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Parks Across America 2
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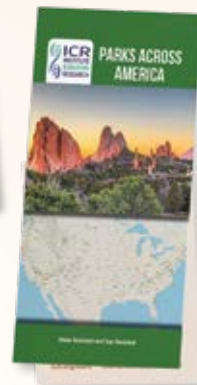
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punishment for sin on our behalf by dying on the cross. Jesus was made to be sin for us so that—in the most remarkable exchange ever—we might receive the righteousness of God. We can be sure of this because Jesus rose again from the dead. What a gift of love! You can have the promise of everlasting life when you turn from your sin and believe in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. To learn more, visit ICR.org/gospel.

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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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Are Biblical Truth and Authority Less Important Than “Salvation Issues”?

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

article highlights

- The Bible is the inspired Word of God. This makes it the authoritative standard of truth.
- The Bible’s clear important teachings go beyond those dealing directly with salvation.
- Despite the Bible’s clarity, Christians hold a variety of beliefs about many of these oft-called secondary teachings. An example is accepting a literal six-day creation.
- Biblical creation is a basic truth for all major doctrines essential for being Jesus’ disciple.
- ICR’s scientific research seeks to affirm the Bible’s authority and to rightfully credit Jesus Christ as Creator and Redeemer.

If an acquaintance at your church asked you to accompany them to share the gospel with a coworker who’d expressed deep guilt for his sins, would you go? All Christians should jump at that chance. Let’s say you go. Russ, your acquaintance, shares the gospel. The coworker expresses a desire to believe in Jesus but throughout the

conversation voices skepticism about some Christian beliefs. What are your thoughts as Russ addresses these concerns?

The coworker is first concerned about communion. He thinks it is creepy for Christians to commemorate the beaten body and blood of another person. Russ says that Christians have varying beliefs about communion. Because it’s just a remembrance of Jesus, there’s no need to participate. *Anytime* we remember Jesus, we’re actually partaking in communion. He adds that the coworker needn’t worry about attending church if he is disinclined since Jesus is with all believers when they’re spiritually united in thought about Him.

The next objection is accepting that the whole Bible is inspired by God. Russ responds that even theologians hold differing opinions about what inspiration actually means and what parts of the Bible it applies to. He assures the coworker that some Christians believe that inspiration only applies to what a person learns as they read the Bible—not to the Bible itself. He says that some Bible commentators don’t believe the Bible is God’s *actual* words. So, if the coworker doesn’t want to accept that the Bible is inspired, then he is in good company.

The coworker then has a real hang up that Jesus will literally return to Earth in the future. Russ answers that Christians of good will differ greatly in their views on Christ's return. These extreme differences suggest that Bible passages about Jesus' return are more likely using didactic figurative language. Thus, the coworker doesn't need to believe that Jesus will actually come back since it's the Christians themselves that constitute Christ's body. As long as Christians are on Earth in the future, then Jesus will be manifest there as well.



Finally, of course, the coworker expresses abhorrence about hell being a *real* place of *eternal* punishment. Once again, Russ expounds that numerous Christians have historically expressed various opinions on the nature of hell. He tells the coworker to not get worked up over the extreme view of God's holiness. Those beliefs persist as an invention of uptight early church fathers taking Jesus' words way too literally. Today's extrabiblical resources now give scholars a better picture of a tolerant God. Hell is a metaphor depicting the unfulfilled feelings of unbelievers living in the lonely state of unforgiven sins—not a literal place. In the end all unbelievers will just cease to exist since the Bible says that when God casts death and hell into the lake of fire, both will be annihilated.

Russ's clarifications satisfy the coworker. He acknowledges that he is a sinner needing forgiveness. He confesses his new belief that Jesus died for his sins according to the Scriptures, was buried, and

rose again from the dead as full payment for his sins. Russ assures him that by truly believing in Jesus, he will never perish but have eternal life. Then the meeting ends.

Hmm. I wonder what most Bible-believing Christians and pastors would be thinking through that experience. Perhaps riding back with Russ, they may express astonishment that core evangelical beliefs were swept aside just to make it easy for someone to believe the gospel.



If so, then they'd better be ready for a reply from many evangelical "Russes" today who will likely enumerate why their approach is best and why everything Russ said to the coworker was true. Perhaps their reasoning would be something like the following:

1. Christian theologians do hold contrary views about every topic of concern that the coworker brought up.
2. Any need for deeper insights on those topics is a sanctification—not a salvation—issue.
3. As an evangelical Christian, do you really insist that a person believe in communion, church attendance, biblical inspiration, Christ's return to Earth, God's absolute holiness, or eternal, conscience torment in a literal hell to be saved?
4. Biblical truths related to salvation are primary. The rest are secondary issues.
5. After becoming a Christian, the coworker will find it much easier to get along with the widest number of Christians if he distinguishes the important primary issues from insignificant secondary doctrines. Vital church unity will be better cultivated. Besides, isn't it true that today many evangelical pastors themselves also sweep aside biblical teachings once thought to be clearly understood for both the gospel's sake and peace within their church?

You may be wondering how you'd respond. What may consume your attention is the disturbingly cavalier disregard for basic doctrines. In the rest of this article, we'll see how this is only a nasty

symptom of an underlying disease. The sinister root of the issue is a haughty approach to the Bible that subordinates its clear teaching to human thinking. We'll learn how Christians begin to develop this attitude and will address two common responses ICR receives for pushing back against this proud approach to Scripture.

Disbelieving God's Word Is Sinful: Pride Strikes at Biblical Authority

What needs to be addressed right at the outset of this discussion is why the approach to the Bible held by the well-meaning Russ (that fostered his unbiblical interpretations) is so detestable. Biblical authority is the recognition that the Bible is the only total source of truth and is the standard to determine the truthfulness of all other sources of information and correctness of behaviors. Biblical authority rests on the pillars of belief that biblical teaching can be clearly understood, all the Bible's original words are verbally inspired by God, it's true about everything it talks about, and it has been supernaturally preserved.¹ Thus, biblical authority carries the imperative that all of its teachings are to be believed, obeyed, and—most importantly—used as the ultimate source of truth for a believer.

Training people from the outset that they're free to disbelieve their Bible or, based on "science," to pick and choose which passages to accept undercuts biblical authority. It causes severe, long-term damage to any Christian *and* to the church. Setting the stage for a new believer to have little regard for the authority of the Bible is a type of Christian malpractice. It corrodes the necessary, biblical steps to becoming a disciple of Jesus and can raise questions in the minds of converts (recognizing that nobody can see another person's heart) about the reality of their new birth. Damage to new believers can be irreparable.

Over the last 2,000 years, individuals have personally placed the Bible's authority under the pronouncements of religious authority figures, philosophers, or political leaders. Science is today's deified fount of truth that tolerates no challenges—especially from biblical authority. People must "obey the science" because it's claimed to be the measure of all rational thought. Never mind that many scientists' pronouncements are factually wrong or are merely religious statements masquerading as science. Nothing seems to be more frightening for many Christians, particularly their leaders, than to be labeled a science denier.

"Must Someone Believe in Creation to Be Saved?"

ICR scientists hear this question a lot when advocating for a plain reading of Genesis. This salvation-related question is usually just a smokescreen. What often emerges from further discussion is a deeper fear that drives their real underlying question: "Given that sci-

ence shows Genesis is wrong, is there a way I can make the doctrine of creation *an unimportant issue* so that I don't have to engage in this embarrassing topic?" This is how many Christians think of the doctrine of creation along with other challenging biblical teachings like a literal hell or Jesus being the only way to heaven. To justify this path of thinking, many Christians ask a simple question: is the doctrine of creation a salvation issue? If yes, then it's *important*. If no, then it's *unimportant* and is promptly classified as a secondary issue.



