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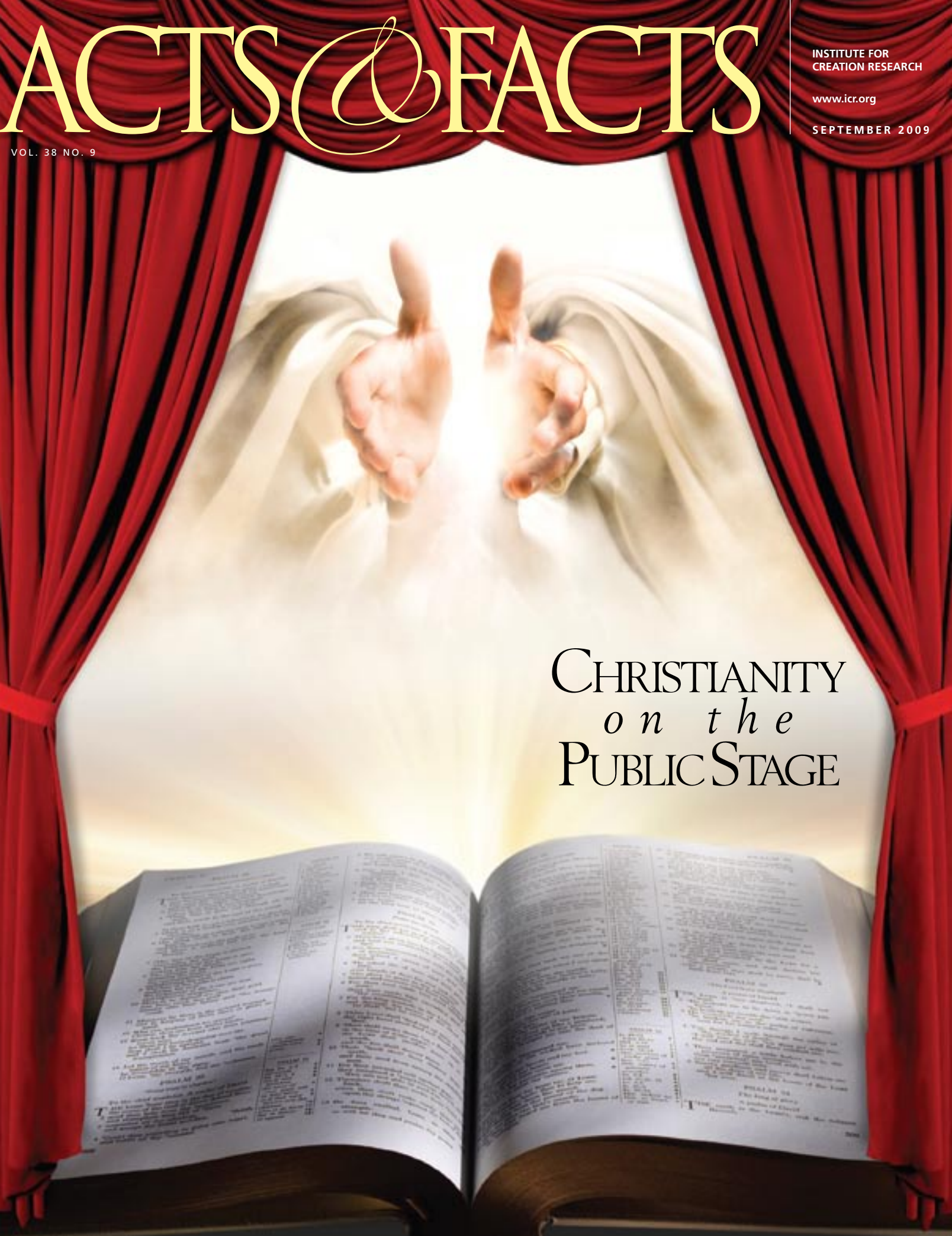
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CHRISTIANITY *on the* PUBLIC STAGE

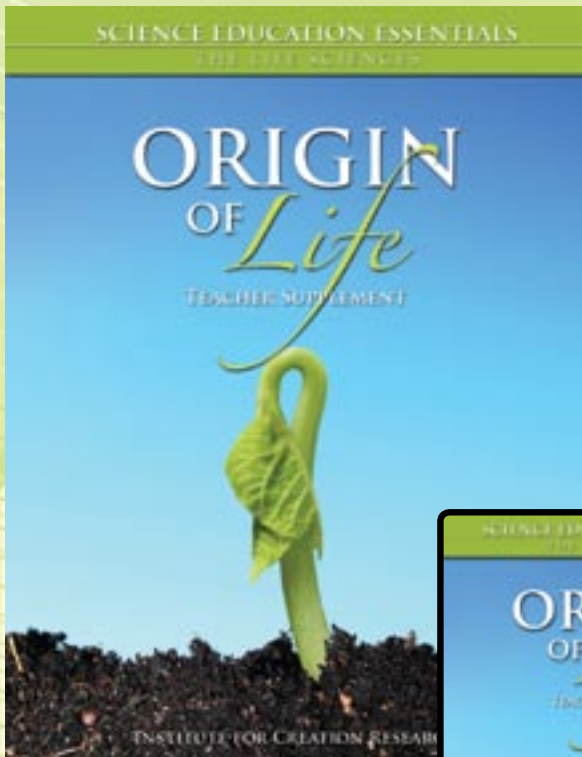


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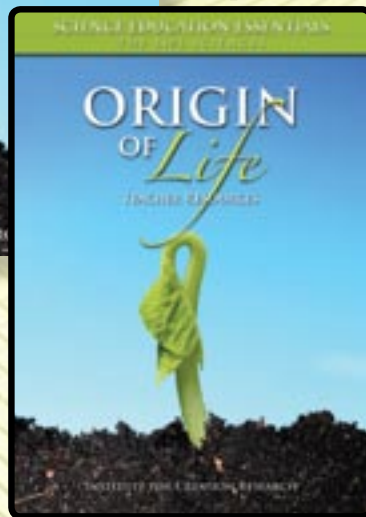
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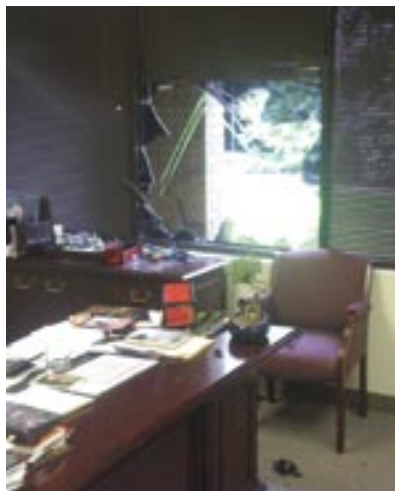
Demand the Evidence. Get it @ ICR.



Concrete Adversity

Peter described the devil as a “roaring lion” tramping about the earth seeking to disrupt and destroy the people of God (1 Peter 5:8). God’s people have faced some of their greatest adversities when they have been laboring the hardest for the Kingdom. I think we would be surprised to know just how vicious the spiritual battle is that rages around us. Thankfully, the Lord is with us, and He and His angels are doing battle on our behalf in the heavenly places. But we must still be circumspect.

Recently we had a break-in at ICR headquarters, made obvious by the large chunk of concrete sitting on my office floor amid a sea of broken glass. The thieves quickly grabbed what they thought was the most expensive equipment in our publications department. Insurance covers equipment losses, but not the loss in production and time. The enemy may well be pleased at the effect of



his fiery dart, but our resolve to continue doing Kingdom work is only strengthened as a result of this and other attacks—particularly as we go head-to-head with the state of Texas in the fight for academic freedom.

May I ask you to redouble your prayer efforts on our behalf? You can’t imagine the encouragement we receive when folks write in to tell us they’re praying for the ministry. Your intercession makes a huge difference in our day-to-day work for Him.

We have great victories, too, despite these distractions. Next month ICR begins the first

classes of the new School of Biblical Apologetics on our Dallas campus (icr.org/soba). Also, the first of our Science Education Essentials curriculum supplements—*Origin of Life*—is available for Christian schools and homeschools (icr.org/essentials).

September 12-20 will find a number of us on the Yosemite Creation Tour. Another sold-out tour, we expect great opportunities to learn and relax in one of America’s premier destinations, a marvel of God’s handiwork. I’m excited that ICR Senior Research Scientist Dr. Steve Austin will be our lead geologist at Yosemite.

Don’t forget to read the profile of Dr. Nathaniel Jeanson on page 9. A recent graduate of Harvard University, Dr. Jeanson comes with great credentials and experience in stem cell research—a wonderful asset to ICR’s science staff. Welcome, Dr. Jeanson!

This fall ICR will hold three regional Demand the Evidence conferences, featuring many ICR leaders and guest speakers such as Dr. John MacArthur. Registration is underway, so make your plans to attend. Locations are California, Texas, and Florida. Visit www.icr.org/conference for more information and registration.

Thank you for all the kind notes about *Acts & Facts* magazine. Readers like you encourage us to continue providing timely articles about science, apologetics, and education from an unashamedly biblical viewpoint.

