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7 Creation Miracles of Christ

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Morning Has Now Come

At early dawn that first Easter morning, Mary went to the tomb with the mother of Jesus, bearing spices to anoint the body of their beloved Lord. On the way to the grave, they pondered who would roll away the stone for them. It was a needless worry, because they arrived to find it had already been moved. Mary thought His body was still in the tomb—she couldn't conceive the resurrection. But an angel appeared and declared that Jesus was no longer there. He was risen. Confused and scared, the women fled.

Later at the empty tomb, Mary was weeping, grieving the loss of her Lord, when Jesus appeared to her. "Woman, why weepest thou? whom seekest thou?" (John 20:15). Jesus echoed the first words He spoke at the beginning of the book of John—"What seek ye?" (John 1:38). She didn't recognize Him at first, and she didn't expect to see Him there. But He initiated a conversation with her, and when He spoke her name, "Mary," then she knew. The "sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out" (John 10:3). In that moment, she was ushered into a new ministry—witnessing to a lost world about her resurrected Lord.

Mary came to the tomb while it was still dark, and she found an empty tomb. Jesus met Mary in her brokenness and reminded her that He offers new beginnings. Her paradigm shifted, and she shed needless worries and discarded former assumptions. The resurrection was a reality—Jesus was alive!

Just as Mary's grief dissipated when she heard Him call her name, our brokenness fades when we hear His voice. He "appears" to us through the written Word, and we don't recognize Him until He personally calls our name. Often what we think is the worst event of our lives becomes life-changing when He discloses Himself to us, and then there's no more weeping outside the tomb. Death is past. The darkness is gone, and morning has now come.

This month we've included a devotional about Mary by Dr. John Morris titled "Mary on Easter Morning" on page 22. And Dr. Brad Forlow introduces us to his upcoming book, the 7 *Creation Miracles of Christ*, in our feature article, which expounds on the deity of Christ our Creator as seen in the book of John.

Research is core to ICR and we are pleased to welcome Dr. Jason Lisle as our new Director of Research. Read his profile on page 18. Dr. James Johnson from our School of Biblical Apologetics gives us a glimpse of God's glory through the colorful creatures of the Cayman Islands. Read about this on pages 8-10.

God's glory is seen all around us, and this month we celebrate the glory seen in the empty tomb. Just as Jesus didn't stay in the grave, He wants us to leave the tomb behind—to experience new life in Him. Morning has now come; may you walk in newness of life with our glorious Lord. He is risen, indeed!

Jayme Durant
ASSOCIATE EDITOR


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Creation Miracles of Christ

BRAD FORLOW, P.H.D.



No star. No angels. No shepherds. No wise men. No mention of Bethlehem or Mary and Joseph. No compelling story of the babe in a manger. No genealogy of Jesus to introduce His birth. No elaborate “Christmas Story” describing the events preceding and surrounding the birth of Jesus.

John the Apostle does none of these things when he begins to tell the story of Jesus of Nazareth.

Instead, he pens a unique introduction to the words and works of Jesus that reaches back to eternity past, echoing the introductory phrase in Genesis—“In the beginning.” John establishes the nature and character of Jesus as he begins to unfold such familiar themes as life and light to describe the One who became flesh and lived among us.



Why are there four different gospels? How different are they? Do they contradict one another? Why did God inspire four accounts of Jesus' story?

Although all four gospels record the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus, each is distinct, written from the author's own perspective. Each author is writing to a specific audience for a specific purpose. From the pages of each gospel emerge a unique, but complementary, portrait of Jesus Christ.

Matthew presents Jesus as the Messiah to his Jewish audience. Mark presents a call to discipleship where Jesus is Lord desiring a fruitful, right relationship and proper worship from His people. Luke emphasizes Jesus as teacher and seeks to make the Gentiles certain of the things that Jesus has taught. But John's purpose in writing is clearly defined by John himself—Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and the source of eternal life.

And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name. (John 20:30-31)

John begins by stating and developing the "thesis" that he will defend as he tells Jesus' story. He describes the nature and character of Jesus, boldly declaring who this Person is. And while he recounts the earthly ministry of Jesus, John does not focus on His humanity, as the other gospel writers do, but rather on His deity.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. (John 1:1-7)

John systematically builds a clear and compelling case for the nature and character of Jesus in the first chapter of the gospel of John.

- The Word is eternal (John 1:1, 2).
- The Word is God (John 1:1).
- The Word is the Creator (John 1:3).
- The Word is the source of life (John 1:4).
- The Word is the source of salvation (John 1:12).
- The Word became flesh (John 1:14).
- The Word is the Son of God sent by the Father (John 1:14).

Rather than giving a detailed account of the birth of Jesus, John, in his own style, writes an explicit description of *who* Jesus is. Did you notice, too, that John actually does include the essence of the Christmas story in his introduction?

But John's purpose in writing is clearly defined by John himself—Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and the source of eternal life.

- The Word is Jesus. Jesus is God incarnate. Jesus came into the world that He created to live among His people (John 1:10, 14).
- Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world (John 1:29, 36), the Son of God (John 1:34, 49), the King of Israel (John 1:49), the Son of Man (John 1:51), and the Messiah (John 1:41).

Jesus, the Creator, stooped to enter His creation. In the first twelve chapters of John's gospel, we read the story of Jesus' earthly ministry, but with a primary focus on His deity and the reason why Jesus became flesh and dwelt among us.

The power and purposes of Jesus the Creator become evident as John describes His earthly ministry, particularly as he details the many miracles Jesus performed. John himself declared, "There are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be

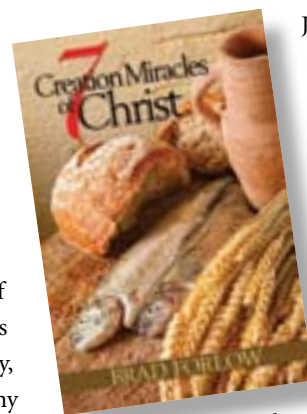
written" (John 21:25).

Just how many miracles did Jesus perform while on earth? So many that no one but God knows. However, John chose to record just *seven* miracles to make his case for Jesus, the Son of God.

John's selection of these miracles is intentional. To validate the message of Jesus, John purposefully and strategically records (under inspiration of the Holy Spirit) these seven specific "signs" or miracles. They are unique in emphasis and in message. And these are *creation* miracles—*ex nihilo* ("from nothing") miracles—extraordinary supernatural demonstrations that validate Jesus' role as Creator. They give testimony to Jesus' identity as the Son of God, the Messiah, the source of eternal life, the Savior *and* the Creator (John 1:1-3). All seven of these supernatural creation events—creating something from nothing—were accomplished merely by the thought or command of the Creator.

