sheep, and even cats and dogs.^{1,3} One of the feline species is a type of sabertoothed cat called Hoplophoneus.1



Where did these fossils come from? They were likely swept off the highest pre-Flood uplands after the lowland environment that contained the dinosaurs was inundated and buried.4 This upland zone was where most humans and large mammals likely resided, along with many flowering plants.^{4,5} This entire ecological zone was spread on top of the dinosaur-bearing layers as the floodwater began to recede. The carcasses carried in the water were buried in the clays and silts shed from the rising Rocky Mountains in an area that includes the Black Hills. The volcanic ash that's mixed in

came from volcanoes that were actively erupting across the American West at the time.

Badlands National Park is a showcase for the Flood. It provides visible evidence of rapid deposition, catastrophic dewatering, and rapid erosional processes. It also contains a diverse collection of animals swept from the highest pre-Flood hills. Interpreted in this way, a visit to Badlands National Park will build confidence that God's Word is true. The global Flood was a real, historical event that happened just 4,500 years ago.

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



Dr. Tim Clarey looks toward the flat, continuous layers at Badlands National Park. There's no evidence of erosion between the rapidly deposited strata.

t of moses, NESIS



Creation *Ex Nihilo* Through Christ Jesus

article highlights

- God created the universe out of nothing (*ex nihilo*) by His spoken word.
- He is the great first cause and source. The world was neither made from preexisting material nor is a pantheistic extension of God's being.
- Evolutionists criticize creation *ex nihilo* as unscientific, but they have their own version of evolution *ex nihilo*.
- A quantum vacuum has been proposed as the source of evolution *ex nihilo's* "nothingness," but if it did exist, it would not be nothing but a type of something.
- A better explanation is that all things were made through Jesus Christ. Because of this, our lives have meaning and purpose, and our worship is due to Him only.

he first verse of the Bible provides the foundational truth of our faith and the fundamental truth concerning the universe: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1). The phrase "heavens and the earth" means the entire universe.

In the Hebrews 11 list of what we are to understand by faith, the first thing noted is the creation of all things by the word of God: "By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible" (v. 3). Thus, we are to receive by faith the supreme truth that everything in this present universe was brought into existence literally out of nothing by the good pleasure and will of God.

One of the great articles of Christian faith, penned by 121 Puritan clergymen in 1649, succinctly states this foundational



truth of Genesis 1.

It pleased God the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, for the manifestation of the glory of his eternal power, wisdom, and goodness, *in the beginning, to create, or make of nothing, the world, and all things therein, whether visible or invisible,* in the space of six days, and all very good.¹

This truth that God created the universe out of nothing is sometimes described by the Latin phrase *ex nihilo* (out of nothing). This ability of God to create *ex nihilo* is not only mentioned in Hebrews 11:3 but is also

inferred in Romans 4:17, where God "calls those things which do not exist as though they did." The English Standard Version says "calls into existence the things that do not exist." In Psalm 33, the Scriptures say, "By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and all the host of them by the breath of His mouth....For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast" (vv. 6, 9).

When God speaks something into existence such as the universe that didn't previously exist, what is implied? First, nothingness cannot beget nothingness. Truly, God is the great first cause and source of the entire universe. This is traditionally called the cosmological argument in apologetics.

What Is Creation Ex Nihilo?

What exactly is the fundamental meaning of the biblical doctrine of *ex nihilo*? This Genesis-based proposition answers two age-old questions—"What is the material cause of the universe?" and "What did God make the world out of?" In short, the answer to both questions is "nothing." But what is "nothing"? Philosophically speaking, any definition or paradigm describing nothing could actually make it something.

Some philosophers and theologians have thought that it could be more descriptive to speak of creation *into nothing* instead of *out of nothing*. While both ideas are helpful, we need to understand that creation is neither "out of" a preexisting material nor "into" a preexisting place. In this regard, theologian John Frame said, "We must oppose both the Aristotelian notion of an eternal 'matter' and the Platonic notion of an eternal 'receptacle."² These were popular ancient pagan Greek philosophies.

Yet another false view is the proposition that the universe is merely an extension or emanation of God Himself. This idea is known as pantheism, where creation and God are one—making creation itself divine.

