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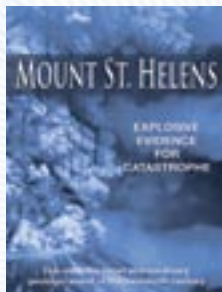
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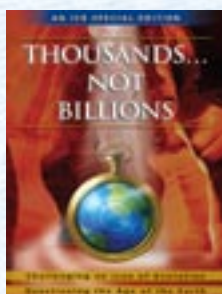
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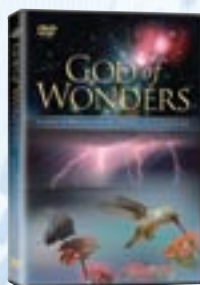
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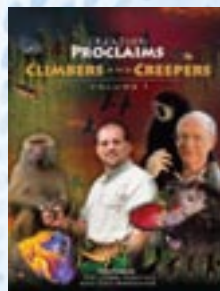
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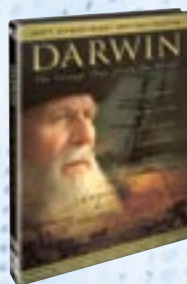
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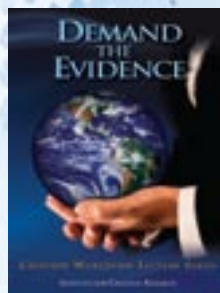
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Four Decades of Grace and Goodness

Last year while leading the ICR Yosemite Creation Tour, I was overwhelmed with the beauty of this pristine national park. Even more amazing was the reality of *how* Yosemite Valley was formed, as Dr. Larry Vardiman taught our group about massive glaciers in the Sierra Nevada mountain range during the Ice Age. Read his Impact article on page 12. It reminds me that God does indeed cause all things to work together for good (Romans 8:28)—He transforms catastrophe into a cause for praise!

Praise is on our lips at ICR as we reflect on the 40 years of grace and goodness the Lord has bestowed on this ministry since its founding in 1970. We want you to rejoice with us—and partner with us as we move forward in communicating the message of the Creator to the world. ICR is thrilled to announce that Dr. Albert Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, will be our special keynote speaker at the 40th anniversary celebration here in Dallas on October 7. Dr. Mohler is a leader in the evangelical world, one who is unafraid to stand for the authority and accuracy of Scripture. Read about him on page 7. We will be making further announcements regarding the banquet in upcoming issues, on our website, and through email.

By the way, do we have your current email address? This is an important tool for ICR to use to let you know about new resources or speakers who will be coming to your area. And it's good stewardship, as it saves on printing and postage costs. Send your updated email address to info@icr.org and let us know you want to be

added to this announcement list.

I am so pleased to welcome Lt. Col. Charles “Chas” Morse (ret.) as ICR’s Director of Events. Last April, in anticipation of his retirement from the U.S. Air Force, Chas stopped by our campus to see how he might invest his future with ICR. I couldn’t have been more thrilled, especially with our plans to expand our Events offerings around the world. But Chas is no stranger to ICR—he was a student under our founder at Christian Heritage College, his father was involved in the early days of ICR’s research and speaking, and for the past four years Chas has been an ICR board member. His enthusiasm and experience are just what we’ve been looking for to take ICR Events to the next level. Read our interview with Chas on page 6.

Speaking of Events, you will have noticed in the February issue a description of each of our speakers. We now have an updated brochure that you can receive or give to your pastor, and this information is now available online at www.icr.org/events. Just let us know how we can help get the message of creation to your area.

Dr. Henry Morris III has a new message out in a book titled *Pulling Down Strongholds*. Look for information on how to get your copy on page 23. It’s a great challenge for Christians everywhere as we face greater and greater spiritual opposition in our world.

Enjoy your issue of *Acts & Facts* this month, and then pass it along to someone you meet who might need a boost to their faith!

Lawrence E. Ford
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

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EXPLORING THE EVIDENCE FOR

Creation

HENRY M. MORRIS III, D.MIN.

God is the greatest communicator, always revealing exactly what He wants us to know about Himself, about one another, and about the world around us. Romans 1:20 gives assurance that every person in the world can know that God exists:

For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse.

God has indeed revealed Himself through what He created. It just takes a willingness to look around and appreciate His majesty, and then to glorify Him because of it. Of course, His final authoritative revelation—the Bible—leaves no room for doubt, but we ought to consider how awesome God is when we observe the wonder of what He made.

ICR has developed a wonderful resource for readers on our website—The Evidence for Creation—and we present below just one portion of that resource, called God's Attributes Are Revealed.

Nature Reveals God's Power

A small reflection of the power of our Creator is seen in the thousands of stars shining in the night sky. Galaxies are millions of stars packed close together. And billions of galaxies fill the universe. The amount of power displayed in the heavens is overwhelming, if we take the time to look up at night and think about it. This reveals God's power at the cosmic level.

Everyone can appreciate sun-power. The sun lights our days so we can see nature all around us. (Even a blind person can feel the warmth of the sun.) Our sun and other stars are bright because they radiate energy,

both visible and invisible. Some of this energy radiating from the sun is needed, directly and indirectly, to power all life forms on earth. Some of the other energy, also very powerful, is harmful to life.

The energy that is useful to life is a very small part of the spectrum. That part is also the part that we can see. Due to our Creator's laws of physics, visible light is the best energy for the chemical reactions of life. Unlike high-energy radiation, such as x-rays and gamma rays (which harm living cells), visible light enables human eyes

God's power extends from wonders great and small that we can observe in our awesome universe.

to see, plus it powers plant growth, the foundation of all food chains on earth. Even the energetic behavior of little bugs ultimately depends on sun-power.

God's power extends from wonders great and small that we can observe in our awesome universe, like the sun and stars (which look small to us, yet are huge in actual size).

Nature Reveals God's Presence

God's presence can be detected even in the most commonplace substances, like water. All of us have physical bodies that are mostly water! Our planet is close enough to the sun to provide the liquid water that is necessary for life. But if it were just a little farther away, all that water would become ice!

While water itself is a very small molecule (just a three-atom unit of hydrogen and oxygen), it is a primary ingredient of our planet. God's

design of how water's specific molecules behave (and the impact water has on our entire planet) is an example of God's creative design and custodial presence, even on the smallest and largest scales.

Water expands when it freezes, unlike most other substances. Ice and snow take up more volume than the same amount of liquid water. This makes water denser as a liquid than when frozen, so ice floats. If ice did not float on the surface of the water, the floors of oceans and lakes would be covered with glaciers of ice that would never melt. Surface ice also helps regulate the climate by reflecting energy.

As a liquid, water's temperature range is perfect for cycling water from the oceans to the land. Water requires a lot of energy to evaporate into a vapor and it releases this energy when it condenses back into liquid. This balances temperatures in the earth's climate, as well as inside living cells. If less energy were required for evaporation, then streams, rivers, and lakes would evaporate away quickly.

Beautiful clouds and sunsets inspire praise for the Creator who forms them. Because God's creative presence is shown in even commonplace yet needful things, we are blessed by the huge quantities of water that flow through our biosphere.

Nature Reveals God's Protection

If the earth had a thinner atmosphere, our planet would be hit with incoming rocks and harmful radiation. Mercury, Pluto, and the moon have almost no air at all. Their surfaces are scarred with craters from the impacts of giant boulders, little pebbles, and small grains of sand. The surfaces of these planets are very hot when facing the sun and very cold when facing away. If earth had a thicker atmosphere, our planet would be boiling hot. The weight of the atmosphere on Venus and the "gas giant" planets (Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune) is very heavy. On Venus, for instance, the surface pressure is 90 times that of earth! The surface pressure of Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune are even higher.

Earth has the right mixture of nitrogen and oxygen in its atmosphere. Venus and the gas giants have the wrong kind of gases for humans (or any other life forms) to survive there. Venus is mostly carbon dioxide. The gas giants are mostly hydrogen and helium. The other planets have little or no "air" at all. Truly, the very air we breathe is an invisible yet universal witness to God's protective providence.

Sunlight reaches us through our transparent atmosphere. Even though we can see through it, our atmosphere is also a filter. It allows in the sun's radiation that is useful to life, but blocks the radiation that is harmful to life. Only a fraction of the radio waves and some of the visible light and infrared radiations are blocked, but almost all of the harmful ultraviolet rays, x-rays and gamma rays never reach us.

