

ACTS & FACTS

INSTITUTE FOR
CREATION RESEARCH

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VOL. 40 NO. 4

Being BIBLICAL

THE FIRST BOOK OF MOSES,
CALLED
GENESIS.

CHAP. I.

I The creation of heaven and earth, 3 of the light, 6 of the firmament, 9 of the earth separated from the waters, 11 and made fruitful, 14 of the sun, moon, and stars, 20 of fish and fowl, 24 of beasts and cattle, 26 of man in the image of God. 29 Also the appointment of food.

IN the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

2 And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep; and the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

3 And God said, Let there be light; and there was light.

4 And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the dark: and God called the light Day, and the darkness Night: and the evening

17 And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth, **18** And to rule over the day, and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness: and God saw that it was good.

19 And the evening and the morning were the fourth day.

20 And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the living creature that hath life, and fowls above the earth, and every whale, and every creeping creature that hath life, and fowls above the earth, and every

21 And God created the great whales, and every creeping creature that hath life, and fowls above the earth, and every

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Saying More with Less

Tag lines at businesses help customers quickly get to the nuts and bolts of what describes products or services they offer. Here are a few samples:

“Save money. Live better.” — Walmart
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 “The right relationship.” — Chase
 “Let’s build something together.” — Lowes

Ministries use these pithy statements, too, and one of ours at ICR is “Biblical. Accurate. Certain.”

These three words are meant to help others understand that what we do here in our ministry is founded on biblical truth, thoroughly vetted to be accurate, and presented with a high level of certainty in order to give readers confidence in our message, which is ultimately rooted in the message of our Creator.

Whether through our periodicals like *Acts & Facts* or *Days of Praise*, through one of our three international radio programs, at the hundreds of seminars and conferences we give each year, or during our graduate school classes, those who encounter ICR should quickly recognize those three attributes about our ministry. They are vital characteristics of the life blood of our work every day.

Dr. Henry Morris III will be discussing these three fundamental principles of our ministry, beginning this month with the important pillar of our biblical heritage and foundation. Look for his continuing articles on why we value the qualities of accuracy and certainty in both our scientific research and biblical teaching.

The importance of the Bible is significant to us at ICR and we pray it is to you as well. This year marks the 400th anniversary of the publication of the King James Version of the Bible, the most popular English translation to date. Read more about this on page 10.

This month marks the one-year anniversary of ICR’s new Bio-Origins research initiative. A significant undertaking related to the biblical “kinds” as described in Genesis, ICR’s science team continues this multi-year project to help us understand better, from science and the Bible, the intricate design and purpose engineered into the world around us. Dr. Nathaniel Jeanson gives a one-year overview on page 6.

On page 22 we’ve featured a popular resurrection article by ICR founder Dr. Henry Morris titled “Impact of the Empty Tomb.” A booklet-length publication, we’ve printed just the first portion of this insightful article and have placed the entire booklet online at www.icr.org/resources.

Speaking of online resources, don’t forget to visit both our main website (www.icr.org) and our online store (www.icr.org/store), where you’ll find thousands of articles about the Bible and science spanning over 40 years of research and teaching by ICR’s professional staff, as well as a great selection of book, Bibles, DVDs, and other products for you, your family, and those you wish to impact with the message of the Creator.

One of our newest books is *Dragons: Legends & Lore of Dinosaurs*. It’s a fantastic book for kids, with lots of pull-outs and features that hold their attention and teach them the truth about dinosaurs. Order your copy today.

And, as always, remember to pray for the staff and ministry of ICR. Each day here is filled with hard work and great expectation of the Lord’s blessings, knowing that you’re standing behind us with your intercession and generous financial support.

Thanks for investing in eternity!

Lawrence E. Ford
 EXECUTIVE EDITOR

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Being BIBLICAL

HENRY M. MORRIS III, D. MIN.

Biblical. Accurate. Certain. These three adjectives describe fundamental characteristics that define the work of the Institute for Creation Research. These terms do not speak to what we do or even to the specific mission that we believe the Lord Jesus has called us to implement. They do, however, carefully define how we set about our daily tasks—the inner commitments that both drive and limit what we ultimately research, teach, and communicate to others.

First in order, both by choice and by

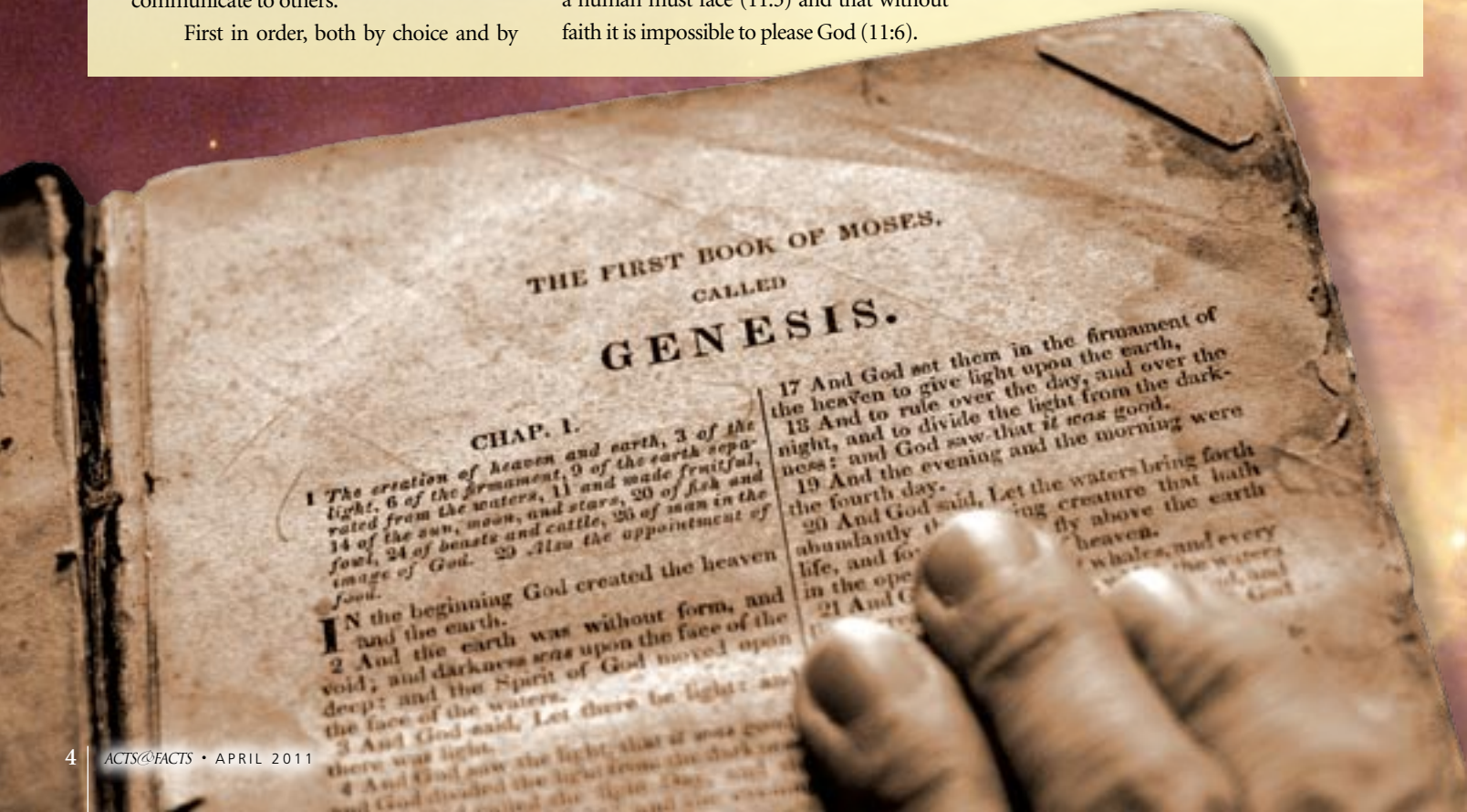
necessity, is the word “biblical.” Being biblical is the overarching mindset that insures both accuracy and certainty in our work. The foundation of all truth lies upon and within that which the Creator has specifically revealed through the Scriptures.

Being biblical means that we do not doubt the written Word of God.

The writer of Hebrews tells us that belief in the creation is the first test of faith a human must face (11:3) and that without faith it is impossible to please God (11:6).

And faith, Paul reminds us, comes by hearing the Word of God (Romans 10:17). Faith is a gift that God gives (Ephesians 2:8), channelled through the written words of God, and it enables us to “transform” and “renew” our minds so that we can “prove” the “good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God” (Romans 12:2).

Doubt is very subtle. It enters our thoughts when we lack knowledge, and can fester into open rebellion against reality. This



is especially true if we attempt to accommodate a “double mind”—which will ultimately drive us to instability in all of our deliberations (James 1:8). That is why being biblical is our first and foremost characteristic.

ICR is committed to a strong view of Scripture, maintaining that “every word of God is pure” (Proverbs 30:5), that the “scripture cannot be broken” (John 10:35), and that all of the written text of the Bible is “God-breathed” and therefore without error (2 Timothy 3:16). Furthermore, we are confident that these “great and precious promises” are sufficient for “all things that pertain unto life and godliness” (2 Peter 1:3-4).

Being biblical means that we do not deny God’s capability.

The central argument that Satan made to Eve in the Garden was that she would not die—as God had said. Eve was left with several possible responses to that challenge. If Satan was right, God either could not or would not do as He promised. If Lucifer was challenging the Creator, then surely God was not as omnipotent as He said He was, and therefore Eve could (and did) embrace the opposite of what she had been privileged to know. Adam, on the other hand, with full knowledge of what was transpiring, chose to participate in the rebellion and defy the Creator.

The same situation exists today. God has provided evidence in the “things that are made,” so made that even His “eternal power and Godhead” are clearly seen (Romans 1:20). Those who choose to deny and defy the “speech” and “knowledge” written in the universe (Psalm 19:1-3) are “without excuse.”

In our work to know the Creator and make Him known, we willingly and joyfully embrace the “divine nature” so beautifully inscribed across the universe. We are not tempted to subject the creation of the universe to eons of death and chaos, because the clear words of the biblical text eliminate such a monstrous possibility. To make God

The foundation of all truth lies upon and within that which the Creator has specifically revealed through the Scriptures.

the author of evolution in any developmental scheme is to deny the omnipotence and omniscience of the very Being upon whom we rest for our own salvation and eternal destiny. The words of God are eternal and “in him are yea, and in him amen” (2 Corinthians 1:20).

Being biblical means that we will not denigrate God’s character.