John records these specific creation miracles so we could witness the divine nature of our Lord—the deity of Jesus, as Creator and Savior. They were "written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name" (John 20:31. See also John 2:11; 2:23; 3:2; 4:48, 53-54; 6:2, 14; 7:31; 11:47-48; 12:11, 18).

The *7 Creation Miracles of Christ* will present how each creation miracle highlighted in John's gospel demonstrates Jesus' authority over all of creation (the physical, chemical, material, and natural universe), His power over life and death as the Son of God, and the spiritual truths taught through His encounter with human need that can and should impact our lives today. ●



Adapted from *7 Creation Miracles of Christ*, by Brad Forlow, Ph.D.

Dr. Forlow is Associate Science Editor at the Institute for Creation Research.



Mechanisms of Adaptation in Biology:

MOLECULAR CELL BIOLOGY



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

The concept of natural selection remains controversial in both the evolutionary and creationist communities. Classical evolutionists still cannot clearly define it as they continue to debate one another over a valid model and definition. Meanwhile, secular molecular biologists are content to leave the debate primarily in the hands of the classical biologists when the hard data needed to validate natural selection in one form or another ultimately lies at the molecular level. This is typical of the compartmentalized nature of modern academics where scientists focus on a single area of specialty research and assume that some other sector of biology will solve the serious problems of Darwinian evolution.

The lack of a clearly defined molecular mechanism to create new irreducibly complex traits as a creative force in evolution is why many scientists have had difficulty characterizing Darwin's concept for over 70 years. Dr. Randy Guliuzza recently pointed out the various key philosophical and semantic anomalies of the confusing quagmire surrounding the usage of natural selection terminology.¹ Dr. Guliuzza not only exposed the various obfuscated semantics involved, but he also fully substantiated his deductions by quoting the evolutionists in their own words.²

The next and perhaps most important

step following Dr. Guliuzza's effort is for the ICR biological sciences team to begin illustrating the many interesting cellular mechanisms that allow organisms to adapt to new environments or changes in their existing environments. To some extent, this has already been going on through ICR biologist Brian Thomas' daily news articles and other ICR bio-scientists' publications in various journals and in *Acts & Facts*.

Most expressed traits and adaptations are biologically complex responses. These adaptations can be defined as biological interactions at the environmental interface that are regulated by genetic programming and cell physiology. A creationist model of adaptation is based on an organism's innate physiological capabilities and fault tolerance mechanisms that are genetically programmed by the Creator. Scientifically valid descriptions of adaptation employ recent molecular discoveries in genomics, cell physiology, and phenotypic plasticity to explain how living creatures successfully interface with environmental challenges and fill ecological niches.

Environmental stresses and stimuli cannot exercise the creative causation of highly complex pre-coded genetic information that underlies irreducibly complex systems of adaptation. Organismal interaction with the environment involves highly complex and

dynamic physiological and genetic responses to a wide range of physical and chemical sensory cues. These environmental cues are perceived by complex systems of cell sensor networks that interact with an organism's highly engineered genetic system. While adaptation systems are complex and flexible, they are *not* evolvable on a grand neo-Darwinian scale. They are pre-engineered, pre-programmed, and irreducibly complex in the strictest sense of the term, and they unequivocally imply the infinite intelligence of our Creator God.

An upcoming research column will discuss the concept of genetic diversity in biological adaptation. For a review of genetic diversity at an introductory level, see the recent ICR publication by Parker and Tomkins.³ ●

References

1. See Guliuzza, R.J. 2012. Darwin's Sacred Imposter: Answering Questions about the Fallacy of Natural Selection. *Acts & Facts*. 41 (2): 12-15.
2. Guliuzza, R. 2011. Darwin's Sacred Imposter: Recognizing Missed Warning Signs. *Acts & Facts*. 40 (5): 12-15; Guliuzza, R. 2011. Darwin's Sacred Imposter: How Natural Selection Is Given Credit for Design in Nature. *Acts & Facts*. 40 (7): 12-15; Guliuzza, R. 2011. Darwin's Sacred Imposter: The Illusion That Natural Selection Operates on Organisms. *Acts & Facts*. 40 (9): 12-15; Guliuzza, R. 2011. Darwin's Sacred Imposter: Natural Selection's Idolatrous Trap. *Acts & Facts*. 40 (11): 12-15.
3. Parker, G. and J. Tomkins. 2010. *Genetic Diversity*. Dallas, TX: Institute for Creation Research.

Dr. Tomkins is Research Associate at the Institute for Creation Research and received his Ph.D. in Genetics from Clemson University.



ICR APRIL EVENTS

- **March 28–April 1**
Redding, CA – Shasta Bible College and Graduate School's 2012 Alpha and Omega Conference
(R. Guliuzza, L. Vardiman) 530.221.4275
- **April 1**
Richland, WA
Richland Baptist Church
(H. Morris III) 509.943.9177
- **April 12–14**
Memphis, TN – Great Homeschool Convention Southeast
(B. Thomas) 513.748.6998
- **April 13–14**
St. Paul, MN - MÂCHÉ Conference
(F. Sherwin) 866.717.9070
- **April 17**
Dallas, TX – Valley View Christian Church
(N. Jeanson) 972.245.8822
- **April 19**
East Earl, PA - Associates for Biblical Research Banquet
(J. Morris) 717.351.5820
- **April 19–21**
Cincinnati, OH - Great Homeschool Convention Midwest
(F. Sherwin) 513.748.6998
- **April 20–22**
Jackson, NJ – Jackson Baptist Church
(N. Jeanson) 732.928.0080
- **April 20–22**
Redmond, WA – Antioch Bible Church
(R. Guliuzza) 425.556.5905
- **April 21**
Sinking Spring, PA – Calvary Bible Fellowship Church
(J. Morris) 610.678.5166
- **April 24**
Lindale, TX – Teen Mania Chapel
903.324.8000
- **April 24–26**
Long Beach, CA – GHC California
(B. Thomas) 513.748.6998
- **April 27–28**
Worcester, MA – MassHope Convention
(N. Jeanson) 508.829.0973
- **April 28–29**
Farmington, NY – Calvary Chapel of the Finger Lakes
(R. Guliuzza) 585.398.3550
- **April 29**
Boston, MA – Calvary Chapel in the City
(N. Jeanson) 617.232.6300

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**.

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The Creator's Glory Reflected Everywhere: True Treasure in the Cayman Islands

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

The Cayman Islands are famous as an offshore asset haven—huge amounts of wealth are stored there. Yet their greatest treasure is *not* the money stashed in private accounts, it is the islands' natural assets that reflect God's glory. Since glorifying God is the highest function for apologetics (1 Peter 3:15a), a proper accounting of God's creation recognizes and reports its true value.¹ God's glory includes His priceless artistry, displayed in His natural creation. This reality is regularly sung by Caymanians in their national song, "Beloved Isle Cayman":

O' land of soft, fresh breezes, of verdant trees so fair
With the Creator's Glory reflected ev'rywhere.
O' sea of palest em'rald, merging to darkest blue,
When'er my thoughts fly Godward, I always think of you.²

How valuable is God's natural creation? In this money-mad world it is easy to ignore—to miss out on—the wonderful beauty of God's creation as we pass by its big and little treasures day after day. But how can you put a fair price on the true value of such fine art assets?