We have been given an atmosphere that protects us. It provides just the right amount of air and warmth we need. It allows the sunlight to reach the plants that feed us. Our transparent atmosphere not only protects us, but it allows us to see the stars and wonder at the heavens.

The question is: are these marvelous devices merely accidents, or are they evidence of incredible design by a Creator?

Nature Reveals God's Provision

Why does the earth provide edible food? If the planting and harvesting of crops were not so commonplace, we would (or should) regard growing cycles of corn, beans, fruit trees, potatoes, or any other plant as amazing miracles.

The sun's energy warms our planet. Hot air blows from areas heated by the sun to cooler areas. The sun's energy brings rain. Water evaporates from the ocean and falls to the land as it cools. The sun powers the winds that move the water vapor to the land. The sun's energy renews air. With our sun's energy, plants convert carbon dioxide into the oxygen. The sun's energy grows food. Plants capture sunlight and store it in sugar, starch, and fat.

Many other stars are too hot to support life. Many are too cold. Some vary from hot to cold too much. Some stars are too big and some are too small. Our sun is one of the few types that is ideally suited to support life. It has the right brightness and variability. It radiates the right range of energy in the right amounts. Most stars in the universe are not perfectly balanced for life, but our sun is.

There are thousands of examples of an integrated and purposeful plan for provision through the flora and fauna of our planet. Everywhere one looks, if one really tries to understand what is going on, it is easy to see an Intelligent Designer behind the common, everyday occurrences of our world.

Nature Reveals God's Wisdom

Wisdom enables us to understand reality. Through wisdom we have discovered a set of scientific laws that elegantly express reality in the language of mathematics. Whenever man learns the logic of the universe, man is (in essence) "thinking God's thoughts after Him." A correct "understanding" of understanding, therefore, is that we humans discover (and implement) wisdom; we do not invent it.

In particular, the cause of our universe coming into being, and of its continuing to operate as it does, is a dynamic display of the Creator's wisdom, some of which we can scientifically discover and understand. When we do, it is like walking in the footprints of someone who previously walked through a snowdrift.

It is only by God's creative grace that human creatures like us can think any thoughts at all, much less thoughts that are logical and analytical enough to be called "scientific." Because God's wisdom is displayed in the universe itself, and also in our human ability to comprehend that universe, we owe our great Creator-God an ongoing debt of creaturely thanksgiving. ●

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

New ICR Director of Events:

Charles Morse



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

When Charles “Chas” Morse joined the U.S. Air Force in 1983, he intended to serve for about four years. Instead, he stayed for 26. “My wife, Patti, and I saw that there was a great mission field in the Air Force,” he said in a recent interview. He was sent immediately overseas and had many opportunities to share Christ and serve in various ministries.

Creation ministry, he said, has always been a passion. “It always points me back to the Word of God and its credibility. It also points me back to the Creator, who is also our Sustainer and our Redeemer.”

Chas first heard about the Institute for Creation Research through his father, who was a member in the 1970s. “He was actually an engineer who worked with the space program,” he said. “When the space program was cut after Apollo 17, a lot of engineers were laid off. It was really a tragic thing.”

While he looked for a new job, Chas’ father volunteered his expertise to ICR. “He spent all his time doing research for [Henry M. Morris]. And my dad would go around and speak at colleges and debate science teachers.”

Chas attended Christian Heritage College, now San Diego Christian College, and graduated in 1980 with a degree in Christian education. He studied at Dallas Theological Seminary before joining the Air Force. While in the military, he received a masters degree in management from Bellevue University in Nebraska in 1996, and another in 2000 in military studies at Maxwell Air Force Base in Alabama, eventually retiring as a lieutenant colonel.

In 2005, he met Dr. David Wismer, Chairman of ICR’s Board of Trustees, who asked that he become a board member. “I was kind of pulled back into the creation arena, remembering the classes I had with Duane Gish, Gary Parker, Henry Morris III, and of course Dr. Morris the founder from

my Christian Heritage days. As a board member, I was able to promote ICR in different venues that I’ve been exposed to in the military.”

He most recently served in Korea for two years, after which he planned to retire from the military. When deciding what to do next, he called ICR CEO Henry M. Morris III and asked how he could be more involved in the ministry. “I thought it would be really cool to serve on the staff of ICR. So I called him and said, ‘I don’t really know where I could fit in the organization, but if you’ll have me, I’ll come and we can figure it out.’”

As it turns out, Dr. Morris did have a place open and asked Lt. Col. Morse if he’d like to come on board as Director of Events. “And so here I am,” he laughed.

When asked about his goals, he said, “Our focus is to promote ICR and take the research and science and get it into the hands of pastors and science teachers.” Pastors, and to some degree science teachers, he said, seem to be afraid to speak on the subject of creation because they don’t know that science is on their side, and they fear ridicule and persecution. So, sending speakers and materials to events such as pastor conferences, Association of Christian Schools International conferences, and others is important to equip pastors and teachers with the evidence and science that support the concept of a young earth that was created by God. “That way, they can then go and equip their congregations and students,” he said.

Chas will be able to transfer some of his military background into his current work. “It’s all about working with people and bringing groups together and executing a strategy,” he said. “Spiritual warfare is the same, except more serious. Your enemy has been doing this for about 6,000 years.” ●

Ms. Dao is Assistant Editor.

ICR

March Events

March 8-10

Houston, TX – Chafer Theological Seminary
Pastors' Conference
(Austin) 713.468.0900

March 13-14

Douglas, WY – First Baptist Church
(Guliuza) 307.358.3724

March 14-15

Jackson, NJ – Jackson Baptist Church
(Sherwin) 782.489.6997

March 14-19

Arcadia, FL – Creation Education Vacation
(Parker) 863.494.9558

March 18-20

Redmond, WA – Northwest Ministry
Conference
(Vardiman) 425.844.9286

March 24-28

Kennewick, WA – Calvary Chapel Tri-Cities
Conference
(Austin, Sherwin) 509.736.2086

March 24-28

Redding, CA – Alpha Omega Conference
(J. Morris) 530.221.4275



For more information on these events or to schedule an event, please contact the ICR Events Department at **800.337.0375** or **events@icr.org**.

For details regarding the Creation Education Vacation, contact Dr. Gary Parker at **863.494.9558**, write to **creation@strato.net**, or visit **CreationAdventuresMuseum.org**.

Dr. Albert Mohler to Keynote ICR 40th Anniversary Celebration



The Institute for Creation Research will hold its 40th anniversary celebration banquet in Dallas, Texas, on October 7, 2010, featuring Dr. R. Albert Mohler, Jr., as special guest speaker. Dr. Mohler serves as president of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary—the flagship school of the Southern Baptist Convention and one of the largest seminaries in the world.

A staunch defender of the Bible's accuracy and authority, and of the Genesis record, Mohler commented recently that the issue of Charles Darwin, evolution, and creation is really a discussion about the revealed Word of God:

We can eliminate the conflict between evolution and Christianity if we redefine God to be something far less than the Creator he reveals himself to be in Genesis. If we dispense with Genesis as revealed truth, we have no problem declaring a truce between evolution and Christian belief...

The conflict between Genesis and evolution is not merely over the "how" as opposed to the "why" of creation. Evolution presents a direct challenge to the entire story-line of the Bible.¹

Dr. Mohler hosts *The Albert Mohler Program*, a daily live nationwide radio program on the Salem Radio Network. He also writes a popular blog and a regular commentary on moral, cultural, and theological issues. Both can be accessed through Dr. Mohler's website, www.AlbertMohler.com.

Widely sought as a columnist and commentator, Dr. Mohler has been quoted in the nation's leading newspapers, including *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *USA Today*, *The Washington Post*, *The Atlanta Journal/Constitution*, and *The Dallas Morning News*. He has also appeared on such national news programs as CNN's *Larry King Live*, NBC's *Today Show*, and *Dateline NBC*, ABC's *Good Morning America*, *The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer* on PBS, MSNBC's *Scarborough Country*, and Fox's *The O'Reilly Factor*.