The secular, non-theistic worldview is in direct opposition to a Creator. It knows and acknowledges nothing of the need for eternal redemption. It speaks only of self-centered appeasement. Naturalism at its core is atheistic, and the thrust of evolutionary theory is to tell the “story” of our origins without God.

The main proponents of evolutionary naturalism and the associated sociological exponents of that philosophy are atheistic in theory if not in practice. Our culture has passed from “modern” to “post-modern” and with it have come the many variations of *scientism* that are unified in their opposition to the concept of a transcendent Creator God. The very idea of an omnipotent, omniscient Being is anathema to these naturalistic concepts of human existence.

A “god” who would use the cruel, inefficient, wasteful, death-dependent processes of the random, purposeless mechanisms of naturalistic evolution contrasts so radically with the God described in the pages of the Bible that one wonders how the two could ever be thought to be the same being, as some evangelical leaders are claiming today.

God’s holiness demands that the creation not distort anything about God—or about the creation itself. God could not create a lie; He could not make anything that would inexorably lead us to a wrong conclu-

sion, nor could He create processes that would counter His own nature or that would lead us to conclude something untrue about Him.

Everything that we see revealed about God, both in the universe and in the Scriptures, shouts the message that God is a God of order, purpose, and will. There is no hint of randomness in God. God does not react to circumstances; He’s never caught off guard. He never has to correct Himself and change His mind about His reason for doing something. He does not alter His plan for eternity, nor does He get confused about His design, His pleasure, or His purpose.

Given all that God has done to convey who He is and what He wants us to know, how should we approach His Word? What method can we use that would bring us most carefully before His written Word?

Being biblical

While ICR remains a science organization and conducts research into the workings of creation, our research is driven to uncover evidence that will enable our understanding of what God has done and is doing in the universe.

Being biblical sends us first to the very words of God before we attempt to identify the key questions necessary for solid scientific research. Being biblical demands that our activities are founded on the revealed truth of Scripture, which provides the “box” within which we search for truth about the world around us.

Being biblical is rooted in God’s command in Genesis 1:28, shaping our conscious efforts to “subdue” and “rule” the creation in such a way that our worship is directed to the Creator and not to the creature. ●

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



Life Sciences Research: Year One in Review

NATHANIEL T. JEANSON, P.H.D.

The Institute for Creation Research announced its new research venture into the life sciences in April 2010. Since then, the research team has made significant progress investigating the outstanding biology questions at the cutting edge of the creation/evolution debate.

The ICR life sciences research program was initiated due to current gaps in science-based apologetic knowledge.¹ These gaps have not been addressed by past ICR research, which focused primarily on geology. Filling this void is the goal of ICR origins biology research.

We have been tracking our progress in this undertaking via the diagram below, which we term the “Research Cascade.” We began this process by identifying key origins biology questions for which answers remain unknown.²⁻⁵ Since then, we have initiated Hebrew word studies,⁶ and have undertaken a review of the scientific literature—evolutionary and creationist—to narrow our focus to a few feasible research projects that will aid in addressing these questions.⁷



For example, the ultimate answer to most of our big questions appears to be hidden in the DNA and protein sequences of various creatures. We have been diligently studying related research papers and have even performed a number of our own biological sequence analyses of available data on computers in-house at ICR. These efforts support step two of the Research Cascade—producing more refined

questions—and we anticipate arriving at this step in the next year or two, though this timeline is almost certain to change given the inherently *uncertain* nature of research investigations.

Given the calculated pace at which we have progressed in the Cascade, it should be apparent that research is a very protracted process. This stems from several factors. First, the enormity of the questions and the amount of data to analyze temper the speed with which we can pursue any one of them. Essentially, we are trying to replace the standard models of classification and genetic change with new paradigms; this is a large task.

Second, the labor force is small. Even if the “team” were expanded to include all full-time professional creation biologists outside of ICR, the size of this group still pales in comparison to the number of evolutionary labs dedicated to similar tasks. Third, we wish to use the precious funds of our donors most wisely. The path to research success is often littered with roadblocks and dead-ends, and we wish to diligently avoid them and take only those paths that yield apologetically useful answers. Hence, progress may appear somewhat slow, but it is proceeding at a steady pace.

In the next year, we plan to continue reviewing scientific literature and performing more bioinformatic analyses. Our initial results already look very promising. We anticipate creating a revised, more advanced research proposal by the end of 2012. Please keep us in your prayers as we seek the advancement of His kingdom through biblically based origins research. ●

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Dr. Jeanson is Research Associate and received his Ph.D. in Cell and Developmental Biology from Harvard University.



ICR *April* EVENTS

■ APRIL 1

Orono, ME – University of Maine
(Guliuzza) 207.329.5374

■ APRIL 2-3

Bangor, ME – Bangor Baptist Church
(Guliuzza) 207.947.6576

■ APRIL 8-9

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan – Discerning the Times Conference
(J. Morris) 306.371.6877

■ APRIL 8-10

Carlisle, PA – Carlisle Reformed Presbyterian Church
(Guliuzza, Johnson, Sherwin) 717.249.5675

■ APRIL 10

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan – Fairhaven Bible Chapel
(J. Morris) 306.384.1919

■ APRIL 13

Redding, CA – Grace Baptist Church
(Guliuzza) 530.222.2128

■ APRIL 13-17

Redding, CA – The 8th Annual Alpha Omega Conference on
Creation and End-time Prophecy
(Guliuzza) 530.221.4275

■ APRIL 14

Redding, CA – First Baptist Church
(Guliuzza) 530.243.5358

■ APRIL 15

Shasta, CA – Shasta Community Church
(Guliuzza) 530.241.4614 or 530.604.7340

■ APRIL 17

Klamath Falls, CA – BBC Ministries
(Guliuzza) 541.883.2289

■ APRIL 26

Lindale, TX – Teen Mania Chapel
(Morse) 800.299.8336

■ APRIL 27

Lindale, TX – Teen Mania Apologetics Conference
(Guliuzza, Jeanson) 800.299.8336

■ APRIL 27

Roanoke, VA – Calvary Memorial Church
(J. Morris) 540.342.7489

■ APRIL 29 – MAY 1

Blacksburg, VA – Harvest Baptist Church
(J. Morris) 540.552.1267

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.

Speaker Profile: RANDY GULIUZZA

Dr. Randy Guliuzza, ICR's National Representative, is a captivating writer and articulate speaker who presents well-documented and often humorous scientific and biblical talks to audiences of all ages. He has represented the Institute for Creation Research in several scientific debates at secular universities and in other forums. He specializes in assisting laymen and technical people to see scientific data from the creation science perspective.

Dr. Guliuzza has a B.S. in Engineering from the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, a B.A. in Theology from Moody

Bible Institute, an M.D. from the University of Minnesota, and a Masters in Public Health from Harvard University. Dr. Guliuzza served nine years in the Navy Civil Engineer Corps and is a registered Professional Engineer. In 2008, he retired as Lt. Col. from the U.S. Air Force, where he served as Flight Surgeon and Chief of Aerospace Medicine.

He is also the author of *Made in His Image: Examining the complexities of the human body*, which explores the amazing biological engineering of God's created humanity, from the growth of a baby to skin's built-in sun protection to how cells are supplied with energy and more.



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Our Daily Bread:

How Food Proves God's Providence

JAMES J. S. JOHNSON, J.D., T.H.D.

Sometimes the proof that God is our Creator comes in the form of a potato, or lingonberries, or cheese, or eggs, or a codfish. Each type of food is a witness to God's providential care. The meals consumed over a human lifetime offer a huge quantity of proof, from a huge pantry of witnesses!

God never leaves Himself without a truth witness

Food provides strong evidence of God's wisdom and power as our Creator, as well as His goodness in providing for fallen mankind's physical needs. In fact, the Bible teaches that the providentially programmed production of all food, anywhere and everywhere on earth, is itself a continuing proof that God is a caring Creator. The apostle Paul taught this:

And saying, Sirs, why do ye these things? We also are men of like passions with you, and preach unto you that ye should turn from these vanities unto the living God, which made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all things that are therein: Who in times past suffered all nations to walk in their own ways. *Nevertheless he left not himself without witness, in that he did good, and gave us rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness.* (Acts 14:15-17, emphasis added)

Think about God's providence and how it is displayed on earth.

God has demonstrated His immeasurable glory by His many acts of providential care for His creatures, especially humans and animals. Yet some of what God provides is so commonplace that it is routinely ignored, although that ignorance cannot negate the overwhelming proof of God's providence.

Consider just two of those providential care evidences named above by the apostle Paul: fruitful seasons and food. Both of these blessings provide an ongoing benefit for God's favorite creature, mankind.

The apologetics of fruitful seasons

Since the Flood, God's historic providence in providing a dependable cycle of annual seasons has been routine.

While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease. (Genesis 8:22)

If the "reawakening" of plant life during spring were to occur only once in a human's lifetime, the wonder of it all would (and should) be recognized as an immense miracle, so majestic and clever that billions of words could not do justice to describe it.

God planned for fruitful trees to provide food for humans, generation after generation, as a long-term renewable provision that was to be considered more important than the immediate activities of any one generation, a resource to be protected even during crises such as military activities. (See Deuteronomy 20:19-20; notice that food availability for multiple generations is also planned for in Deuteronomy 22:6-7.) This re-production-driven multi-generational provision was preprogrammed by God, with each fruit's biogenetic reproductive capacity written within its seeds, as Genesis taught from the beginning.

And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so. And the earth brought forth



grass, and herb yielding seed after his kind, *and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his kind*: and God saw that it was good. (Genesis 1:11-12, emphasis added)

Thus, “fruitful seasons” are a positive proof of the providential care of our Creator.

The apologetics of food

Likewise, God’s provision of an amazing diversity of foods—around the world, in every age, in every culture, to every people group—is proof positive that God is Creator. Food is absolutely necessary to prolong our physical life.

Why? As a result of Adam’s sin, death entered the human race (Romans 5:12). God’s warning to Adam indicated a double-death penalty: “To die thou shalt die” (Genesis 2:17, which includes an infinitive-imperfect “double verb” in the Hebrew text).

Sin immediately triggered a relational break between Creator and creature, because God is holy. That relational break was a *spiritual* death, a separation from God that Paul called being “dead in trespasses and sins” (Ephesians 2:1).

Also, sin triggered an ongoing process of dying *physically*—what some scientists call “chemistry eventually wins out over biology”—so our human bodies die. Before birth, even from the time of conception, our physical bodies are dying, yet the metabolic profit we gain from eating food postpones and prolongs that dying process. (If you doubt food’s necessity, try abstaining from eating for two months!)