Such is certainly the case with the Cayman Islands and their salty sea breezes, coastal sunrises and sunsets (mirrored across the tidal waters), sandy white beaches (visited by frigatebirds and sea turtles), tropical flora, and specialized menagerie of marine and terrestrial fauna.

The ecosystem resembles a lavishly decorated tropical home, equaling even the best creative talent displayed in the most impressive showplace decor.³ These islands' animals are artwork in motion, displaying God's artistry. For example,



the national bird, the Cayman Islands Parrot (*Amazona leucocephala caymanensis*), is brilliant green with bright blue under its wings and tail, a white forehead and bill, red cheeks, and golden-yellow claws. (A variant on Cayman Brac has a maroon belly.) The Cayman Islands' unique blend of plants, animals, and physical environment provides the viewer with an interactive exhibit of God's glory.

Even after Adam's fall (and the earth's curse) in Eden⁴ this miniature world of nature showcases mobile and multifarious beauty in its good-yet-groaning condition as it all awaits our Redeemer's return to and ultimate renovation of this planet.⁵ Before our Lord returns, we should pause from time to time from our computer screens and our telephonic texting—long enough to weigh the worth of God's natural creation. So, consider for the next few moments a few representative creatures of the Caymans as examples of "the Creator's glory reflected everywhere."

Portfolio of Botanical Land-Based Assets

Caymanian plant life is a multistoried mix, including a pleasing variety of trees and flowers, a splendid arrangement of orchids (including Wild Banana Orchid, the national flower), and scarlet hibiscus (*flor de Jamaica*). Although tall mahogany trees no longer abound, coconut palms, tamarind evergreens, silver thatch palms (the national tree), and black mangroves are plentiful. Breadfruit, avocado, mango, papaya, plantain, and various citrus trees provide fruit—eaten regularly by both humans and animals.

What if God had created trees and flowers only in black and white? Or what if He had created us so that we see only in black and white? God painted His creation in colors and endowed us with color vision to see it all—a gracious gift from His artist's palette.

Portfolio of Zoological Land-Based Assets

No less valuable are God's landlubber animals that inhabit the Cayman Islands. Although no large land mammals are native to the Caymans, the islands are home to a large "super rat" called the Central American agouti (*Dasyprocta punctata*) which can be roasted or deep-fried and eaten (although this writer declined the opportunity some years ago).

The Cayman Islands' name derives from a no longer populous crocodilian reptile called the "caiman" (*Caiman crocodilus*), the alligator-like member of the crocodile family known as the "spectacled caiman" today. Cayman ground dwellers also include many earthbound lizards

(including the Blue Iguana and the Caymanian Anole), land turtles, tree frogs, and land crabs.

In 1503, the Caymans were named *Las Tortugas* ("The Tortoise") by Christopher Columbus for the flourishing green sea turtles. For decades following Columbus' Caribbean explorations, it was not uncommon for navy ships (from Spain, England, France, and Holland) to go "turtling" in the Caymans—stocking up on turtle meat in order to add some tasty protein to the sailors' often monotonous diet. Turtles were flipped over to capture them, then hauled aboard ships and kept alive in water tubs until they were ready to be cooked and eaten. Sir Francis Drake recorded his visit in 1586 to the Cayman Islands, to acquire sea turtles for food-to-go, and observed that the islands also had edible reptiles called "Caymanas," probably the *Caiman crocodilus* of today.⁶

Another reptile of Cayman forests is the Hickatee turtle (*Trachemys decussate*), which can breed successfully with Red-eared Slider turtles (*Trachemys scripta*), proving that these turtles both derive from common ancestors that disembarked Noah's Ark some 4,500 years ago.

The Caymans' most exotic creature (in this writer's opinion), however, is the Caymanian Giant Land Crab (*Cardisoma guanhumu*), an ivory-to-gray-hued creepy crustacean that crawls through the Caymanian version of the Hinckley underbrush, hoping to evade its primary predators—hungry humans! Like other land crabs, its carapace covers its gills and contains blood vessels for extracting oxygen

from air, using lung-like processes. Although they are land critters, they must migrate to and from the tidewaters of the seashore for breeding, with their larvae beginning their crustacean life cycles in tidal waters that in time wash them up on shore; they then live mostly on land.⁷

The Cayman Islands also serve as a hangar, hosting airborne creatures like birds, bats, and butterflies. These aerial wonders enjoy the smorgasbord of fruit, seeds, and other foods available in the Cayman forests, thick brush, farmed lots, grasslands, orchards, and wetlands.

The butterflies of the Cayman Islands include the non-migratory Caribbean Monarch (which is orange, black, and white, like its North American cousin), Gulf Fritillary (white, black, and brown speckled), pumpkin-orange Julia, black-and-yellow striped Zebra, White Peacock (with patterns of gold and silver-gray, accented by black polka dots), indigo iridescent and golden-yellow Swallowtail, Sulphurs of white and yellow, and a variety of moths.⁸ Other bugs of the Caymans, either airborne or earthbound, include mosquitoes, damselflies, dragonflies, lacewings, aquatic bugs, beetles, ants, scale insects, cockroaches, and more.



Photo by Wallace Platts — www.caymanwildlife.org

In this money-mad world it is easy to ignore—to miss out on—the wonderful beauty of God's creation as we pass by its big and little treasures day after day.



The birds of the Cayman Islands include a diverse mix of the Grand Cayman Parrot, tanagers, woodpeckers, honeycreepers, Ching-ching grackles, Caribbean doves, mangrove cuckoos, Yucatan vireos, stilts, and herons, among many others. A photographic inventory of these avian beauties could document a subset of “the Creator’s glory,” clothed in feathers for all to see.⁹

Portfolio of Coastal Marine Assets

The total portfolio of Caymanian natural wealth is shored up with a wet world cornucopia of coastal marine life, including green sea turtles, fish, shellfish, occasional beaked whales, dolphins, coelenterates (like jellyfish), coral, and others.

Green sea turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) continue to be recognized as marine assets in the Caymans, especially at the Cayman Turtle Farm at Boatswain’s Beach, where tourists may handle (but not eat) these squirming reptiles at a conservation/hatchery facility. Incidentally, turtle soup is quite tasty, but you will not eat Caymanian turtle soup when you visit because the turtles are now protected by conservation laws.