His writings have been published throughout the United States and Europe. He is the author of several books, including *Culture Shift: Engaging Current Issues with Timeless Truth* (Multnomah), *Desire & Deceit: The Real Cost of the New Sexual Tolerance* (Multnomah), *Atheism Remix: A Christian Confronts the New Atheists* (Crossway), *He Is Not Silent: Preaching in a Postmodern World* (Moody), *The Disappearance of God: Dangerous Beliefs in the New Spiritual Openness* (Multnomah), and, most recently, *Words from the Fire: Hearing the Voice of God in the 10 Commandments* (Moody).

In addition to Dr. Mohler, ICR's 40th anniversary banquet will feature a musical concert, sumptuous food and fellowship, a multimedia presentation highlighting both the legacy and future of ICR's work in apologetics and creation science, and much more.

Save the date, October 7, 2010, and make plans to attend! More details to follow in the months ahead. ●

Reference

1. Mohler, R. Albert. Christianity and Evolution—Seeing the Problem. Posted on albertmohler.com February 16, 2009, accessed January 28, 2010.

EXTREME **COLD** CAN BE AN **INCONVENIENT** **TRUTH**

J E F F R E Y T O M K I N S , P H . D .

BOTANICAL DESIGN ENSURES PLANT SURVIVAL

Recently, the Institute for Creation Research acquired some property in Alaska that will enable its scientists to study the unique mechanisms in plants that allow them to live in extreme climates. The selection of available tree species (white spruce, alder, cottonwood, birch, and willow) provides a variety of unique cold tolerance systems in plants for studies in “extreme” intelligent design. Because extreme cold can be detrimental to living organisms, divine program-

ming is required to equip plant life to survive (and even thrive) in Alaskan winters.

Real Ecoscience Requires Observing Nature in Action

While much is known about the cold acclimation and tolerance process in plants, a majority of studies performed in this research field have only been done with plants adapted to moderate climates, such as the model species thale cress (*Arabidopsis thaliana*), a small weedy plant in the mustard family. These basic studies have provided an excellent cache of genetic and physiological data that forms a foundation to

build upon and to refer back to.

However, there are other mechanisms in plants for cold tolerance that are not represented in the thale cress species, particularly those found in the various species that live in very extreme cold temperatures, like those found on ICR’s new Alaska property. This particular tract of land is located in the “Southcentral Alaska” region (not far from Anchorage) and within range of what is called a subarctic or boreal climate. This area is ideal for the study of cold-tolerant plant species because it is generally characterized by long (nine months), cold winters where temperatures often drop down to -40°F. The summers are short and mild, and temperatures can climb above 80°F, but also on occasion drop to below freezing at night.¹

The Acclimation Process

In order for plants to survive the cold winter temperatures, they first go through what is called an acclimation process.² It is this acclimation period in which most of the activity in the cell occurs in relation to increasing the plant’s cold tolerance. Acclimation is initiated by gradually cooling temperatures in autumn as winter approaches.

Modern genomics-based research technologies now allow scientists to study thousands of genes and their activity in a single experiment, usually in response to some environmental cue, such as cold temperatures. Such studies have shown that the overall response to cold stress in plants involves the activity of hundreds of genes that contain sub-groupings. These sub-groupings are turned off and on in modules or blocks at dif-





ferent times during the exposure to cold, which is perceived by the plant as a temperature-based stress. In addition, smaller subsets of genes are also turned off or down-regulated in response to cold stress. When all of these genes are classified as to the function of the proteins that they code for, a very interesting, highly engineered and elaborate picture develops.

In the model plant species thale cress, at least 306 different genes were implicated in a response to cold temperatures during a one-week test period.³ Of these genes, 218 were turned on and became active in response to cold temperatures and 88 were turned off or down-regulated.

Survival of the Fitted: Prepackaged Antifreeze for Plants

The functional groupings of the genes that were turned on “fit” well with observed and known cellular responses that are advantageous to the plants’ survival in extremely cold weather. For example, a lot of changes occur in the spaces between cells, such as an increase in fluids pumped out of the cells. This combines with an increase in proteins and molecules that not only provide antifreeze properties, but also cause ice crystals to form in the spaces *between* cells rather than inside the cells. If ice crystals formed within the cells, they would cause the cells to rupture as the ice crystals grew and expanded—thus killing the plant.

In addition, a wide variety of stress-related proteins begin to accumulate inside the cells in response to cold temperatures. These stress response proteins help stabilize the cell, with some types attaching to DNA, others to various cell proteins, and others helping to maintain and protect the cell membrane, which

is made out of lipids. Other types of proteins that are produced represent the enzymes that form various biochemical pathways that ultimately produce the different antifreeze compounds (primarily sugars) which help to keep the liquid in the plant from freezing. These antifreeze compounds work in the same way that antifreeze works in a car engine. (When humans invent and install an antifreeze system for cars, they are admired for their genius. So why are humans slow to admire God’s much more complicated invention and installation of antifreeze systems in plants?)

One thing that is quite interesting is the efficiency observed in the acclimation process, with many of the proteins produced by the same genes that are turned on during drought stress or low water conditions. This is because cold-acclimated cells have a reduced water content, since much of their cellular liquid is pumped out of the cell into the spaces between cells. While this helps protect the cells from forming ice crystals, the reduced water content puts the same stress on a cell as drought conditions do. Of course, a drought-stressed cell also has a reduced water content because of a lack of available soil moisture. Thus, many of the same stress-related genes are utilized in both cell processes.

Paramedic Proteins Rush to Resolve Cold-Weather Emergencies

Not only are diverse categories of proteins produced during the acclimation process, but the different groupings of proteins are also made in a time-responsive fashion. The first group that is produced is called the quick-response or transient class of proteins. These genes are turned on immediately in response to cold temperatures and make proteins that apply first aid to the cell just like a paramedic team on an ambulance would do in case of an accident or health emergency.

These genes are not only turned on in a first-response wave to the slightest sign of cold-temperature stress, but they also stay active as long as the stress is present. If the cold-temperature stress persists over several days, then other groups of genes are turned on to make long-term cellular changes and preparations for extended cold tolerance over the winter months. Continuing the accident/emergency

analogy, these genes would represent the types of things that would happen after a patient got to the hospital, where he would see a crew of doctors, perhaps have some type of corrective surgery, and be surrounded and treated with equipment and resources to ensure good health over the long term.

The little research that has been done on plants in subarctic regions (such as the larch tree, which belongs to the family of trees that include aspen, birch, and poplar) has revealed some exciting initial results.⁴ These plants not only have the basic responses mentioned above, but they also have extra features that enable them to cope with extreme temperatures as low as -60°F. Stop for a second and consider this extreme range of temperature adaptation—from 70 to 80°F in the summer to 0 to -40°F in the winter with no available external protection.

When You Can’t Dress for Success

Of course, humans can put on extra clothing and cold-weather gear in response to a cold environment, but a plant doesn’t have that option. These highly cold-tolerant plant systems exhibit extreme engineering and involve a complex cascade of hundreds of genes that have to work together within specific regulatory blocks and timeframes. As with all of the other physiological processes observed in biology, the supposed development of such a dynamic and complex system through the random processes of evolution—especially under such severe temperature extremes and fluctuations—is completely impossible.⁵ ●

References

1. For an introductory overview of these climatology concepts, see “Subarctic climate” on wikipedia.org. For a more technical treatment and data archive, see National Climatic Data Center, a service of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, posted on ncdc.noaa.gov.
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Unmasking Evolution's Magic Words

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

Everyone certainly sees design in nature by observing the purpose of precisely fitted parts—those in fish gills or bird wings, for instance, enable those animals to fit into their environments. Evolutionists, however, seek to suppress humans' natural tendency to link features of design to a real designer. They teach that complex animals only *appear* to be designed and that what looks like intelligent crafting is only an illusion.

Why not accept that evolutionary explanation? This is a fair question, but there is no need to jump right into a list of scientific problems raised by evolution. Instead, start with what is relevant to explaining design: the fact that evolutionary "science" is *different* from sciences that use natural, repeatable, and verifiable methods to explain phenomena. Evolution is fundamentally a historical narrative—a story—that attempts to reconstruct unseen past events.¹ Many people find this story too weak to be a persuasive reason for design, since it is built on absolute chance and uses remarkably unscientific language within its explanations.