In some humans, physical life is prolonged by food for more than a century. But, in time, the condition of mortality takes its toll and we all anticipate death, even if we eat every day. Food only postpones the inevitable. But while it does, it is a life-sustaining fuel, an amazing and precious gift from our Creator,¹ as well as a testimony to the amazingly complex and

Food provides strong evidence of God’s wisdom and power as our Creator, as well as His goodness in providing for fallen mankind’s physical needs.

efficient world He designed:

Plants use biological systems that harvest light energy from the sun to convert environmental water and carbon dioxide into tiny carbon/hydrogen energy units stored within them. When people eat those energy units, the extraordinary human digestive and metabolic systems convert the work of plants into energy that is useful to people and give back water and carbon dioxide to the environment that can be used by plants....

In this amazing process that powers the human body, nuclear fusion energy in the sun is converted and conveyed as light energy to the earth, where it is captured and converted by plants to foodstuffs, then digested by a person and metabolized to universal energy packets that can be converted to chemical, mechanical, and electrical energy as needed. The information content behind all of this is truly staggering. The conversion of sunlight to body energy involves *all* systems of the body, plus a few plant systems, which must be totally functional.

Credit belongs to the Lord Jesus

Christ—the creative genius! The Lord is gracious to all people by freely giving the sun’s light energy, the vital biological systems of plants, and humans’ incredible digestive and metabolic systems.²

God has also acted in human history, in the lives of human beings, in ways that so tellingly reveal His intervention that to fail to recognize God’s providential involvement is morally and intellectually inexcusable. No random “chance” could provide a satisfactory explanation for the results of God’s providential care, and the proof is everywhere for those with eyes to see, even in every bite we eat. No wonder we are obligated to give thanks to God for our food.³

Food helps to prove that Jesus rose from the dead

In fact, even the eyewitness proof of the Lord Jesus Christ’s bodily resurrection was accentuated by His eating solid food (such as fish and honeycomb), demonstrating that He was physically raised from the dead.⁴

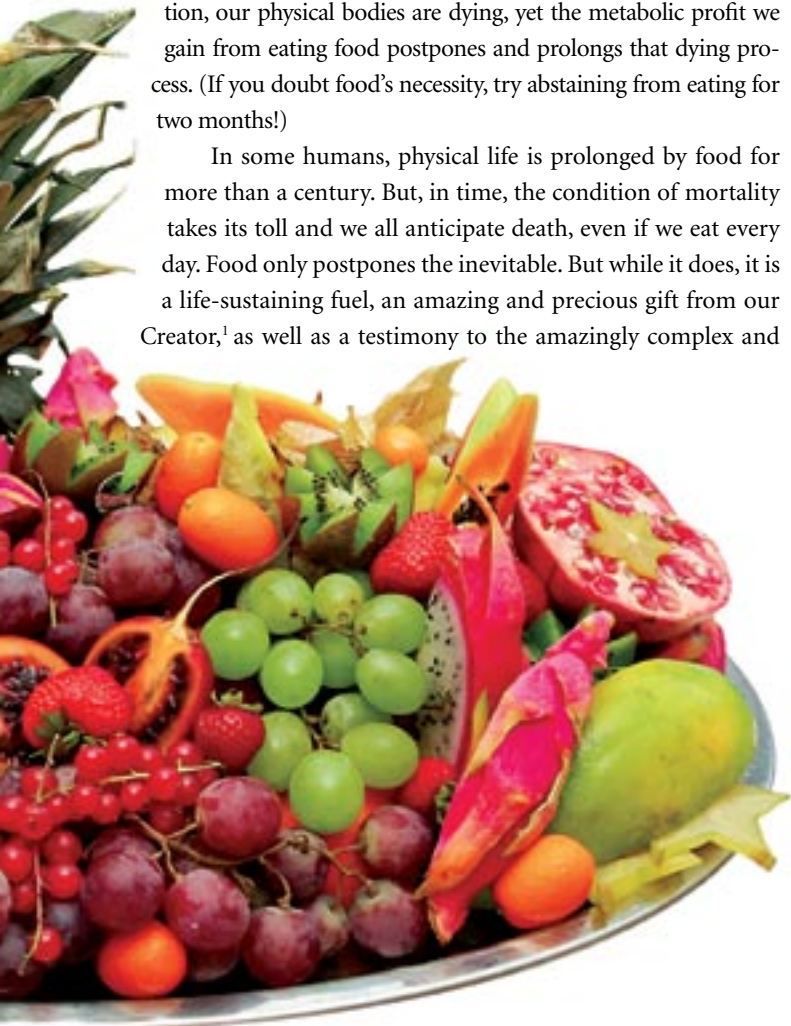
No one—man or woman, boy or girl—who has ever eaten a meal, and benefited metabolically from doing so, can honestly say, “God gave me no witness of Himself, so how was I supposed to know He was my Creator?”⁵

So, the proof is in the pudding—as well as in every other form of food that God provides for us, whether potato, lingonberry, cheese, egg, or codfish. ●

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3. See 1 Timothy 4:1-5, especially verses 4-5. See also 1 Corinthians 10:31. Obviously, we should have spiritual food—God’s Word—as well, on a daily basis. See Deuteronomy 8:3, quoted by Christ Himself in Matthew 4:4.
4. See Luke 24:33-51, especially verses 41-43, reporting that soon after resurrecting from the dead, Jesus ate broiled fish and honeycomb before a group of eyewitnesses.
5. Johnson, J. J. S. 2010. Misreading Earth’s Groanings: Why Evolutionists and Intelligent Design Proponents Fail Ecology 101. *Acts & Facts* 39 (8): 8-9.

Dr. Johnson is Associate Professor of Apologetics at the Institute for Creation Research.





CELEBRATING 400 YEARS OF INFLUENCE

LAWRENCE E. FORD

In 2010, the Institute for Creation Research celebrated 40 years of ministry. Looking back on four decades of research, teaching, and communicating the wonders of God’s creation, all of us are humbled at how God has used ICR to impact millions around the world with biblically based scientific truth and apologetics.

Fifty years ago marks the launch of the modern creation science movement with the publication of *The Genesis Flood* by Drs. John Whitcomb and Henry Morris. That book, still in publication, continues to influence scientists and laymen alike with the message of creation and the global Flood.

And yet, none of this ministry or impact would have been possible were it not for one other book, much more important than any other publication in the world: the Holy Bible. The inspired, inerrant Word of God is the bedrock foundation for all we do, not only at ICR, but for every true believer in Christ. Consider the amazing fact that God from the time of Adam began preserving His Word to be made available to every generation in the millennia to come. The miracle of inspiration

among the original authors of Scripture and the subsequent transmission of God’s Word through copyists and translators in the ages to follow all point to the providential care of God in ensuring that His Word would eventually reach to the uttermost part of the earth.

In the Western world, the most influential translation of God’s Word has been none other than the King James Version, first brought to life in 1611. And while most people today could

not read the original 1611 English, the KJV has been carefully reworked over the last four centuries to ensure that English-speaking people everywhere could read and understand the Bible. Even with numerous up-to-date English translations available today for Christians to read, the KJV is by far the most popular translation of the Bible in history.

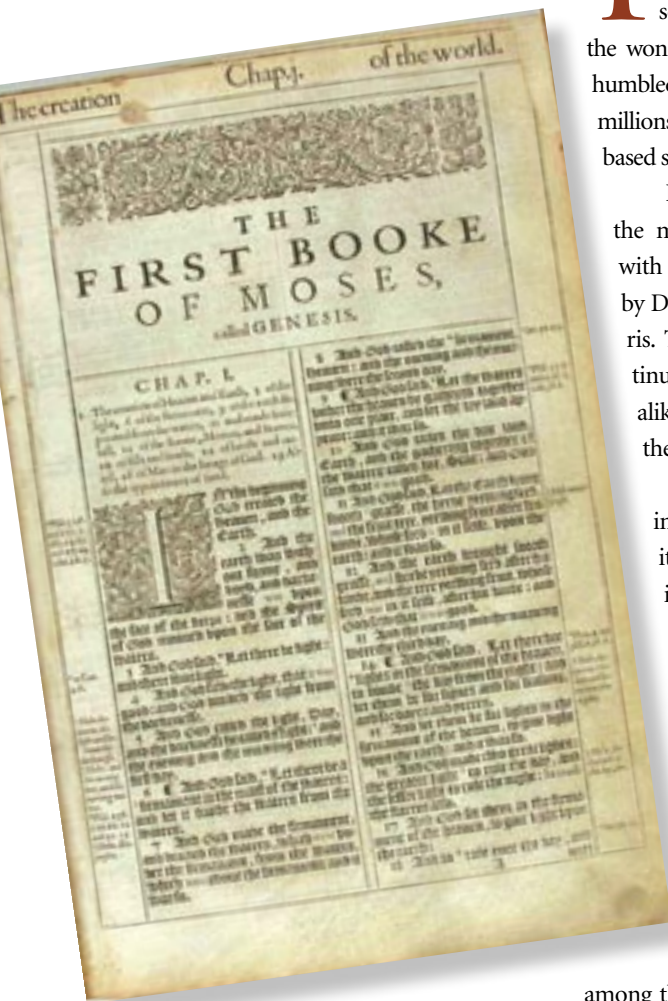
There is no doubt that God providentially used King James to initiate what is likely the greatest translation project in history—one that brought the Word of God to multiplied millions of English-speaking people around the world.