Green sea turtles have an amazing God-given feature—an immunity to the powerful poison of the box jellyfish. Box jellyfish are self-propelled (unlike other jellyfish that passively drift with sea tides and currents) and have almost invisible, cube-shaped bells with dangling venom-exuding stinging tentacles that justify the nicknames “sea wasp” and “marine stinger.” Although most humans survive being stung, some die. Yet green sea turtles eat these jellyfish with impunity. They clear beach waters of the jellyfish, to the obvious benefit of humans. What would the tropical beaches be like if there were no “checks and balances” in the shoreline ecosystems?

Natural Selection Theory Obscures the Creator’s Glory

This bird’s-eye view of the Cayman Islands’ true treasure shows specific examples of the Creator’s glory through the wonders that He made and maintains. The Bible teaches that it is our creaturely duty

Before our Lord returns, we should pause from time to time from our computer screens and our telephonic texting—long enough to weigh the worth of God’s natural creation.

to rightly recognize God’s handiwork as the product of our Creator and to glorify and thank Him (see Romans 1:20-21). Yet many refuse to do so—they attribute the work of the Creator to the creation, an act of illogical idolatry.

The popular and often uncritiqued phrase “natural selection” is used in many idolatrous contexts among both evolutionists and creationists alike.¹⁰ But there is no “selector” in nature other than God Himself who *chooses* how to “fit” creatures to survive and thrive in this fallen world, so they can “be fruitful, multiply, and fill the earth.” Cayman Island creatures were fitted to live in their habitat by God, and He chose to give artistic beauty to the details of those big and small creatures.

Nature selected nothing to live or die in the Caymans. Every living Caymanian creature was selected by God, not by nature. God alone designed and equipped the software and hardware of those creatures, to fit them for life. He did this, as Genesis teaches, by creating their “kinds” in the first place, because there can be no *survival* of the fittest, unless and until there is an *arrival* of the fitted.

It is idolatry to ignore the divine Artist while appreciating His artwork. The Creator’s glory is reflected everywhere, including the Cayman Islands. God’s handiwork is exquisitely detailed fine art, truly priceless, to be treasured by all who have eyes to see. ●

References

1. Psalm 19:1 says that the heavens “declare the glory of God.” The word “declare” translates as an intensive active participle form of the Hebrew verb *saphar*, meaning “to declare in a recorded format,” as in a numerical accounting or a verbalized document.
2. Mrs. Leila Ross-Shier authored these lyrics in 1930 (emphasis added). In 1993 it became the official national song of the Cayman Islands.
3. The Cayman Islands’ official motto is “He hath founded it upon the seas” (Psalm 24:2), acknowledging the Christian heritage of the Cayman Islands. These isles were truly “founded upon the seas,” upon the “Cayman Ridge,” and bordered by the four-miles-deep Cayman Trench. The actual context of Psalm 24 directly applies to God’s founding of the entire earth during Creation week. (See Dr. Henry Morris’ footnote to Psalm 24:2 in the *New Defender’s Study Bible*.)
4. Earth’s fallen condition is cataclysmically emphasized, periodically, by destructive hurricanes in the Caribbean. In 2004, Hurricane Ivan decimated the Cayman Islands. This author observed the wreckage of Ivan’s wake while visiting as a historian-naturalist lecturer.
5. If today’s beauty on earth—exemplified in Caymanian orchids, parrots, dragonflies, and butterflies—is only good-yet-groaning (see Romans 8:20-22), then try to imagine the natural beauty when Christ remakes the earth to a “very good” condition!
6. Smith, R.C. 2000. *The Maritime Heritage of the Cayman Islands*. Gainesville, FL: University of Florida Press, 58.
7. See the similar migratory breeding of the Christmas Island Red Crab in James J. S. Johnson’s “A Christmas Carol in Four-Part Harmony,” *Acts & Facts*, 40(12): 8-10. Posted at www.icr.org December 2011.
8. Ground, R.W. 1989. *Creator’s Glory: Photographs of the Wildlife of Grand Cayman Island*. George Town, Grand Cayman: National Trust for the Cayman Islands, 1-83, with birds on pages 36-82 and butterflies on pages 4-14.
9. *Ibid*.
10. See Guliuzza, R. 2011. Darwin’s Sacred Imposter: Recognizing Missed Warning Signs. *Acts & Facts*. 40 (5): 12-15; Guliuzza, R. 2011. Darwin’s Sacred Imposter: How Natural Selection Is Given Credit for Design in Nature. *Acts & Facts*. 40 (7): 12-15; Guliuzza, R. 2011. Darwin’s Sacred Imposter: The Illusion That Natural Selection Operates on Organisms. *Acts & Facts*. 40 (9): 12-15; Guliuzza, R. 2011. Darwin’s Sacred Imposter: Natural Selection’s Idolatrous Trap. *Acts & Facts*. 40 (11): 12-15. Posted at www.icr.org November 2011.

Dr. Johnson is Associate Professor of Apologetics and Chief Academic Officer at the Institute for Creation Research.



The Resting Ark, the Grounded Fish, and the Empty Tomb

“And the ark rested in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, upon the mountains of Ararat” (Genesis 8:4).

“And the LORD spake unto the fish, and it vomited out Jonah upon the dry land” (Jonah 2:10).

“He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay” (Matthew 28:6).

HENRY M. MORRIS, P.H.D.

These three verses of Scripture speak of three great events of history, widely separated from each other in time, but each involving a mighty miracle. Each testifies of God’s creative power, as well as His judgment on sin and His grace in salvation. The accounts tell of three remarkable specially prepared—yet temporary—domiciles and the amazing experiences of their occupants. Each record has been bitterly attacked by unbelieving skeptics, but the accounts are true and the events were real.



The Ark

The great Flood (Genesis 6-9) was a global cataclysm of such intensity and duration that “the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished” (2 Peter 3:6). The record says that “all that was in the dry land, died. And every living substance was destroyed which was upon the face of the ground... and Noah only remained alive, and they that were with him in the ark” (Genesis 7:22-23). This was neither a “local flood” nor a “tranquil flood,” as alleged by certain evangelicals, but a worldwide hydraulic, volcanic and tectonic upheaval that left in its wake a sedimentary graveyard all around the earth which averages a mile in depth, together with a biologically impoverished world on its surface. This fact is indicated by an abundance of geological and paleontological evidence,¹ which has been described in detail by creationist scientists. The conclusive testimony, however, is given by the Lord Jesus Christ: “As the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be... the flood came, and took them all away” (Matthew 24:37, 39).