In light of this reasoning, if creation is not a salvific issue and is therefore unimportant, do Christians need to care about ICR's message? Many say no. They think that Christians can sincerely hold different opinions about Genesis. Thus, ICR's message is only divisive. But ICR's scientists recognize that our message *is* important because Genesis is foundational to many key Christian doctrines.

Creationists should always keep in mind the really crucial question: is the Bible's criteria for what's important limited to salvation issues? Many Christians say yes. Why? The primary mission of the church is to preach the gospel so people can get saved and go to heaven. A second principle mission of the church is to preserve Christian unity. But ICR's scientists understand that the primary mission of the church does not stop at preaching the gospel. It extends to making disciples of Jesus (Matthew 28:19–20). Thus, all of the Bible's truths are important. Non-salvific issues and importance are not mutually exclusive. Cultivating belief in and obedience to the whole Bible, beginning with salvation, is foundational to being Jesus' disciple.

"Are You Saying That They're Not Saved?"

This question points out that, just like Russ in the story, leaders of numerous Christian apologetics organizations devise interpretations of Genesis to dodge the straightforward reading of the Bible. It also once again intends to use salvation to discriminate between important and unimportant biblical truths. Not being God, we don't take

the bait to unwisely question anyone's salvation.

ICR scientists endeavor to teach biblical truth. We seek to address the major error of someone claiming authority to consign Bible passages as secondary issues or label them "mythohistory" because the normal understanding of those Scriptures conflicts with the accepted science of the day. Some biblical truth bears on this topic.

"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." (2 Timothy 3:16)

Without a doubt, Romans 14:1–15:7 teaches that there truly are man-made secondary issues, and this text outlines our behavior toward one another in light of them. Galatians also denounces human-derived legalistic counterfeits to true doctrine. Given that these beliefs derive from our unseen enemy, it's no surprise that near-mandatory acceptance of these human-generated practices *are often included* in the *false* gospel message of those who adhere to them.

For Christians trying to distinguish between the important and unimportant biblical truths, consider 2 Timothy 3:16: "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." It's easy to zero in on the inspiration portion, but let's not overlook the words germane to our discussion, "all Scripture . . . is profitable."

These passages raise another rhetorical question: how many Christians have been delegated the authority to determine which biblical truths are important? The take-home message from Scripture is that if the meaning of a biblical text is clearly understandable, then it's important.

The fact is that many of the truths that Christians hold dear as we grow in Christ aren't often discussed when presenting the gospel. As someone grows in the grace and knowledge of Jesus, foolish thinking and confusion are replaced with truth, assuming they believe and submit to the authority of God's Word. Similarly, I see mature Christians, in an effort to be an iron sharpening iron, passionately but lovingly contend about the meaning or application of a passage totally unrelated to salvation. Both kinds of believers care deeply enough to disagree about a text—not discard it—because they believe that *all* of the Bible is important.

Conclusion: Why ICR?

ICR's scientists have always been *biblical* creationists. We exist to do scientific research, but not just to show *that* God exists. Research is coupled with *faithful exposition* of the Bible to affirm its authority as the standard of truth, rightfully credit the Lord Jesus as Creator, and make disciples that follow Jesus as Savior and Lord.

Starting with Adam, it has always been sinful to disbelieve God's Word and worse to supersede its authority by subordinating its truth to any other source. Big Bang cosmology, geological uniformitarianism, and Darwinian selectionism express human thinking specifically crafted to be anti-theistic, antibiblical, and idolatrous. It's futile to try to reconcile the Bible to this world's thinking. All attempts to do so reveal a pride striking at biblical authority when Christians twist Scripture or disregard passages as secondarily unimportant.

When asked "Is belief in creation necessary for salvation," I used to simply answer no. But I now respond differently. Today's more informed answer is: "Though belief in creation isn't necessary for salvation, that does not mean it is unimportant. The Bible does not set the criteria for 'important teachings' as only those dealing with salvation. All clear truths are important, yet many don't touch on salvation. Biblical creation is the basic truth for all major Christian doctrines essential for being a Bible-believing disciple of Jesus." 🙏

Reference

1. Why list biblical clarity (i.e., perspicuity) ahead of inspiration? If people really cannot understand what the Bible means, or if the Bible's words don't really mean what they say (which some apologetics organizations claim), then how is an inspired—but unintelligible—Bible relevant? In addition, the doctrine of inspiration is a self-certifying biblical claim, i.e., the Bible claims to be God's Word. This first assumes that people can understand what the words "all scripture is given by inspiration" mean (2 Timothy 3:16).

Dr. Guliuzza is the 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 received an honorary doctor of divinity from Southern California Seminary. He 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.



2024 ICR expedition, Jenny Lake, Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming

Image credit: June Guliuzza

JULY 15-17

Southlake, TX
Gateway Church
Holy Ground YouthCON
(B. Thomas)



GatewayYouthcon.com or 214.615.8333

JULY 29

Pensacola, FL
Campus Church
**Reclaiming Science:
Rediscovering the Worldview that Built a Nation**
(T. Clarey)

CreationToday.org/events or 214.615.8325



AUGUST 1

Carrollton, TX
Child Evangelism Fellowship Ministry Conference
(Booth only)

CEFDallas.org/childrensministryconference or 214.615.8333

ICR CHICAGO AREA SPEAKING TOUR

AUGUST 8

Monee, IL
Family of Faith Church
**Midwest Creation Fellowship
South Chapter Meeting**
(J. Hebert)

ICR.org/ChicagolL or 214.615.8333

AUGUST 9

Lake Zurich, IL
Quentin Road Baptist Church
(J. Hebert)

ICR.org/ChicagolL or 214.615.8333

AUGUST 10

Antioch, IL
Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church
**Midwest Creation Fellowship
North Chapter Meeting**
(J. Hebert)

ICR.org/ChicagolL or 214.615.8333

AUGUST 11

Carol Stream, IL
MCF Ministry Center
**Midwest Creation Fellowship
West Chapter Meeting**
(J. Hebert)

ICR.org/ChicagolL or 214.615.8333



AUGUST 21-23

Glen Rose, TX
**ICR Creation Discovery
Family Retreat**
Space is limited!
Register today!
(T. Clarey, B. Thomas,
D. Napier)

ICR.org/FamilyRetreat or
214.615.8325



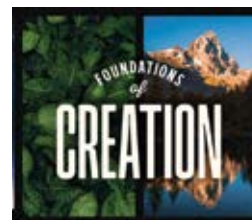
AUGUST 29-30

Aliso Viejo, CA
Compass Bible Church
(R. Guliuzza)
ICR.org/AlisoViejoCA or 214.615.8325

SAVE THE DATE

SEPTEMBER 3-6

Big Fork, MT
Foundations of Creation Conference
(R. Guliuzza, T. Clarey, M. Boyle, D. Napier)
Includes field trips to scenic Glacier National Park!
Space is limited, register today!
ICR.org/BigForkMT or 406.531.8297



SEPTEMBER 29-OCTOBER 6

Parks Across America Tour: Central California
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UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE ICR DISCOVERY CENTER

JULY 4

\$2.50 Dollar Day



Join us this July 4th as we celebrate 250 years of American independence with a special patriotic offer! Admission to the ICR Discovery Center is only \$2.50 for the exhibit hall and \$2.50 for the planetarium—a perfect way for families to celebrate freedom, discovery, and faith together.

SEPTEMBER 12

Serious Science Talks



This faith-building program is designed specifically for college students ages 18–25, who are ready to dive deeper into the scientific evidence for creation. Attendees will enjoy an in-depth, interactive science presentation, a free lunch, and complimentary access to the exhibit hall and a planetarium show at the ICR Discovery Center. Register today at discoverycenter.icr.org.