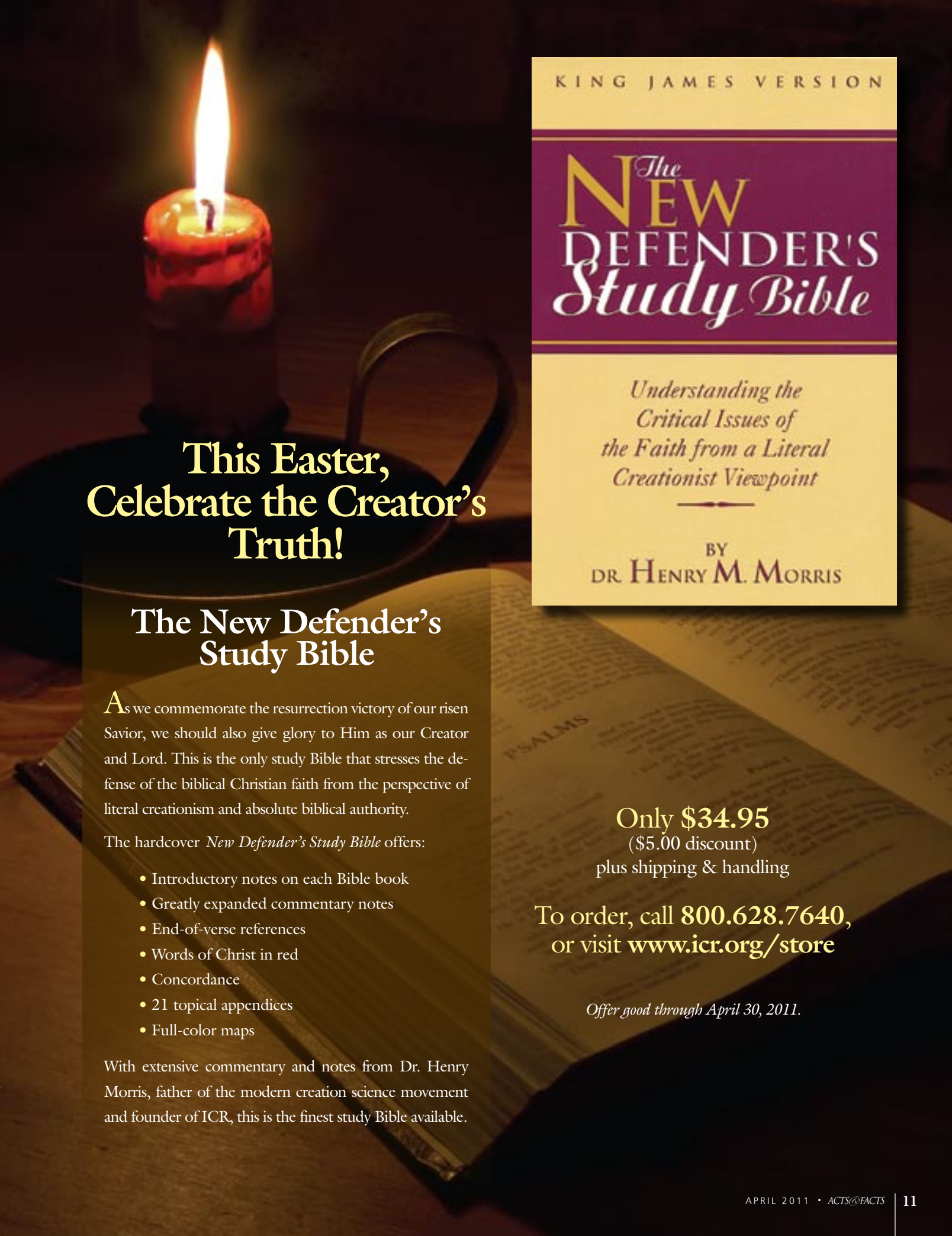
Thomas Nelson, the premiere Bible publisher in the world, has recently launched a website to honor the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible: www.kjv400celebration.com. On it are interesting facts about the Bible, videos describing the making of the KJV, and other resources to help Christians appreciate the rich blessing this English translation has been for four centuries.

Thomas Nelson is, in fact, the publisher of the KJV *The New Defender’s Study Bible* by ICR’s founder, Dr. Henry M. Morris. There is no question that the King James Version was the very favorite Bible translation of our founder and many Christians of his generation. Near the end of his life, Dr. Morris wrote a compelling article on the preservation of God’s Word. Visit our website at www.icr.org and type “Preserving the Words of God” in the Search box.

Forty years, half a century, four hundred years—how many of us will be able to look back and say that God has used us with such influence? May all of us redouble our commitment to remain faithful to the Word of our Creator.

Mr. Ford is Executive Editor.





**This Easter,
Celebrate the Creator's
Truth!**

The New Defender's Study Bible

As we commemorate the resurrection victory of our risen Savior, we should also give glory to Him as our Creator and Lord. This is the only study Bible that stresses the defense of the biblical Christian faith from the perspective of literal creationism and absolute biblical authority.

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DEFENDING THE FAITH

HENRY M. MORRIS, P.H.D.

In the next-to-last book of the Bible, the apostle Jude exhorts us to “earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints” (Jude 3). His warning refers primarily to professing Christians who would dilute the faith instead of defending it.

I ran across the following exhortation from that great “prince of preachers,” Charles Haddon Spurgeon, and I would like to share it with you. I don’t know where it first appeared over a hundred years ago, but it is so relevant to the modern situation that it could have been written yesterday. Here it is:

We must defend the Faith, for what would have become of us if our fathers had not maintained it?...Must we not play the man as they did? If we do not, are we not censuring our Fathers? It is very pretty, is it not, to read of Luther and his brave deeds. Of course, everybody admires Luther! Yes, yes, but you do not want anyone else to do the same today....We admire a man who is firm in the Faith, say four hundred years ago;...but such a man today is a nuisance, and must be put down. Call him a narrow-minded bigot, or give him a worse name if you can think of one. Yet imagine that in those ages past Luther, Zwingli, Calvin, and their compeers had said, “The world is out of order; but if we try to set it right we shall only make a great row, and get ourselves into disgrace. Let us go to our chambers, put on our night-caps and sleep over the bad times, and perhaps when we wake up, things would have grown better.” Such conduct upon their part would have entailed upon us a heritage of error. These men loved the Faith and the name of Jesus too well to see them trampled on. Note that we owe them, and let us pay to our sons the debt we owe to our fathers.

To the same effect is that stirring statement from Martin Luther, which I have kept in

the flyleaf of my Bible for about forty years.

If I profess with the loudest voice and clearest expression every portion of the truth of God except precisely that little point which the world and the devil are at that moment attacking, I am not confessing Christ, however boldly I may be professing Christ. Where the battle rages, there the loyalty of the soldier is proved, and to be steady on all the battlefield besides, is mere flight and disgrace, if he flinches at that point.

The world and the devil are focusing their attack today on the great truth of biblical creation more than on any other doctrine. If

UNBELIEVERS DIRECT THEIR MOST PASSIONATE ATTACKS AGAINST THE TRUTH OF RECENT CREATION AND ITS COROLLARY DOCTRINE, THE GLOBAL CATAclysm OF THE FLOOD. IF THEY CAN DESTROY THESE TWO DOCTRINES, THE REST WILL FALL EVENTUALLY.

we refuse to defend *this* component of God’s “everlasting gospel” (Revelation 14:6-7), it matters little what we do about the rest. Unbelievers attack all the Bible, of course, especially the miracles and prophecies, but they always direct their most passionate attacks against the truth of recent creation and its corollary doctrine, the global cataclysm of the Flood. If they can destroy these two doctrines, the rest will fall eventually. That is why the apostle Peter stresses these two great facts of history as the real antidote to the naturalistic worldview, the notion that “all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation” (see 2 Peter 3:3-6). He calls it “willful ignorance” to reject or ignore the two great biblical truths of special supernatural creation and the global cataclysm of the great Flood.

The sad aspect of this conflict is that so many “evangelicals” are trying to force the evolutionary ages of geology into the Genesis

account of creation. Instead of defending our biblical Christian faith, they are trying to accommodate it to the unbelieving worldview of evolutionary naturalism. They will affirm their belief in the resurrection of Christ and His imminent return, and these are indeed vital doctrines, but they are not defending the true Christian faith when they dilute the historical authenticity of the foundational chapters of the Bible.

Some will even refute Darwinism and do an excellent job of it. But then they still try to accommodate the evolutionary ages of the naturalists, which in turn requires rejecting the worldwide cataclysm of the Flood. They seem indifferent to the fact that this means accepting a billion years of a suffering, dying biosphere before Adam’s fall brought sin and death into the world.

It is even sadder when they feel that this compromising approach will convince the scientific establishment to accept Christ and the gospel. They may use various terms to soften the concept—such terms as “intelligent design,” “process creation,” “theistic evolution,” and the like—but it will not make a dent in the worldview of the naturalists. They will continue smugly in their unbelief, regardless of the accommodations “some Christians” make to their system.

For example, an official policy statement of the National Association of Biology Teachers on teaching evolution said:

Explanations employing non-naturalistic or supernatural events, whether or not explicit reference is made to a supernatural being, are outside the realm of science and not part of a valid science curriculum.¹

One of evolution’s most articulate and influential spokesmen, the late Dr. Stephen Jay Gould of Harvard, rejected one of the best-



written books of the “intelligent design” school, in scathing words such as the following:

Johnson’s current incarnation of this false strategy, *Darwin on Trial*, hardly deserves to be called a book at all....The book, in short, is full of errors, badly argued, based on false criteria and abysmally written.... Johnson is not a “scientific creationist” of Duane Gish’s ilk—the “young earth” Biblical literalists who have caused so much political trouble of late, but whom we beat in the Supreme Court in 1987. He accepts the earth’s great age and allows that God may have chosen to work via natural selection and other evolutionary principles....The book is scarcely more than an acrid little puff.²

Now Gould’s review is grossly unfair, and Phil Johnson wrote an excellent reply to it (which *Scientific American* refused to print), but it did not change Gould’s opinion at all.

The point is that no dilution of the creation/Flood record of God’s inspired Word, no matter how well-motivated and persuasively written, is going to budge the evolutionary establishment in science or education one iota. They hold their position for religious reasons, not scientific, and scientific arguments for “intelligent design” are rejected just as vigorously as arguments for recent creation or a global flood.

The American Scientific Affiliation has been advocating a compromise between evolution and creation for years. Their widely distributed book, *Teaching Science in a Climate of Controversy*, was a collection of well-planned essays designed to encourage such a middle-of-the-road system for classroom teaching. The result was a series of bitter attacks by the evolutionists. *The Science Teacher* magazine, for example, published a series of essays by leading scientists repudiating it, entitled “Scientists Decry a Slick New Packaging of Creationism.”³

One of the authors, Dr. Lynn Margulis, called it “treacherous,” a polemic designed “to coax us to believe in the ASA’s particular creation myth.”

The excellent book *Of Pandas and People* was written to present biology in terms of “intelligent design,” without any reference to God, the Bible, or creation, hoping that it could be adopted as a high school biology textbook. Again, nothing doing! It was merely a sneaky way of getting creationism into the schools, said its opponents, and they won. The Creation Research Society textbook *Biology: A Search for Order in Complexity*, published in 1970 with a similar goal, had already met the same fate.

I don’t believe any sort of compromise on this issue will ever get a fair hearing, let alone be adopted for public use, so why repeat

THE SAD ASPECT OF THIS CONFLICT IS THAT SO MANY “EVANGELICALS” ARE TRYING TO FORCE THE EVOLUTIONARY AGES OF GEOLOGY INTO THE GENESIS ACCOUNT OF CREATION.

the same old mistakes? Do we really believe the Bible to be the inspired Word of God? Do we believe that God speaks clearly? Do we really think that current scientific majority opinion is always right?

