

MODERN DAY BOOK BANNING?

by John D. Morris

If you were a leading evolutionist, what is the worst thing that could happen, which must be prevented at all costs? If you were totally committed to evolution thinking, such that you base your worldview and career on its principles, to what extent would you go to protect it? If evolution had become the basis for your morality, your standing among peers, the source of your livelihood, or if you were emotionally attached to evolution and its implications, would you resort to censorship of contrary information, bigotry toward those who don't agree, portraying opponents in a false light, or hiding

behind a false definition of "science" (i.e., naturalism), thus excluding other theories?

As strange and petty as it may seem, just such a drama is unfolding over a beautiful new "coffee-table" book written by creationist Tom Vail entitled, *Grand Canyon: A Different View*. It includes short essays by twenty-three leading creationists, nineteen of whom have earned doctorates, and twenty-one of whom have done original research in creation-science, fourteen in the Canyon itself. Mr. Vail collected the non-technical essays from previously existing books and papers, often technical,



sometimes edited and updated by the original authors. The list includes Steve Austin, John Baumgardner, Ken Cumming, Duane Gish, Werner Gitt, Ken Ham, Bill Hoesch, Russ Humphreys, Alex Lalomov, John MacArthur, Henry Morris, John Morris, Terry Mortenson, Mike Oard, Gary Parker, Scott Rugg, Andrew Snelling, Keith Swenson, Larry Vardiman, Tas Walker, John Whitcomb, Carl Wieland, and Kurt Wise. Surely this group is entitled to a “different view.”

The book doesn’t pretend to give a complete, scientifically documented treatise on the Canyon, but it does quote from those who do, often placing their findings in a worldview context with lifestyle implications and devotional content. It’s mainly a picture book, with some of the most stunningly beautiful photographs of the Canyon you’ll ever see. Imagine the surprise of all concerned when the evolutionary community rose up heatedly against its sale in secular bookstores within Grand Canyon National Park. Not only did the overtly creation-fighting National Center for Science Education (NCSE) come out against it, but eventually the presidents of seven professional scientific societies (ironically, some of the book’s contributors are members of these societies) jointly issued a letter to the superintendent of the Park. It urged him to avoid giving shoppers the wrong impression by including the book with those offering the standard view, claiming that it “undermines efforts to educate the public about the scientific understanding of Grand Canyon geology.” They recommend squelching the attempt to provide “*A Different View.*”

These highly placed opponents of the book decried its “narrow religious view about the Earth . . . endors[ing] the advancement of religious tenets as science,” but agreed it could stay in the store’s inspirational section. The book’s offense is that it purports to offer a different *scientific* view of Grand Canyon’s formation,

and strikes at the heart of the cherished worldview of evolutionism. Could such be allowed? One group of employees feared a Christian fundamentalist takeover of the National Park Service. The executive director of Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER) even claimed that “The Park Service leadership now caters exclusively to conservative Christian fundamentalist groups The Bush Administration appears to be sponsoring a program of Faith-Based Parks.”

Are these spokesmen really so insecure in their position that they must resort to these tactics? Is this book such a threat? Freedom of “scientific speech” and freedom of “religious speech” are issues still being worked out in the national spotlight.

Tom Vaill is no stranger to Grand Canyon, for he runs a river rafting company there. In fact, when the ICR Grand Canyon Tour enters the Canyon in May, Tom and his crew will be manning the rafts. No doubt evening discussions will be animated. (By the way, as of this writing, there are still about fifteen slots on the raft still open. See the back page of *Acts & Facts* for information).

Tom’s book is available from ICR for \$16.95 + s/h, and can be ordered either by calling 1/800-628-7640 or on the web [www.icr.org/store]. 

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Editor: John D. Morris

Co-Editor: Henry M. Morris

Managing Editor: Donald H. Rohrer

Assistant Editor: Kelly Griffin

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From Texas

Your ministry has been a blessing to us for over twenty-five years. I lost my faith as a zoology major in college. I was 32 when our merciful Father called me to his Son, and brought me from the kingdom of darkness to His Kingdom of Light. A Christian friend gave me a copy of Dr. Morris's *Scientific Creationism* and Dr. Gish's *The Fossils Say No!* and opened my mind to the great truths of the Scriptures.