SEPTEMBER 7

Labor Day Celebration

Make your holiday meaningful with a day of family discovery! Enjoy 20% off admission, live educational presentations, a petting zoo, and interactive activities for all ages. Come hungry and enjoy local food trucks on-site as we celebrate together.



SEPTEMBER 17

North Texas Giving Day



North Texas Giving Day is a dedicated time to raise awareness and support for nonprofits across the metroplex. This year, we invite you to join this movement by investing in your local museum. Your generous gift to the ICR Discovery Center directly supports our mission to provide God-honoring science education as we work together to reach the next generation.

DAY4 ASTRONOMY MEETING

Third Saturday of each month at 5:00 p.m.



Grow your faith in Christ while learning astronomy from a biblical worldview. Free event, no registration is needed. info@Day4.org or 903.692.1111



GLACIER NATIONAL PARK

Flood Sediments, Slides, and Ice Age Sculptures

Glacier National Park (GNP), Montana, resides at the northern tip of the USA Continental Divide, abutting against Waterton Lake National Park at the Canadian border. Established as a national park in 1910, GNP covers nearly 1,600 square miles, making it almost the size of Delaware.¹ The park contains 200 lakes and over 900 miles of rivers and streams with abundant and dramatic waterfalls.¹ And there are still around two dozen named glaciers in the park and several unnamed ones tucked away between the peaks.²

The mountains in GNP are themselves very striking, though

they differ from those in Colorado and Wyoming because they are composed mostly of sedimentary layers, not crystalline crust. They are not as tall as the mountains in Colorado, but they make up for it in their dramatic relief. For example, Mount Cleveland rises to 10,466 feet and towers over the surface of Lake McDonald at just 3,153 feet above sea level.¹ However, GNP is not just notable for its sites but also for how clearly its features proclaim the historicity of the Genesis Flood.

The Dramatic Conventional Tale

The sedimentary rocks that compose the terrain in GNP are claimed by conventional geologists to be about 1.4 billion years old.¹

article highlights

- Montana's stunning Glacier National Park sits along the Canadian border and is loaded with impressive lakes, rivers, waterfalls, and glaciers.
- The mountains are composed of sedimentary layers as opposed to continental crust. They were formed when a 10,000-foot-thick section of sediment was moved east almost 100 miles along a nearly horizontal fault surface.
- Trapped groundwater between beds was needed to "float" the massive sedimentary layers to their present location.
- The Genesis Flood and Ice Age also best explain other distinctive features there: pancaked layers, ripples, cross-beds, folded sedimentary layers, and U-shaped, glacier-cut valleys.

Logan Pass, Glacier National Park, Montana



Old Sun Glacier on the side of Mount Merritt
Image credit: USGS, public domain

Known as the Belt Supergroup, these sedimentary units are unusual because “they are relatively undeformed and only slightly metamorphosed despite” their age.³ In total, they are about 18,000 feet thick in the park, and they measure over twice that outside the park’s boundaries.

Oddly, the surface of the park is not in its original location. Instead, it is part of a two-mile-thick section of Belt rocks that were torn loose along a 300-mile suture and transported east nearly 100 miles.⁴ This is referred to as the Lewis Thrust. Amazingly, it moved along a nearly horizontal fault surface, parallel to bedding, placing Belt rocks on top of much younger rocks.^{1,4} This faulting is claimed to have occurred between 72 and 58 million years ago, more than a billion years after the Belt rocks were supposedly deposited.

But how can thick sedimentary rock layers slide so easily over the top of one another? Conventional geologists struggle with the mechanics of thrust faults because the scientists insist they are pushed by tectonic forces.⁵ But actual “pushing” of rocks from the rear crushes the rocks at the



View of the nearly horizontal Lewis Thrust from Marias Pass along the southern boundary of GNP. The light tan band in the middle of the mountain is a carbonate bed of the Belt Supergroup resting on top of the fault surface.

Image credit: Clint Loveness

point of compression with no thrust development.⁶ And wouldn’t the Belt Supergroup rocks already be solid and impossible to fold and deform after more than a billion years?



Dramatic Chief Mountain is just east of GNP and is an erosional remnant of the Lewis Thrust. It places Precambrian limestone and dolomite on top of Cretaceous shale.

Image credit: USGS, public domain



A Better Explanation: The Global Flood

If solid rock cannot be pushed or folded, how can we explain the Lewis Thrust and the folds? The global Flood provides the answers for this and other features found at the park.

1. Only Gravity Can Move Massive Sheets of Rock

Studies have shown that high fluid pressures trapped between impermeable layers can create overpressured zones that “float” large thrust sheets down nearly flat slopes.⁷⁻⁹ Also, thrust sheets must move fast before the high-pressured water escapes out of the flanks of the sliding mass of sediment. Conventional explanations of thrusts moving slowly for thousands of years or more while maintaining overpressured horizons over great distances are unrealistic.¹⁰

Instead, rapid thrusting, involving downslope movement of un lithified sediments by gravity, is a better mechanism for the development of large thrust sheets like the Lewis Thrust.¹¹ And the global Flood would have provided the perfect conditions for this. The Flood provided thousands of feet of freshly deposited sediment that was compacted by the weight of each successive bed. This caused water to be squeezed out, sometimes trapping water between impermeable beds, creating overpressured zones. This is similar to how water injected between two plexiglass sheets overpressures and “floats” the layers above so they are able to slide nearly frictionless down gentle slopes. This mechanism could move thrust sheets many tens of

miles. All that was needed was an initial jolt and tilt to get these “slippery,” overpressured zones to slide. The rapid uplift of the Rocky Mountains during the receding phase of the Flood likely provided the energy and tilt needed for the Lewis Thrust to quickly propagate.



Close-up of the near-knife-blade surface of the Lewis Thrust. The tan rock above is Belt limestone and the gray rock below is much younger shale.

Image credit: Tim Clarey

2. Rapidly Deposited and Stacked Sediments

The sedimentary layers of the Belt Supergroup have many features that indicate water deposition, which the Flood would perfectly explain. First, some of the sedimentary layers are composed of limestone or dolomite, which commonly form in the ocean. Others show evidence of fast-moving water with ripples preserved in sandy beds and limestone beds, too. The Altyn Formation even contains some cross-bedded, oolitic limestone



Another view of the Lewis Thrust showing its near-horizontal nature

Image credit: Tim Clarey

layers.^{4,12} Other layers have mud chips and clay balls that were ripped up and transported within their sand-rich beds.⁴ Ripples, ooids, and cross-beds indicate GNP’s sediments were deposited by energetic currents.



Ripples in the limestone above the Lewis Thrust. Brunton compass for scale.

Image credit: Tim Clarey

And all of the Belt Supergroup layers were deposited one on top of the other, with little evidence of erosion or time in between beds, just like a stack of pancakes. Collectively, these observations confirm continuous, high-energy water deposition as the best explanation for the vast Belt Supergroup. The Flood provided the sediment and the watery conditions.



Red clay balls and mud chips carried by energetic currents and deposited in white sandstones of the Grinnell Formation. Cross-beds are visible in the lower left white sandy bed. Postcard for scale.

Image credit: Tim Clarey

3. Folded, Freshly Deposited Sediments

Rocks buried deep in the earth can become hot enough to fold, but they metamorphose under that heat.¹¹ The Belt rocks are not highly metamorphosed, so we know they were never deeply buried. And yet, we observe clear evidence of folding in these rock layers—folding that supposedly happened a billion years after their deposition! The Flood again provides the best and simplest solution for these folded



Folded rippled layers (red) in the Grimmell Formation. Conventional scientists claim these sediments were folded over a billion years after they were deposited. But rocks cannot fold unless they are still soft.