Another very popular advocate of compromise says that teaching recent creation and worldwide Flood views will keep people from coming to Christ. “Because of the implausibility of such a position,” says Dr. Hugh Ross, “many reject the Bible out of hand without seriously investigating its message or even reading for themselves the relevant passages.”⁴

Dr. Ross does not document this statement, and he is wrong. Many scientists *do* accept the biblical record at face value, and there are now thousands of scientists who have become young-earth creationists, not to mention

multitudes of non-scientists.

What the compromise approach does, however, is not to bring the lost to Christ, but causes many who are already Christians to doubt their Faith as they go down the slippery path of compromise.

We do want urgently to win people to Christ (and many *have* come, through the biblical message of the great gospel of creation and redemption). But it is even more important to be true to God’s clear revelation.

In six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day. (Exodus 20:11)

By the word of the LORD were the heavens made;...For he spake, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast. (Psalm 33:6, 9)

But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female. (Mark 10:6)

... by man came death. (1 Corinthians 15:21)

Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished. (2 Peter 3:6)

How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow him. (1 Kings 18:21)

Yes, we must defend the faith; for what would have become of us if our fathers had not maintained it? Where the battle rages, there the loyalty of the soldier is proved. ●

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Adapted from Dr. Morris’ article “Defending the Faith” in the January 1997 edition of *Acts & Facts*.

Dr. Morris (1918-2006) was Founder of the Institute for Creation Research.



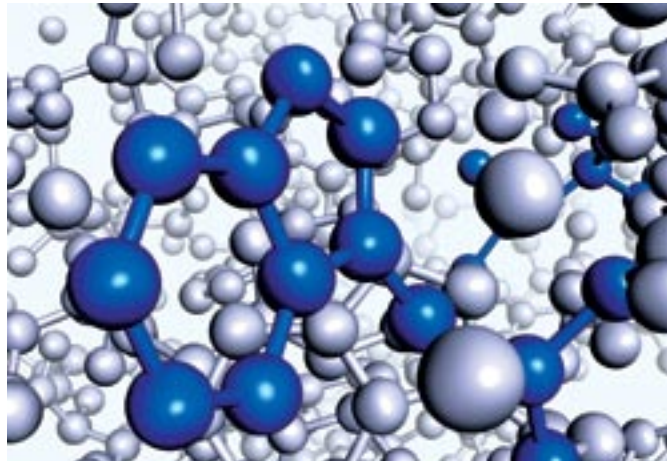
The Biggest Problems for Evolution

J O H N D . M O R R I S , P H . D .

The design of living things has always been a huge problem for evolutionists. Even the simplest single-cell organism is unimaginably complex, with scores of highly sophisticated parts, all performing important functions and all mutually interdependent. The laws of statistics have convinced all who have bothered to calculate the odds that even something as basic as a protein molecule could never arise by chance, consisting as it does of a chain of hundreds of precisely arranged amino acids.

And such a protein molecule is trivial compared to any of the working parts of a cell. When it is recognized that all of these parts must be present and functioning at the start, it must be admitted that life is impossible without an Intelligent Designer. Actually, every living thing gives such strong evidence for design that only willfully ignoring the data (2 Peter 3:5) could lead one to assign such intricacy to chance and natural selection. Every living thing, from simple bacteria to people, possesses the marvelous DNA code, which contains a library full of precise information, and without which life is impossible.

Another fatal problem for evolution—which, if it occurred at all, occurred in the long-ago past—lies in the nature of the fossil record, which is the only physical record we have of life in the past. As is now being admitted by my evolutionary colleagues, the fossil record gives no clue that any basic type of animal has ever changed into another basic type of animal, for



no undisputed chain of in-between forms has ever been discovered.

Each basic type is distinct in the modern world and in the fossil record, although there is much variation within these basic types. While gradual “Darwinian” evolution has always predicted that transitional forms would one day be found, the current rage in evolutionary circles is the concept of rapid evolution, or “punctuated equilibrium”—proposing that small isolated portions of a larger population evolved rapidly and left no fossils. But where is the evidence that they evolved at all?

Even though the gaps in the fossil record

are found between each basic animal type, there are two huge gaps in particular that should be emphasized. The evolutionary distance between single-cell organisms and the vast array of multicellular, highly complex marine invertebrates precludes even rapid evolution. In the supposedly 600-million-year-old layers of rock designated as Cambrian (which contain the first appearance of varied multi-cell life), sponges, clams, trilobites, starfish, etc., are found without the required evolutionary ancestors.

The gap from marine invertebrates to the vertebrate fish is likewise immense. To make matters worse for the evolutionists, fish fossils are also found in Cambrian strata. If evolution is true, fish must have evolved from something, and invertebrates must also have evolved from something. Evolution has no ancestor to propose, but the

evidence exactly fits the creation model, which insists that each animal type was created fully formed, with no evolutionary transition.

The evidence for creation is so strong, it is illogical to believe anything else. Only a religious commitment to atheism, or a desire for the approval of those atheists who call themselves scholars, could lead one down this path. The Bible says that those who deny creation are “without excuse” (Romans 1:20). ●

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

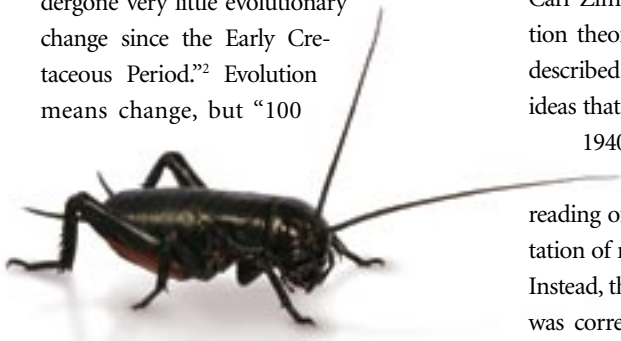


Insects in Darwin's Ointment

FRANK SHERWIN, M.A.

The phylum Arthropoda is composed of creatures that have paired, jointed appendages and a chitinous (nitrogen-containing polysaccharide) exoskeleton. It is the largest group of animals in God's creation and includes the crustaceans (lobsters, crabs) and insects.

Arthropods, like all other creatures, validate the creation model by appearing suddenly and completely in the fossil record in a most un-Darwinian manner.¹ A recent discovery of a fossil in Brazil has frustrated evolutionists by being a 100-percent cricket that "has undergone very little evolutionary change since the Early Cretaceous Period."² Evolution means change, but "100



million years" of stasis hardly validates evolutionary theory. This fossil shows that crickets have always been crickets.

A laboratory insect used for over a century by geneticists is the fruit fly.³ In 2010, researchers reported in the evolutionary journal *Nature* the results of 600 generations of artificial selection on this creature.⁴ They were hoping to document beneficial mutations becoming fixed in the fruit fly population. But intelligent agents with plenty of research money and time, working under conditions that would evidently favor upward, onward evolution,



could not document beneficial mutations. In fact, the opposite occurred with the flies undergoing "reverse evolution"! In addition, the mystical process of natural selection was conspicuously absent. The study authors wrote:

Our work provides a new perspective on the genetic basis of adaptation. Despite decades of sustained selection in relatively small, sexually reproducing laboratory populations, selection did not lead to the fixation of newly arising unconditionally advantageous alleles.⁵

What about the recent assertion by Carl Zimmer that a certain butterfly evolution theory has been "vindicated"?⁶ Zimmer described *Polyommatus* blue butterflies and ideas that Vladimir Nabokov presented in the 1940s regarding their waves of migration and reclassification. But a careful reading of the account showed no documentation of non-butterflies becoming butterflies. Instead, the report showed only that Nabokov was correct regarding his predictions of the migration of the *Polyommatus* blue butterflies and their subsequent variation as they filled ecological niches. Variation within the created kind and programmed filling are predicted on the basis of biblical creation.⁷

Bed bugs have crept into the news recently not only as increasingly unwelcome guests in motel bedding, but also as supposed evidence of "rapid evolution" as they respond to pesticides.⁸ But do the changes in bed bug survival tactics show that they evolved from an

entirely different creature, or are bed bugs just adapting? The latter is a more scientific interpretation, considering *they are still the same species* of ectoparasite. In *Evolution Under the Microscope*,



David Swift ably discusses an insect's ability to develop resistance to pesticides⁹—an ability that has nothing to do with Darwin's "descent with modification."

Finally, if regularly finding soft tissue in fossils isn't bad enough for the evolutionary timeline,¹⁰ science just delivered another blow to evolution's alleged long ages. Fossilized arthropod remains from the Paleozoic, a "310-million-year-old" scorpion cuticle and a "417-million-year-old" scorpion-like arthropod, were found to contain exoskeleton remnants. Specifically, "contrary to conventional belief, remains of chitin-protein complex—structural materials containing protein and polysaccharide—are present in abundance."¹¹ Biblical creationists, having trusted in the Bible's timeline, are not surprised by such discoveries of original organic materials, as they are plain indicators of a young earth. ●

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Mr. Sherwin is Senior Science Lecturer.



“Lucy’s” New Foot Bone Is Actually Human

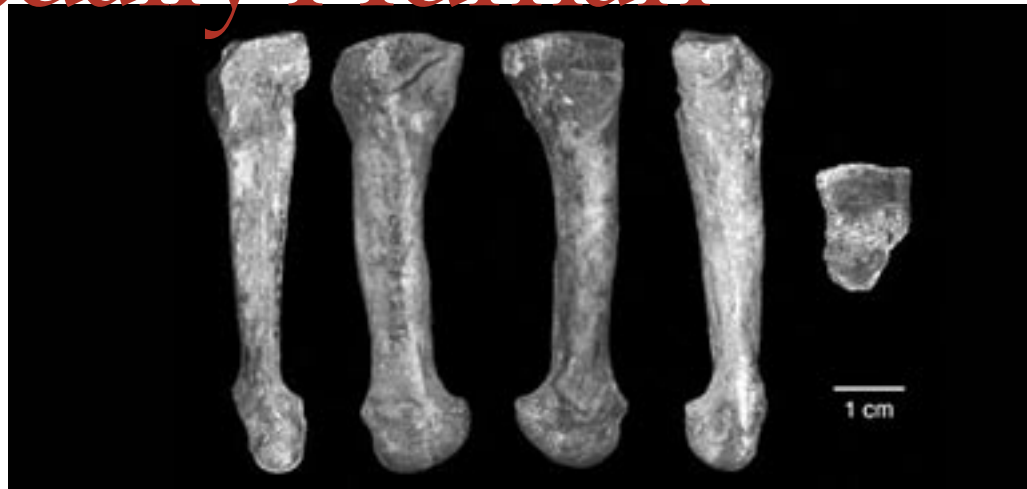
BRIAN THOMAS, M.S.