Evolutionists Explain Design Using Unscientific "Magic Words"

The term "magic words" is used here as a concise idiom that describes the *best* words evolutionists use to explain "apparent" design. Evolutionists confidently insist that a complex biological feature simply "appeared," "emerged," "arose," "gave rise to," "burst onto the scene," "evolved itself," "derived," "was on the way to becoming," "radiated into," "modified itself," "became a miracle of evolution," "was making the transition to," "manufactured itself," "evolution's way of dealing with," "de-

rived emergent properties," or "was lucky."

How do words like "appeared" explain design? Just like magic, the use of this word invokes mysterious powers within unseen universes that are capable of leaping over enormous scientific obstacles without having to provide any scientific consideration for how a particular physical result was achieved. Magic words convey wish-like convictions that if evolutionists just believe deeply enough, their explanations *must* be true and someday *will* be true—though currently resisted by all scientific evidence. Explaining design by believing it "arose" appeals to imaginary special forces which help evolutionists to connect the evolutionary dots. But as in any magical kingdom, the connections are mental fantasies that are not grounded in reality.

Magic words lack explanatory power because they fail to tie real observations to detailed descriptions of *how* features of design originate. Claiming that novel biological features "burst onto the scene" abandons the need for experimental verification; indeed, the implication is to not even try. Take any biological *observation*. In evolutionary thinking, any observation can be transformed into a proof that explains its own existence by applying the magic phrase: "It *exists* because it is favored by natural selection." In reality, observations are only observations and are neither proofs nor explanations.

Engineers, medical doctors, and other scientists who rely on studies or experiments



do not use these kinds of words. Their products do not "emerge" but develop via thought-filled processes. They rightly call filling a knowledge gap with narrative stories "arm waving," which calls to mind a stage magician.

In conversation with others, it would be difficult to overemphasize how important magic words are to evolutionary theory. Remark on how these words pervade elite journals like *Science*, popular magazines like *Scientific American*, and television shows like *NOVA*. "Magic words" pour from evolutionary literature like water over Niagara Falls. Challenge your listener to carefully observe the communication in these forums, noting how many paragraphs or statements pass without the use of these words. They are the lifeblood of the evolutionary community's most profound and highest-quality scientific literature.

Evolutionists Insist Chance Alone Produces Design

People should be educated about the central—but cleverly de-emphasized—dogma of evolution, that complex design is a wholly

chance outcome of natural processes operating in a mindless, self-contained system that does not determine need or purpose in advance, and sets no direction. Distinguished science historian Jacques Barzun described the key elements of evolution as “the sum total of the accidents of life acting upon the sum total of the accidents of variation” leading to a “completely mechanistic and material system”²—i.e., one with no God.

In 1995, the influential National Association of Biology Teachers crafted a definitive “Statement on the Teaching of Evolution” that affirmed the centrality of chance. Their first tenet read, “The diversity of life on Earth is the outcome of evolution: an unsupervised, impersonal, unpredictable and natural process of temporal descent with genetic modification that is affected by natural selection, chance, historical contingencies and changing environments.”³

Newsweek summed up the view of Harvard’s renowned paleontologist Stephen Jay Gould:

Why did some lineages survive while most perished? There is no obvious reason, says Gould. The survivors were not simpler or more complex, more generalized or specialized, more numerous or superior in any obvious way;...The obvious answer, but one which most people instinctively resist, is that they were lucky.⁴

Not only is there instinctive resistance to this answer, but it is intellectually distasteful to credit blind luck for complex designs. People experientially know designers are—without exception—the real cause. Teachers of evolution, therefore, do not attempt to get people to swallow in one big gulp a single colossal chance explanation. Instead, they adroitly assert that what *seems like* a huge chance biological event is simply the cumulative effect of *countless tiny lucky events* arising over enormous time periods in primitive life forms’ descendants. People relate readily to coincidental, almost happenstance, events. If these are coupled to staggeringly long time-scales, biological wonders that are intuitively impossible...well, might just happen.

To counteract this thinking, offer a dose of reality. Point out that scientists never actually *observe* random DNA mistakes accumulating to generate from scratch the instructions necessary to build the type of complexity seen in biological structures.

Learning a Short Example

Do major science journals overcome barriers to evolution by using jargon and magical concepts to hurdle them in a single bound? Yes, as typified in the *Archives of Ophthalmology’s* account for the origin of the eye lens:



Lenses in different species may originate from different tissues in the embryo.

But no matter what the source tissue, the substance that makes up the lens body must show a graded difference in density: greater in the center with a resulting higher index of refraction, less dense in the periphery with a lower index of refraction. This has been evolution’s way of dealing with spherical aberration, a particularly pressing problem.⁵

How *did* evolution deal with it? The “complex genetic programs were lying in wait” to build all eye structures, including the lens proteins which were “recruited” via “molecular opportunism” to perform *totally new functions* since “evolution uses what is available. It is a consummate recycler.”⁵ Really?

The graded density of lens proteins—a great design feature—overcomes spherical aberration by allowing light entering through *any spot* of the lens to focus to a clear point (good vision) rather than many points (poor vision). Evolutionists should also consider that lens proteins just happen to be shaped and arranged to allow the lens to change profile to focus images from near or far—provided it is suspended precisely behind the pupil by hundreds of surrounding ligaments attached on one end to a special lens capsule and the other end to a circular muscle anchored to the retina. Indeed, *hundreds* of other design features could be listed which are better explained as resulting from a real designer.

Pulling It All Together

A quick response to a question of why evolution is not a satisfactory explanation for design might be:

I’ve been less than persuaded by what I was taught in school and on educational programs. Leading evolutionists insist that the mutational mechanism of evolution is random with respect to any goal. I have never observed a process driven by chance which absolutely excludes intelligent oversight to produce features of design. From what I read and see on TV, evolutionists jump over details by using magical words like “arose,” “appeared,” “gave rise to,” and “evolved itself” to explain how chance produces design. Even the *leading* journal for eye doctors recently used those words to describe eye evolution. The engineering feats I see are always the result of real designers, so I enjoy being free from the need to rely on the vague, non-scientific words evolutionists use.

This illustrates why evolution, as only a historical narrative, is different from other types of science that use real experiments. I find it hard to substitute stories for direct observations. I also enjoy freedom from being forced to call design “an illusion”—a poor reason—simply because it excludes divine intervention.

By helping people understand the *best explanation* for the *origin* of design, they can be influenced to see Christ as their Creator, just as the Bible says: “For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made” (Romans 1:20). ●

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An Ice Age in Yosemite National Park

LARRY VARDIMAN, P.H.D.

Yosemite National Park contains evidence that glaciers once filled Yosemite Valley to a depth of over 3,000 feet, almost to the top of Half Dome, and covered most of the higher elevations in the park. These glaciers are conventionally thought to have occurred over hundreds of thousands of years during several ice ages, the last of which reached its peak about 18,000 years ago. However, if one believes the entire age of the earth is only about 6,000 years, how is it possible for an ice age to have covered the mountains and filled the valleys in Yosemite in such a short time?

This is the primary question being addressed in a current research project at the Institute for Creation Research called the ICE AGE Project. At the Sixth International Conference on Creationism in 2008, it was proposed that a mesoscale numerical model be used to simulate several typical winter, orographic (mountain) storms with warm Pacific Ocean sea-surface temperatures.¹

Similar modeling was completed in 1998 using a global climate model for the entire earth.² It was found that warm oceans produced greatly increased precipitation over the continents, particularly in the polar regions, and they could explain the Ice Age in a young-earth time-frame. But the spacing of grid points used in the model for that study was

hundreds of kilometers apart. It was recommended that additional modeling be done for Yosemite National Park with a mesoscale model that had grid spacing of only a few kilometers.

The basic mechanism that is proposed to form glaciers in short periods of time is a warm ocean heated by the events of the Genesis Flood.³ Geologic work was done during the Flood and heat was transferred from magma in the mid-ocean ridges to the ocean. A warm ocean would have produced a giant “El Niño” effect—increased evaporation over the ocean and moisture transported and condensed as precipitation over mountains. The first case study done in Yosemite National Park to test this theory—The Pineapple Express Storm—was completed in December 2009.