Image credit: Tim Clarey

sediments. If these rocks were rapidly deposited during the onset of the Flood and then deformed months later as the water began to recede, then they would still have been pliable enough to fold.

4. Sculpted by the Post-Flood Ice Age

Driving through GNP, one sees much evidence of glaciation from the Ice Age. There are vast U-shaped valleys carved by moving ice and deep glacial troughs filled with lakes, like Saint Mary Lake and Lake McDonald along the Going-to-the-Sun Road.

The Flood actually created the conditions for the one and only Ice Age. It lasted about 700 years. Rapid seafloor production during the Flood year made the ocean water much hotter. This increased evaporation and caused more precipitation and snow in the mountains. Simultaneously, a peak in explosive volcanic activity at the end of the Flood produced aerosols that cooled the atmosphere.¹³ This allowed the snow to build up year after year until huge ice sheets filled the valleys in GNP. After the oceans cooled and the volcanic activity waned, the Ice Age abruptly ended.

Conclusion

The remarkable lakes and dramatic vistas in GNP are breathtaking. But the landscape also reveals a history of violent geological activity. Faults are exposed that rapidly moved the ground beneath the park



Dr. Guliuzza examining some of the Belt Supergroup rocks

Image credit: Tim Clarey

nearly 100 miles, deforming thick Flood sediments in the process. The Flood left its signature on the rocks themselves in the flat layers, ripples, folded sediments, and other features at GNP. And post-Flood ice sheets carved out valleys and sculpted the vistas. This beautiful scenery stands as a reminder of the judgment described in Genesis. 🙏

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Dr. Clarey and Clint Loveness filming another Creation on Location for ICR's YouTube channel

Image credit: Davis J. Werner



Alpine meadow on Logan Pass, Glacier National Park



Silver Staircase Waterfall, Glacier National Park

Molluscan Methuselahs

Fossil *Crassostrea* Oysters



Image credit: Susan Windsor

article highlights

- Genesis records early people living extraordinarily long lives.
- Fossils indicate creatures also lived long lives thousands of years ago.
- Fossil *Crassostrea* oysters lived longer, took longer to mature, and grew larger than their modern descendants.
- This ancient oyster's longevity and delayed maturation fit perfectly with the Genesis record of humans having longer lifespans. Again, science confirms the Bible.

Both before and after the global Flood in the days of Noah, people routinely lived for centuries (Genesis 5 and 11). Research at ICR is finding that this extreme longevity likely characterized animals, too. For example, both fossil and modern *Crassostrea* oysters have been the subject of growth and longevity studies in part because *Crassostrea* oysters are important to the commercial seafood industry (Figure 1). And through these studies, researchers have found strong evidence of greater past longevity for these oysters. Some of this evidence has been previously discussed, but it is so remarkable that it deserves a more in-depth treatment here.¹ First, I'll address why animals living before and shortly after the Genesis Flood likely had longer lifespans. Then I'll present the clues for greater longevity that

we can expect to see in fossil remains. And finally, I'll describe how fossil *Crassostrea* oysters do indeed show the expected direct and indirect evidence for very long lifespans.



Figure 1. The eastern oyster, *Crassostrea virginica*
Image credit: Eric A. Lazo-Wasem, Yale Peabody Museum. CC BY 1.0, Public Domain

Before and After the Flood, Animals Likely Had Long Lives

The Bible gives no indication that the remarkable human longevity recorded in Genesis was in any way miraculous. It could have been due to biologic or environmental factors or a combination of the two. Since the first people and animals were created perfect by God, they had no genetic mistakes in their DNA. Their human and animal descendants at the time of the Flood would have had very few mistakes in their genomes. Right now, though, no one can give a definitive biological mechanism explaining the longer lifespans. Also, humans and animals were living in essentially the same pre-Flood environment, although in different ecosystems. Whether the amazing longevity was due to biologic or environmental causes or a combination of the two, it likely characterized both people and animals, including oysters.

We also know from Genesis 11 that people still had very long lifespans even after the Flood. It makes sense, then, for one to expect the same to be true of animals living shortly after the Flood.

What does this mean for people studying fossils? Nearly all the world's fossils are the remains of creatures that were buried in mud during the Genesis Flood. But the Flood then provided ideal conditions to trigger an immediate Ice Age.² Catastrophic Ice Age flooding, resulting from heavy rainfall and melting ice sheets, also buried and fossilized some creatures. So, one can expect both Flood and Ice Age fossils to show evidence of greater past animal longevity. There

would also probably be a decline in longevity in the more recent Ice Age fossils, which are usually designated as Upper Pleistocene or Late Pleistocene by conventional scientists.^{3,4}

Longevity, Body Size, and Maturation Times

Longevity studies in living animals show that the ones that take a long time to mature usually live longer than those that mature more quickly.⁵ Likewise, we know from general experience that large animals usually live longer than small animals. We see evidence of both delayed maturation and larger body sizes in fossil *Crassostrea* oysters. *Crassostrea virginica*, also known as the eastern oyster, is prized as a seafood. It is often about 5.5 inches (14 centimeters) long (Figure 1). Yet fossil *Crassostrea* oysters, such as *C. titan* and *C. gigantissima* (Figure 2), were twice that long.



Figure 2. An Eocene (Flood) *Crassostrea gigantissima* fossil from Texas
Image credit: Wilson44691, CC BY-SA 3.0

Fossil and Modern: Same Genesis Kind?

Modern humans are the direct descendants of Noah and his family members, who had much longer lifespans than we do. Yet both we and they belong to mankind, the human "kind" or *baramin* (Genesis 1:20–25). In a similar way, we want to compare the lifespans of modern *Crassostrea* oysters to those of their direct ancestors to be able to make an accurate comparison. But not all oysters necessarily belong to the same *baramin*, and different oyster kinds might have different potential lifespans. Can we be reasonably sure that modern and fossil *Crassostrea* oysters belong to the same *baramin* for us to do an apples-to-apples lifespan comparison?

It complicates things that biologists and paleontologists often place very similar creatures in different taxonomic categories, even when those creatures likely belonged to the same Genesis kind. In terms of the Linnean classification system, most creationists think *baramin* is equivalent to either the family taxonomic level or to the level just below it, that of genus. The fact that paleontologists, despite

their tendency to place similar creatures in different categories, have assigned both fossil and modern *Crassostrea* oysters to not just the same family but to the same genus suggests that fossil and modern *Crassostrea* oysters are very similar and likely really do belong to the same Genesis kind.

In fact, conventional paleontologists have explicitly stated that modern *Crassostrea* oysters are very likely the direct descendants of fossil *Crassostrea* oysters. A 1964 United States government report stated, “the [*Crassostrea* fossil] lineage continues, however, with little basic modification, through the Cenozoic [uppermost rocks], being represented in the Eocene by *C. gigantissima* (French) and probably, in modern times, by *C. virginica* (Gmelin).”⁶ The author of a 1991 paper wrote that *C. gigantissima* “is most certainly the direct ancestor of *C. virginica*.”⁷ Since modern and fossil *Crassostrea* oysters likely belong to the same *baramin*, it is legitimate to compare their lifespans, just as we can compare the lifespans of modern humans to those of Noah’s family.

Modern and Fossil Growth Curves

Scientists count growth bands in both living and fossil oysters and use these counts to make graphs of body size versus age. These plots show the average growth pattern for a particular oyster. These curves usually show rapid juvenile growth that gradually slows down as the creature matures. In some cases, the growth curve levels off completely, showing the age at which an oyster reaches full adult size.