Lawrence E. Ford
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

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CHRISTIANITY *o n*

Dr. Francis Collins and the dangerous doctrines of BioLogos

L A W R E N C E E . F O R D

In July, President Barack Obama announced his intention to appoint Dr. Francis Collins to lead the prestigious National Institutes of Health (NIH),¹ which funds over \$30 billion in scientific research aimed at preventing disease and improving health. A respected physician, researcher, and administrator, Dr. Collins previously led the vital work of the Human Genome Project.



Dr. Francis Collins

He is also very open about his Christian faith, which makes him a man of great influence among other Christians who are eager to see more Christian leaders in Washington. But just what kind of influence will Dr. Collins have for the Kingdom? And how does he integrate his Christian beliefs with science?

The “Doctrines” of BioLogos

Dr. Collins recently began addressing the faith-science relationship through a new foundation, BioLogos, that “aims to be a bridge in the debate over science and religion and provide some answers to life’s most difficult questions.”² Marvin Olasky, Editor-in-Chief of *World* magazine, comments about the confusion arising from Collins’ ideas about Christianity and Darwinism:

Collins recently set up the BioLogos Foundation: Its website defines BioLogos as “the belief that Darwinism is a correct science.”

This is confusing: Darwinism means unguided evolution, right? Does Collins mean by “theistic evolution” the concept that God is guiding the evolutionary process? If so, isn’t that a version of ID? On the other hand, if Collins believes that God passively watches evolution unfold, isn’t that deistic evolution?³

Below are some of Dr. Collins’ public statements on his faith and his science beliefs.

About Theism and Evolution

BioLogos is most similar to Theistic Evolution. Theism is the belief in a God who cares for and interacts with creation. Theism is different than deism, which is the belief in a distant, uninvolved creator who is often little more than the sum total of the laws of physics. Theistic Evolution, therefore, is the belief that evolution is how God created life. Because the term evolution is sometimes associated with atheism, a better term for the belief in a God who chose to create the world by way of evolution is BioLogos.⁴

About Adam, Eve, and the Fall

The familiar story of Adam and Eve is a staple of both Sunday school lessons and the stained glass motifs of Christianity’s great cathedrals. But can this account fit into BioLogos? How does the Fall fit into an evolutionary history, where the Earth is billions of years old, and humans originated hundreds of thousands of years ago most likely in Africa?...

In this light, the Fall was not a historical event but an illustration of the common human condition that virtually everyone agrees is

deeply flawed and sinful. In this view, it does not matter if Adam and Eve were historical figures. Their deeds simply represent the actions of all humans and remind us of this troubling part of our natures.⁵

About God and Miracles

BioLogos does not in any way remove the logical possibility of miracles. However, for the universe to behave in an apparently ordered fashion, such events must be rare. BioLogos is thus compatible with many faiths that have miraculous events at the center of their doctrine.⁶

About Evolution

Evolution is now profoundly well-documented from multiple different perspectives, all of which give you a consistent view with enormous explanatory power that makes it the central core of biology. Trying to do biology without evolution would be like trying to do physics without mathematics....

Nearly all scientists agree upon descent from a common ancestor, gradual change over a long period of time, and natural selection operating to produce the diversity of living species. There is no question that those are correct. Evolution is not a theory that is going to be discarded next week or next year or a hundred thousand years from now. It is true.⁷

About Evidence

If you ask about data-driven questions, about what is true and what is the evidence to support it—you would want to go to the people who are the profes-



the PUBLIC STAGE

sionals who spend their lives trying to answer those questions and ask, “Is there a consensus view?” So you ask, “What is the age of the Earth?” Well, who does that work? It is the geologist and the cosmologists and the people who do radiocarbon dating. It is the fossil record people and so on. So you ask, “Is this an unanswered question?” And the answer you would get is that the issue is settled. The age of the earth is 4.55 billion years.⁸

About the Church

Many of them, raised in conservative Christian homes and taught that evolution is wrong, send emails to me every week. They are in crisis, trying to figure out whether the church that seems to be lying to them about origins is lying to them about everything else. The God of all truth cannot be served by such noble lies, and yet the church has been caught up in that, despite its best intentions. . . .

Right now, many churches are telling their young people, “You have to adhere to this absolutely literal description of what we say Genesis means,” and they put a lot of energy into conveying that in Sunday school and in home schooling curricula. It’s not as if the church has not already invested in providing a perspective on this issue—but unfortunately they’ve invested in a view that’s counter to God’s book of nature. This is both unnecessary and tragic.⁹

Should we conclude that Dr. Francis Collins is not a “born again” Christian as described in the Bible? He appears to be genuine and sincere in his belief that Jesus Christ is his personal Savior. But quite troubling is Collins’ public and proud disbelief in the historicity of the Bible, the existence of Adam and Eve, the event of the Fall, and many more fundamental doctrines of God’s Word—leading one to conclude

that even if he is a Christian, his self-selective beliefs are terribly resistant to God’s truth, revealing his dangerously poor view of the power of God. Like the Sadducees, Collins errs by “not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God” (Matthew 22:29).

BioLogosism

The executive vice-president of BioLogos, Dr. Karl Giberson of Eastern Nazarene College, seems less concerned about the ordinary Christian seeking answers. His website includes a summary of an upcoming book project with Harvard University Press titled *The Anointed: America’s Evangelical Experts*. It’s actually a mocking title and his snobbery is clear:

Our key question is: Why do individuals such as Ken Ham, Tim LaHaye, David Barton, and James Dobson have such extraordinary influence when they are not leaders in their fields? (This tendency is particularly acute in the area of science, where vast portions of contemporary science are rejected in favor of an alternative creation, or intelligent design “science.”) . . .

In our book . . . we juxtapose the above leaders with their more legitimate evangelical counterparts—genuine authorities who largely conform to the standards of the academy and are recognized as leading scholars in their respective fields.¹⁰

Is Dr. Giberson ignorant of the scientific contributions of scientists such as Dr. Henry Morris, Dr. Duane Gish, Dr. Ken Cumming, Dr. Steve Austin, Dr. Andrew Snelling, Dr. Jason Lisle, Dr. Russ Humphreys, Dr. John Baumgardner, Dr. Larry Vardiman, Dr. A. E. Wilder-Smith, and many other credentialed and evangelical members of academia who are “leading scholars in their respective fields”?

Perhaps Dr. Giberson is unaware that “Bible believing” Christians in America prefer teachers who actually believe in the authority and authenticity of the Word of God, who will instruct them in truth without constantly instilling doubt about the foundational book of Christianity, the inspired and inerrant Bible.

Interpreting the Cult of Celebrity

The Bereans were praised for their study, “in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so” (Acts 17:11). Notice *what* they examined: the Scriptures. That’s our real anchor. Not “born again” Francis Collins or the pontifications of BioLogos. It all goes back to the divinely inspired and inerrant Book of God.

Is Dr. Collins skilled to lead the programs of the NIH? Absolutely. Is he qualified to teach the Bible? Not a chance. There are “more legitimate evangelical” Bible teachers who are “genuine authorities” in the Bible. ●

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Mr. Ford is Executive Editor.

A Mother's Message to Her Son

For almost 40 years, the Institute for Creation Research's mission has been to equip believers with evidence of the Bible's accuracy and authority, so that they in turn can confidently proclaim the truth of the Creator. One subscriber recently wrote to Dr. Henry M. Morris III:

Thank you for sending me *Acts & Facts* over the years. I have gleaned much from the articles. Even though I am not a scientist, I have been able to write arguments to my son, who was persuaded to accept evolution in college. I'm sharing those with you, so you can see how your ministry has touched my life personally.

With her gracious permission, below are excerpts from one of the letters this mother has sent to her son.

Dear D,

Christ as Creator had a very specific design structure for man. Every design carries in it the signature of its creator. So, normally, one viewing a creation, and who is trained, can recognize that signature. It can be recognized because it tells the observer who made it by displaying certain characteristics that the creator endows it with and that reflect the character of the creator.

To see how this is true, look at artwork. I remember you telling me, one time, that you could identify my drawings because of the qualities I had included in them that were unique to my drawings. So that certain nuances in my drawings identify me as the creator.

The results of sin mask the signature of the Creator and we do not see Him or acknowledge Him in His creation. When we are born again, we can plainly see His hand in our creation.

I recently discovered Sudoku puzzles. Each row, column, and square of nine squares has to have the numbers 1 to 9 in them and the

numbers may not be repeated in any row, column, or square of nine squares. The outcome, however, always results in a design of numbers, unique from any other puzzle except one that duplicates itself. In order to solve a puzzle, you must figure out an intelligent strategy to end up with a "unique design" in the end.

Unique design is the operative phrase. It takes intelligence to create this design. If you just randomly stick in numbers you will never come to the organized end result. Solving these puzzles helps prove to me that evolution is a lie. Randomness for the most part results in chaos. Each Sudoku puzzle may only be solved by thoughtful manipulation of the numbers until a unique pattern (design) is formed.