So, how can we best understand the idea that an *ex nihilo* creation came from a transcendent God? Instead of saying that God created the world from nothing, it

might be better to say that God created the universe without any preexisting material. As the Scriptures indicate, God spoke and things appeared, including space and time (a medium) for all created things to occupy and in which to function.

When we construct creation *ex nihilo* in this way, it requires no definition of "nothing"; it simply refutes the nonbiblical view that God created the universe from preexisting stuff. In this sense, creation *ex nihilo* can be thought of philosophically as a negative proposition that affirms that the world was neither made from preexisting finite material nor is a pantheistic extension of God's being. Thus, since there are no other alternatives, the universe was *not made from anything*—it was made from nothing (*ex nihilo*).

Evolution Ex Nihilo?

Amazingly, evolutionists have often criticized creationists for the doctrine of creation ex nihilo being unscientific, while they maintain their own version of evolution ex nihilo without a creator or logical first cause.3 What hypocrisy! The biblical creation doctrine quite logically maintains that an infinite, omnipotent, omniscient, transcendent, self-existing Creator God who upholds and personally interacts with His creation (is immanent) is the source and first cause of the universe. Evolutionists, however, have no reasonable source or first cause for their paradigm of Big Bang ex nihilo cosmology (evolution ex nihilo)! Even worse, a considerable amount of astronomical scientific data has now refuted the so-called evidence for a Big Bang and an ancient universe.4-10

Edward P. Tryon was one of the first modern physicists to promote evolution *ex nihilo*. He recounted the whole affair, saying:

In 1973, I proposed that our Universe had been created spontaneously from nothing (*ex nihilo*), as a result of established principles of physics. This proposal variously struck people as preposterous, enchanting, or both.¹¹

In a 2002 *Discover* magazine article, the authors well-summarized the idea of

evolution *ex nihilo* by highlighting an interview with theoretical physicist Alan Guth.

The primordial "stuff" of inflation [aftereffect of the Big Bang], he and other cosmologists contend, is very likely a spontaneous creation, a no-strings gift that boiled out of absolutely nowhere by means of an utterly random but nonetheless scientifically possible process.¹²

Theoretical physicist and cosmologist Lawrence Krauss published a book in 2012 titled *A Universe from Nothing*, the final chapter of which was contributed by well-known atheist Richard Dawkins.¹³ The ideas Krauss promoted in his book and other sources have received strong criticism, with astronomer Luke Barnes saying:

First and foremost, I'm getting really rather sick of cosmologists talking about universes being created out of *nothing*. Krauss repeatedly talked about universes coming out of nothing, particles coming out of nothing, different types of nothing, nothing being unstable. This is nonsense.¹⁴

Quantum Fluctuations and Nothingness

What Krauss and other theoretical physicists are really talking about when they refer to nothingness is the theoretical idea of a quantum vacuum. If a quantum vacuum did actually exist (according to theoretical physicists), it would not be nothing but a type of something. It would have properties, it would have energy (albeit very little), it would fluctuate, it could contribute to the alleged expansion of the universe (now in doubt), and it would obey the complex equations of quantum field theory. In returning to our argument of nothingness discussed above, you could describe it as having certain properties. In other words, the quantum vacuum is not "nothing," and this type of hypothesis leads to a view of the sudden appearance of the universe that is essentially nothing more than a fortuitous accident.

Nevertheless, theoretical physicists have seemed to be quite enamored with evolution ex nihilo and a quantum vacuum, beginning, as mentioned, in 1973 with Edward Tyron, who said, "So I conjectured that our Universe had its physical origin as a quantum fluctuation of some pre-existing true vacuum, or state of nothingness."11 Even more absurd is a statement made by Alan Guth that "theoretically, anything-a dog, a house, a planet-can pop into existence by means of this quantum quirk, which physicists call a vacuum fluctuation."12 Krauss says "that we all literally emerged from quantum nothingness" and "this is so strikingly nonintuitive that it can seem almost magical."13

Henry M. Morris, the founder of the Institute for Creation Research, best summarized the efforts of modern evolutionary cosmologists when he said:

Regardless of the sophisticated mathematical apparatus leading the inflationary-universe cosmogonists to their remarkable statement of faith in the omnipotence of nothingness, there will continue to be a few realists who prefer the creationist alternative: "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth."³

A Better Christ-Based Alternative

In addition to the opening chapters of Genesis, we find more information regarding creation in the New Testament. At the beginning of John's gospel, we're told concerning Jesus Christ, the God-man, "All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made" (John 1:3). The first clause in this verse in the Greek text literally reads "all things through Him came to be," with the Greek word for "all things" (*panta*) referring to the entire universe.