It is important to consider when comparing oyster longevity, though, that bivalve lifespans can be affected by factors like water temperature and food availability.⁵ Bivalves living in cold water tend to live longer than bivalves living in warmer water. Limited food intake (or caloric restriction) may also increase lifespan. For this reason, when comparing fossil and modern *Crassostrea* lifespans, one should take care to ensure, if possible, that the fossil and modern versions lived under similar conditions, especially similar water temperatures. This again ensures an apples-to-apples comparison. In the examples described below, we can be reasonably confident that the longer lifespans of the fossil oysters were *not* the result of colder waters or a limited food supply.

The average growth pattern and adult body size of modern *C. virginica* oysters from North Carolina are shown by the solid black line in Figure 3.⁸ Other *Crassostrea* studies from the United States Eastern Seaboard, as well as studies from Bangladesh and Mexico, show that modern *Crassostrea* lifespans of 5 to 10 years are typical, although some sources say they can live as long as 20 years in uncrowded environments.⁹⁻¹¹

The average growth curve for Upper Pleistocene (likely Ice Age) oysters from Virginia is shown by the gray line in Figure 3.⁸ The Miocene (Flood) California *C. titan* fossil oysters (dashed black lines in Figure 3) apparently lived in pre-Flood reef environments. These

California Flood oysters were twice as long, took longer to mature, and lived longer than their more recent descendants.^{5,8}

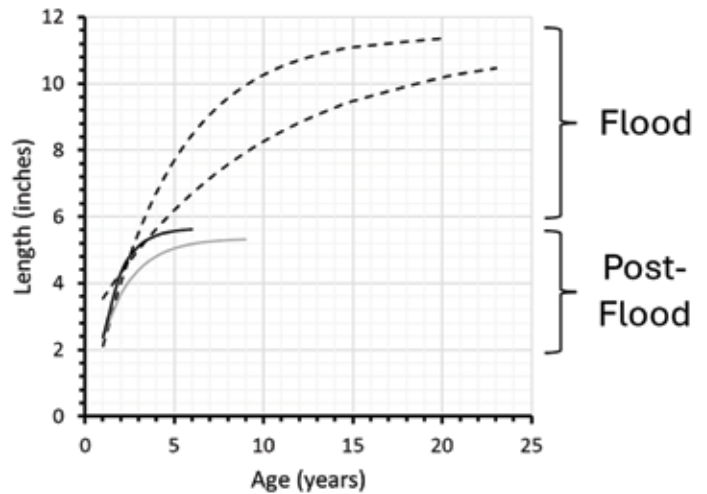


Figure 3. Average *Crassostrea* oyster growth curves for modern North Carolina (solid black line), Late Pleistocene (Ice Age) Virginia (solid gray line), and Miocene (Flood) California (black dashed lines). Each growth curve stops at the age of the oldest specimen in the group.

Image credit: Reconstructed from Figure 3B in Kirby⁸

These East and West Coast oysters came from a narrow band of about 2° latitude. At this latitude today, Pacific California coastal waters are considerably cooler than waters off the United States Eastern Seaboard. Could the great longevity of the California Miocene oysters be due to cold water? No. Conventional scientists think California coastal waters during the Miocene were considerably warmer than today. And many creationists think that pre-Flood oceans were warm compared to today’s oceans. So neither creationists nor evolutionists would likely attribute the great longevity of these California Miocene oysters to cold water.⁵ Likewise, the large sizes of these Miocene oysters suggest they were well-fed, thus ruling out caloric restriction as a cause for their long ages. There was a statistically significant difference between the Miocene and more recent lifespans.⁸

Moreover, the apparent lifespans of 20 and 23 years for these fossil *Crassostrea* oysters are almost certainly underestimates. Remember, these Miocene *Crassostrea* oysters were killed in the Flood. They might have lived even longer had the Flood not occurred. And at least one of the California Miocene fossil assemblages was “densely crowded.”⁸ Today, uncrowded *Crassostrea* oysters tend to live longer than crowded ones.⁹⁻¹¹ So these pre-Flood oysters might have lived even longer in an uncrowded environment!

Interestingly, the maximum lifespan for Late Pleistocene (probably Ice Age) oysters (solid gray line in Figure 3) is nine years, suggesting that *Crassostrea* lifespans have declined since the post-Flood Ice Age, just like human lifespans shortened (Genesis 11).

More Evidence of Declining Body Size and Longevity

Another study of more than a thousand *Crassostrea* oysters from Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina shows a general trend of decreasing longevity and shell size over time (Tables 1 and 2).¹⁰

	Mid- and Late Pleistocene	Colonial Period	Modern
Maryland	13.0 yrs	6.0 yrs	5.0 yrs
Virginia	21.0 yrs	3.0 yrs	5.0 yrs
North Carolina	4.0 yrs	—	2.3 yrs

Table 1. Estimated maximum ages for Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina *Crassostrea* oysters from the Pleistocene, the American Colonial Period, and modern times. Mid- to Late Pleistocene spans 2300 to 1600 BC. The Colonial Period spans 1500 to 1790.

Data obtained from Figures 9, 10, and 11 in Kusnerik et al.¹⁰

	Mid-Pleistocene	Late Pleistocene	Colonial Period	Modern
Maryland	—	10 cm	7.4 cm	6.8 cm
Virginia	8.9 cm	—	7.6 cm	6.4 cm
North Carolina	5.2 cm	6.6 cm	—	6.4 cm

Table 2. Estimated average shell heights for Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina *Crassostrea* oysters from the Pleistocene, the American Colonial Period, and modern times

Data obtained from Figures 6a, 7a, and 8a in Kusnerik et al.¹⁰

Finally, scientists performed a study of 542 fossil and modern juvenile *Crassostrea* oysters from the tropical Americas. These included Pliocene and Miocene *C. cahobasensis* oysters, modern and Pleistocene *C. columbiensis* and *C. virginica* specimens, and an unidentified Pliocene oyster similar to *C. virginica* that was designated *C. aff. C. virginica*.

The juvenile *C. cahobasensis* (Miocene and Pliocene) oysters dating from the Flood were much larger and heavier at all ages than the modern and Pleistocene *C. virginica* and *C. columbiensis* juveniles (Figure 4).¹² The Pliocene *C. aff. C. virginica* oysters might have been slightly larger than the more recent oysters, but it is difficult to tell from Figure 4. Naturally, one would expect larger juvenile body sizes to ultimately result in larger adult body sizes. So, the trend of giantism in pre-Flood *Crassostrea* oysters seems to have been widespread. Remember that larger animals tend to live longer than smaller animals, so this is more indirect evidence of great longevity in fossil *Crassostrea* oysters.

Conclusion

Fossil *Crassostrea* oysters lived longer, took longer to mature, and grew larger than their modern descendants. Their prolonged growth intervals are especially intriguing in light of the fact that pre-

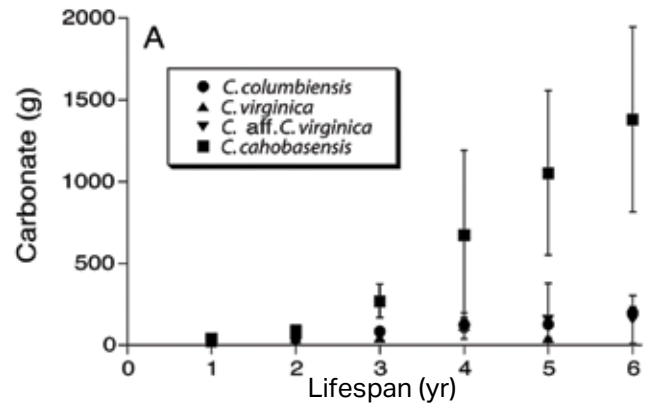


Figure 4. Estimated juvenile shell masses for *Crassostrea* oysters from the tropical Americas. Juvenile Flood (Pliocene and Miocene) *C. cahobasensis* oysters had larger shell masses at all ages than recent and Pleistocene *C. columbiensis* and *C. virginica* specimens. Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals.