The great Flood was an instrument of both judgment and salvation. To the unbelieving world, it was a time of destruction, for “the wickedness of man was great in the earth” and God had said, “I will destroy them with the earth” (Genesis 6:5, 13). But it was also a time of great cleansing, “wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water” (1 Peter 3:20). The same floodwaters that destroyed the ungodly world also bore up the ark which carried the righteous remnant, delivering them from the corruption which otherwise would soon have

engulfed them as well. The ark which Noah prepared in accordance with God’s specifications was more than adequate to accommodate representatives of all the created kinds of land animals in less than half its volumetric capacity.² It also provides a beautiful picture of salvation. Noah had “found grace in the eyes of the LORD” and, therefore, he and all his house were called by God into the strong ark of safety, securely shut in by God Himself (Genesis 6:8; 7:1, 16) while the world died outside.

Finally, as the floodwaters began to recede, the ark “rested” on the mountains of Ararat. It is most interesting to note here that the Hebrew word for “rest” in this verse is actually the same as the very name of “Noah!”



The Fish

Over fifteen centuries later, Jonah (whose name means “dove”—perhaps in further commemoration of God’s grace at the Flood), fleeing from the will of the Lord, was cast into another violent sea, and soon would have perished, except for God. This time, however, he was saved from drowning, not in an ark, but in a great fish prepared by God (Jonah 1:17).

The story of “Jonah and the whale” has been the object of almost as much ridicule as that of “Noah and the ark.” The event, of course, was clearly a miracle and is so presented in Scripture. It was the Lord Himself who prepared the great fish and then preserved His rebellious prophet through the ordeal. Although there have been a number of historical instances reported of seamen surviving the

It was the Lord Himself who prepared the great fish and then preserved His rebellious prophet through the ordeal.

experience of being swallowed by a whale or whale-shark, no one except Jonah has ever survived in such a place for three days and three nights. The fish which swallowed Jonah finally had to release him, at God’s command, spewing him out on the shore alive. As the ark was grounded on the mountain, so the great fish was presumably then stranded on the beach. Jonah, saved by God’s grace out of the waters of judgment, then went on to preach salvation to the lost people of Nineveh.

The conclusive reason for believing this amazing record, of course, just as in the case of the great Flood, is found in the words of the Lord Jesus: “For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale’s belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth” (Matthew 12:40).

Christ also used Jonah’s experience, just as He had that of Noah, as a warning of the coming judgment: “The men of Nineveh shall rise up in the judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: for they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold, a greater than Jonas is here” (Luke 11:32).



The Tomb

If anyone, however, should question whether the mere testimony of one man—Jesus Christ—is really sufficient to prove the

historicity of the universal Flood and Jonah's experience in the great fish, let it be remembered that Christ was there! After all, it was He who had created all things in the beginning (John 1:3; Colossians 1:16), and who later gave the specifications for the ark to Noah and prepared the fish for Jonah.

And if anyone questions that Jesus Christ is really God, he should carefully consider the witness of His empty tomb. This was a new tomb, specially prepared (like the ark and the fish), hewn out of the rock by Joseph of Arimathea. When God cursed the ground (actually including the whole creation) because of man's sin (Genesis 3:17; Romans 8:20, 22), "death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned" (Romans 5:12). Death is the great enemy, and a mere man could no more conquer death and rise from the dead than he could reverse the orbit of the earth and turn back the years of time. Only God, who Himself had created time (as well as space and matter), and then had subjected the creation in bondage to decay and death, could ever vanquish death.

The irrefutable evidence of the empty tomb, plus the "many infallible proofs" (Acts 1:3) given to his followers by ten or more post-resurrection appearances to them, with many other supplementary lines of supporting evidence, all combine to make Christ's bodily resurrection from the dead what many experts in historical and legal evidence have called the best-proved fact of history. Thus, he is God as well as man, the God/man. All He said is true, and all He did must be right by definition! For example, his affirmations of the historical fact of recent special creation (Mark 10:6-9), of the fiery destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah (Luke 17:28-30), and of the prophetic revelations of Daniel (Matthew 24:15), are all explicitly and incontrovertibly true, because He said so. As the God of creation, He knows all things and cannot lie.

Like both the ark and the great fish, the empty tomb speaks of both judgment on sin and salvation from sin. The first two events are

And if anyone questions that Jesus Christ is really God, he should carefully consider the witness of His empty tomb.

not only historical events, but they are also types and prophecies of the third event, the greatest of all. When Christ died for our sins and rose again, He delivered from judgment and death all who believe on His name and trust Him for salvation. At the same time, His victory over death is a sure witness that those who reject Him remain in their sins, and must anticipate and soon experience the judgment to come.

It is noteworthy also that Jonah's experience prophesied the duration of Christ's death ("three days and three nights"), while Noah's experience prophesied the anniversary of His resurrection ("seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month"—that is, three days after the Passover, which was on the fourteenth day of the seventh month of the civil year, as well as the first month of the religious year).

Modern-day naturalistic skeptics who, in the face of overwhelming scientific and Biblical evidence against evolution still reject the fact of special creation are "without excuse" (Romans 1:20). Those who deny the fact of the cataclysmic Noahic Flood, despite the great body of evidence supporting it, are guilty of "willing ignorance" (2 Peter 3:5, 6). Those who reject the "sign of the prophet Jonah" are, Jesus said, "a wicked and adulterous generation seeking after a sign" to whom "there shall no (other) sign be given" (Matthew 16:4).

Finally, the most varied and abundant evidence of any event in ancient history supports the fact of Christ's bodily resurrection. Yet He said: "If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead" (Luke 16:31).

The Witness

It is sad but true that most modern intellectuals will continue to deny the Creator, explain away the Flood, ridicule Jonah's fish story, and even ignore the irrefutable evidence of Christ's resurrection. They will continue to reject the infallible Word of God and refuse His offer of forgiveness and eternal life through Christ, and so will die in their sins.

But they will surely be "without excuse" when they meet God and are called to account for their "willing ignorance." The rocks of the earth bear witness everywhere to the great watery judgment of the past, and thus also to the fiery judgment yet to come. The converted Ninevites of antiquity, who believed the preaching of the miraculously delivered Jonah, will bear witness against all those nations today who still refuse the Word of One greater than Jonah. Finally, the empty tomb, where Christ once slept in sacrificial death, is still proclaiming its unshakable testimony that He is forever our living God and Savior.

One can always devise objections, if he tries, to the most persuasive of Christian evidences, but the Scriptures warn that such an attitude is dangerous folly. "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction" (Proverbs 1:7).

In the meantime, Christians have abundant "reason for the hope that is in you" (1 Peter 3:15), even though it must remain hope (not "sight," as noted in Romans 8:24) until Christ returns. He has, indeed "begotten us again unto a living hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead" (1 Peter 1:3).