The apostle Paul is even more explicit in Colossians when he specifies that all the things in the universe, whether visible or not, were made by/through Christ Jesus, saying, "For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible....All things were created through Him and for Him" (Colossians 1:16).

Creation and Worship

God is our sovereign Lord and Creator, and He rules over all the universe. There is nothing in creation that's to be worshiped instead of or in addition to Him (e.g., nature). However, if we were to deny creation *ex nihilo*, we would logically have to affirm that some sort of matter has always existed and that it is eternal like God. This erroneous idea is an affront to God's independence and sovereignty and the fact that our worship is due to Him only. And if matter or living creatures existed apart from God, then what inherent right would God have to rule over creation and govern it for His glory?

But God did create the universe *ex nihilo*—out of nothing. Therefore, the universe and our lives have meaning and purpose. And God has revealed that purpose to us in His holy Word, the Bible, and in His coming as God in the flesh—the Lord Jesus Christ. Let us serve and worship this mighty Creator God and meditate upon His Word.

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Emphasis in original.

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nce again, research into the fossil record has provided evidence that a creature "originated far earlier than previously believed"— in this case, ray- and lobe-finned fish (osteichthyans). According to a report in Nature, a new species of a jawed vertebrate (Qianodus duplicis) showed up "439 million years ago" in the Silurian period.1 And evolutionary models must again be reshuffled to keep up with the constantly changing timelines.

University of Birmingham paleobiologist Ivan Sansom, a coauthor of the Nature study, said, "This puts into question the current evolutionary models for the emergence of key vertebrate innovations such as teeth, jaws, and paired appendages."1 The creation model states paired appendages, jaws, and teeth were created fully functional during the creation week thousands of years ago. Oddly enough, this

model doesn't need to change because of the new discovery.

Scientists are interested in Qianodus for several reasons. One, it "possessed unusual spiral-like dental elements carrying several generations of teeth that were inserted throughout the course of the animal's life."1 These spiralscalled whorls-are tiny and have altered scientists' beliefs about the evolution of vertebrates. Two, "the discovery indicates that the wellknown jawed vertebrate groups from the socalled 'Age of Fishes' (420 to 460 million years ago) were already established some 20 million years earlier."1

The Nature study authors wrote that "the

whorls possess non-shedding teeth arranged in a pair of rows that demonstrate a number of features found in modern gnathostome [jawed vertebrates including rays and sharks] groups."2 This is indeed a fascinating discovery of a number of features found in today's jawed vertebrates. Tired evolutionary explanations continue to crumble with complex fossil discoveries in sediments that approach an alleged age of a half-billion years ago.

The development of teeth varies among God's created kinds and species, and is exceedingly complex. Tooth development (odontogenesis) has intricate developmental signaling centers to direct tooth morphogenesis via signaling pathways. Indeed, "it is no longer legitimate to investigate the evolution of the jaws and teeth without considering the operational processes which affect and control the developmental cascade [the numerous transaction and interactions occurring in developing systems]."3

In fish, the expression of Hox genes (genes involved in the de-

article highlights

- A recent fossil fish discovery delivered another blow to evolutionary models, throwing them off by "millions" of years.
- The Qianodus duplicis fossil shows modern fish teeth, jaws, and fins that evolutionists must scramble to explain.
- The sudden appearance of fully formed fish features early in the fossil record might puzzle conventional scientists, but creationists aren't surprised.

Sander lucioperca, a ray-finned toothed fish

velopment of the basic body plan) controls mechanisms for tooth initiation. The genes affect numerous groups of teeth simultaneously. Where did Hox genes come from? "The evolution of these genes within [vertebrates] remains largely obscure because of the incompletely resolved phylogenetic [evolutionary] history of these genes."4

Don Moeller, an oral surgeon and medical doctor, addressed dental fossils (e.g., Qianodus duplicis), developmental biology, and

their significance in regard to the origins issue.