Image credit: Figure 3A from Kirby and Jackson.¹² Fair Use Application, used by general permission of the Geological Society of America.

Flood humans apparently took longer than modern humans to reach sexual maturity (Genesis 5), and they probably took longer to attain skeletal maturity, as well. Thus, it makes sense that the same would have been true of pre-Flood animals.

Greater past animal longevity and delayed maturation is perfectly reasonable in light of the Bible's claim that humans once had much longer lifespans. Who would have guessed that humble oysters could be so exciting? Bible-believing Christians should be encouraged by this. And Lord willing, we will be discussing more such evidence in future Impact articles. 🙏

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Where Research and Revelation Align Training Tomorrow's Scholars



ICR's Dr. Brian Thomas presents creation to 1,000 students in Fiji

Image credit: Search for the Truth Ministries

As students prepare for a new school year, families are considering more than schedules, supplies, and classrooms. They are thinking about how the minds of their beloved students will be challenged and whether their faith will stand firm.

Those concerns are not misplaced. Today's students are told that science and Scripture are at odds and that they must set faith aside in pursuit of scientific reason. Yet every year at ICR, we don't see truth shattered but strengthened.

Dr. Brian Thomas, ICR's paleochemist, returned to Fiji this past spring to share science presentations with thousands of students. Across 10 schools, students encountered something many may never hear: scientific evidence that agrees with Genesis and credits our Creator, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Through Serious Science Talks, ICR researchers engage university students with in-depth presentations that explore current research. This includes ICR's geological column project, original soft tissues in dinosaur fossils, continuous environmental tracking in engineered biology, and much more. Through these events, the speakers demonstrate to the next generation of scholars that rigorous science and biblical faith align perfectly with one another.

Additionally, students and families travel, some from as far as the West Coast and Midwest, to experience hands-on learning at ICR's Discovery Center. These visits are defining moments of clarity, where students see that the world around them reflects the Lord Jesus' intentional workmanship, not random chance. The ICR Discovery Center has reached close to 1,700 students each month this year. Has your student's school scheduled a field trip yet?


ICR also brings its scientists directly to campuses. President Dr. Randy Guliuzza and the team of research scientists speak at universi-

ties and educational institutions nationwide, coming alongside students and faculty to address the very questions they regularly face. In partnerships with Christian universities, ICR helps equip science departments to offer education that is both biblically grounded and scientifically sound.

Scripture reminds us why this work matters: "For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead" (Romans 1:20). When students observe and understand creation, they are better prepared to walk in the power, wisdom, and truth of the Lord Jesus. It is essential to prepare students for intellectual growth and spiritual confidence. They must be ready to think clearly, stand firmly, and give an answer for their hope in Christ.

This preparation happens through hard work and faithful friends like you investing in a ministry that meets students at these critical moments. And momentum is building.

ICR is significantly broadening our work in engineered biology. We are welcoming Dr. Marcos Eberlin, an internationally recognized analytical chemist, founder of the Brazilian Academy of Sciences' premier mass spectrometry laboratory, and a leading researcher in molecular engineering. With your added investment, Dr. Eberlin will establish a mass spectrometry lab at ICR, enabling high precision analysis of chemical signatures that speak directly to questions of origins, the Flood, and engineered biology. This facility will dramatically expand our ability to conduct primary research that will reinforce Scripture's scientific credibility.

ICR presses ahead in the work entrusted to us. Thank you for standing alongside us in this mission. Your partnership helps shape minds and strengthen the faith of students here at home and around the world at a time when it could not matter more. 

Mr. Gadberry is the director of development and donor relations at the Institute for Creation Research.



Dr. Marcos Eberlin at the MackMass Lab, a center for research in graphene and nanotechnologies, 2025

Image credit: Marcoiscoastro, CC BY 4.0



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The Push for Feathered Dinosaurs

A Little Background

Editor's note: ICR warmly welcomes paleontologist Dr. Gabriela Haynes to our science faculty. Her testimony of a shrinking faith brought back to the Lord through creation science resonates with what we're all about. Her article topic for this issue points toward a couple books coming soon from ICR Publishing Group, such as *If It Walks Like a Bird* by Dr. Tim Clarey.



Archaeopteryx lithographica,
Jurassic Solnhofen Limestone, Germany
Image credit: James L. Amos, public domain

That some dinosaurs had feathers may initially appear purely scientific and factual. However, this concept was not formed in isolation and from direct evidence. It comes from a particular interpretive framework. What beliefs shape this conclusion?

Each of us sees the world through a specific framework. Our foundational beliefs, principles, education, culture, and recognized sources of authority influence our interpretations and conclusions. Two particular frameworks impact the feathered dinosaur conclusion. One begins with God and His Word. Scripture reveals Jesus as the Creator of all things and as sovereign over His creation (Genesis 1:1; John 1:3). When we interpret the world through the lens of Scripture, our thinking is anchored in the testimony of the One who was there from the beginning. The other starting point relies on human reasoning as the highest authority. However, human understanding is limited, and our thinking is affected by living in a fallen world (Romans 1:21–25). These two starting points lead to very different conclusions about the same facts.

The history of the dinosaur-to-bird narrative traces back to Charles Darwin, who used the humanistic framework, in 1859. In *On the Origin of Species*, Darwin proposed that life evolved gradually from simple to more complex forms. That theory suggests birds evolved from reptiles. Darwin acknowledged that transitional forms should exist in the fossil record as evidence of this, even though Darwin himself admitted they were not evident.

When the fossil *Archaeopteryx* was discovered in 1861, many interpreted it as an evolutionary transition between reptiles and birds, confirming Darwin's theory. That was the beginning of the dinosaur-to-bird hypothesis. However, Richard Owen, a contemporary of Darwin who believed in creation, thought it was definitively and wholly a bird.¹ Continued studies demonstrated that *Archaeopteryx* presents avian characteristics. But despite this and other contested transitional

fossils, the evolutionary framework continues to claim birds evolved from dinosaurs.

A classification method called cladistics, created in 1950, further supported this perspective.² In cladistics, organisms get grouped based on shared characteristics within an evolutionary model. It does not test evolution but organizes organisms according to evolutionary expectations. This is circular reasoning, since it assumes evolution before arguing that it is true.

Thus, the conclusion that dinosaurs had feathers has evolutionary roots. It stems from both a faulty analysis that *Archaeopteryx* was not fully a bird and circular reasoning. Feathered dinosaurs are tied to the assumption that some reptiles evolved into all birds—an assumption that has no objective supporting evidence. It is necessary to recognize which worldview influences and shapes what seem to be scientific claims. This is the first step toward critically evaluating the fossil record.

As Christians, the truth of God's Word should be our guide to interpreting the world. This is why we consider the Genesis Flood when studying bird fossils. After all, the fact that we have any fossil birds at all, a creature that never fossilizes today, requires some kind of unprecedented watery catastrophe. The creation and Flood accounts from Genesis best explain what we see: created birds with feathers that the Flood knocked out of the sky and buried. 🙏

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Polar Bears Thrive across the Arctic by Adaptive Flexibility

Every form of cellular life was created with specific traits and behaviors that enable it to thrive on our planet. For example, as global weather patterns affect climates across tropical, temperate, and polar regions, animals self-adjust in remarkable ways. Their wondrous capabilities are more than instinctive—they are engineered for adaptive flexibility across challenging environments.