Researchers have announced that a human-looking bone discovered in the Hadar Formation in Ethiopia belongs to *Australopithecus afarensis*, prompting one major news headline to proclaim, “Ancient Foot Bone Proves Prehuman Lucy Walked Tall.”¹

Australopiths are extinct apes known only from fossils. “Lucy” is the most famous example, and she was long thought to represent an evolutionary transition between ape-kind and mankind. The latest discovery is taken as additional evidence that human ancestors gradually morphed from tree-dwelling apes, but what does this newly described bone actually prove?

The bone looks just like a human fourth metatarsal. This connects from a heel bone to the fourth toe over from the big toe, spanning the arch across the middle of the foot. Its description, published in the journal *Science*, clearly showed that the foot bone is within the range of modern humans and does not match any metatarsals from living apes or show any hint of being ape-like.²

In an interview with CBC radio, lead author Carol Ward said, “Lucy’s foot would have been just like yours or mine.”³ But this blatantly ignores prior finds showing that Lucy’s foot was actually configured like a hand, with a thumb-like big toe projecting sideways. And what if the foot bone in question was actually from a human and not from an Australopith at all? Since it was not attached to any other bones, this possibility should have been weighed.



The study authors wrote, “We assign AL 333-160 [the bone’s designation] to *A. afarensis*, the only hominin species in an assemblage of [more than] 370 hominin specimens so far recovered from the Hadar Formation.”² The evolutionary term “hominin” includes apes, humans, and imaginary human-like or “pre-human” apes.

But their reasoning is flawed. First, they asserted that no modern human bones have been found in this deposit. They evidently interpreted this to mean that no human bones *could* be there. Then they concluded that the human-looking bone belonged to an ape.

But asserting that no human bones have been found is entirely self-serving! What if they *have* been found but were misidentified, being unexpected? AL 333-160 could actually be just what it looks like—a human foot bone. If so, then it *contradicts* the very assertion on which their argument rests.

Researchers could more easily discern Lucy’s mode of locomotion if more bones were found connected together. The most complete Australopith skeletons show that they had none of the skeletal features, including hip, spine, femur, and foot bone structures, that enable the uniquely human manner of walking.⁴ In fact, Lucy-like specimens have indicated characteristic flat ape feet with curved toes, not arched

feet as the media have claimed.⁵

Is one bone singled out from a scrap heap of “greater than 370” individual bones the best evidence for an upright-walking ape?² If this bone actually was from a “Lucy,” it would be the first *A. afarensis* skeletal feature discovered that is not ideally suited for life in trees. But to assert that this one bone was an Australopith’s is to beg the question. It no more belonged to a Lucy than the famous pig’s tooth belonged to the fraudulent “Nebraska Man.”

This bone has not proven that Lucy walked, but instead illustrates how improper science leads to flawed conclusions. ●

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Mr. Thomas is Science Writer.



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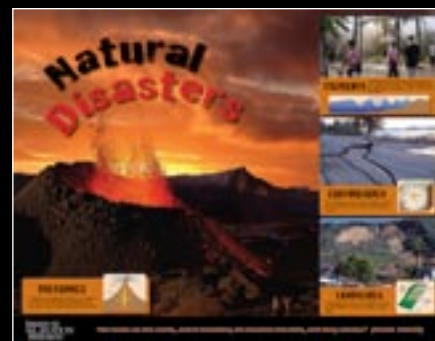
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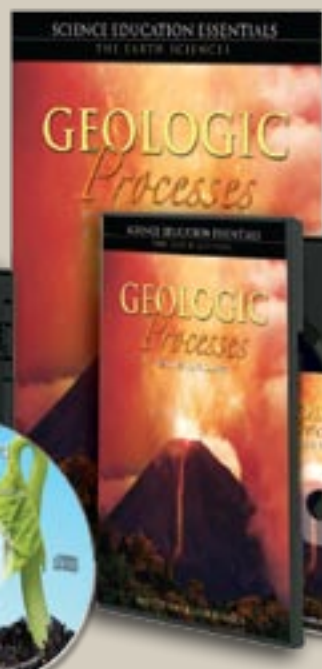
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THE INHERITANCE OF DNA, CHROMOSOMES, AND GENES

DNA, CHROMOSOMES, AND GENES

Several billion people have lived on the earth since the time of Adam and Eve, and people living in different parts of the world today have very diverse physical characteristics. These are people with very light skin and people with very dark skin. People have various shades of eyes—the blue eyes have blue or green as lenses. There are people of all shapes and sizes, with different noses and even different hair textures. It is possible, however, to know about human inheritance. The answers could be found in your genes!

The physical appearance of each gene is determined primarily by a substance called deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA), which is found in every human cell. DNA is a long molecule consisting of sugar, phosphate, and base. The bases are different bases: adenine, cytosine, guanine, and thymine. The bases have specific base partners: adenine with thymine, and cytosine with guanine.

A single phosphate and base are bonded together to form what is called a nucleotide. Nucleotides bond to each other to form a long strand of DNA for carrying the phenotype of one individual in the egg or sperm. Each individual inherits two strands of DNA, one from each parent. The actual structure of DNA looks like a spiral staircase, with the sugar and phosphate on the sides and the base of the nucleotide with the two strands connected to the inside for each base pair. The structure can be understood by comparing the deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) to a spiral staircase. The sugar and phosphate are the sides and the bases are the steps. The bases are bonded to the sides and the sugar and phosphate are bonded to each other to form the DNA backbone.



FINGERPRINT GENETICS

Everyone has a set of unique DNA genes. Each set is unique, so that genetic parents are identified. Even so, the results of several different genes and even of those genes may follow different inheritance patterns. Even though the father, mother, and child, sometimes together, begin with the same DNA, the results of those genes are different.

Activity: Analyze the inheritance in the following data:

Genotype	Phenotype	Genotype	Phenotype
AA	Blue eyes	aa	Brown eyes
Aa	Blue eyes	Aa	Brown eyes
aa	Blue eyes	aa	Brown eyes

Task 1: Inheriting/Expressing

- Trace an allele of one trait in the given pedigree.
- Determine "that" or "whether" all the genes are inherited from both parents.
- Determine whether the genes of your offspring. The parents should be able to see the genes of their offspring.
- Transfer the genetic information from a parent of their offspring to the offspring's cells.
- Trace the genes with the inheritance from the end of the DNA strand.
- Repeat steps 1-4 for each of the other two traits on the chart.

Who Are My Parents?

Brief Description: The student will use a variety of genetic traits to determine the inheritance of those traits. The student will use a variety of genetic traits to determine the inheritance of those traits. The student will use a variety of genetic traits to determine the inheritance of those traits.

Background Information: The student will use a variety of genetic traits to determine the inheritance of those traits. The student will use a variety of genetic traits to determine the inheritance of those traits.

Objectives: The student will be able to:

- Identify the inheritance of a trait.
- Determine whether a trait is inherited from both parents.
- Determine whether a trait is inherited from one parent.

Key Concepts/Vocabulary with Definitions:

- Genotype: A set of genes that an organism has.
- Phenotype: The physical appearance of an organism.
- Allele: One of two or more versions of a gene.
- Carrier: An individual who has one copy of a recessive allele.

Science Process Skills:

- Observing
- Classifying
- Communicating
- Inferring

Heredity Fact Sheet

Allele: One of two or more forms of a gene that determine different characteristics.

Genotype: The set of genes that an organism has.

Phenotype: The physical appearance of an organism.

Carrier: An individual who has one copy of a recessive allele.

Genotype: A set of genes that an organism has.

Phenotype: The physical appearance of an organism.

Allele: One of two or more forms of a gene that determine different characteristics.

Genotype: The set of genes that an organism has.

Phenotype: The physical appearance of an organism.

Carrier: An individual who has one copy of a recessive allele.

Genotype: A set of genes that an organism has.

Phenotype: The physical appearance of an organism.

Inventory of Traits

Brief Description: The student will use a variety of genetic traits to determine the inheritance of those traits. The student will use a variety of genetic traits to determine the inheritance of those traits.

Background Information: The student will use a variety of genetic traits to determine the inheritance of those traits. The student will use a variety of genetic traits to determine the inheritance of those traits.

Objectives: The student will be able to:

- Identify the inheritance of a trait.
- Determine whether a trait is inherited from both parents.
- Determine whether a trait is inherited from one parent.

Key Concepts/Vocabulary with Definitions:

- Genotype: A set of genes that an organism has.
- Phenotype: The physical appearance of an organism.
- Allele: One of two or more versions of a gene.
- Carrier: An individual who has one copy of a recessive allele.

Science Process Skills:

- Observing
- Classifying
- Communicating
- Inferring

Who Are My Mother and Father?

Objectives: The student will be able to:

- Identify the inheritance of a trait.
- Determine whether a trait is inherited from both parents.
- Determine whether a trait is inherited from one parent.

Key Concepts/Vocabulary with Definitions:

- Genotype: A set of genes that an organism has.
- Phenotype: The physical appearance of an organism.
- Allele: One of two or more versions of a gene.
- Carrier: An individual who has one copy of a recessive allele.

Science Process Skills:

- Observing
- Classifying
- Communicating
- Inferring

Inventory of Traits Data Collection Chart - Traits of Family Members

Add in other family members, including grandparents of parents.

	Blue Eyes	Dark Hair	Black Hair	Red Hair	Dark Eyes	Light Eyes	Dark Skin	Light Skin	Dark Nose	Light Nose	Dark Lips	Light Lips	Dark Teeth	Light Teeth	Dark Hair	Light Hair	Dark Eyes	Light Eyes	Dark Skin	Light Skin	Dark Nose	Light Nose	Dark Lips	Light Lips	Dark Teeth	Light Teeth
Me																										
Mother																										
Father																										
Sister																										
Brother																										

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Days of Praise and *Acts & Facts* are both such a blessing in my life, and have given me so many examples of God's creation to use in children's sermons, Sunday school, and conversation with family and friends. Bless you all in your important work—it is so very much needed in today's world.

— D.M.

We had such a wonderful symposium thanks to your talented and gifted speakers. I personally learned quite a bit from the speakers.

— D.H.