It is no longer enough to simply view a fossil as a static component of a phylogeny constructed largely on only morphological aspects. Developmental biology views the fossil as the end product of a long sequence of highly complex regulated processes which when subjected to mutational processes will exhibit perturbations in the system. The essential question when evaluating the fossil evidence will be: does the fossil record demonstrate evidence for the gradual establishment of the numerous developmental and regulatory developmental sequences, or does the fossil evidence support the sudden appearance

of numerous complex forms which have already established developmental sequences?3

For the evolutionary model, the discovery of Qianodus has pushed back the origin of toothed gnathostomes and their highly developed and complex teeth by "14 million years."² But according to Scripture, gnathostomes have always been gnathostomes, and teeth have always been teeth. The fossils still say "yes" to that.

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back to genesis

BUILDING A HUMAN BODY JESUS CHRIST'S AMAZING ENGINEERING



hen Charles Darwin formulated his theory of evolution, he appealed to the logic of ancestry, the evident diversity of species, and the magic of time. We all understand that time changes things. However, how could even eons of time account for the great complexity of the human body—not to mention how multiple organs all work together to operate that body?

Our orchestrated metabolism depends on the preexistence of thermodynamically isolated membrane compartments bounded by lipid bilayer envelopes containing thousands of ingredients necessary for life. Join me in amazement at Jesus Christ's engineering accomplishments in these 30 design requirements to build a human body.

article highlights

(18)

- Darwin appealed to the magic of time for evolution to work. But even eons of time can't account for the complexity of the human body.
- Thirty steps to build a body from the basics on up show just how complicated our systems are.
- Human body engineering clearly points to the design and genius of our Creator Jesus Christ.

For most of these systems, damage or loss is lethal. They all must function together for human life to continue.

Thirty Steps to Build a Human Body

- Design the basics of life, namely DNA to mRNA to protein, lipid membrane compartments, and basic components: five kinds of nucleic acids, 20 kinds of amino acids, a variety of five and six carbon carbohydrates and oxidation/reduction chemical energy sources, just for starters.
- 2. Design their arrangement for structural support, catalytic activity, information, modulation, motor functions, and signaling.
- 3. Assemble materials in working order—random trial and error doesn't work. For human DNA, that's 23 chromosome pairs for a total of 6.4 billion bases or letters. This genetic code in each cell of our body codes for about 30,000 proteins, but only a subset of these is expressed in each type of cell. This controlled expression is highly regulated by continuous environmental tracking that activates or deactivates regulatory RNAs, control proteins, and epigenetic marks to control reading DNA.¹ Proteins range in size from about 30 amino acids to 3,000 amino acids, but each must be placed in just the right order for proper function. There are more ways to arrange 20 amino acids into a single protein than there are grains of sand on Earth. Not enough time has passed since life started for chance to have arranged them into a single functional enzyme. And 10,000 of these proteins need to work together for a single cell to function. Scientists are still trying to discover how all this is possible.
- Provide precisely applied energy to assemble these intricate biochemical materials into functional systems: sunlight, chemical energy reducing sugars like glucose, oxidation/reduction sources, oxygen, and carbon dioxide.
- Locate or create an environment for readily available materials: food for carbon and nitrogen sources, air with just the right 21% oxygen, water, and minerals.
- Design repair systems: DNA repair, oxidized protein repair, and lipid repair.
- Design systems in every cell for replacement of damaged parts, including recycling and disposal.
- 8. Design sensory systems that detect toxic environments to avoid.
- 9. Design sensory systems in the tongue and nose to seek energy sources and continued supply of nutrients for growth.
- Design and implement systems for environmental tracking of nutrients, hormones, sunshine, dangers, and interpersonal interactions with other people.