Recently, a team of scientists analyzed genomic variation between polar bears (*Ursus maritimus*) from North-East Greenland (NEG) and South-East Greenland (SEG).¹ From 1958–2024, average temperatures across SEG were significantly higher than NEG.¹ In the southeastern bears, a particular group of transposable elements (TEs) was activated and expressed at higher levels.² These long interspersed nuclear elements (LINEs) include some of the most active TEs within the genomes of bears.¹ In fact, their expression showed a positive correlation with climate. Thus, higher temperatures correlated with higher cellular and chromosomal activity of TEs in bears. In simple terms, this evidence reveals that southeastern polar bears are self-adjusting to a warming climate.



Polar bear mother and cubs (Ursus maritimus)

But there is much more to this story. Conventional science continues to sound the alarm that “over two-thirds of polar bears” will be gone by 2050, followed by total extinction near the end of the twenty-first century.¹ The culprits? Global warming and loss of sea ice. Yet, polar bear populations are not only variable—their numbers are actually on the rise, with the most recent estimates of ~26,000 in 2015 that were projected to total ~39,000 in 2018.³ Accordingly, the bears are thriving as the top predator of dynamic polar food webs that contain a diversity of interdependent organisms.

With accelerated thawing of Arctic sea ice, more ocean is exposed to sunlight. More sunlight reaching open water leads to larger blooms of primary production (phytoplankton), which feeds more planktonic shrimp and fish along with a multitude of benthic in-

vertebrates on the seafloor.³ In turn, abundant fish and invertebrates support seals and their pups—the primary food of polar bears. And healthier, well-fed bears thrive by swimming longer and farther for seals and growing populations of fish, birds, crabs, clams, and seaweed.⁴



Arctic ringed seal (Pusa hispida hispida)

For several decades, conventional scientists have warned us of inescapable climate disaster from a warming planet. They have not considered the true history—the biblical history—of the earth. Polar ice caps were not described in the pre-Flood world. Therefore, high-latitude ice (glaciers, landfast ice, and sea ice) may have only formed during the aftermath (Ice Age) of the global Flood (Genesis 6–8), and some of that ice remains in polar regions today. These remnants of a single Ice Age present a direct contrast to the estimated five major ice ages that supposedly occurred over 4.6 billion years of Earth history, as is promoted throughout academia today.⁵

Polar bears are flexible apex predators that inhabit the top of our planet. They are adapting to warmer temperatures and decreasing sea ice across the Arctic.⁶ This provides yet another example that supports ICR’s model of continuous environmental tracking (CET) where living creatures within a distinct ecosystem self-adjust to shifting environmental conditions. As expected, a magnificent diversity of polar life remains obedient to the original mandate: “Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and . . . multiply in the earth” (Genesis 1:22). 🐾

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IS TRUTH REAL? If So, Can We Know It?

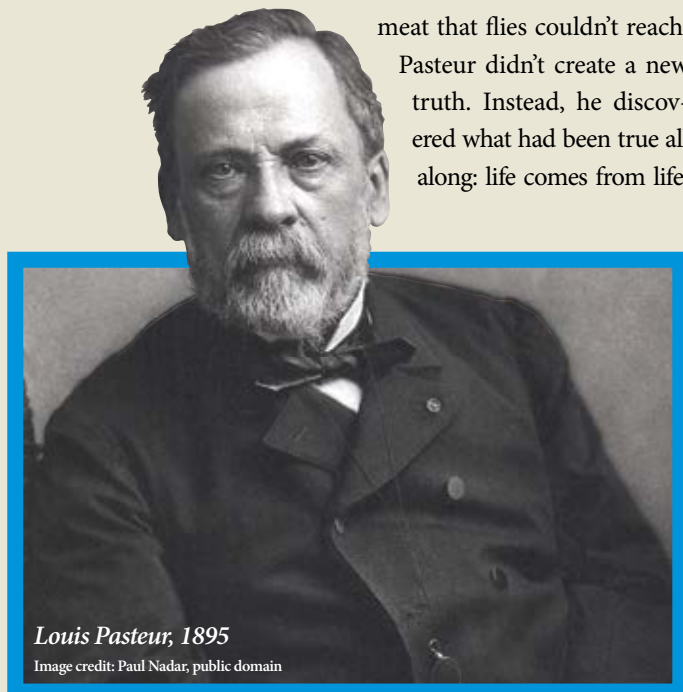
PATRICK C. MARKS, D. MIN.,
AND BRIAN THOMAS, PH.D.

Truth matters. Without truth, no one can say for certain that anything is right or wrong, good or bad. Confusion would reign. We sometimes hear, “There’s no such thing as truth.” But if we believe that idea is true, we admit at least one true thing: that there is no such thing as truth! This does not work. It is irrational—like a round square. Since the statement “There’s no such thing as truth” refutes itself, the opposite, “Truth exists,” must be true.

So, what is truth? Truth is an expression of things as they really are. Someone may sincerely believe that arsenic is a healthy medicine. But sincerity alone does not make something true. Arsenic is, in truth, a deadly poison! So, believing what is false can lead to serious results. Clearly, truth is important.

Some people think that whatever most people believe must be true. But many people once believed in spontaneous generation. They thought that maggots just popped into existence from rotting meat. Creation scientist Louis Pasteur tested this. He found maggots in meat accessible to flies but not in meat that flies couldn’t reach.

Pasteur didn’t create a new truth. Instead, he discovered what had been true all along: life comes from life.



Louis Pasteur, 1895

Image credit: Paul Nadar, public domain



C. S. Lewis

Image credit: Aronsyne, CC BY-SA 4.0

Truth is that which corresponds to reality, whether a majority admits it or not.

Another common idea is that “You have your truth, and I have mine.” But this doesn’t work either because people can believe opposite things. For example, some people believe God is real, but others believe He is not. Opposites cannot both be true.¹

Some folks think no one can truly know anything.² They question how anyone can know they exist in the first place. But if someone says, “I do not exist,” the very first word they use is “I,” which means they must exist *first* to even start that statement. This idea refutes itself.

Finally, claiming that nothing is knowable is another self-defeating assertion, requiring the person saying it to know that they cannot know anything. Thus, we *can* know truth. Thinking and existing are obvious truths because they are undeniable. Christian apologist C. S. Lewis illustrated a test for truth. It’s like adding two numbers together. You can see if the answer is true because even though some answers might be closer to the truth than others, there is only one right answer, or one correct sum.

Jesus said in John 14:6, “I am the way, the truth, and the life.” Is this true? We would first like to make sure the Bible is true—a subject we will cover in this series. But if it’s true, then Jesus is Truth incarnate, and therefore someone we can know personally. 🙏

References

1. More specifically, opposite ideas cannot both be true at the same time and in the same sense. This is called the law of noncontradiction. It is one of several laws of logic that make our apprehension of truths, and thus thought and language, possible.
2. They say things like, “Perception is reality.” This statement refutes itself.

Dr. Marks is the senior pastor at Calvary Chapel FourteenSix in Surprise, Arizona, and earned an M.T.S. in 2017 and a D.Min. in apologetics in 2020 from Veritas International University. Dr. Thomas is a research scientist at the Institute for Creation Research and earned his Ph.D. in paleochemistry from the University of Liverpool.





We have praise news—our Oakhill Correctional Institution Protestant congregation is growing! With that great news, I'm requesting more [Days of Praise] devotionals.

—J. W., Chaplain

“I was in prison and you came to Me.”
(Matthew 25:36)

Editor's note: Subscribe to ICR's free daily devotional *Days of Praise* on ICR.org.