There is something of the order of 2 percent difference in the genetic make-up of man versus monkey. That's according to what scientists now know, but if you were to replace the 2 percent monkey with the 2 percent that is man, you will no longer have the pattern of a monkey, but a man. The pattern for a monkey doesn't randomly organize (an intellectual activity) itself into a more complex system. To create a more complex system, you need to engineer (again an intellectual activity) the lower step to the higher by intelligent manipulation. It will not happen through random processes any more than you will be able to create a specific Sudoku pattern through anything but intelligent strategy.

Therefore, I insist that an intelligent being made you. The Creator, Jesus, knows exactly what our pattern should be. We are made in the image of God. After we are born again and have eyes to see, we will better discern what that pattern is. Not a line of robots exactly the same, but a Sudoku puzzle each with its own unique design, the same, but different from all the rest, created with His signature. So that all who see us may recognize our Author.

Love, Mom

Two-year-old Mia gets an early start on a creation science education. Photo provided by proud parents Jeremy and Jamie.



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214.615.8300

■ **September 13**

Dallas, TX – Preston Road Church of
Christ
(J. Morris) 214.526.7221

■ **September 18-20**

Benson, AZ – First Baptist Church
(Sherwin) 520.586.3362

■ **September 23-25**

Frisco, TX – D6 Family Conference
800.877.7030

■ **September 24-25**

Greenville, SC – South Carolina Asso-
ciation of Christian Schools Convention
(Sherwin) 803.798.7558

■ **September 25-27**

Fox Lake, IL – Fox Lake Community
Church Fall '09 Creation Seminar
(J. Morris) 847.587.1331

■ **September 26-27**

Austin, TX – Grace Community
Church
(Guliuza) 512.258.3096

■ **September 27-30**

Decatur, MI – Volinia Baptist Church
(Sherwin) 269.646.8050

For more information on these events or
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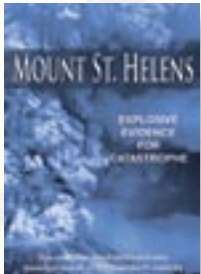
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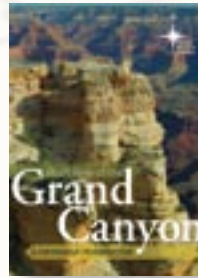
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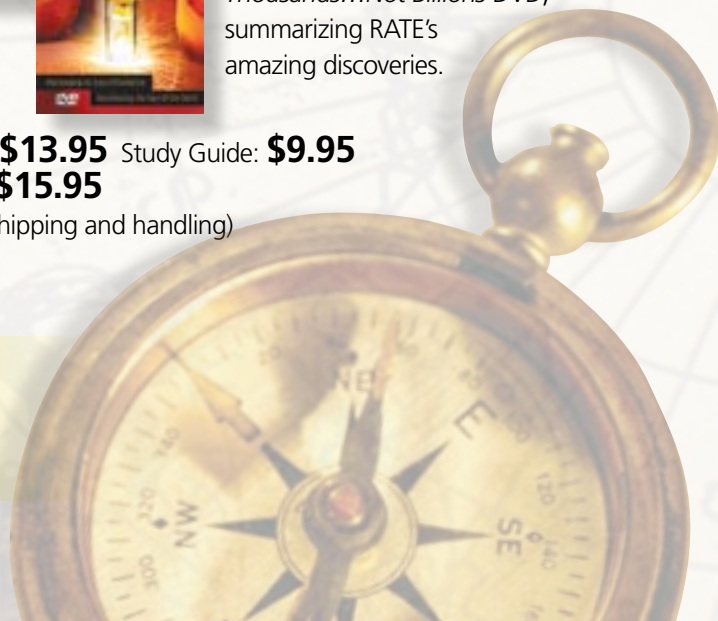
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New ICR Research Associate:

Nathaniel T. Jeanson, Ph.D.



C H R I S T I N E D A O

When Nathaniel Jeanson graduated from high school, he hadn't yet thought about becoming a doctor and researcher in one of the most cutting edge and controversial fields in medicine today: stem cells.

"I knew that I didn't like insects or blood, but I liked science," he said in a recent phone interview.

Jeanson attended the University of Wisconsin-Parkside and studied molecular biology, though he admitted that he didn't know exactly what it was when he started. But it involved chemistry and was related to disease research, both fields that interested him, and he graduated with his bachelor's degree in 2003.

He went straight to Harvard Medical School, which he said "sounded like it would be useful for credentials and evangelism." He developed an interest in cancer research while there and worked in the stem cell laboratory. "But strictly with adult stem cells," he emphasized. Under the supervision of a noted hematologist, Jeanson focused on stem cells derived from blood cells, which is ironic, he said, since he doesn't like blood. Jeanson received his Ph.D. earlier this year and continued his research at Harvard, specifically on the role of Vitamin D in regulating blood stem cells.

Stem cell research has been a hot button issue in medical science, politics, and the media. When the Massachusetts legislature tried to overturn laws regarding the ethical use of embryonic stem cells, Jeanson and some of his colleagues were invited to submit expert testimony. While many of his colleagues favored embryonic stem cell research, Jeanson testified for the "other side" due to his creationist views.

"I didn't appear in court, but I got to submit a written testimony," he said.

When asked how he became interested in creation science, Jeanson said he grew up in a Christian home and was homeschooled until he reached high school. Playing a big role in his science education were teaching materials from the Institute for Creation Research.

"I'm a second generation creationist, you might say," he said. He explained how he saw that "salvation was inherent in creation science" and that it could be used as a tool for evangelism, another passion of his.

With a promising and lucrative career in medical research open before him, Jeanson said he underwent a career shift at Harvard. "I asked myself, 'How can I use and abuse my training to influence eternity, rather than for temporary gain?'" He considered mission work or attending seminary. He decided, instead, to seek employment at ICR, rather than continuing his research in Boston.

Some may think the decision is career suicide, especially in light of secular science's growing intolerance to views outside of the evolution-only paradigm. But he asked, "What's more important? Money or eternal friends?"

When Jeanson traveled to ICR in Dallas for his interview, he met with ICR President Dr. John Morris, ICR National Representative Dr. Randy Guliuzza, and several others. "They asked me what I was interested in doing. Research? Speaking? Writing? And I said, 'Yeah,'" he laughed.

Dr. Jeanson officially joined ICR as a research associate in September. He hopes his training can contribute to and advance the mission of ICR, while encouraging fellow believers and gaining "eternal friends." ●

Ms. Dao is Assistant Editor.

Life-Giving Blood

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

After 100 years, automobiles still need engine oil, transmission fluid, brake fluid, antifreeze, power-steering fluid, and so on. Wouldn't it be great if just a *single* multipurpose fluid could be circulated from a central reservoir? Each part would use only the needed properties of the fluid, exclude detrimental properties, and then send it back. The new system's worldwide impact would ensure a huge market—and academic honors—for the clever developers.

This lucrative breakthrough, however, would not be pioneering. Just such a brilliant integration of fluid properties to the diverse needs of the physical body has already been achieved in human blood—in a self-starting process beginning about 15 days after fertilization.

Heart and Blood Vessel Formation

The first human cell divides rapidly, becoming a small cluster that implants inside the uterus. Initially it flattens out to a disc only a few cells thick that is able to get nutrients by diffusion from maternal blood circulation. However, by two weeks after fertilization the disc is becoming too thick for this, so the developing embryo urgently needs a nutrient transport system.

Right on cue, blood and blood vessel formation begin at the end of the second week in *both* the embryo and developing placenta. Heart tubes (the precursor to the heart) form and start pumping within seven days. The cardiovascular system is the first organ system to become functional—an important factor, since every cell depends on blood to survive.

Vital Characteristics of Blood

Blood is a *liquid tissue*. For normal human function, blood has to be a fluid. Why? Fluids can flow, carry either suspended or dissolved solids and gases, and respond to

even slight pressure changes by continuously changing shape. Blood and blood vessels, therefore, form an incredibly flexible conduit—the exact shape of a person's body at any moment—that connects the outside world to the deepest cells inside. Cellular metabolic demands are relentless. That is why nearly all of the estimated 60 trillion cells in the body—each one carrying out an average 10 million chemical reactions *per second*—are always close to blood vessels bringing oxygen and fuel.

Blood is made up of solid (formed) parts such as oxygen-carrying red blood cells (RBCs), disease-fighting white blood cells

Blood and blood vessels form an incredibly flexible conduit that connects the outside world to the deepest cells inside.

(WBCs), and platelets suspended in a liquid that is 92 percent water. This liquid, called *plasma*, has about 120 dissolved components that include oxygen, carbon dioxide, glucose, albumin, hormones, and antibodies. Sensors continuously monitor the *concentrations* of these items and make swift adjustments. Vital body functions like normal acid-base ratio, intracellular water content, blood's ability to flow through vessels, and managing body heat production depend as much on correct concentrations as the correct mix of components.