From A Museum Visitor

I recently visited your wonderful museum in Santee. . . . thank you for designing such an informative museum. . . . Thank you for all of the valuable resources that you make available, and for your faithful service to God.

From Mississippi

Thank you for your on-line *Days of Praise* devotionals. What a pleasure to get up in the morning and go to my computer and find an exhortation from the Word of God. And please thank Dr. Morris for me. We are so blessed to have the influence of his life in our generation. Press on!

From California

Your ministry is a big blessing to my life, and the lives of my nephews as I share with them books and videos that help them know the truth about our world. . . . and your ministry and resources help me to challenge teachers to proclaim the truths of Creation. Thank you so much.

From New York

Please accept my gratitude for your unique daily guide of devotion and study. . . . The succinct presentation of the Word itself, with addition of similar texts, is always profound and timely, inviting the pursuit of further understanding. Your writers are to be commended. ☞

Flushing, Michigan

The year's speaking schedule started off with a bang for ICR's President Dr. John Morris as the Mayfair Bible Church, Pastor Dean Stewart, took advantage of the holidays to host a high school/college training seminar on January 3, 2004. Three lectures that Saturday evening (interspersed with pizza and dessert breaks) included information on Noah's Flood, the Age of the Earth, and Mount St. Helen's.

Several churches throughout the area sent their own youth groups, which, when coupled with many adults, made the evening's session well attended.

Sunday morning saw the church combine all meetings in the gym for two large, back-to-back worship services on the evidence for Creation and the Flood. Sunday evening attendees learned about dinosaurs and how to think Biblically about them.

That was the theme of the entire weekend, thinking Biblically about every area of life, and God blessed with thankful testimonies and wonderful fellowship. ☞

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DR. DAVID WATSON WITH THE LORD

Dr. David Watson, longtime creation colleague in Britain, was recently called home to be with his Creator and Savior.

Dr. Watson was the Director of the ICR Midwest Center for a time, when the Midwest Creation Fellowship was associated with ICR. He was a strong creation spokesman and author of the delightful creation book, *Evolution: The Great Brain Robbery*, (out of print) among others.

We thank the Lord for the friendship and ministry of this brilliant, but humble and godly man. ☞

CHAFFIN REPORTS ON ACCELERATED DECAY AT APS MEETING

Dr. Eugene Chaffin and one of his former physics students at Bob Jones University presented a paper entitled, *The Oklo Constraints on Alpha-Decay Half-Lives*, at the Southeastern Section fall meeting of the American Physical Society, November 6–8, 2003, at Wrightsville Beach, North Carolina. They calculated the absorption cross-section of Samarium-149 which is produced by the decay of Uranium-238 in the Oklo natural nuclear reactor located in African rock strata. Their paper discussed the constraints that observed and calculated abundances of Samarium-149 had on decay rates in the past. They also reported on the effect of changing nuclear potential well depth on decay rate.

The paper concluded that the Oklo data confirm stringent limits on the variation in Samarium-149 absorption cross-

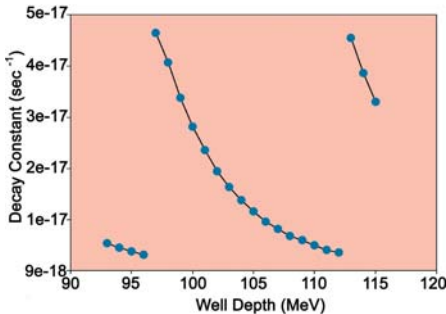


Figure 1. The Decay Constant λ of U-238 versus Well Depth

sections for neutrons, as found by others. However, they found that the nuclear decay half-life of Uranium-238 may still vary widely. A small change in the nuclear potential well depth does not sig-

nificantly change the Samarium cross section, but leads to a large change in alpha decay rate. The calculations of the decay constant versus well depth shown in figure 1 indicate that even a small change in well depth can result in an increase in the Uranium-238 decay constant by more than an order of magnitude. This effect is tied to a change in the number of nodes in the alpha-particle wavefunction when the potential well depth passes critical values.