About two years ago, due to a church men's group discussion about the creation/evolution controversy, I began quite a bit of research on the subject. Out of that experience I had a renewed interest in your founder's work. I purchased his *Defender's Study Bible*, along with other books of his. Currently I am reading his *Many Infallible Proofs* to great blessing.... It has been a delightful discovery for me to see what a great Bible scholar he was apart from creation issues. His love for Christ and the Bible comes through very clearly.

— R.R.

Greetings to you in the name of Jesus Christ AMEN ! I am one of your readers who lives in Zambia and am 64. Your *Acts & Facts* magazine has been helpful in educating on many things about our Creator. Keep it up.

— P.M., Zambia

It is quite evident in view of God's Word that the last two generations, after the government took the Bibles out of the public schools in 1950, are very rapidly moving exponentially to believe in the false science of evolution rather than the truth of God....It is very striking at this time, the 21st century, being in the science technologies all my life, at what an unbeliever in the Savior Jesus Christ must believe in order to be an unbeliever. In fact, it actually takes more faith to believe in what is false than what is truth.

— S.M.P.

We are thankful for your very Bible-based ministry! The creation message is extremely critical as we are hearing of more turning to old-earth teaching as the churches are getting more worldly. Thank you for being the servants of the Lord that you are.

— R.&J.D.

Have a comment? Email us at editor@icr.org.

Or write to Editor

P. O. Box 59029

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By the time I was a high school senior, there was little left of the Bible for me to believe. I had attended a conservative denominational church all my life, but the authority of literal Scripture had been eroded. I wanted to become a real Christian, not just a member of my church. Could I trust the Gospel from a Bible of so uncertain validity?

While visiting a relative, I found a copy of *The Genesis Flood*. I would have ignored it, because I was a science fan and felt comfortable with evolution. The first pages referenced the principles of geology, hydrology, and engineering used to test the account of Genesis. I was hooked and read the book completely in a couple days. Dr. Morris' extensive examples put the biblical account to honest tests and the facts fit the faith. I could now believe in the Bible, its God, and most important its Good News.

I read the Bible along with other ICR books for two years. The ICR radio programs introduced me to men who had solid scientific food for thought, as well as eternal perspective. In 1972, I received Jesus Christ as my Savior.

I've read dozens of ICR publications and devoured *Acts & Facts* monthly for 40 years. I've shared ICR's creation curriculum material with my children, grandchildren, friends, and church. In this day when secular science is grudgingly admitting its miscalculations and errors, it's a shame that many Christians are rushing to accommodate the failed philosophies of evolution. How many more young people like me will stumble in their search for faith in Christ?

The only real debate that matters is not conducted in public. It's the debate waged in the hearts of countless students, alone in their dorm with the irresistible influences of the world all around them. Can they and will they believe? I thank God for an old paperback book, found on a shelf, that accompanied me to college and made it possible for me to make the right choice.

— D.B.M.

Kingdom INVESTING

HENRY M. MORRIS IV

It is an indispensable fact of human existence that we are not self-sufficient beings. Our lives depend on procuring and consuming sufficient food and water, and our bodies are often ill-equipped to cope with our environment without adequate covering and protection. It is little wonder, then, that food, clothing, and shelter are commonly referred to as the basic necessities of life. But these necessities are external to ourselves, so we must acquire them in order to survive. Acquisition is therefore fundamental to human life—if we do not acquire, we die.

But acquisition of basic needs is certainly not the sole purpose of mankind's existence. While all creatures must acquire sustenance, mankind, made in the image of God, was created with much more sophisticated capacities for a far greater purpose. God first established humans as stewards of His creation (Genesis 1:28), tasked with the special responsibility to study the earth and its creatures (science), and then apply that knowledge (technology, commerce) for the optimum benefit of mankind and the earth, all for God's glory. Thus, an essential part of true biblical stewardship involves the sound and timely investment and application of the resources God has granted to each of us.

Some Christians today may deny this,

portraying fellow believers who are financially motivated as temporal-minded or too focused on building “bigger barns.” This may be true for some, but it certainly does not apply to all. In fact, Scripture contains many examples of our responsibility for prudent investing, nowhere more clearly illustrated than in Matthew 25 in the familiar parable of the talents.

Christ told the story of a master who gave various portions of his estate to three servants before leaving on an extended trip, expecting each man to invest what had been entrusted to him. While the Scriptures do not specifically say how the first two invested, it is clear that they did—and were commended and rewarded for earning a return on the master's investment. The last man buried his share, incurring the terrible wrath of the master and having his portion stripped from him. The truth portrayed in this parable is simple: Whatever resources God has provided, true believers are expected to invest and grow that portion entrusted to them.

While the parable's main emphasis pertains to the signs of a true believer and the resulting rewards in the heavenly kingdom, it also squarely applies to the wise investment of our resources, financial or otherwise, that God has graciously provided here on earth. The Lord evaluates service and gives rewards in re-

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lation to the believer's motivation and opportunity, expecting more from those with greater ability and opportunity. He rightly expects something from every true believer, for “we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works” (Ephesians 2:10). And since “faith without works is dead” (James 2:20), a life with no evidence of good works is not a life of authentic faith in Christ.

Whatever portion God has given you—whether in skill, influence, or wealth—all believers are called to invest faithfully in His work here on earth. ICR's ministry, wholly committed to the perfect Word of God and uniquely positioned to defend its truths through scientific research and education, is invested heavily in the work of the Kingdom. What are you doing to invest that “portion” God has entrusted to you? ●

Mr. Morris is Director of Donor Relations.



IMPACT *of the* EMPTY TOMB

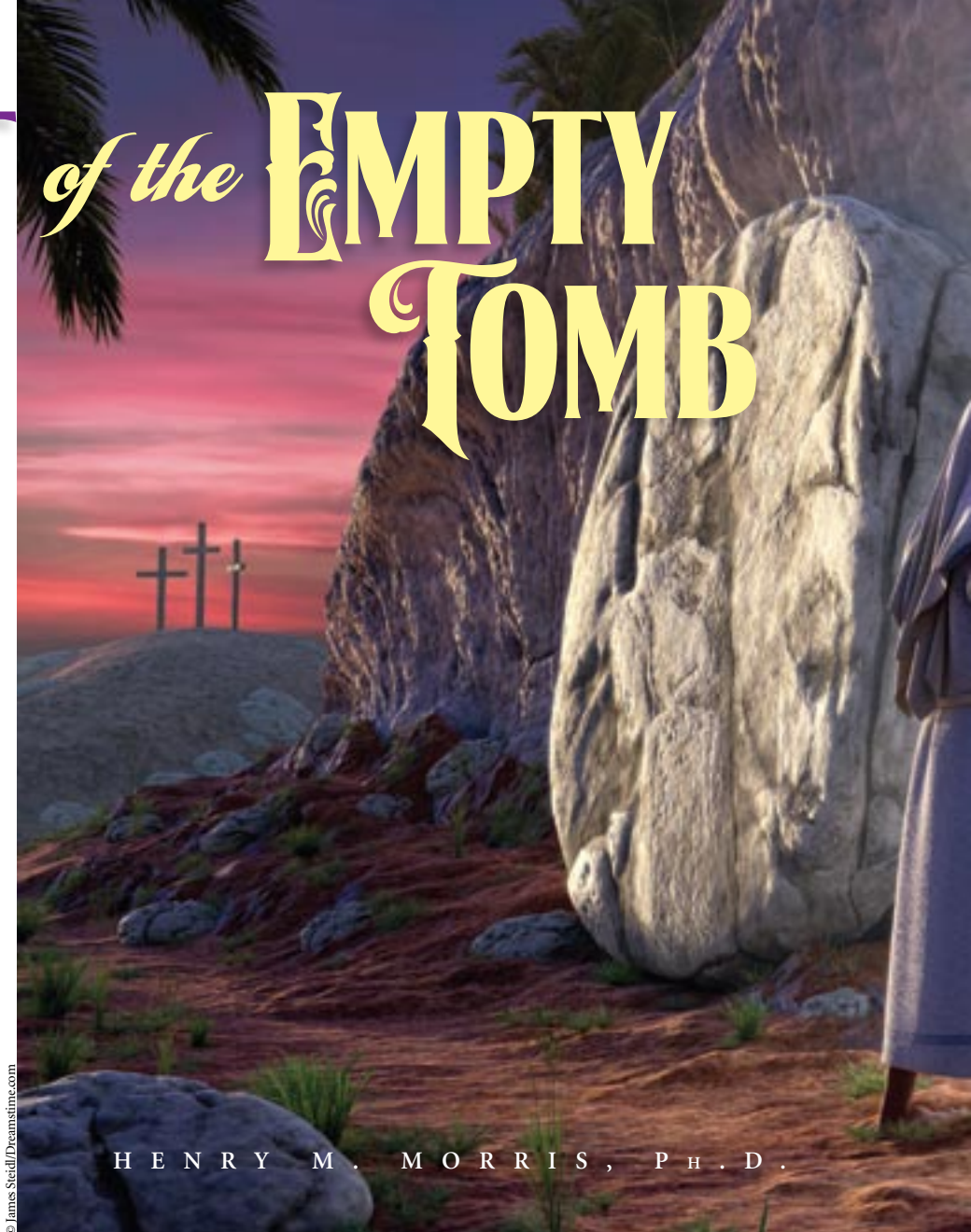
There are “many infallible proofs” of the bodily resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ, but the testimony of the empty tomb is the most conclusive of all. Jesus had been buried, with the tomb sealed and guarded by a watch of Roman soldiers. Yet on the third day of His burial, on the morning of the first day of the week, the body was no longer there, and the empty tomb still stands today as an unanswerable proof that the Lord Jesus rose from the dead.

There are other proofs, of course. The ten or more recorded appearances of the resurrected Christ to His disciples, the amazing change of demeanor of the disciples from that of fearful hideaways to fearless evangelists, the worldwide spread of the Christian faith as founded on the resurrection, and so on. But the impact of the empty tomb was the foundation and bulwark of all the rest. As we consider its impact on the world, and on us today, it is instructively fascinating to consider first its impact on those who first encountered it.

Impact on the Soldiers

A watch (possibly a “quaternion” of four Roman soldiers—compare Acts 12:4) had been designated by the Roman Governor Pilate to guard the tomb after Jesus’ body had been buried there by Nicodemus and Joseph. The account is in Matthew 27:62-66.

Now the next day, that followed the day of the preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees came together unto Pilate, Saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, After three days I will rise again. Command therefore that the sepulchre be made sure until the third day, lest his disciples come by night, and steal him away, and say unto the people, He is risen from the dead: so the last error shall be worse than the first. Pilate said unto them, Ye have a watch: go your way, make it as sure as ye can. So they went, and made the sepulchre sure, sealing the stone, and setting a watch.