Fetal Blood Production

The embryo makes RBCs first, his most necessary blood component. These distinctive cells are made by the inner lining of blood vessels in a temporary structure outside the

embryo called the *yolk sac*, which in people is actually a “blood forming sac” that never contains yolk. This misguided name was given because it was believed to have “arisen” in a pre-human animal ancestor and because it initially contains a yellow substance.

The progenitor RBCs eventually migrate from the yolk sac to the liver and spleen, which become the lead cell-forming sites by the mid-second month of gestation. By the fifth month, bone marrow is sufficiently formed to take over for nonstop lifelong production. Interestingly, even in adulthood if the body is stressed by a shortage of RBCs, the spleen and liver can resume production as emergency backup sites.

In children, blood formation occurs in the long bones such as the upper leg and shin. In adults, it occurs mainly in the pelvis, cranium, vertebrae, and sternum. However, development, activation, and some proliferation of certain WBCs occur in the spleen, thymus gland, and lymph nodes. Normally, sensor-control mechanisms balance mature RBCs from their production to their loss—which is about 1,200,000 cells *per second*. How does the marrow produce these prodigious numbers of cells?

Blood Formation: A Precisely-Planned Process

Blood formation begins with a *self-renewing* population of *pluripotent* stem cells that are capable of developing into *any* type of blood cell lineage (RBC, WBC, or platelet). They reproduce by making exact copies of themselves called *clones* or *daughter cells*. Some daughter cells or originals remain as pluripotent stem cells, but the rest will be “committed” to specific lineage pathways. Which cells stay as stem cells and which get committed is a random process. In contrast, the survival and expansion of cells in each lineage is *precisely*



A brilliant integration of fluid properties to the diverse needs of the physical body has already been achieved in human blood.

controlled by dozens of interacting chemical signals called *colony stimulating factors* (CSFs)—some produced in *other* body tissues. CSFs control numerous activities, including turning certain genes on and off at just the right time so each unique feature of the cells is made.

The marrow provides a protected microenvironment where immature cells grow on a meshwork of fat cells, large WBCs called *macrophages*, and cells lining the marrow. The meshwork compartmentalizes the nurturing process and also secretes vital CSFs. Proper growth is stimulated by strict regulation, in stepwise fashion, over both *order and timing* of when 12 major CSFs are introduced to the blood cells. Controls are so exact that *concentrations* of CSFs from other tissues can be as low as 10^{-12} molar (like one grain of salt dissolved in about 27,000 gallons of water). Amazingly, at certain steps in the process some of the maturing (or mature) blood cells *themselves* emit CSFs to direct their own development or even control the meshwork.

For RBCs, a crucial stimulating hormone is *erythropoietin*, commonly called EPO. Without EPO, no RBCs would be made.

EPO is steadily circulated, keeping RBC production at the normal rate. But “normal” for a ten-year-old girl at sea level may not be “normal” for a sixty-year-old man living on a mountain. The genes with instructions for making EPO are controlled by stimulants known as *hypoxia-inducible factors* (whose function depends on several vital enzymes). These factors activate EPO DNA but *not* in response to the *number* of RBCs. Rather, *low oxygen concentrations* induce more EPO production, which normally results in rapidly rising RBC numbers. By regulating just exactly what is needed—the blood’s ability to carry adequate oxygen—the optimum number of RBCs running at maximum oxygen capacity is continuously and efficiently adjusted. Therefore, it would be fitting for EPO to be produced mainly in an organ that is very sensitive to changes in blood pressures and oxygen content, such as the renal cortex of the kidney—which it is.

Integrating Blood Properties with Organ Function

The familiar biconcave *shape* of human RBCs bestows the highest possible membrane surface area relative to intracellular volume and oxygen saturation rate. This makes it possible for over 250 million hemoglobin molecules *in each* of the billions of RBCs to be oxygen-loaded in a fraction of a second. Recall that nearly all body cells are in close proximity to blood vessels. By necessity, most of these vessels are tiny capillaries, of which 40 could be put side-by-side in the diameter of a human hair. RBCs are twice the diameter of a capillary but can actually squeeze through it. How? Structural properties in the RBC’s membrane allow the cell shape to be incredibly deformed and then spring back to normal. Five specialized structural proteins confer this important ability and a genetic defect in any causes diseases due to rupturing of less-flexible RBC membranes.

RBCs are themselves living tissues. It would be possible for RBCs to consume much of their oxygen payload with little left to supply other tissues. However, RBCs have enzymes to power their metabolic processes *without* the use of oxygen—so they consume none of their precious cargo.

Several kinds of cells, like the clear cornea and lens of the eye, need the oxygen and nutrients carried in blood but could not function properly if coated in *red* blood cells. This problem is overcome by a part of the eye that acts like a blood filter. Using ultrafine portals—so small as to screen out RBCs and other proteins—a crystal-clear water-based portion carries just enough dissolved oxygen and nutrients. After nourishing the cornea, the fluid is reabsorbed—through another set of tiny holes—back into the bloodstream. Cerebral spinal fluid and urine are some other ultrafiltrates of blood in which only some of blood’s properties are extracted to fill a need at a precise location.

Conclusion

From the earliest days in the mother’s womb until the day of death, a person’s life is in the blood. Even a person-to-person gift of blood is treasured and called “the gift of life.” Human blood is indeed a gift from the Lord Jesus Christ, clearly testifying to His great creative abilities and the body’s total unity of function. The Bible says that the Lord Jesus’ blood is particularly special—in fact, “precious” (1 Peter 1:19)—because it is able to redeem us and cleanse us from all sin (1 John 1:9). Let us give glory “unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood” (Revelation 1:5). ●

Dr. Guliuzza is ICR’s National Representative.



GENESIS

REAL, RELIABLE, HISTORICAL

Introduction to *Earth's Catastrophic Past*

A N D R E W S N E L L I N G , P H . D .

Why Take Genesis Seriously?

The first eleven chapters of the Bible have been relegated by many to the category of myths, not real history. These are said to *contain* spiritual truth, but they cannot be taken seriously as records of real people and events. Many sincere Christians who believe the Bible do not know what their pastors believe about the historicity of Genesis. Is it safe to assume that these believe in the following truths?

1. God created everything in six 24-hour days.
2. Adam and Eve were real people.
3. God cursed a perfect world as a judgment for sin.
4. Noah constructed an Ark by which two of every kind of air-breathing, land-dwelling

animal were saved along with Noah's family from a global flood.

5. The confusion of languages at the Tower of Babel produced the language groups that are found around the world today.

An alarming number of Christian leaders and teachers instead believe that God "created" through evolutionary processes over millions of years, that Adam and Eve descended from a hominid population, and that there has never been a global flood, suggesting that the account of Noah and the Ark is a story adapted from a Babylonian myth.

Mainstream Christian orthodoxy regarded the opening chapters of Genesis as just as real and reliable as the rest of the Bible until 150-200 years ago. So what has happened?

This downgrading of the early chapters of Genesis has coincided with the rise of uniformitarian philosophy as the cornerstone of modern geology and of evolution as the core of modern biology. Christians have been ignorant of the process that has gradually changed their whole approach to the Bible. Consequently, Christian churches throughout the world reject the early chapters of Genesis as history, resulting in all manner of compromise intended to force geological ages and organic evolution into the Scriptures. Many Christians have shelved this apparent conflict as being divisive, too difficult to resolve, or irrelevant to the Christian faith.

Genesis as Reliable History

Yet the conflict still rages. What makes it



THIS DOWNGRADING OF THE EARLY CHAPTERS OF GENESIS HAS COINCIDED WITH THE RISE OF UNIFORMITARIAN PHILOSOPHY AS THE CORNERSTONE OF MODERN GEOLOGY AND OF EVOLUTION AS THE CORE OF MODERN BIOLOGY.

scientists not only believe Genesis to be reliable history, but base their scientific research on the details and implications of that history? It stems foremost from their Christian convictions.

The Bible never claims to be a textbook on history or science, but if God is who He claims to be, then He has all knowledge and power, and never makes mistakes. Therefore, if the Bible is the Word of God, then it must be truthful, even when it touches upon matters of history and science. Otherwise, this Creator God is a liar. The very character of God requires the first eleven chapters of Genesis to be a trustworthy record.

The subsequent pages of Genesis recount the early history of the nation of Israel, beginning with Abraham. Few conservative Christian scholars would deny the historicity of these later chapters in Genesis. Yet many regard the creation account as a form of ancient Hebrew poetry, even though the genre throughout the first eleven chapters of Genesis is no different to that used in the remainder of the book. The conflict occurs not with the language but with the supposed scientific facts that insist on a multi-billion-year-old earth and organic evolution. A choice has to be made between Scripture, which is authored by God, and modern science, authored by men.

Liberal Christian scholars insist that Genesis was written perhaps as late as the post-Babylonian exile. But such claims overlook that in the pre-Flood world, people built cities, had tools of brass and iron, and made musical instruments. In Genesis 5, the record of Adam ends with the expression “this is the book of the generations of Adam.” There is no reason to suppose that Adam and his descendants were not able to write and keep records, remembering that on the sixth day of creation Adam named all the animals, thus demonstrating his intellectual capacity.