- 11. Build in chemical and electrochemical control systems that adjust heart and respiratory rate to variable energy demands.
- 12. Design control systems to regulate smooth muscle tissue in vascular, digestive, secretory, respiratory, gustatory, and reproductive systems.
- 13. Design control systems for skeletal muscle flexion, extension, and stretch sensation. Include pain sensors to avoid damage.
- 14. Design epigenetic control systems for individual organ development and daily function from the same DNA instruction set, using continuous environmental tracking of light, nutrient consumption, hormonal status, thirst, temperature, pressure, CO₂, and oxygen levels.
- 15. Design an olfactory system for sensation and discrimination of food, toxins, pheromones, fire, and their interpretation.
- 16. Design a vascular system with a heart pump to supply oxygen and CO_2 exchange through the lungs. Design uptake systems in the stomach and intestines to acquire and distribute glucose, amino acids, fats, vitamins, minerals, and other nutrients. Include adaptable growth to expand and branch to reach every part of the body, and enlarge with exercise. Include a blood clotting cascade to plug leaks that arise from injury. Fill the blood vessels with new red blood cells made every day in the bone marrow. Fill the red cells with hemoglobin protein to carry oxygen throughout the body. Ensure the vascular system reaches every oxygen-demanding part of the body.
- 17. Design kidneys to filter out waste and retain minerals in the blood and to fix the pH for reliable chemical reactions throughout the body.
- 18. Design a liver to detoxify the blood and add fresh protein carriers of lipids, vitamins, iron, and copper.
- 19. Design a digestive system to break down complex foods into simple amino acids, sugars, and fats, and to extract needed minerals and vitamins. Include specialized teeth and a tongue for the sense of taste.
- 20. Design lungs with the right surface-to-volume ratio and proximity to blood vessels for uptake of oxygen and release of CO2. Connect the blood supply inlet from the heart and exits to the intestines for nutrient adsorption and to supply the high oxygen demand of the brain. Provide autonomic nerve control of respiratory rate from the brain based on oxygen and CO₂ levels.
- 21. Build a visual system with a lens to focus light on a retina for both black and white and color vision. Include an iris aperture adjustment to control the amount of light entering the system over 46 f-stops for detection over the range from one millionth (0.000001) of a candela per square meter to one hundred million (100,000,000) candelas per square meter. Process and categorize whole images to identify objects, remember episodes, read emotions on people's faces, and read letters, words, and understand concepts.
- 22. Design human vocal cords in a larynx with tongue and lips to

synthesize speech and song controlled by the nervous system. Engineer a language acquisition protocol that builds a 50,000word vocabulary and effortless choosing of subjects, verbs, and predicates.

- 23. Design a brain auditory system to understand speech, track one voice in a noisy gathering, appreciate music, and determine direction.
- 24. Create a vestibular system to enable upright posture, walking, and running without falling.
- 25. Provide skin to enclose an entire body, retain water, and repel invasion. Embed sensors for pain, temperature, and pressure for continuous environmental tracking.
- 26. Design an immune system to interface with and regulate microbes. Provide for continual monitoring that distinguishes self from non-self. Enable an adaptive response distributed over lymph nodes and made in the bone marrow and spleen with antibody protein combinations against over 10 billion potential targets. Manufacture a second set of cellular responders in the thymus that dismantle infected cells.
- 27. Design and assemble a brain with 100 billion neurons and 100 trillion synapses. Subdivide it into numerous specialized subregions to process sensory information and exercise motor control for delicate and precise actions like brain surgery and piano concertos, plan activities, think abstractly, communicate, imagine, create, and love.
- 28. Build in learning and memory systems to optimize performance.
- 29. Design interpersonal communication systems that include speech/auditory perception, visual sensation and perception, emotions, and transgenerational communication by the written word.
- 30. Include the ability for supernatural communication of the human spirit with the Holy Spirit to share in some of God's wisdom and love. "In the image of God He created him; male and female He created them" (Genesis 1:27).

The complexity and order required for human life defy Darwinian reasoning of trial and error. The amazing complexities of the miracle of life shout for wisdom from a purposeful and omnipotent Creator. "[Jesus] is before all things, and in Him all things consist" (Colossians 1:17). "I will give praise to you for I am fearfully and wonderfully made" (Psalm 139:14).

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Reference

For more information about continuous environmental tracking, visit ICR.org/cet.

apologetics

h, she eats like a bird!" These words described the skimpy half-meal gulped down by a toddler just before she scampered off to play. The assumption behind those dismissive words implies that what birds eat is so simple and minimal that it's hardly worth a few moments of consumption or thought.