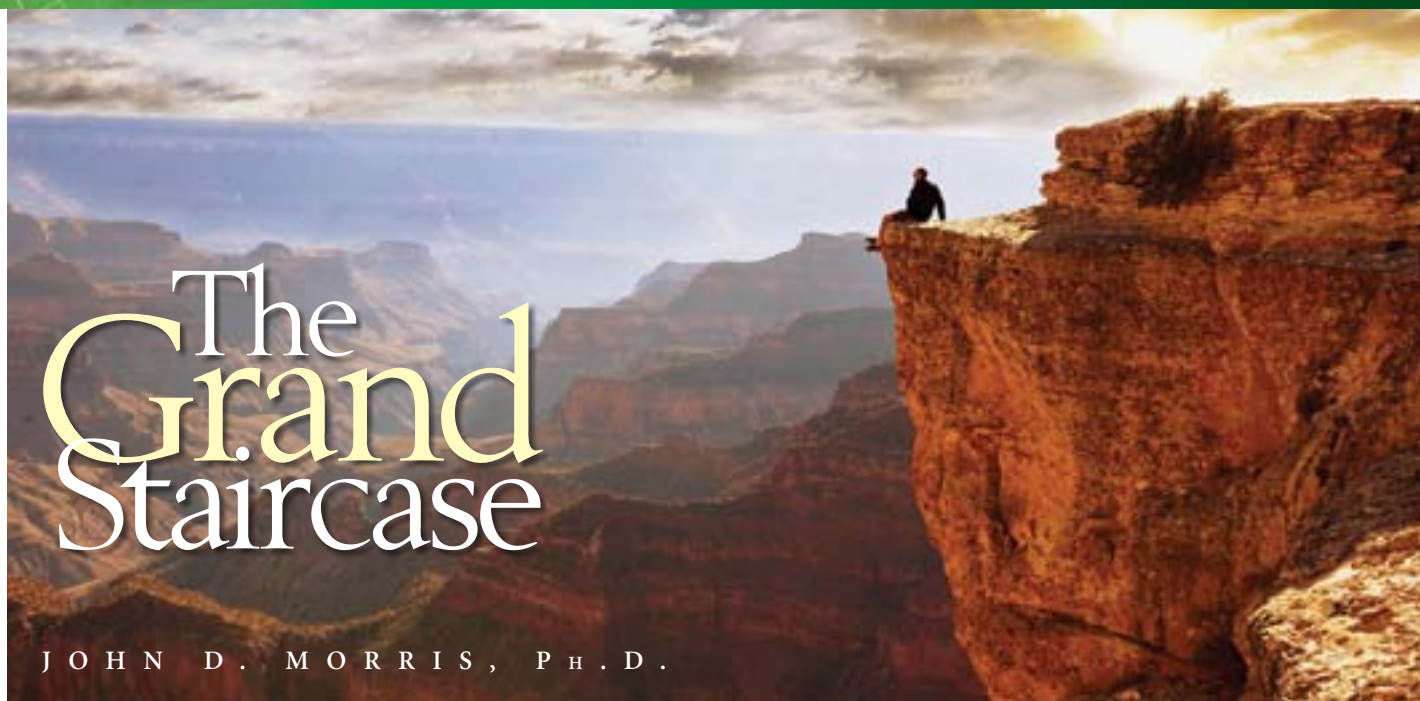
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2. *Ibid*, 291-296.

Adapted from Dr. Morris' article "The Resting Ark, the Grounded Fish, and the Empty Tomb" in the March 1986 issue of *Acts & Facts*.

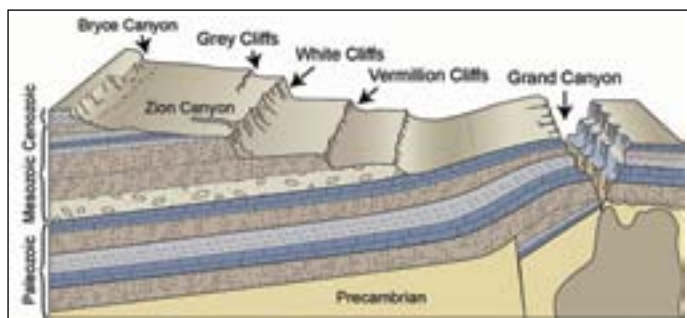
Dr. Henry M. Morris (1918-2006) was Founder of the Institute for Creation Research.





Grand Canyon, with its multi-layered sides is well known to creationists—years of creationist research and writing have secured its place in Flood geology and creationist literature. The Grand Canyon strata are (mostly) from the Paleozoic “Era,” supposedly from about 550 million to 250 million years ago according to uniformitarian dating. Creationists deny the date, considering the fossil and geologic records as largely due to the great Flood of Noah’s day some few thousand years ago. Paleozoic strata were deposited early in the Flood, while the following Mesozoic “Era” (supposedly 250 to 65 million years ago) and Cenozoic “Era” (from 65 onward) represent middle to late (or post-) Flood activity. Grand Canyon doesn’t speak to these, for these strata are not present there, having evidently been eroded away.

However, when one takes a big picture view of the strata he sees that the Canyon is only the last notch of a much larger canyon stretching from northern Colorado to southern Arizona. It’s too big to see and can only be appreciated from high above the earth or on maps.



The Grand Staircase: Exhibit “A” for the Global Flood
 Grand Canyon possesses only deposits left during the early Flood, while Zion Canyon has those from the middle Flood, and Bryce Canyon the late (and post) Flood. The individual layers, not all of which are pictured here, are typically of vast extent and of catastrophic origin – the signature of the Great Flood of Noah’s day.

The north flank of Grand Canyon is overlain by the Vermillion Cliffs, made up of the Chinle and Kayenta Formations, and the White Cliffs are made up of the cross-bedded Navajo Sandstone. That is overlain by the Grey Cliffs, all of which make up Zion Canyon strata units, which are overlain by the Brian Head and Wasatch Formations, giving Bryce Canyon its unique charm.

Creationists generally attribute Grand Canyon and strata designated as Paleozoic to the beginning phases of the great Flood and ascribe Zion Canyon and strata from the Mesozoic to the middle stages during which the Flood was at its maximum. During the Cenozoic, the waters began to wane. On at least a regional scale, all of the strata deposition required intense, catastrophic forces—the great Flood of Noah’s day!

The accompanying diagram illustrates the successive layers and their vertical relationship.¹ Grand Canyon shows the continent-spanning Tapeats Sandstone, deposited during the first burst of the Flood by dynamic water action. The Redwall Limestone, in which billions of two-foot long nautiloid fossils were discovered by creationists, prove the deposit could not have been due to gradual processes. Likewise, the Coconino Sandstone is an underwater sand ripple deposit, not a series of desert sand dunes. Zion Canyon places the Navajo Sandstone in its proper context among marine deposits with marine fossils, not as a terrestrial deposit. Bryce Canyon can best be considered a failed lake bed full of ponding Flood waters. It all fits inferences gained from biblical information. The Grand Staircase, shown in this figure, could be considered Exhibit A for the Flood model of geology. ●

Reference

1. Adapted from Figure 4.12 in Austin, S. 1994. *Grand Canyon: Monument to Catastrophe*. Santee, CA: Institute for Creation Research, 69.