Moses, the traditionally recognized au-

thor of Genesis, simply had to compile the book of Genesis from the records kept by Adam and his descendants. Thus Genesis reads as eyewitness accounts.

If the Creator God of the Bible is who He says He is, then not only is He capable of accurately telling us about the early universe, the earth, and man, but He is capable of having the details truthfully recorded and transmitted through successive generations.

Jesus Regarded Genesis as Real History

If Jesus was (and is) both the Creator God and a perfect man, then His pronouncements are always and absolutely trustworthy. And Jesus referred directly to details in each of the first seven chapters of Genesis fifteen times. For example, Jesus referred to Genesis 1:26-27 when He said in Mark 10:6, “But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female.” Man was created male and female “from the beginning of the creation,” not after millions of years. In the very next verse, Jesus quotes directly from Genesis 2:24 when He said, “For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife; and they twain shall be one flesh.” Five times Jesus refers to Noah and/or the destructive global Flood as real history. If He, as the Creator, was actually a witness to the events of Genesis 1-11, then we have no alternative but to regard these opening chapters of the Bible as reliable history.

The Apostle Peter’s Prophecy

Peter spent three years traveling in the company of Jesus Christ Himself. Then Peter was a witness to Jesus’ death and the bodily resurrection. Peter and the other disciples also received extraordinary ability and authority with the gift of God’s Holy Spirit. Thus the books of the New Testament that bear his name not only come from his pen, but have

more intense is that in the ranks of those Christians who have not compromised the historicity of Genesis are many scientists with doctoral degrees from the modern education system.

The Creation Science Movement in Great Britain and the Creation Research Society, which now boasts a membership of over 600 individuals with graduate degrees in science, have sought to remain faithful to accepting Genesis as reliable history. The Institute for Creation Research employed scientists with Ph.D.s to work full-time in creationist research, writing, and teaching. Other creationist groups were subsequently formed so that today there are creationist organizations in all corners of the globe.

So why would thousands of highly-trained



the authority of God.

In 2 Peter 3:5-6, the apostle Peter prophesied that there would be scoffers who would come in the last days choosing to be ignorant of the fact that God created the heaven and the earth, and that God later destroyed everything on the surface of the earth by a global watery cataclysm.

Peter stated in 2 Peter 3:3, “knowing this first.” This denotes Peter placed first priority on this prophecy, which is about those who would reject the account of creation and the global Flood in Genesis 1-11 as real history.

What is quite remarkable is the explanation Peter gives as to why these scoff and reject the physical evidence that He created the heavens and the earth and sent a global mountain-covering flood. 2 Peter 3:4 tells that these scoffers’ philosophy will be that “all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.” This is an apt description of the philosophy of uniformitarianism, popularized by Charles Lyell in the 1830s, that “the present is the key to the past.” Thus we can extrapolate geological processes shaping the earth today back in time to explain how earth’s rock features were formed.

It was on the basis of this philosophy that billions of years of slow and gradual geological processes became the foundation for modern geology. This provided the timescale necessary for the theory of organic evolution to explain the development of all life on the earth, instead of accepting that God had created it all.

Peter wrote an accurate description of these scoffers more than 1,700 years ago. Peter believed that the opening chapters of Genesis were real history and he predicted what we see today—the rejection of special creation by God and the rejection of the global Flood.

The Reliability of the Whole Bible Depends on Genesis as History

It is impossible to reject the historicity of the book of Genesis without repudiating the authority of the entire Bible. If Genesis is not true, then neither are the testimonies of those

prophets and apostles who believed it was true. In the Old Testament, for example, Adam is mentioned in Deuteronomy, Job, and 1 Chronicles, while Noah is mentioned in 1 Chronicles, Isaiah, and Ezekiel. There are at least 100 quotations or direct refer-

ences to Genesis 1-11 in the New Testament. Furthermore, every one of those eleven chapters is alluded to in the New Testament, and every one of the New Testament authors refers somewhere in his writings to Genesis 1-11.

In not one of these Old or New Testament references to Genesis is there the slightest evidence that the writers regarded the events as myths or allegories. The word *genesis* means “beginnings” or “origin,” so Genesis 1-11 records for us God’s provision of the only reliable account of the origin of the universe, the solar system, the earth, the atmosphere, and the oceans, of order and complexity, life, man, marriage, evil, language, government, culture, nations, and religion, not to mention rocks and fossils. Thus Genesis 1-11 is of such foundational importance to all history that without it there is no true understanding of ourselves or our world.

What we believe about our origin will inevitably determine our beliefs concerning our purpose and our destiny. Naturalistic concepts provide no hope of there being anything more than what we see around us. On the other hand, an origin at the hands of an all powerful, loving God guarantees a meaning to our existence, and a future. By not taking Genesis seriously, many Christians have in fact undermined the rest of the Bible they claim to believe and follow. They are also in danger of unwittingly accusing Jesus Christ of being a false witness, deceived, or a deceiver.

The Pivotal Importance of the Flood

The creation account in Genesis 1 is undoubtedly profound. However, the global Flood in Noah’s day is of pivotal importance in understanding the present geology of the earth.

Furthermore, more than any other branch of science, geology has been most affected by uniformitarianism. This philosophy and evolution have brought about rejection of Genesis 1-11, even by Christians. It is no wonder that the

THE VERY CHARACTER OF GOD REQUIRES THE FIRST ELEVEN CHAPTERS OF GENESIS TO BE A TRUSTWORTHY RECORD.

apostle Peter was led to single out those who reject the Genesis accounts. But God has also left in the rocks, fossils, and living world evidence that unmistakably testifies to the trustworthiness of the Genesis record.

Therefore, *Earth’s Catastrophic Past* will focus on the global Flood as described in Genesis, and the scientific evidence that has convinced many that Genesis must be taken as history. The evidence we can observe today should be consistent with what we read in Genesis, because if it is God’s Word, even details of science and history must be correct.

This book first re-examines the biblical record. Then it deals with the non-geological arguments that are often used to discount Genesis. The next task is to build the framework for a scriptural geology. The Flood description implies catastrophism and utter devastation, and therefore we would expect the field data to be in harmony. The radioactive dating methods, geological processes, coal beds, oil, mineral deposits, and more can be seen only as perceived problems, not real ones.

By the end of this study, readers will have their faith restored in Genesis as real, literal history, and be convinced that the scientific evidence, correctly discerned and applied, is indeed consistent with God’s record of our origins and history found in Genesis 1-11. ●

Abridgement of the Introduction to Andrew Snellings’ new book *Earth’s Catastrophic Past*, published by the Institute for Creation Research in Dallas, Texas.

Dr. Snelling is Director of Research at Answers in Genesis and Editor-in-Chief of Answers Research Journal.



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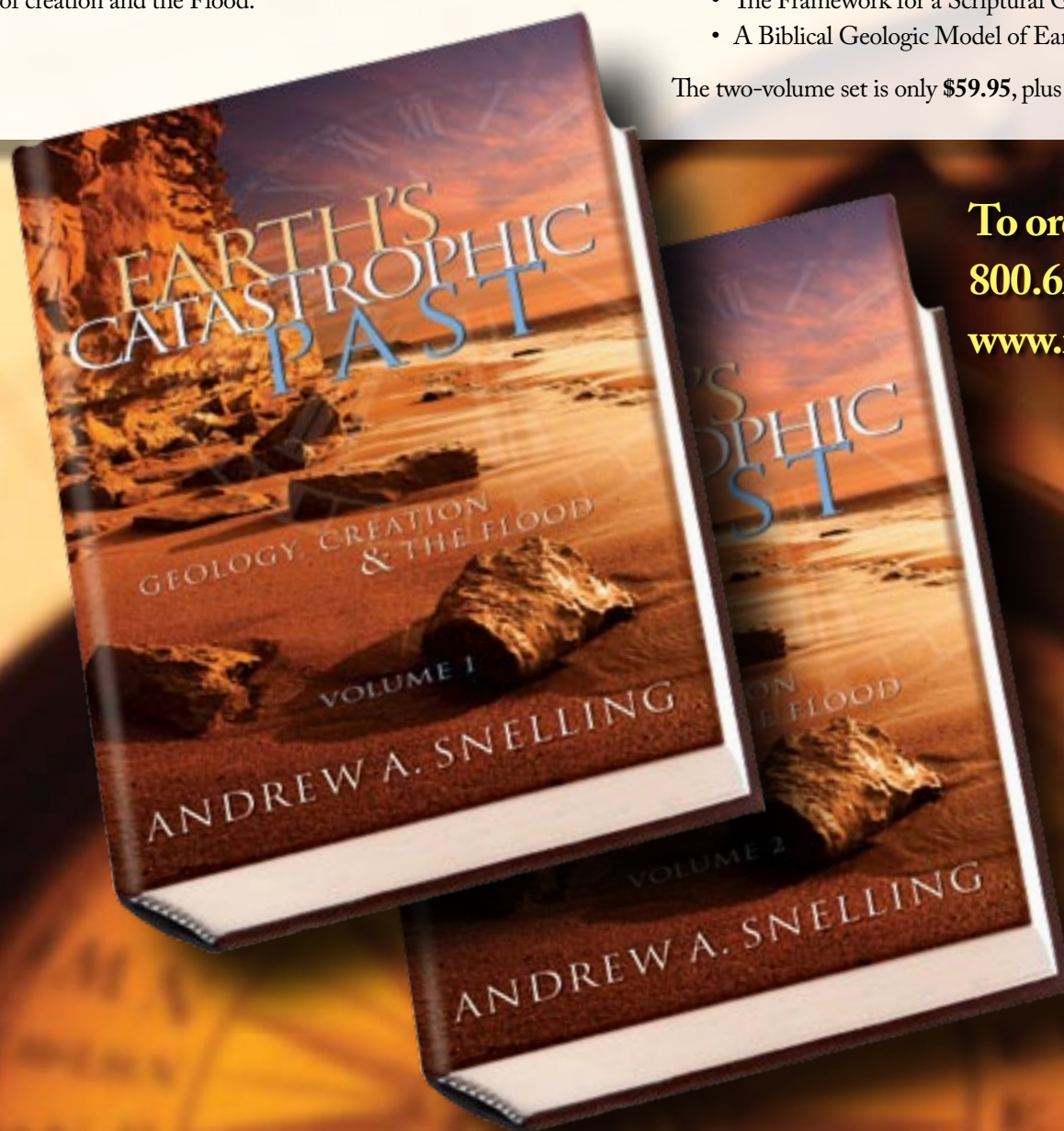
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FLYING REPTILES