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H E N R Y M . M O R R I S , P H . D .

The “great stone” had already been “rolled...to the door of the sepulchre” by Joseph when he and Nicodemus buried Jesus (Matthew 27:60), but now the soldiers (as directed by the chief priests) sealed it in place with the official Roman seal, which could only be broken on penalty of death. Then they took their guard positions for the rest of the three-day period. Probably they took turns at sleeping, one sleeping while three remained awake on guard. Certainly none of the hiding disciples (or anyone else) would have dared to try to invade the tomb for any reason.

The soldiers had probably been selected from that “whole band of soldiers” (Matthew 27:27) that had stripped Jesus in Pilate’s hall and scourged Him and mocked Him and

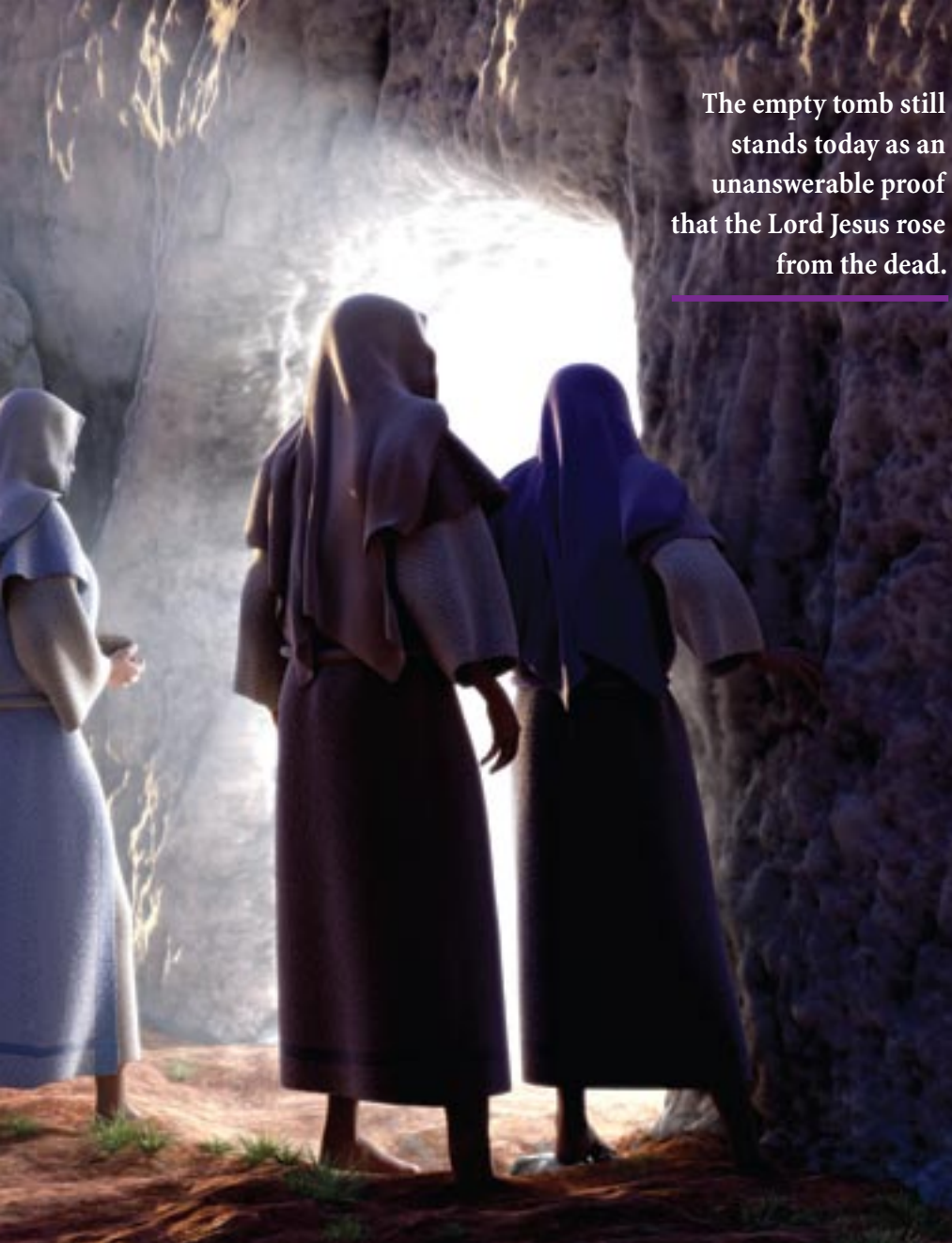
then taken Him out to crucify Him. They had watched Him suffer and die, but then they had also experienced the great darkness and the great earthquake (Matthew 27:45, 51), and had heard their centurion cry out: “Truly this man was the Son of God” (Mark 15:39).

They had no reason to fear the disciples, but they must have had some concern about what God might do to them, if indeed Jesus was the Son of God, as their centurion had cried. In any case, they certainly would not be lethargic and careless about their assignment, or about to fall asleep while on duty.

They were hardly prepared for what did happen!

And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from

The empty tomb still stands today as an unanswerable proof that the Lord Jesus rose from the dead.



heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it. His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow: And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men. (Matthew 28:2-4)

As soon as they recovered and were able to move, they scattered from the site, rightly deciding that the mighty angel was more to be feared than the priests or even Pilate.

But what to do next? They realized that the happening at the tomb would soon become known, including their flight, and they realized Pilate might well have them put to death for leaving their post.

Their best hope would be the priests, who seemed to have some kind of influence with the governor, and perhaps would be able

to understand their plight. Therefore, some of them (what happened to the others is not recorded) headed for the temple, to tell Caiaphas and the others that the tomb was empty, though it was not because of the disciples, who were still somewhere in hiding.

Behold, some of the watch came into the city, and shewed unto the chief priests all the things that were done. And when they were assembled with the elders, and had taken counsel, they gave large money unto the soldiers, Saying, Say ye, His disciples came by night, and stole him away while we slept. And if this come to the governor's ears, we will persuade him, and secure you. So they took the money, and did as they were taught: and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day. (Matthew 28:11-15)

Under other circumstances, the soldiers would have been afraid to say they all four had been sleeping on duty. But they were also greedy, and the “hush-money” convinced them. They were in mortal danger anyway, and they realized that Pilate might be amenable to bribery too, and they really had no other choice. Roman officials were indeed known to take bribes to render desired decisions (note the reputation of the governor Felix as implied in Acts 24:26).

The idea that the disciples had stolen the body while the soldiers slept circulated for a while, but it was so unreasonable that it could not survive very long. In the first place, if the soldiers really were all asleep (which is practically inconceivable), they could not have known what happened. Secondly, the work of moving the stone, stripping the grave clothes off the body, and carrying the body away would surely have awakened at least some of the soldiers.

Finally, the disciples could never have persisted in preaching a lie about resurrection when it began to cost them all their possessions and finally their lives to do so. Thus, the story circulated by the soldiers was basically unbelievable and could not convince people very long.

But it served the immediate purpose, presumably, of sparing the soldiers' lives for the time being. They did know that the tomb was empty, however, and we can at least wonder whether some of them also might have eventually come to believe that Jesus was really the Son of God, and to seek His forgiveness and salvation. ●

To read the rest of Dr. Morris' commentary on the impact of the empty tomb, visit icr.org/ChristEmptyTomb.

Adapted from Dr. Morris' booklet “Impact of the Empty Tomb,” published by ICR in 2001.

Dr. Morris (1918-2006) was Founder of the Institute for Creation Research.

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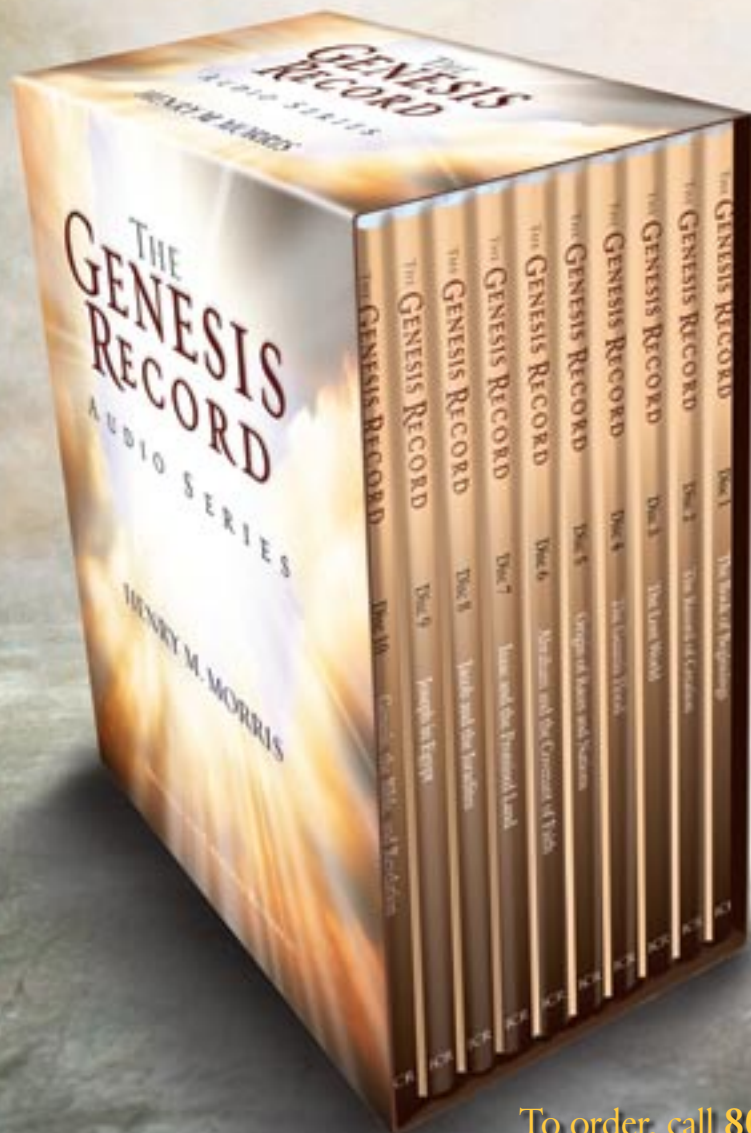
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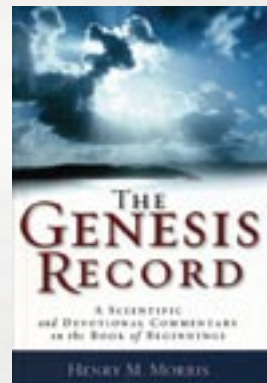


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