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



A new wave in biology is biomimicry, people imitating those structures or processes that are found in nature. The secular scientist may not be aware of it, but embracing biomimicry is evidence that he is thinking God's thoughts—copying His living world. (Biomimicry is not to be confused with biological mimicry, i.e., Batesian mimicry and Mullerian mimicry.) Scientists have become active in copying “mother nature” and have produced designs that—although amazing—still fall short of the real thing. Examples from the living world are numerous, evidenced by how often these scientists refer to design. For example, the large

now incorporate this efficient and reliable design feature that God thought of first.

On the microscale, rough shark skin is designed to smooth the water flow over the shark. Researchers figured this out and Olympic records were broken in 2000 when swimmers wore suits designed after the “dermal denticles” (skin teeth) of sharks. Like the shark, Olympic swimmers were able to swim slightly faster and with less effort because of the design of their swimwear. Indeed, 80 percent of medals were won by swimmers wearing these unique suits.⁴

Birds and fish are designed by the Creator to change the angle of their wings and

copied for use in aircraft composite material. Composites are fiber-reinforced polymers with tiny hollow tubes filled with epoxy resin. When aircraft skin is overly stressed, a crack or a hole appears and the resin leaks out. The blemish is sealed and the material returns to 85 percent of its original strength.⁵

We enjoy watching clips of gravity-defying geckos as they effortlessly scurry across ceilings and walls.⁶ In the 21st century more applications are being devised from gecko feet technology, including adhesive tape that could improve recovery from surgery and make more robust and longer-lasting surgical materials, patches, and bandages.

TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATIONS FROM THE CREATOR

F R A N K S H E R W I N , M . A .



Arapaima fish of Brazil has “intricately designed scales,” perhaps giving “bioinspiration” for engineers as they seek to develop flexible ceramics.¹

Popular diving watercraft called Seabreacher are designed after the sleek water dynamic shapes of killer whales, dolphins, and sharks.² God designed the whale to be incredibly agile for its size, and researcher Frank E. Fish attributed the remarkable agility to the characteristic dome-like bumps called tubercles on the leading edge of humpback whales’ flippers. This has inspired what Dr. Fish and technologists are calling “tubercle technology” or the “tubercle effect.”³ Massive wind turbine blades with tubercles on the leading edge have increased yearly electrical production by 20 percent while significantly reducing noise. The blade construction of other machines such as fans, pumps, compressors and turbines could

depend on duration and speed. Birds especially are designed to maintain constant flight speeds over long distances. In 2004 Penn State University scientists took the wing design of long-distance birds to develop an amazing morphing airplane wing. Interestingly, the wing would be covered with an outer skin much like fish scales. The compliant wing with a special understructure would lead to more rapid flights with less fuel consumption.

In 1941 Swiss inventor George de Mestral noticed that his dog collected burrs in its fur easily. He looked at the burr structure under the microscope to see huge numbers of tiny hooks that could catch on anything from hair to clothing. Velcro was born.

We are all familiar with the life-saving property of blood clotting (a rare example of positive feedback in biology) in people and animals. This God-designed method has been

When we see the application of design features borrowed from the living world—let’s not make the mistake of thanking “mother nature” (the creation), but instead, let’s give glory to God (the Creator). ●

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Mr. Sherwin is Research Associate, Senior Lecturer, and Science Writer at the Institute for Creation Research.



The Masterful Design of Spider Webs

BRIAN THOMAS, M.S.

Garden spider webs look amazing, but they also are so strong that they inspire materials scientists. Research recently showed that spider webs actually strengthen *after* they are slightly damaged. Experiment results demonstrated that too much damage did eventually weaken the webs, but not before they withstood hurricane force winds and multiple breaks. How did spider webs get so well-engineered?

Spider silk is stronger than steel and tougher than Kevlar pound-for-pound, but the overall web that garden spiders weave is even stronger than its silk proteins. In a report published in *Nature*, researchers wrote, “Spider webs themselves are characterized by a highly organized geometry that optimizes their function.”² The team tested the behavior both of radial threads and spiral threads in order to discover secrets of web geometry. Like spokes on a bicycle wheel, the radial threads anchor to nearby objects. The spiral threads crisscross and anchor to the radial threads.

This *Nature* study found that a spider silk strand resists stress in a stepwise fashion. After initially stiffening, the thread absorbed stress by stretching. Additional pressure caused the thread to sharply stiffen, thus transferring pressure to the rest of the web. But even more pressure was handled by a fourth and final process. Crystalline structures within the spider silk protein absorbed the maximum strain and broke, leaving the larger web intact. For example, a struggling insect would not break the whole web, but only those silk strands in contact with the insect. And after a local thread

or two broke, the overall web strength increased! The study authors wrote that “the ultimate load capacity increased by 3-10% with the introduction of defects.”² It’s as though the web was designed to anticipate breaks.

If the entire web broke apart because of stress applied in just one area, then the spider would have to recast a new web each time it broke, creating a monumental workload: “Given the presumed metabolic effort required by the spider for rebuilding an entire web, localized failure is preferential as it does not compromise the structural integrity of the web and hence allows it to continue to function for prey capture in spite of the damage.”² Because their webs remain stable after damage, spiders simply repair them. The superior engineering in both material and structural layout enables spiders to catch multiple meals with the same web.

Scientists cannot make the raw materials of silk with man-made machinery, but have used genetically modified bacteria and goats to

manufacture silk proteins.¹ So far, only a spider’s silk glands and spinnerets can assemble the world’s most resilient biodegradable thread. But engineers recognize the benefits of copying the design features of the spider web architecture as well as the webbing strands.

The “engineering design could ignore the requirements for the magnitude of a potential load and allow local failure to occur, a design stipulation that requires the consideration of both material and structural architecture.”² For example, automobile designers incorporate built-in crumple zones where “local failure” absorbs the force from a head-on collision instead of the driver’s body.

The *Nature* study authors called spider webs an “optimized” system, meaning that the design could not be improved.² Did *nature* optimize spider webs, or did the *Creator* optimize them? Experiments do not show nature optimizing biological structures. In fact, undirected nature breaks down structures. Of these two origins options, only one is an actual person—an Engineer and more, with real thoughts, who is capable of the consideration *required* to create spider webs.³ ●

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Mr. Thomas is Science Writer at the Institute for Creation Research.