A Lesson in Specialized Function

JOHN D. MORRIS, P.H.D.

The great flying dragons of the sky, the pterosaurs, fascinate kids of all ages. With unique body adaptations such as an elongated fourth finger connected to wing membranes, this airborne hunter/scavenger was totally different from birds and other reptiles. An agile flyer with a “specialized brain and inner ear structure,”¹ its fossil remains suddenly appear in the sediments, fully formed and with no evident ancestors.

In fact, there are two different suborders of flying reptiles: the long-tailed rhamphorhynchus type, and the short-tailed pterodactyls. Not only is there no clue as to which other reptile type gave rise to them, but the supposed relationship between them is obscure. As paleontologist Robert Carroll says, “No forms are known that are intermediate between rhamphorhynchoids and pterodactyloids.”² They appear fully functional and specialized for life in the air.

A standard paleontology textbook states, “The first pterosaurs from the late Triassic, such as *Eudimorphodon* from northern Italy, show all the unique characters of the group: the short body, the reduced and fused hip bones, the five long toes. . . , the long neck, the large head with pointed jaws and the arm. The hand has three short grasping fingers with deep claws and an elongated fourth finger that supports the wing membrane.”³ From where did they acquire “all the unique characters of the group,” so specialized and finely tuned?

Evolutionists maintain that the typical vertebrate forelimb exhibits homology (a similarity in biological form and function) with all other vertebrate forelimbs, and this is used as one of the classic “proofs” of evolution. This sounds reasonable, but it breaks down when the details of an unusual specimen, such as a pterosaur, are considered.

The pterosaur forelimb bears only scant resemblance to the normal vertebrate forelimb, if there is such a standard. The bones bear a rough correspondence to those of other creatures, but look at the differences! The finger placement and function are exceedingly different. The very

long fourth finger to which the wing membrane is attached appears to be exquisitely designed to be the support for the wing tissue and nothing else. A transitional creature with an unusable long finger would have been a helpless mutant. Indeed, any transitional structure, not yet made useful by random mutation benefiting all related structures, would be detrimental, perhaps deadly.

What is meant by the claim that the pterosaur evolved from some other reptile? Do evolutionists propose that walking reptiles gradually acquired this marvelous form? Or do they claim it happened all at once, through a mega-mutation that affected numerous traits? Which came first—the excessively long finger, or the membrane connecting it to the body? When did the powerful flight muscles capable of utilizing this long finger arrive? Was it a separate event? The seeming irreducible complexity of the entire system argues for purposeful design.

On what evidence do scientists base their conclusion that pterosaurs evolved? How do we know it’s true? As quoted above, the lowest (thought to be the earliest) time such a fossil appears in the record, it already has all its characteristic features. Sudden appearance in the fossil record is predicted by the creation model, and this is what we see.

Evolution further theorizes that certain reptilian dinosaurs evolved into flying birds, while other reptiles separately evolved into flying reptiles. The two types are not thought to be related, except through a hypothesized long-ago but unknown common ancestor. Yet each flying creature has so many precise features that enable it to thrive. Credibility is strained to think it could happen once, let alone twice—or more. ●

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Rabbits are cosmopolitan, herbivorous mammals in the scientific order Lagomorpha, which includes cottontails, pikas (“conies”), and hares. Rabbits burrow and give birth to blind, naked young, whereas hares are born above ground, fully furred with eyes open. Pikas’ hind limbs are only slightly longer than their forelimbs. Tooth structure is one big difference between rodents (gnawing mammals) and the lagomorphs. Both have long incisors that constantly grow. But unlike rodents, lagomorphs have additional peg-like incisors behind the first pair.

Most fossil mammals are fragmentary, sometimes containing just teeth. The enamel microstructure of various mammal teeth differs widely, but each corresponds to a certain animal kind. The various specifications that are uniquely combined to form tooth structures clearly indicate that they were specially made for their resident animals. These present tough barriers for Darwinian evolution to cross.

For example, evolutionary scientists look to a late Eocene fossil dubbed *Mimolagus* as a possible transition to lagomorphs, even though it is known only by a few teeth. But *Mimolagus* is not mentioned in a number of prominent evolutionary texts. There seems to be no evidential connection between *Mimolagus* and its supposed ancestor, *Mimotoma* of the Paleocene (known only by remains of some facial bones and teeth).

True lagomorph teeth have been found from the mid/late Eocene and assigned to a genus called *Lushilagus*, which could not have evolved from *Mimolagus* due to the evolutionary dating discrepancies. Evolution texts would be trumpeting these fossils as transitional if they obviously were, but instead the books are silent.

Fossils of these specialized teeth do not

occur in a progressively graded chain from one tooth plan toward another, from lower to higher sedimentary strata. Undeterred by the total lack of evidence for gradual tooth evolu-



Bunnies Bug Darwin

FRANK SHERWIN, M.A.

tion, however, paleontologists have persisted for over a century in trying to trace which teeth structures evolved into which. If Darwinism is true, the fossil teeth of mammals should show transitions, or some gradual morphing from one tooth structure to another. Instead, the teeth appear in disparate groups.

What was the origin of lagomorphs? Were these furry creatures created or did they evolve from non-rabbit ancestors millions of years ago? Vertebrate expert and evolutionist Edwin Colbert stated, “Originating in Paleocene times, lagomorphs first became abundant in the Oligocene epoch, and they have continued this abundance into modern times.”¹

True rabbit fossils appear in the rock record alongside most other mammals, in what has been called the “placental explosion.” Typi-

cally interpreted as having begun roughly 60 million years ago, these strata hold fossils of the first anteaters, pangolins, rodents, bats, hedgehogs, dogs, camels, whales, horses, hyraxes, elephants, dugongs, and many others, as well as a few mammalian forms that are now extinct.² A March 2008 report described a “53 million-year-old” rabbit foot bone that indicated true rabbits existed millions of years before evolutionists had previously thought.³ The foot bone was fully rabbit, and previous transitions are conspicuously lacking.

A diagram in *Colbert’s Evolution of the Vertebrates* clearly shows rodents as rodents and lagomorphs as lagomorphs.⁴ This is also consistent with Figure 10.47

in Michael Benton’s paleontology text showing the sudden and separate origin of ro-

dents and lagomorphs.⁵

In the *Oxford Dictionary of Zoology*, editor Michael Allaby states, “The lagomorphs are believed to have diverged from a primitive eutherian stock at the same time as, or soon after, the rodents.”⁶ Colbert says, “Now, paleontologists are returning to the view of rabbits and rodents as closely related.”⁷ But to “believe” or waffle between “views” exposes the fact that there is no evidence for rabbit (or rodent) evolution. ●

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Dinosaur Soft Tissue Issue Is Here to Stay

B R I A N T H O M A S , M . S .

In recent decades, soft, squishy tissues have been discovered inside fossilized dinosaur bones. They seem so fresh that it appears as though the bodies were buried only a few thousand years ago.

Since many think of a fossil as having had the original bone material replaced by minerals, the presence of actual bone let alone pliable blood vessels, red blood cells, and proteins inside the bone is quite extraordinary. These finds also present a dilemma. Given the fact that organic materials like blood vessels and blood cells rot, and the rates at which certain proteins decay, how could these soft tissues have been preserved for ten thousand, let alone 65 million or more, years?