The Pineapple Express Storm

The Pineapple Express storm (PEX) is one class of winter storm that affects the West Coast of the United States. It consists of a series of waves that travel along a persistent atmospheric flow from the tropical Pacific, frequently near the Hawaiian Islands, and lasts from three days to as long as a month. Some observers claim they can smell pineapples on the wind during these events. Although this may be an exaggeration, the warm, balmy air during a Pineapple Express event is certainly pleasant

during normally cold winter storms. When the warm air is lifted over the Coastal Range and the Sierra Nevada, it precipitates massive quantities of rain at low elevations and snow at higher elevations.

The Pineapple Express storm of December 26, 1996, to January 3, 1997, was simulated with the Weather Research and Forecasting (WRF) mesoscale model available from the National Center for Atmospheric Research.⁴ Six different sea-surface temperatures (SST) for the eastern Pacific Ocean were simulated. The purpose was to determine the effect of SST on total storm precipitation in Yosemite National Park.

The total eight-day precipitation for one of the six temperatures, SST = 20°C (68°F), is shown in Figure 1. The Pacific Ocean upwind of the California coast was maintained at a constant temperature throughout each of the six simulations. The California coastline is shown in the lower lefthand corner of the diagram; the 120° West longitude line—the north-eastern border of California—is shown as a dashed, vertical line near the middle; Lake Tahoe is near the top center; and the boundary of Yosemite National Park is shown to the right of the vertical dashed line near the center of the plot. The colors indicate the precipitation amount for the storm in millimeters.

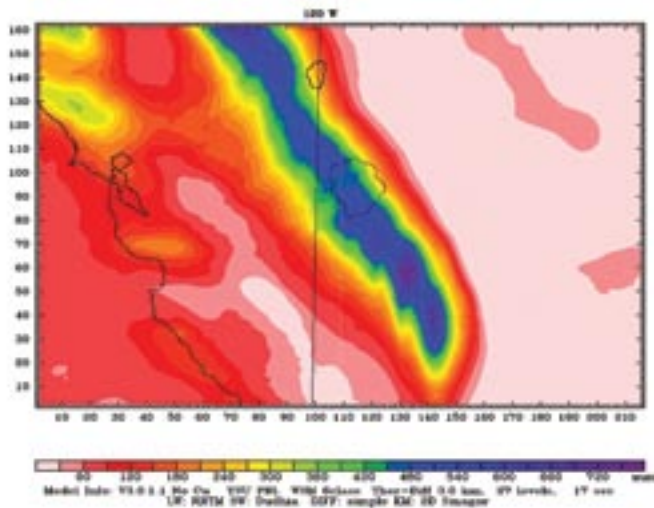


Figure 1. Total PEX storm precipitation (mm) for SST = 20°C (68°F).

Figure 2 displays the accumulated WRF model precipitation as a function of simulation time and SST. The precipitation accumulates more rapidly for the warmer SSTs, indicating a higher precipitation rate at warmer temperatures. The actual storm had an average SST = 25°C (77°F) and is indicated as default. The difference in the accumulated precipitation is greater at higher temperatures. This would be expected, since the rate of growth of snow in clouds and the formation of precipitation should be proportional to the water vapor available for cloud processes.

But the amount of water vapor is proportional to an exponential function of SST as governed by the Clausius-Clapeyron equation, a well-known chemical-physics equation that relates water vapor pressure in

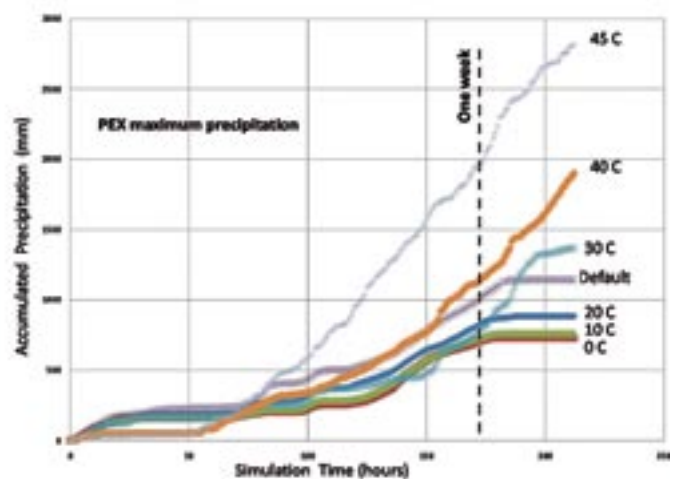


Figure 2. Accumulated WRF model precipitation in Yosemite National Park as a function of simulation time and SST.

air to the temperature of a nearby water surface. The accumulated precipitation in Yosemite National Park was about two times greater at 30°C (86°F) than at 0°C (32°F) and four times greater at 45°C (113°F) than at 0°C (32°F). Consequently, when the surface of the eastern Pacific Ocean is warm, large amounts of snow will accumulate in the Sierra Nevada, and when it is cold only small amounts will accumulate.

Conclusions

A warm, tropical storm during the Christmas holidays of 1996-97 called the Pineapple Express storm has been successfully simulated. Additional simulations of warm sea-surface temperatures in the eastern Pacific Ocean were conducted to find if precipitation in Yosemite National Park would have been increased by warmer sea-surface temperatures. Precipitation in the park was doubled or quadrupled at the highest temperatures. The enhanced snowfall and greater frequency of storms during the Ice Age appear to be adequate to explain glaciation in the Sierra Nevada in a young-earth timeframe. Glaciers thousands of feet thick could have readily developed in hundreds of years following the Genesis Flood.⁵ ●

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Dr. Vardiman is Chair of the Department of Astro/Geophysics.



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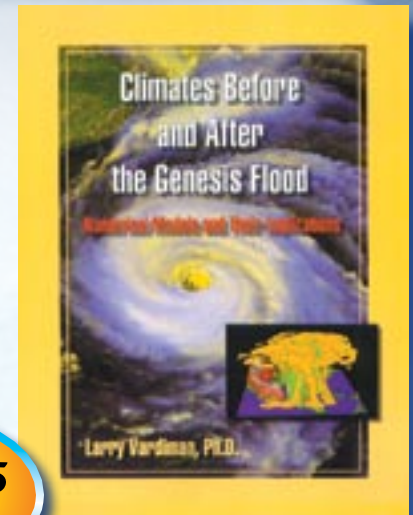
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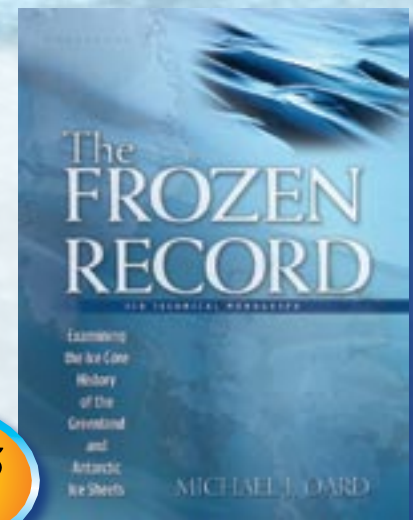
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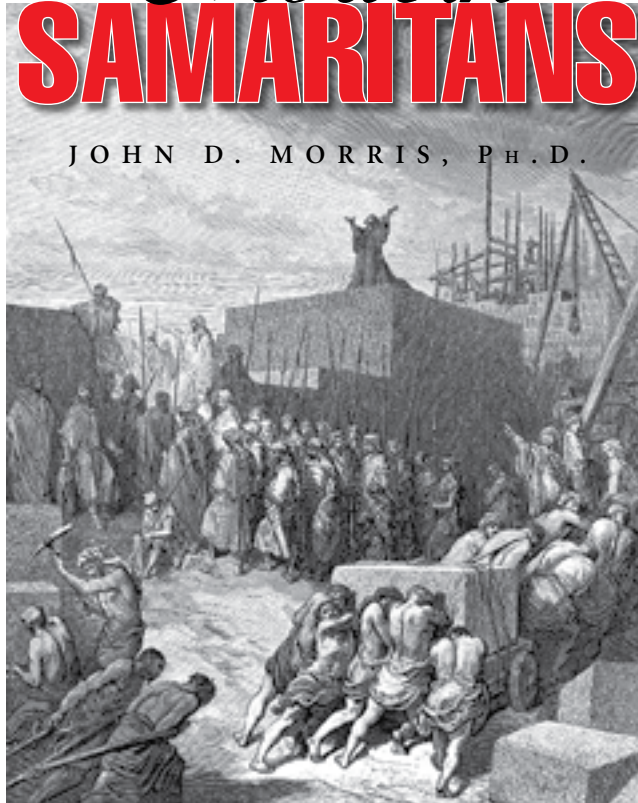
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Modern SAMARITANS

JOHN D. MORRIS, P.H.D.