But are the diets and dining of birds really so inconsequential and insignificant? As ICR's Dr. Frank Sherwin has repeatedly documented—with huge frigatebirds and tiny hummingbirds—the diets and eating habits of birds can be fascinating.¹ In short, our Lord Jesus Christ feeds His winged creatures in wondrous ways—"hidden in plain view"—that exhibit His clever and caring genius.²

Consider how bees and wasps can contain enough venom in their stingers to kill many of the birds that consume the insects.^{3,4} One bird family, Meropidae—aptly labeled "bee-eaters"—are famous for successfully neutralizing the venom of bees before eating them.³

Bee-eaters seize bees in flight, then position the hapless bee so its stinger is extended outside the bee-eater's bill. Then the bird bashes the bee's stinger against a hard object repeatedly, forcing the venom to spill out and drain from the stinger. After having drained out the otherwise-fatal venom, the bee-eater gulps down his or her prey, swallowing it with no harm to the bird's insides.³

African bee-eaters are not the only birds that practice this venomdraining ability. Australian magpies display a similar habit.

The Australian magpie is not a picky eater. Its diet includes

Eating Like a Bird

article highlights

- Bee-eaters have the ability to drain the venom from a bee's stinger before eating the bee.
- Roadrunners are quick enough and smart enough to avoid rattlesnakes' fangs when they grab the snakes' heads to kill and eat them.
- Birds' diets involve fascinating abilities engineered by their Creator.

both plants and animals...dominated by a variety of larval and adult invertebrates, such as insects...and arachnids...as well as earthworms and millipedes....It has been observed breaking off the stingers of bees and wasps before swallowing such dangerous bugs!⁴

Also consider how roadrunners successfully attack rattlesnakes, biting them precisely next to the snakes' venomloaded fangs. When a roadrunner's bill clamps down on the top half of an openmouthed rattler's head, the rattler soon has his head fatally crushed—followed by the victorious roadrunner eating the snake.⁵

Does any of that sound so "simple" that a bird could accidently invent the specific traits and habits needed to eat like that?² No, carefully snagging a bee or a wasp while avoiding its stinger and draining out its venom—before swallowing—is not a dining experience to be attempted by trial-and-error experiments. Likewise, randomly biting at the open mouth of a striking rattlesnake next to its venomous fangs is not a winning formula for any bird's nutritional needs.³⁻⁵

So, if a toddler really eats like a bird, it's not simple. The entire metabolic process is nothing short of a marvelous display of Christ's caring bioengineering design (Job 9:10).

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- Matthew 6:26; Luke 12:24; Psalm 147:9. Evolutionists misrepresent the teleological complexity of God's living creation—what Scripture calls His "wonders without number" (Job 9:10)—whenever evolutionists suggest that today's creatures are so "simple" that they could have originated and survived by a galaxy of happy accidents. See Johnson, J. J. S. 2021. Eating Bugs Isn't Always So Simple. Acts & Facts. 50 (10): 20.
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2



CREATION EVANGELISM

"But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name." (John 20:31)

John's gospel is perhaps the best tool with which to lead people to saving faith in Christ, for this was John's very purpose in writing. He presents the claims of Christ and evidence for the deity of Christ, along with His substitutionary death and resurrection, in a uniquely effective way.

It is very important to note, however, that John begins with an affirmation of the truth of special creation. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God....All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made" (John 1:1, 3). This creative Word was Jesus Christ, for "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us" (v. 14).

John also points out the world's rejection of its Creator. "He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him" (v. 10). The world, on the whole, then rejected—and still rejects—its Creator, who was "the true Light

which gives light to every man coming into the world" (v. 9). But not all rejected, for "as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name" (v. 12).

And what is His name? In context, His name is given as "the Word," "God!" "the true Light," (vv. 1, 9). Only after this is He revealed as the Lamb of God, the Son of God, the Messiah (vv. 29, 34, 41).

Editor's note: For over 50 years, the Institute for Creation Research has proclaimed the truth of creation. As we enter another year of ministry, we renew our mission to reach people with the assurance that the Bible can be trusted in everything it says. We invite you to join us as we spread the word. As ICR's founder noted, our Creator is the Lord Jesus Christ, and faith in Him

is the faith that saves!

Adapted from Henry M. Morris, "Creation Evangelism," Days of Praise, February 2, 2010.



Dr. Henry M. Morris (1918-2006) was Founder and President Emeritus of ICR.



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letters to the editor





My Dad and I were at the Discovery Center yesterday....My Dad [from Minnesota] is age 102, and his priority was to visit ICR before doing other things on his visit to Texas.