These soft tissues have met with hard resistance from mainstream science, and some scientists have even discounted or ignored them. But fresh studies keep finding fresh tissue, making the issue difficult to dismiss. Either the vast evolutionary ages assigned to these finds are dramatically erroneous, or “we really don’t understand decay” rates of the soft tissues and proteins.¹

Paleontologists who have analyzed the tissues, visible through their microscopes and squeezable with their tweezers, insist that something is fundamentally wrong with laboratory data on biochemical decay rates.² In turn, biochemists are confident that their repeatable experiments show that the soft tissues should not be there after all this time. To try to get around the hard facts of soft tissues, some scientists have

even proposed that the blood vessels and red blood cells in question were bacterial slime. This was thoroughly refuted, however, by research showing that the dinosaur tissue contains a collagen protein that bacteria do not produce.³

This dilemma between the science of biochemistry and the belief in millions of years is not going away. In addition to the well-characterized tissues from a *T. rex* reported by paleontologist Mary Schweitzer in 1997,⁴ 2005,⁵ and 2007,⁶ new soft tissue finds keep surfacing. Schweitzer published a report on another sample in *Science* in 2009,³ this time from a hadrosaur, in which the precise characteristics of dinosaur biochemicals were verified by a third party. This was necessary to confirm the reality of the soft tissues to an incredulous scientific community. (Similarly, Schweitzer’s 2007 results have also been verified.⁷)

Yet another hadrosaur has been described by UK scientists as “absolutely gobsmacking.”⁸ Its tissues were “extremely well preserved” and contained “soft-tissue replacement structures and associated organic compounds.”⁹

Schweitzer’s team recently concluded that “the most parsimonious explanation, thus far unfalsified, is that original molecules persist in some Cretaceous dinosaur fossils.”³ But biochemical decay rates showing that soft tissues would be dust after all this time are also thus far unfalsified (i.e., have not been disproved). Therefore, the millions-of-years age assignments must go.

However, if the deep time goes, then so does the grand story of evolution that depends on it. For many, that is too sacred an assumption to dare alter. Biblical data, however, not only provide the timeframe for the death of these dinosaurs in Flood deposits a few thousand years ago, but also a mode of deposition in agreement with observable data that their demise occurred when they “fell into a watery grave.”⁹⁸

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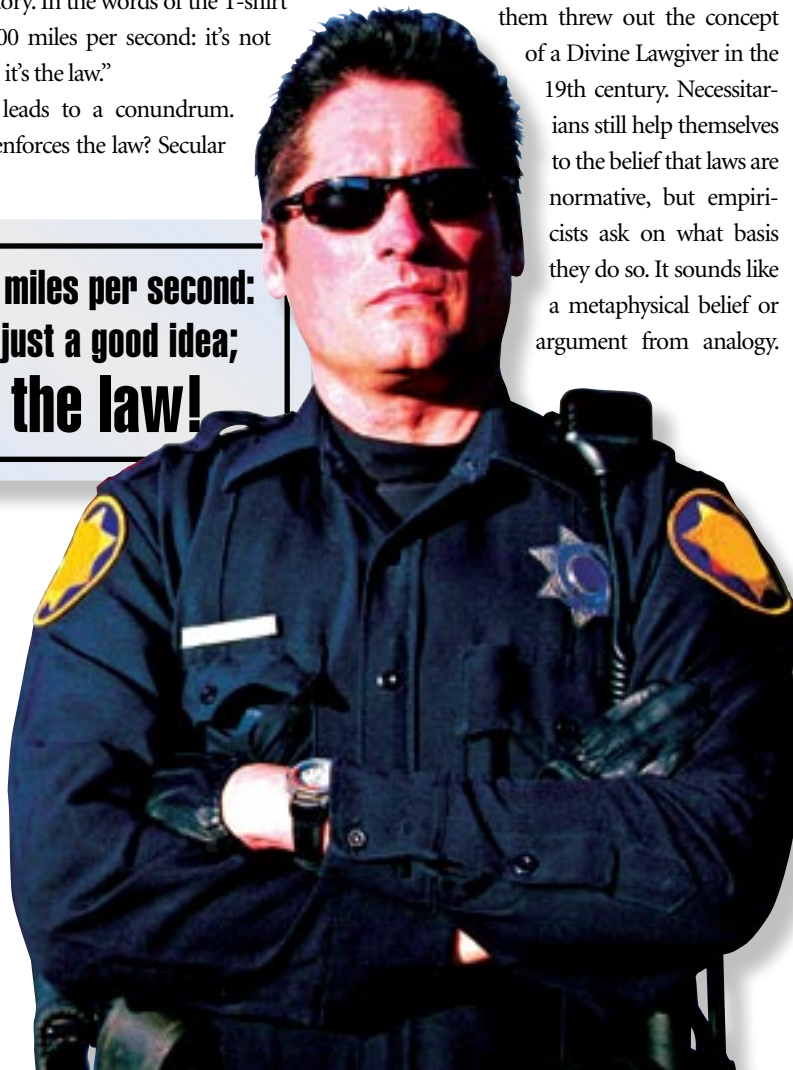


What is meant by laws of nature? Presumably it is the business of science to uncover them. Yet few people, and few scientists, ever unpack the term. Many would be surprised to know that there are deep controversies among philosophers about the meaning of “laws of nature.” Creationists have the high ground in this arena.

Empiricists (those who think science should restrict itself to observable phenomena) describe laws of nature as nothing more than patterns in experience. The weakness in this view is that it provides no answer to “why” the patterns always hold. It also provides no confidence that the patterns will continue into the future. Necessitarians, by contrast, want laws of nature to be normative, not just descriptive: not just that all cannonballs *do* follow a parabolic trajectory, but that a cannonball *must* follow a parabolic trajectory. In the words of the T-shirt cartoon, “186,000 miles per second: it’s not just a good idea; it’s the law.”

But that leads to a conundrum. Who, or what, enforces the law? Secular

**186,000 miles per second:
it’s not just a good idea;
it’s the law!**



Laws of Nature and Nature's Lawgiver

DAVID F. COPPEDGE

scientists are averse to postulating some agent that “makes” the cannonball follow a parabola.

And who gave the law? Most of them threw out the concept of a Divine Lawgiver in the 19th century. Necessitarians still help themselves to the belief that laws are normative, but empiricists ask on what basis they do so. It sounds like a metaphysical belief or argument from analogy.

We don’t see laws making something happen; we only see what happens. Why should nature be law-like at all?

Some philosophers escape into word games at this point. They portray laws of nature as useful generalizations, whose strength is measured by their explanatory power or predictive potential within our best theories. Scientific realists, however, are reluctant to give up on the epistemic credentials of laws of nature. They want to hold on to the belief that laws of nature are really “out there” in the world, and that science “discovers” them.

The only warrant for laws of nature that are truly “out there” and not just “in our heads” is belief in a personal, rational, consistent, freely-acting, transcendent, powerful God as described in the Bible. We can defend this on two grounds. One, because the laws of nature are contingent—they could be other than what they are. Gravity could decline as the cube of the distance, or by any other rational number. For life to be possible, the laws had to be selected with precision out of an infinite range of possibilities and coordinated with each other.¹

Second, our own rationality presupposes a rational source. Why would particles become scientists? Why would matter seek understanding? The human propensity to find laws of nature bespeaks a Lawgiver who created that propensity in us.

The Divine Lawgiver, therefore, is not a metaphor, nor a placeholder for ignorance; He is a logical necessity for science. The Lawgiver described in Scripture has the explanatory resources to resolve the conundrums of philosophy and bring sense to the discussion. “Fear God, and keep his commandments” (Ecclesiastes 12:13)—it’s not just a good idea; it’s the law. ●

Reference

1. We have seen some materialists imagine a multiverse to escape this obvious conclusion. See my article “There’s Only One Universe,” published in the December 2006 issue of *Acts & Facts*.

David Coppedge works in the Cassini Program at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory. The views expressed are his own.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Over 40 years ago I was at a low point in my spiritual life after attending San Diego State College and taking the usual basic Anthropology and Geology classes. I just could not reconcile what was taught as fact and what the Bible said. Then I read *The Genesis Flood* for the first time and realized that the Scriptures COULD fit into logical science findings. And, of course, the more we find out, the more we see the truth of God's Word.

— P.C.

I have received *Acts & Facts* for years. Although I have always believed in creation, my husband believed in evolution until he started reading your publication. God is using you to change lives. Thank you for being faithful to your calling.

— M.G.

Some four months ago, I came across your ad on Facebook and have reconnected. There is a positive and a blessing for Facebook right there. I have really appreciated reading your *Days of Praise*. I have said to my friends, only a scientist could write so beautifully and concisely to teach us the Word of God in such rich ways.

— L.B.

I am currently a junior in an abnormally large public high school: 4,000 students! There are days when it seems like I am the only one who can say that she is a believer in Christ; it is difficult to remember that there are "7,000 others whose knees have not bowed down to Baal" (1 Kings 19:18)... But for the past couple of years, my parents have been subscribing to *Acts & Facts* and it is like a breath of fresh air to me!... Thank you for the effort that has been made to make the Body of Christ aware of the evidence of God in all of His Creator glory.

— R.K.

I look forward to my *Days of Praise* [email] every morning! This is such a great way to start the day. I am reading *Exploring the Evidence for Creation*. I am so thankful for a book on this subject that I am able to easily understand.