Better understood as historical “stories” about the unobserved past, neither creation nor evolution can be proven. The Institute for Creation Research has long been known for holding to the recent creation “story” as true and clearly taught in Scripture.

The Creator made all things “very good,” with Adam as steward. Things may have superficially appeared as if a lengthy process was utilized in their formation, but the Creator told us how long He took, in case we might mistake His completed perfection for age. No death was present, for God cannot create imperfection and call it “good.” Adam’s subsequent sin warranted the death penalty being levied against Adam’s entire domain. Today’s malignant processes were not the ones God used

to create, for He “finished” it (Genesis 2:1). To claim otherwise might wrongly assert that it required long ages.

The Creator’s holy nature necessitated the great Flood of Noah’s day, which restructured the entire planet, annihilating all living land creatures not on Noah’s Ark. Today’s sedimentary rock layers contain myriads of dead animals that testify eloquently to this. These layers formed quickly under dynamic watery processes, not slowly under the uniform processes we observe today.

This destructive event was, according to Scripture, followed by other disruptions of the natural order, such as the confusion of tongues at Babel. Other times, the Creator/Sustainer/Judge employed far-from-the-norm energy levels and timing of events to bring about His will. He still retains the option to intervene, but leaves natural laws to govern events happening today. But what a scientific mistake and a denial of Scripture to assume things were formed and have always operated by the processes we observe, even operating over great ages. Indeed, this makes a travesty of the plan of God and His sovereign control over all things.

In today’s Christian world, many have rejected these clear scrip-

tural teachings in favor of a uniformitarianism. Many “semi-creationist” Christian leaders hold to theistic evolution, stating that God created using naturalistic processes over long ages. Others may hold that God supernaturally created but did so over great time. They may tell a different “story” about history, but their evaluation of the evidence is indistinguishable from that of a pure naturalist. Donning biblical glasses, we see that the earth doesn’t even look old, but it does look cursed and flooded.

When the people of Israel returned from their Babylonian captivity and began rebuilding the Temple, they encountered the Samaritans, Israelites who had intermarried with local pagan tribes. These “semi-Jews” claimed to want to help in God’s work, but

“Ye have nothing to do with us to build an house unto our God; but we ourselves together will build unto the LORD God of Israel.”

— EZRA 4:3 —

in reality wanted to skew it for their own ends. Wisely, the Jewish leaders saw through their ruse and refused their help. “Ye have nothing to do with us to build an house unto our God; but we ourselves together will build unto the LORD God of Israel” (Ezra 4:3).

Today, the greatest opposition to creation comes from “Christian” scholars who have married pagan thought with the biblical worldview. Much like the Samaritans of old, they not only bring a different agenda, but hamper and oppose those whose agenda is biblical. Our agenda is not just to teach recent creation and the global Flood, as important as these doctrines are, but to uphold and defend the authority of all Scripture. God has called Christians to be soldiers in His army and to fight His battles. As a scientific organization, He has called us to bring scientific armaments to the battlefield, demonstrating Scripture’s scientific accuracy, and to support other warriors with different specialties. Together we can win the battle. He has already won the war. ●

Dr. Morris is President of the Institute for Creation Research.





Evolution's Best Argument Has Become Its Worst Nightmare

How Functional Transposons Refute "Junk DNA" and Human Evolution

BRIAN THOMAS, M.S.

Broad-scale evolution holds that a single-cell organism can eventually develop into a human through natural processes. Unique genetic features called transposons have been introduced as knock-down evidence that this progression actually occurred in humans, but a closer look at new data shows that they strongly argue *against* evolution.

Genome Expansion through Transposon Activity

Transposons include several classes of DNA that appear to have been copied, spliced, and reinserted into the genome. Sometimes referred to as jumping genes, these are found in all plants and animals. While some transposons are inactive, many are functional. They have an affinity for transposition into certain areas of the genome.

Scientists have observed transposons copying and splicing rapidly, which contradicts evolution's traditional scenario of slow and gradual change.¹ Rapid transposon activity appears to be controlled by specific cellular programs and thus is not a product of mutation plus selection, nor is it part of evolution as it has been described.

In a short time—corresponding to fewer than a dozen or so generations—transposons

can add more DNA to a population, inflating the total volume of DNA without adding new genes. Some species appear to have large volumes of DNA that were assembled this way. About 44 percent of human DNA consists of repetitive elements, much of which came from transposons.

These vast sequences are repeated blocks of identical DNA. Many evolutionists believed them to be random sequences, conveniently useful for evolutionary processes to tinker with and develop into new genetic features. However, they are now known to be quite useful. Therefore, if evolution were to mutate them randomly, rather than leading to genetic improvements, it could actually kill the host.

Transposons in Chimps—Leftovers from the Evolutionary Past?

Intriguingly, chimpanzees and humans share some almost identical transposons that are found on similar-looking chromosomes. How did they get there? Evolutionists have insisted that “ancient retroviruses slipped bits of their DNA into the primate genome millions of years ago.”² Though often asserted as fact, it is only speculation that today's transposons came from yesterday's viruses.

Some transposons supposedly entered chimps and humans by a viral infection when

both were part of one ancestral species. Later, humans and chimpanzees “diverged” from that primate ancestor. Thus, the same transposon sequence in both species is used as evidence that humans and chimps came from a common ancestor. And if humans transmuted from some earlier primate, then big-picture evolution is true. This has been one of evolution's best arguments.

Transposons are also thought to have provided “junk DNA” for ages of mutations to have organized into new features, forming today's diverse living forms. But science has shown that these long, repeated transposon sequences are useful on their own and even necessary. The arguments that transposons demonstrate common ancestry between chimps and humans, and that they provide scrap material for evolutionary progression, only have merit if transposons are largely useless.

Some scientists, open to the possibility that transposons were purposefully created and therefore functional, predicted at least a decade ago that important functions for transposons would be discovered.³ When nobody knew if these repetitive sequences had a useful genetic role, evolutionary biologists assumed that they did not, since they don't code for proteins. However, new genomic technologies have revealed more about what transposons actually do.

Transposons with Functions

The last decade has provided a growing list of examples of transposon functions, including the 2006 discovery of one that regulates a nerve cell development gene common to all mammals and even the “living fossil” coelacanth.⁴ Transposons that regulate the expression rates of plant gene products have also been found.⁵

Transposons in a single-cell ciliate were determined in 2009 to be critical to the tiny organism’s development. The study’s authors wrote, “These transposons might not merely be parasitic invaders that reduce host fitness or have little phenotypic effect but instead mutualists directly contributing a useful function for the organism, such as genomic DNA processing.”⁶ They found that these transposons “spur an almost acrobatic rearrangement of the entire genome that is necessary for the organism to grow.”⁷ So, if transposons have functions in these organisms, could they also play important roles in chimps or humans?

Publishing in *Nature Genetics*, an international team of researchers led by geneticist Geoff Faulkner found that in mammal tissue between 6 and 30 percent of RNA transcripts come from retrotransposons, not genes.⁸ Retrotransposons are a class of transposon.

RNA transcripts begin as single-strand copies of small sections of a DNA sequence. Some transcripts specify the information to make a protein, but most RNA transcripts help regulate the speed and amounts of important cellular processes and products.⁹ Also, information inside transposons provides alternate places for the transcription machinery to latch onto and begin transcribing the DNA. With transcription beginning at these various start sites and proceeding forward and backward on both strands of DNA, the necessary varieties of RNA are generated.¹⁰

Faulkner stated in a University of Queensland press release, “Our results showed that retrotransposons that can no longer move around the genome may still be expressed in a broad range of cells, and thereby regulate the expression of nearby genes.”¹¹ Transposon-derived

transcripts are very important for cells.

Parasitic DNA sequences from some ancient virus should yield useless junk, not important information-carrying material. The idea that transposons came from viral infections but somehow later learned uses within their new hosts has been baptized into evolution with the name “exaptation.” But this conclusion is speculative, unobserved, and irrational. Without proper gene regulation provided by transposons that are already intact and fully integrated into the genome, the organism may die.