The complete paper may be found at www.icr.org/research. This research was partially supported by the RATE project at ICR. ☞

RATE PROJECT RECEIVES GENEROUS DONATIONS

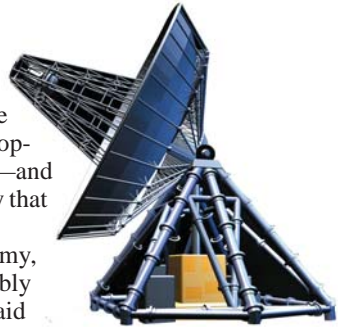
Donors to RATE gave over and above all expectation in December. RATE is the research project sponsored by ICR and the Creation Research Society to study Radioisotopes and the Age of The Earth. It has been reporting major results during the past year which support a young earth. A total of over \$200,000 was given by supporters to complete the remaining research tasks and publish the final reports. Dr. Vardiman, facilitator of the RATE project, was overwhelmed with the generosity of the gifts. He said, “The Lord has prompted His people to support this effort well over the past six-and-one-half years and to fund all the needs we’ve ever had, but this season’s giving was beyond even our greatest expectation.” The gifts were sufficient not only to fund most of the remaining research and publish technical and lay versions of the results, but to begin production of a video documentary of the project as well. Although more will be needed in the coming year for completion, RATE plans to finish the project and report the results during a final conference at Shadow Mountain Community Church in San Diego on November 5, 2005. What a blessing! ☞



21 YEARS UNTIL ALIEN CONTACT?


Although evolutionary naturalism has failed to empirically document the molecules-to-man philosophy,¹ it makes great strides in sparking the imagination. For example, Hollywood continues to release futuristic, evolution-based movies replete with eye-popping special effects and paper-thin plots. Such films—and numerous television programs—have convinced many that LGM’s (little green men or aliens) actually exist.

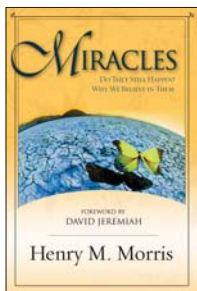
With evolutionism as the foundation of astronomy, many scientists speculate that the universe is possibly teeming with evolving life forms. The normally staid *National Geographic* has recently featured a book entitled, *Cosmic Company*, by astronomers Shostak and Barnett, who use evolutionism to make their questionable case.² They speak of enormous lengths of time and then state that it would be inconceivable that nothing would evolve somewhere in the universe during those millennia. Each argument against the existence of life somewhere else is met with an evolutionary retort. *They also say that we may make contact with aliens by 2025.*



There are a number of secular scientists (including the late S. J. Gould) who disagree. In 2000, two scientists showed convincingly in a 315-page book “why complex life is uncommon in the universe.”³ Like Darwinists “documenting” transitional forms, some space researchers have resorted to computer simulations to argue for aliens in the cosmos. For all the bravado of claiming worlds like our own exist, *Spaceflight Now* recently admitted, “It currently is impossible to detect Earthlike planets around other stars.”⁴ In other words, at the empirical (observational) level astronomers have come up empty handed.

Creation scientists maintain that we will never receive messages or entertain intergalactic visitors from deep space simply because there are no such civilizations out there. “As far as the Scriptures are concerned, they teach unequivocally that the earth is uniquely the abode of man [Psalm 115:16 and Acts 17:20]. . . . It seems grotesque and blasphemous to suggest that the tragedy of Calvary’s cross should be repeated on millions of other planets, for the benefit of other unknown and hypothetical members of God’s creation.”⁵ Theoretical speculations and imaginative evolution-based predictions aside, all research beyond Earth has shown that when it comes to organic life—we’re it.

1. Forey, P., Reviews, *Journal of Paleontology*, 77(1) 2003, p. 200.
2. http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2003/11/1114_031114_setisearch.html
3. Ward & Brownlee, *Rare Earth*, Copernicus, 2000.
4. *Spaceflight Now*, U. of WA news release, posted December 10, 2003.
5. Morris & Clark, *The Bible has the Answer*, Master Books, 1976 p. 76–77. 