— B.C.

Editor's Note: You can sign up for our free email devotionals at www.icr.org. Visit www.icr.org/evidence to explore the Evidence for Creation online.

Have a comment? Email us at editor@icr.org. Or write to Editor, P. O. Box 59029, Dallas, Texas 75229.



This month on "Science, Scripture, & Salvation"

WEEKEND OF SEPTEMBER 5

Darwin's Fatal Bee Sting

All creatures, no matter how great or small, testify of God's creation. The honey bee is a little creature with big design features that can only be attributed to our wise Creator. Bee sure to catch the buzz this week on *Science, Scripture, & Salvation!*

WEEKEND OF SEPTEMBER 12

Amazing Animal Actions

Although most untamed animals aren't accustomed to playing rescue hero for human beings, wild animals have done some remarkable things to save human life. But how are these beasts capable of such deeds? Walk on the wild side with us as we discuss dramatic rescue efforts and the super senses of wild beasts and untrained domestic animals.

WEEKEND OF SEPTEMBER 19

Anthropomorphism

Ascribing human emotions and characteristics to non-human objects or creatures such as animals is a common thing which most of us, whether we realize it or not, have been guilty of doing. Join us as we talk about the evolutionary idea of animal anthropomorphism and the dangers associated with it. We'll also discover why it is so easy to fall into the trap of believing that animals think and feel the way we do.

WEEKEND OF SEPTEMBER 26

Global Warming: Whose Fault Is It, Anyway?

Of the most talked-about environmental issues, global warming is number one. While it is politically correct for man to be held responsible for the warmer climate, is it a true picture of what is really happening in the world? Listen in as three atmospheric scientists discuss *other* possible causes of global warming.

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H E N R Y M . M O R R I S I V

The American celebration of Labor Day was established to recognize the important part played by workers in the development of the nation during the Industrial Revolution. Many countries today now hold similar celebrations in honor of work and those who contribute. Yet it is significant that the modern recognition of the dignity and importance of labor largely originated in Christian nations, most especially in England and America.

England was the first to pass labor laws in the early 1800s, followed by the first labor unions in the 1820s. The movement spread across the Atlantic to the shores of America, where a multitude of labor groups sprang up to champion the rights of industrial workers. And Labor Day itself seems to have started with an annual parade in New York City in the 1880s, organized by one such early labor union, and was formally established as a national American

holiday in 1894. Like most holidays, however, its original purpose now seems to have been largely forgotten. The former six-day, dawn-to-dusk workweek has given way to the 40-hour workweek and “TGIF” syndrome. (A careful study of Scripture clearly indicates that this attitude should not characterize Christians.)

And yet, one of the great inequities of human life seems to be the lack of a consistent relationship between the diligence of hard work and the reward received for that labor. Some men may work hard all their lives, yet live in extreme poverty. And those who inherit great wealth may see it grow abundantly simply on the interest received from investments. The problem is that perfect “profit-for-labor” equity can never be achieved while humanity’s entire dominion is under God’s curse of bondage to sin and death (Genesis 2:17). King Solomon, who “exceeded all the kings of the earth for riches and for wisdom” (1 Kings 10:23),

summed up this great inequality best when he declared:

Then I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought, and on the labour that I had laboured to do: and, behold, all was vanity and vexation of spirit, and there was no profit under the sun (Ecclesiastes 2:11).

As long as our goals and motives in working are “under the sun,” there will be “vanity [emptiness] and vexation of spirit” no matter what our current social or economic status may be. However, our true account will not be settled here on earth in the fallible ledgers of man, but rather in God’s books. To this end, Paul encouraged the bondslaves of his day that “whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ” (Colossians 3:23-24).

So when all accounts are finally settled at His great judgment seat (2 Corinthians 5:10), the “profit” we receive will not be based on quantity of services rendered, but instead on their quality. For “every man’s work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it... and the fire shall try every man’s work of what sort it is” (1 Corinthians 3:13). Thus, it is not “how much,” but “what sort” that truly matters to God!

While there is little profit under the sun, if we are “abounding in the work of the Lord... ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord” (1 Corinthians 15:58). ICR invites you to join with us in truly profitable labor through service to our Lord. ●

Mr. Morris is Director of Donor Relations.



Issues among Evangelicals

HENRY M. MORRIS III, D.M.I.N.

The Reformation gave Christendom *Sola Scriptura*, the principle that God's revealed and written Word cannot (and must not) be changed. It was the battle cry of the revival that wrenched the struggling church out of the interpretative and traditional errors of the "Holy Roman Empire." Biblical scholarship confronted the Christian world with the clear mandates of God's Word.

However, we are now immersed in a secular culture, bombarded with an ever-increasing vitriol and hatred toward Christ and His followers. In best-selling books such as *The God Delusion*, *God Is Not Great*, *Break-*

not teachers; sharing, not learning, becomes the goal, and a focus on helping, not loving, becomes more important than holiness or comprehending the eternal Word of God. Pastors consumed with numerical growth rather than spiritual maturity seek to "attract" rather than "win" the lost. Repentance is seldom preached, and Christian fun is the dominant theme among youth ministries—almost to the exclusion of a passion for holiness.

The scenario is not good, and is growing more bleak in this post-modern world. Can anything be done? What, indeed, must be done if the trends and tides of worldliness are to be resisted?

THOU, EVEN THOU, ART LORD ALONE; THOU HAST MADE HEAVEN, THE HEAVEN OF HEAVENS, WITH ALL THEIR HOST, THE EARTH, AND ALL THINGS THAT ARE THEREIN, THE SEAS, AND ALL THAT IS THEREIN, AND THOU PRESERVEST THEM ALL; AND THE HOST OF HEAVEN WORSHIPPEH THEE.

NEHEMIAH 9:6

ing the Spell, and *The End of Faith*, well-known atheists are advocating an all-out culture war to remove any vestige of Christianity from the public arena. Among politicians and pundits, media and entertainment moguls, and academicians pontificating from their tenured naturalism, Christians are blatantly branded as the enemy, a scourge to be banned.

The emerging church movement has "Christianized" the damnable error that absolute truth does not exist, and is leading hoards of "seekers" into the mouth of hell. Evangelicals are slipping into hybrid theologies and doctrines that seek "the praise of men more than the praise of God" (John 12:43).

Once-solid seminaries and colleges are now espousing such heresies as "openness theology" and "revisionist thinking," and formerly strong commitments to inspiration and inerrancy are being undermined by complex scholarly theories that treat the words of God as mere literature to be evaluated in a "framework hypothesis," subjugating the omnipotent and omniscient LOGOS to the theories and minds of mortal men.

In poll after poll, from the Pew Foundation studies and the George Barna reviews to the more recent Ham and Beemer analysis of Christian young people, the data are the same: a majority says it "believes" the Bible, but lives as though the Bible has little authority.

All too many churches embrace a format of developing facilitators,

What says the Scripture?

- "Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you." (Matthew 28:20)
- "For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God." (Acts 20:27)
- "These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so." (Acts 17:11)
- "And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself." (Luke 24:27)

Maybe this sounds simplistic, but the power of God resides in the Gospel (Romans 1:16), and in the ministry of the Holy Spirit—who brings conviction to the unsaved, and direction and counsel to the believers—*through the words of the Word* (John 16:7-15). It is the God-breathed written words that are "profitable" for us to use (2 Timothy 3:16-17). *Sola Scriptura* must again be our battle cry. ●

Dr. Morris is Chief Executive Officer of the Institute for Creation Research.



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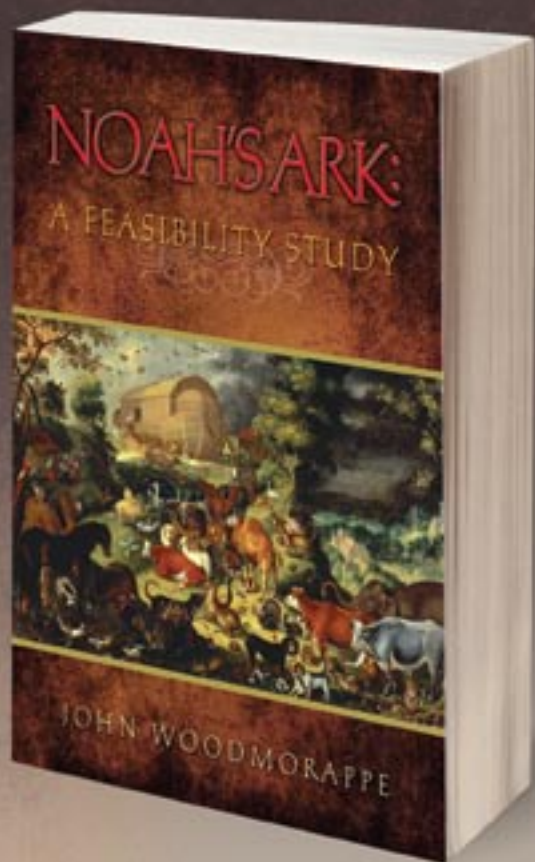


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