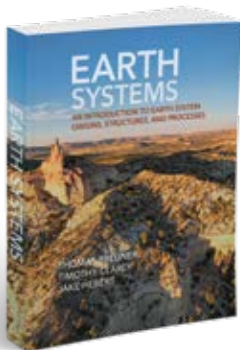
Thank you for continuing the conversation regarding [the theory of biological design]. I still remember the thrill of reading your publication when you first introduced the theory of biological design. Now that there is a legitimate alternative to the theory of evolution, it is indeed important to replace equivocal and misleading terminology. . . . Your research continues to show that adaptive change is really an innate pre-engineered process of the organism itself.

—M. C.



Since starting this course and beginning the text, I've been introduced more to the young-Earth worldview. . . . This has been a different way of looking at things compared to what I have learned before. Overall, my experience has mainly been with the old-Earth view, but **now I'm starting to understand both perspectives better, and it's helped me see how worldview can affect how people interpret scientific evidence.**

—A. S.



• **Now learning in this class that there is real evidence of a global flood that is supported by hard science is eye-opening to say the least.** The fact that the radiometric dating events aren't quite as accurate as I was led to believe is eye-opening. That, along with the evidence of sediment layers that are similar all around the earth are making the young-Earth worldview much more reasonable and likely to be the case.

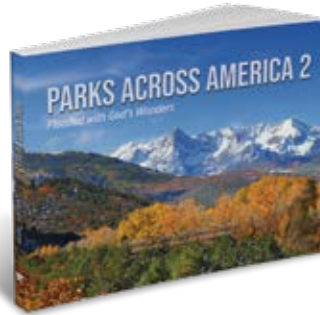
—O. H.



I just want to thank Dr. Guliuzza for the conversations we had and the presentations he had in Redding. **He has strengthened my strong faith even more.** His presentations were first-class and second to none. Thank you for following God's lead.

—L. K.

Editor's note: To learn more about upcoming ICR events or how your church can host one, visit ICR.org/events.



I was so thrilled to receive the *Parks Across America 2*. . . . Perfect timing as I will buy the set for the entire family. ICR's national park features are awesome and make a great collector's book, best idea ever!

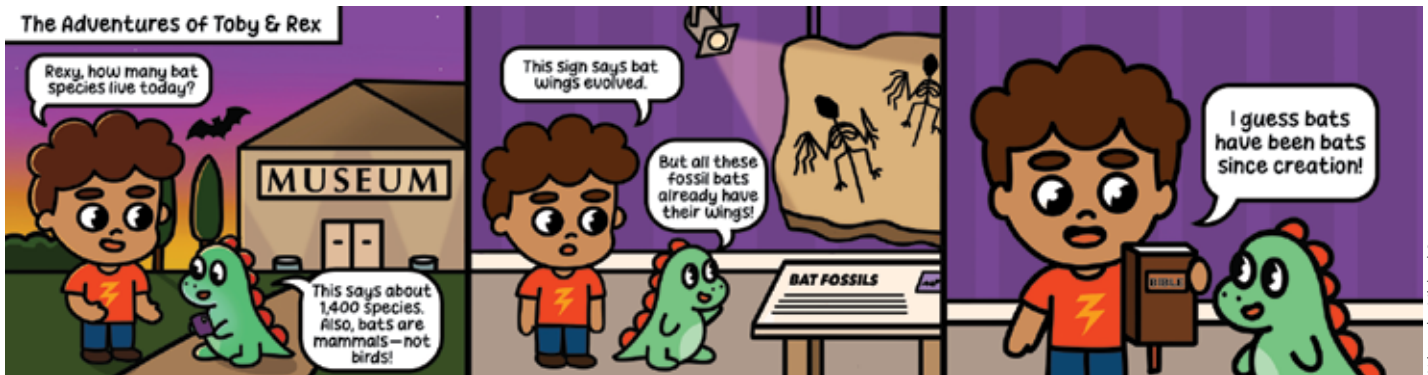
—M. M.

Editor's note: Find *Parks Across America*, *Parks Across America 2*, and the *Parks Across America* map at ICR.org/store. Get both books and the map as a pack and save!

Have a comment?

Email Editor@ICR.org or write to
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Written by Michael Stamp, illustrated by Melissa Marquez

The Lord Jesus created wonders that are out of this world—like galaxies! These swirling groups of stars, planets, gas, and dust are held together by gravity. To get a closer look, NASA launched the *James Webb Space Telescope* in 2021. This powerful telescope captures photographs of galaxies far, far away. It's allowed scientists to see deeper into God's cosmos than ever before! Did you also know . . .

- ✓ God made the universe in six, 24-hour days. That includes galaxies!
- ✓ Even the most distant galaxies look fully formed—just as we'd expect from creation.
- ✓ The biggest galaxies contain billions or even trillions of stars.
- ✓ Earth is located in the Milky Way galaxy. In the night sky, it looks like spilled milk!



Milky Way Galaxy



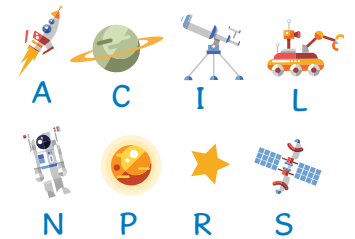
The *James Webb Space Telescope* orbits the Sun about one million miles away from Earth. It operates in temperatures around -447°F . That's over 11 times colder than the North Pole!

Match the *Webb* telescope images with their descriptions.

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. ___ Stephan's Quintet | 3. ___ Galaxy Messier 58 | 5. ___ Cartwheel Galaxy |
| 2. ___ Bullet Cluster | 4. ___ Sombrero Galaxy | 6. ___ Phantom Galaxy |



What's the shape of the Milky Way galaxy? Use the code below to find the answer.



Answers to Match the *Webb*: 1. D, 2. A, 3. E, 4. F, 5. B, 6. C; Answer to Code Puzzle: spiral

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Michael Stamp and
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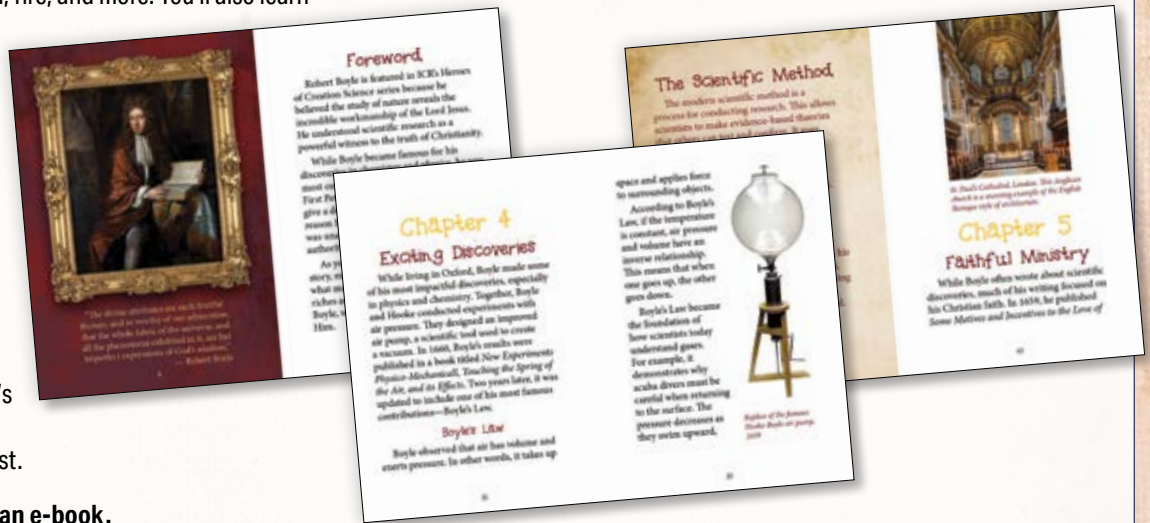
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