MIRACLES PUBLISHED BY DR. MORRIS

ICR announces this month the release of a new book entitled simply, *Miracles*, written by Dr. Henry M. Morris, and published by Master Books. The book is informal in style and includes a number of personal testimonies from his own experience.

Dr. David Jeremiah, who wrote the Foreword, assures readers that: “you will profit from its pages,” and Dr. John MacArthur calls it “a superb study of miracles from the perspective of a scientist and a believer.”

The topics in the nine-chapter book begin with a chapter on “Miracles and the Scientists” and ends with “Prayer and Providence.” Three categories of God-sent miracles are correlated with three basic principles of science. Other significant topics discussed include “The Ministry of Angels” and “Counterfeit Miracles.”

Containing approximately 140 pages, the book lists at \$9.95 and can be ordered either from Master books (New Leaf, Arkansas) or direct from ICR. 📦

Moving?

Please mail your new address and your old mailing label to:

Institute for Creation Research
P.O. Box 2667
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Radio Log

This month on “Science, Scripture, & Salvation”:

Weekend of: Title/Topic:

- Mar. 6 Cosmogonies**
Evolutionary thinking has been around a long time. But just where did it all begin? Find out about the creation/evolution beliefs of ancient Egyptians, Babylonians, and Chinese. How did they think the world began? Stay tuned!
- Mar. 13 Nature’s Restoration**
Many of us enjoy a walk through the forest or a picnic in a meadow. But, when disaster strikes a forest, the destruction seems hopeless. However, our Creator has it all in control! We’ll talk about nature’s restoration and resiliency this week.
- Mar. 20 The Moon**
There are many things in creation that fascinate and put mankind in awe of their Creator. One of the most inspiring would have to be our planet’s beautiful night light: the moon. But, what does it do for us that would make life impossible without it? Stay tuned!
- Mar. 27 Rocks**
Rocks. Some are sharp, some are smooth, some are small, some are very big! But, overall they are quite fascinating and can teach us a lot about creation! The Bible uses rocks as object lessons, metaphors, and in applying spiritual truths. What will we learn from them? 📦

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BROAD BATTLE FRONT

The battle lines have broadened considerably since ICR began its ministry some 34 years ago. Initially, creationists were seen as mere “insurgents” into the stable and well “armed” field of evolutionary science. Today, with many creationist organizations and literally thousands of very qualified scientists confronting the naturalistic “theology” in almost every field, the battle has expanded into a full-fledged war. Consider two current issues.

“ANOTHER VIEW” RIDICULED

Tom Vail’s book about Grand Canyon has been front page news for some time now. Evolutionists claim that the creationist view has no “right” to be presented as a scientific view, and should be relegated to the religious section. In a recent article in the *LA Times* entitled, “Religion, Geology Collide at the Grand Canyon,” the *Times* quoted scientists, a historian, different park service spokespersons, and several “critics”—all of whom were outraged that such a view would be “sanctioned” by making it available to the general public in a government book store.

GNOSTIC GOSPELS SERIOUSLY CONSIDERED

The popularity of the best-selling book *The DaVinci Code* has given new life to a wide-spread resurgence of attacks on the authority of Scripture, and on the character of the Lord Jesus in particular. *Newsweek* devoted a feature issue to the “new” understanding of women in the Bible, citing as one of its main examples the role of Mary Magdalene. Now, we are told, Mary of Magda was “actually Jesus’ intimate female partner.” (*Newsweek*, December 8, 2003, p. 60). These blatant contradictions to God’s Word are being given serious consideration among “scholars”—even among some evangelicals—due primarily because there is “openness” to “interpret” the Bible differently.

ICR WILL NOT BACK OFF

The Lord has used ICR to win some wonderful “battles” in science, and we will, as long as the Lord permits, continue to research and teach the truths of a Biblical and Creationist worldview. But the “war” is far from over! Every staff member of ICR is absolutely committed to the words of God as absolute truth, that cannot and must not be “added to” or “taken from.” Please stand with us and help us.



Dr. Henry Morris III, ICR Executive Vice President for Strategic Ministries.
P.O. Box 2667, El Cajon, CA 92021; Phone 619/448-0900; E-mail: hmorrisiii@icr.org
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