If evolution were to mutate them randomly, rather than leading to genetic improvements, it could actually kill the host.

By analogy, copies of a computer virus on a hard drive do not improve software or performance, but rather harm it. Useful software comes only by planning and effort. Science has shown that transposons are useful biological software. But this means that they did not come from viruses, despite contradictory popular press.¹² Instead, they appear to have come from a pre-designed system of integrated genetic elements that mobilize under strict regulation, and which in turn regulate other systems.

The Entire Genome Is Information-Rich

The reason why both chimpanzees and men have such similar-looking transposons in similar chromosomes could be because the sequences were programmed to serve similar biological functions. Or, they could have followed similar biologically significant patterns when they were being copied and inserted, for reasons that are no longer discernable.

Since transposons did not come from ancient viruses, but are instead essential parts of genomes, they can no longer be used to support the belief that chimpanzees and humans evolved from a common ancestor. And this means that one of evolution’s best arguments has failed, just like the debunked parade of prior “best” arguments.¹³

The demotion of transposons as an evo-

lutionary “proof” is reminiscent of the old, discredited “vestigial organ” argument. One hundred-eighty organs in the human body had been cited as useless leftovers from an evolutionary past, but each has been found to have an important function, including the appendix and tonsils.¹⁴ Now that these vast expanses of genetic material are known to be information-rich, the concept of “junk DNA” has to be junked. And with no spare genetic material for it to mutate, what mechanism is left that broad-scale evolution could have used to produce the variety of life observed today?

It is difficult, if not impossible, to imagine how evolution could tinker with transposons without disrupting their precise coordination, which is vital to life forms. But it is easier now to see that the original people—like the first chimpanzees, plants, and even single-cell life forms—were expertly fashioned, through and through, by a brilliant Engineer. ●

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Mr. Thomas is Science Writer.

Are Green Sea Slugs the Ultimate Created Mosaic?

FRANK SHERWIN, M.A. & BRIAN THOMAS, M.S.

Many creatures appear to be fully integrated mosaics of various features that are shared by otherwise unrelated organisms. For example, hemoglobin is found in all vertebrates, certain earthworms, certain starfish, a selection of clams, some insects, and even in a few bacteria. No evolutionary pattern is discernable, since hemoglobin is distributed sporadically. However, the hemoglobin is integral to each life form that has it, indicating that it was purposefully engineered into each organism, separately.

If big-picture evolution were true, hemoglobin—in fact, all features—ought to be traceable from one kind of creature to the “higher” creatures that it supposedly evolved into. But like the refracting lens eyeball design that is found in vertebrates but also in octopi, features often appear in created mosaic patterns, showing no evolutionary lines of descent.

Certain sea slugs, called “nudibranchs,” eat sea anemones and avoid digesting or discharging the anemones’ special stinging cells. Somehow, the ultra-sensitive triggers on these cells are not activated as they travel from the nudibranch’s gut through special canals to the slug’s skin. Amazingly, “there the sea slug stores those stolen weapons to use in its own defence.”¹ They are then ready to explosively release a microscopic harpoon at the slightest brush of a fish. After the stinging cells are spent for the nudibranch’s defense, new ones are added from its next meal.

Similarly, many sea slugs extract intact chloroplasts from algae that they eat. Like the

stinging cells, these are transported to projections on the slugs’ backs, which are exposed to the sun in shallow ocean waters. The sun’s energy is then converted into nutrients that nourish the slugs. In most of these slugs, when the chloroplasts are expended, they are replaced through the consumption of more algae.

Evolution proposes, with absolutely no scientific observation to support it, that a sea slug evolved all of its well-fitting parts—including transparent skin to permit sunlight to enter—and the abilities that enable it to ingest and utilize chloroplasts from its food. Not only that, but evolutionists believe this symbiosis “evolved many times within the nudibranchs with examples in many quite unrelated families and orders.”² Fifteen different species, classified into six different families, of nudibranchs do this. This plant/animal partnership shows no evolutionary lineage and looks like another example of a mosaic feature. As such, it gives every appearance of having been specifically created.

One sea slug in particular, *Elysia chlorotica*, takes this kind of symbiosis to another level—it has the ability to sustain its acquired chloroplasts for its *whole life*, about a year. It generates the exact chemicals that its chloroplasts need to keep working, including chlorophyll,³ which is the bright green chemical that collects photons of light for use in the complex process of photosynthesis. Sure enough, just like most plants, this little animal is green. Once it has an initial good meal of algae, all it has to do is sunbathe for the rest of its life.

But chlorophyll construction needs 16



specific enzymes, which must work in concert with other cell components. Evolutionists assume the slug somehow incorporated these genes from algae into its own genome, but that kind of cross-kingdom gene transfer has never been observed and has no known mechanism. Even if it were possible, what are the chances this particular slug would receive just the right genes? Instead, it appears that *E. chlorotica* has been intentionally designed to produce this chemical.

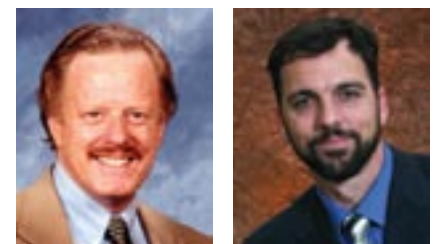
Did these fascinating partnerships between photosynthetic and stinging-cell sea slugs and their environments develop through evolution? If so, why is that process nowhere to be seen? The great Creator ought to get full credit for designing these remarkable little sea creatures. ●

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Mr. Sherwin is Senior Science Lecturer and Mr. Thomas is Science Writer.



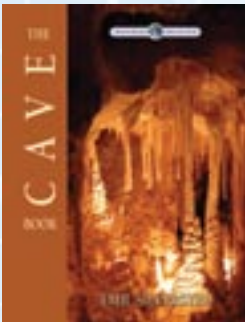
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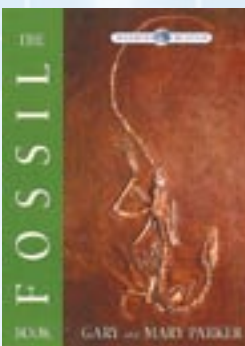
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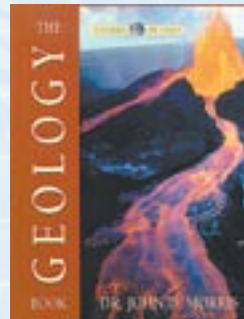
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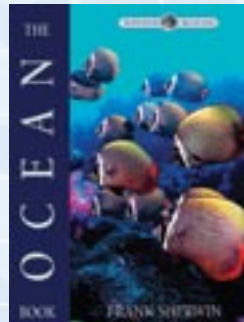
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I've read (several times) the *Genesis Record* and *Revelation Record* of Henry Morris, and I have to confess that those books changed some misconceptions that I had. Now I can say very proudly that I'm a creationist and that is something that has helped me to grow a lot in my Christian life.

— D.T., Colombia

Acts & Facts has truly opened many doors in my life. I eagerly look forward to each issue. Though I already knew of the Lord, and the greatness of Him, *Acts & Facts* has given me so much more information, so many more examples of His work.

— B.H.

You send me 75 copies of *Days of Praise* and I distribute them to the Food Pantry group, personal friends, and use them as a witness handout. I was late arriving at the distribution point for the Food Pantry in December and was greeted with an eagerness to put the *Days of Praise* in place. People had been asking for them...evidence that some are reading it with interest.

— L.S.

Just want to say how much we appreciate your good work and faithfulness in proclaiming the mighty creative power of God. The educational aspect is vital to the core, plus the ongoing research which affirms creation.

— D. & J. B.

I once knew a medical doctor, a neurologist. We had dinner one evening and I asked him if he had always been a creationist. He said no, but became one while studying the development of the baby in the womb. Your article on the mechanisms necessary for a baby to move to life outside the womb was so interesting for a layman like me. I had never thought much about that before. You do stir my interests and my soul with your teachings.

— B.D.

Editor's Note: To read Dr. Randy's Guliuzza's article "Baby's First Breath," visit www.icr.org and type the title in the Search field. You can also search under the term "Made in His Image" for his other articles on the complexities of the human body, or purchase his book by the same name. It not only contains additional articles, it also features study questions for use in the classroom.