— P. M.



Thank you for the great [Pioneers] issue of *Acts* & *Facts*! I could hardly put it down. Every article was so encouraging. I've been receiving [*Acts* & *Facts*] for almost as long as it's been published. I used it to help in homeschooling my three children, two who are now over 40! One thing that struck me...was the biographical information about each person who has been so critical to the development of ICR over

the years. Whatever the background, each person at some point was mentored in a way that drew them to study God's magnificent creation and share those discoveries with others. We should all be encouraged to do so. - N. R.

Keep on keeping on, John [Morris]. You are an inspiration to many and will always be remembered in my life. The 1996 ICR seminar at the Dallas Convention Center changed everything. Authority of Scripture is forever ingrained.

— J. T.



\star \star \star \star \star 5-star Google reviews for the ICR Discovery Center

It's absolutely gorgeous! There's so many cool exhibits and a lot of interactive technology. The animatronics is exciting, and the videos are breathtaking! The planetarium is also very enticing. I've learned so much about space, the ocean, and the interaction between science and religion.

— D. L.

This museum had the best interactive technology I have ever seen! Very noteworthy are the sand boxes, where visitors can make hills and valleys with the sand and watch as they fill with trees or water and animals inhabit them; fun for kids and adults alike....The staff is also wonderful.

— J. R.



A great informative museum to expand your mind and your faith as it talks about the basic foundation of Christianity. Be ready to read and/or listen from interactive screens, short films, and more. My toddler enjoyed the animal exhibits, especially the *T. rex.* Very clean facility. Friendly staff. — D. U.



We took our 3rd graders on a field trip....It was a fun, educational, and inspirational day. Parents and students alike loved it. "Best trip ever" was the comment I heard from many kids. To see creation happen gave me goosebumps....To see our planets up close in the planetarium, amazing. And such unique books, pictures, postcards, puzzles, and gifts from the gift shop. All agreed, we'll come back.

— S. A.

This place was great. Highly recommended for believers. Great for kids and adults! The exhibits are some of the best, well put together, and modern. This place is a must-see even if you are coming to visit Dallas. The planetarium shows are great too. We watched the solar system show. The evidence for a young solar system is compelling. We will be back for sure. - J. Y.

Amazing! My kids especially love the huge roaring dinosaur, the sand tables that form land/water and make animals/trees appear, and the room with surround screen that shows a huge whale swimming over you! — B. M.

I reserve my 5-stars for those places and businesses that over-deliver, and this is one of them. What a pleasant surprise it was to visit the center and experience their exhibits. Very impressed with the center's use of technology and honoring of the memory of Dr. [Henry] Morris.

— Y. P.

Note: For information on visiting the Discovery Center, go to ICRDiscoveryCenter.org

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Creation Kids

Arctic Hare



How can you hide when it snows? You can put on clothes that match the snow! Some arctic animals, like the polar bear, are white all the time. But some turn white in winter so they can hide in the snow.

The arctic hare lives way up north. In the fall, the air turns colder and the days grow shorter as winter approaches. Animals detect these environmental changes and modify the color of their fur. They change to white because the Creator Jesus Christ designed them to do that. Did you also know...

It takes the arctic hare 10 weeks to fully change its color.

- The arctic hare's summer brown fur turns into winter white fur. This longer, thicker layer of fur, along with a layer of fat and short ears, helps the hare keep warm.
- An arctic hare is also really, really fast. It can run almost 40 miles per hour!

Help the mother hare find her baby.





Arctic hare in his winter coat (left) and his shorter summer coat (right)

Arctic Animals Crossword Puzzle



BY MICHAEL STAMP AND SUSAN WINDSOR







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Ever since Darwin proposed evolution, scientists have looked for proof. The hunt for clues to human evolution takes center stage.

Fossil specimens are frequently presented as undeniable confirmation that modern man developed from an ape-like ancestor. Are these claims valid? ICR paleobiochemist Dr. Brian Thomas unravels the biases inherent in the scientific community and dismantles the claims regarding alleged "missing links."

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pressing issues—current ICR research, new information from the scientific community, or something else that impacts how science ultimately points to our Creator, the Lord Jesus Christ. These conversations will encourage and enlighten in an increasingly chaotic world. Mark your calendar for a new episode on the fourth Friday of every month!



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