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

RADIO LOG

This month on "Science, Scripture, & Salvation"

WEEKEND OF MARCH 6

Design of Symbiosis

Have you ever noticed how some things just naturally go together, like bees and flowers? There are many things in nature that correspond with each other. This is called symbiosis, which simply means "living together." Is this wonderful system just an accident of evolution, or was it designed for a specific purpose? Join us for this fascinating discussion!

WEEKEND OF MARCH 13

Migration of Birds and Butterflies

God provides for all of His creation in many different ways. Migration is one way certain animals survive and reproduce. Some of the most fascinating migratory creatures are birds and butterflies. How do they know where they're going? Migrate with us this week as we learn about these extraordinary flying wonders!

WEEKEND OF MARCH 20

Flowering Plants

We admire their beauty, breathe in their fragrance, and are nourished by their products. While Darwin called their origin an "abominable mystery," the Bible says they were *created* in the beginning. Tune in as we discuss flowering plants and talk about possible ways they could have survived Noah's Flood.

WEEKEND OF MARCH 27

The Plagues of Egypt

Have you heard people try to "explain away" biblical miracles by saying they are just naturalistic occurrences? Such is the case with the ten plagues of Egypt described in Exodus. As the Creator's mighty hand destroyed the land and set His people free, some very unnatural things happened that had never been seen before. Don't harden your heart—tune in this week!

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Financial Philosophy

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

Look through any family photo album and you will find a study of both time and history. Turn to the early years, when time is evenly measured by births and first steps and first days of school. The pace quickens as you turn the page to see birthday celebrations, shiny new bicycles, and pizza parties after baseball games. Turn the page again to find the pace has accelerated even further, with driving lessons and school proms and graduations now dominating the scene. But by the time parents are placing pictures of their children's weddings in their album, or proudly framing school photographs of their grandchildren, they have learned to savor their family's history and appreciate the time that has passed.

Invisibly threaded throughout all the memories—wrapped up in every family history—is money. Rich or poor, Christian or not, money, in part, defines every family. How a family acquires it, wrestles with it, protects it, and gives it, money plays a role in who that family is. And just as great memories do not happen by accident, a family's view of money does not simply materialize out of nothing.

Photo albums certainly do not create a family's values, but they do capture moments and preserve them as a remembrance for later reflection. But in order to store a memory, you

must first make it. Parents play a tremendous role in determining the culture of a family, by deciding what is worth doing, worth believing, worth tolerating, and worth letting go. Parents teach this by example, but if they wish to deeply instill biblical values into their children and see them passed on to their children's children, they have to act intentionally. They need a plan.

The best plans start with careful consideration of several key questions. Such as, how will you establish the financial culture of your family? How will you think about money personally? And how will those thoughts—your financial philosophy—affect what you do with the things the Lord has given you? Your financial philosophy—the one you pass on to your children—will be the sum total of the answers to your questions about money. The key is to ask the right questions, with answers founded in Scripture:

- Who really owns the things you have? See Deuteronomy 8:18 and Psalm 24:1.
- How will you handle the assets entrusted by God to your care? See Matthew 25:14-30 and 1 Timothy 6:17-19.
- When is it enough? See Matthew 6:31-33 and Philipians 4:11-12.
- Where should it go in the end? See Galatians 6:8-10 and 1 Timothy 6:7-10.

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Every family will answer these questions, whether they mean to or not, and their lives will be a living response to each one. Every one of us has a financial philosophy, but most people do not take time to examine their philosophies. And sadly, most do not look to Scripture to provide the foundation for the way they think about money. But as you consider the truths in God's Word about your money and its use, you can develop an approach that pleases Him. ICR stands ready to help you in this regard and would be delighted to work with you. Please contact us at 800.337.0375 or stewardship@icr.org.



Mr. Morris is Director of Donor Relations.

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

The Naïve Literalist

When the plain sense makes common sense, seek no other sense.

— M. R. De Haan (1891-1965),
Founder of the Radio Bible Class

There has been quite a stir among evangelicals about what it means to use a literalist approach to the biblical text. Some have suggested that a literal approach to the text is both impossible and naïve. Others have maintained that, while they consider themselves to be in full accord with the Bible’s “inspiration,” they would not agree with the necessity of a word-for-word, literal translation of the Bible.

Just what is a “literalist” when it comes to handling God’s Word? How would a creationist worldview affect one’s view of the text? Perhaps a formal definition may help as consideration is given to these questions.

Literal: 1. using or interpreting words in their usual or most basic sense without metaphor or allegory. 2. (of a translation) representing the exact words of the original text. 3. free from distortion.¹

One who seeks to be literal would try to uphold the primary meaning of a word or words. A literalist would avoid exaggeration, metaphor, or embellishment of those words, and would attempt to find the simplest, nonfigurative, or most obvious meaning.

A literalist would *not* hold that:

- Every word has only one meaning.
- Every passage can only be taken as presenting hard facts.
- Every sentence must be taken as redemptive truth.
- There are no passages with allegorical or figurative meanings.

A literalist *would* hold that:

- Every word of God is pure.
- We are not to “add” to or “delete” anything from the text.
- We are to revere and respect the text.
- We are to study and obey the text.
- We are to embrace the text’s historicity, authenticity, accuracy, and authority.

Such a position would mean that a literalist would accept the words of Genesis as historically accurate. That would mean that God created a “good” universe, and that the creation of the universe is recent. That would also mean that “progressive” and/or “evolutionary” creation is not taught by the words of Scripture.

A creationist worldview, which is certainly based on a “literalist” approach to the text of Scripture, would reject any form of naturalistic, atheistic, or evolutionary interpretation of the biblical record. That rejection is required because such an atheistic interpretation would exclude the supernatural involvement of God. Also, such an evolutionary approach to the biblical text would refute or distort the character of God as revealed in the creation. Furthermore, naturalistic interpretation of the text would nullify the clear words of God’s inspired writings.

Interpretation of the biblical text is foundational to an understanding of God’s Word. A non-literal approach to the text ultimately means that man “decides” what God meant when God inspired the writings. When man makes the decision, science is often laid over Scripture, or reason over revelation. Experience rules over biblical doctrine in many hearts, thus relegating the Scripture to a subservient position.

When one approaches the Scripture as a literalist, God’s Word determines what man is to believe. Scripture then rules over man’s atheistic science and revelation rules over man’s “natural” mind—including ruling over man’s feelings or experience. Here at ICR we hold to such a “naïve literalist” position, expecting that our search for scientific information will demonstrate the accuracy of the biblical text. ●

Reference

1. Literal. 2000. *The Compact Oxford English Dictionary*, 2nd ed. New York: Oxford University Press.

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



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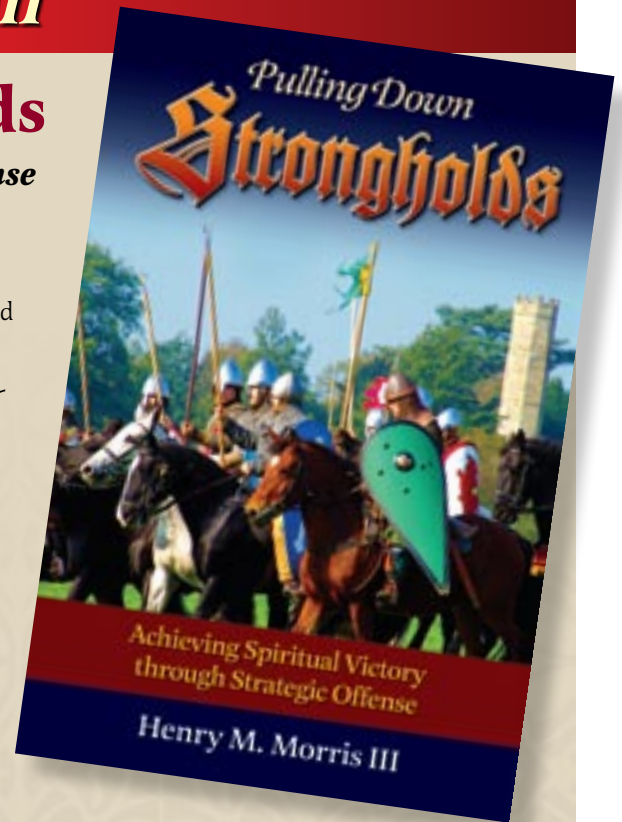
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