Photo: © Mikhail Kokhanchikov | Dreamstime.com

The RESURRECTION *and the* ORIGIN of LIFE

JOHN D. MORRIS, P.H.D.

At Easter time we focus on the cardinal Christian doctrine of the Resurrection. Without the Resurrection, Christianity is a sham. The truth that Jesus Christ rose from the dead sets Christianity apart from all religious systems.

Many of the world's religions look back to the martyrdom of their leader/founder. None but Christianity look back to an empty tomb which once contained His body. Only in Christianity has the slain martyr risen from the grave.

Furthermore, in Christianity, Jesus Christ had specifically come to die, to pay the penalty of death which He did not owe. He had predicted His death, submitted to its brutality, and even dismissed His Spirit when all had been done. But He had also predicted His Resurrection, and after three days, replaced His Spirit back into His broken body, and it revived. Now, He ever lives and offers eternal life to those for whom He died.

In today's secular religion of naturalistic evolution, no resurrection from the dead is possible. Only once, they say, did lifeless chemicals spring to life, eventually descending into us all. But even they rec-

ognize that the spontaneous generation of life is "impossible," and has been disproved, yet they still believe it. It takes a Creator to have life.

In Christianity the Creator is identified as Jesus Christ. The very same One who died on the cross created life in the first place. Thus, only He had the power and authority to again take up His life.

The mighty Creator, perfect sacrifice, and risen Lord is recognized in Christianity as the very Son of God. He willingly set aside aspects of His glory, took upon Himself the form of created man, died to pay sinful man's death penalty, and won total victory over the sin and death which had temporarily twisted His "very good" creation.

Thus the resurrection sets Christianity apart from all non-Christian religions. The fact that the resurrected One is the Creator God Himself, sets Christianity apart from pseudo-Christian cults which deny His deity. This conundrum often culminates in a climactic clash where the Christian is forced to choose between reinterpreting Genesis (based on man's current interpretation of science), or re-examining proclamations of mainstream scientists

(based on the plain teaching of Genesis).

There is perhaps no greater threat to the veracity of Scripture than the modern-day conventional science claims that the earth is billions of years old. Once a Christian caves into this notion, it forces him or her to radically transform the plain narrative of the Creation Week into esoteric poetry, myth, or fiction. The "slide down the slippery slope" is then set in motion as "profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called" (I Timothy 6:20) pull the Christian from faith in God's inerrant Word to a sole reliance on man's latest interpretation of science. In too many cases, it leads to a tragic abandonment of the Christian faith.

ICR remains unabashedly committed to revering Scripture as the final authority for truth. To the extent that God allows us to continue discovering scientific evidence that lines up with His Word, we will endeavor to provide faith-strengthening resources to equip God's saints and bring glory to His name! ●

Adapted from Dr. Morris' article "The Resurrection and the Origin of Life" in the March 2005 issue of *Acts & Facts*.

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



Artist: George Richardson, <http://george-richardson.artistweb sites.com>



Introducing ICR's New Director of Research:

Jason Lisle, Ph.D.

Dr. Jason Lisle approaches science from the perspective that God's Word is true—"the Bible teaches us the truth about origins, and good science confirms what the Bible teaches." Dr. Lisle, a Christian astrophysicist who writes and speaks on various topics relating to science and the defense of the Christian faith, graduated *summa cum laude* from Ohio Wesleyan University where he double-majored in physics and astronomy and minored in mathematics. He then earned a master's degree and a Ph.D. in astrophysics at the University of Colorado.

Dr. Lisle specialized in solar astrophysics and has made a number of scientific discoveries regarding the solar photosphere, including the detection of giant cell boundaries using the SOHO spacecraft. He also does theoretical research and has contributed to the field of general relativity. His areas of interest in creation studies are in developing models of cosmology and stellar aging.

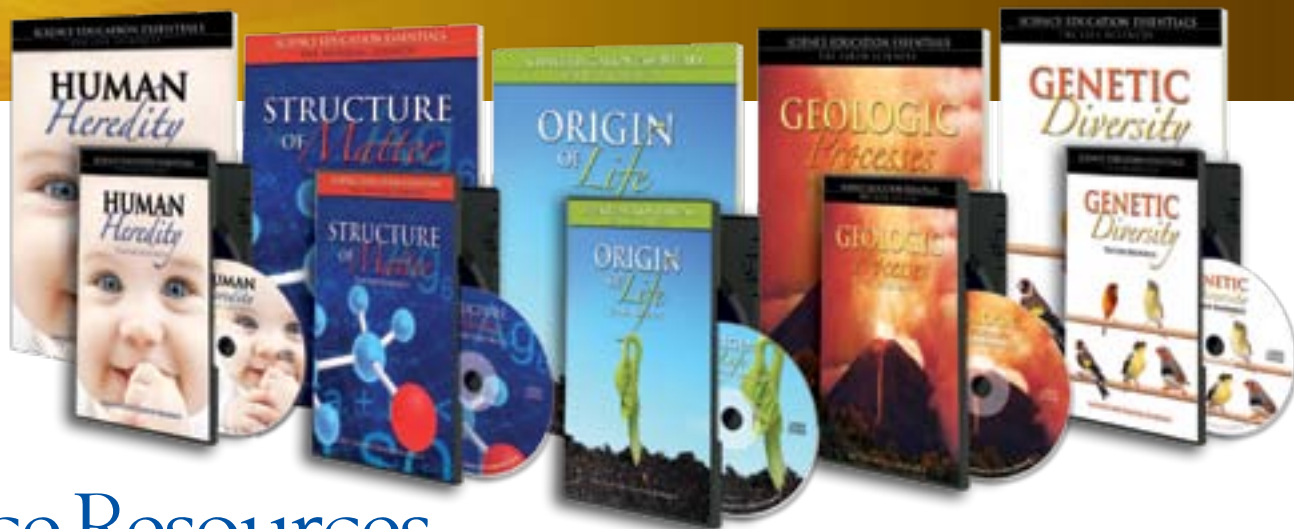
Since completion of his research at the University of Colorado, Dr. Lisle also began working in full-time apologetics ministry, specializing in the defense of Genesis. He has written a number of articles and books on the topic. His book, *The Ultimate Proof of Creation*, demonstrates that biblical creation is the only logical possibility for origins. Dr. Lisle was instrumental in developing the planetarium at the Creation Museum in Kentucky, and he wrote and directed popular planetarium shows, including "The Created Cosmos."

Dr. Lisle wrote his book, *Discerning Truth: Exposing*

Errors in Evolutionary Arguments, because he believes Christians often face "criticism from evolutionists for their belief in God and His glorious creation." Lisle says, "creationists need to be able to recognize and refute evolutionists arguments, and to do so in a way that both honors God and lines up with the truth of His Word (Ephesians 5:1). The role of logic, the study of correct reasoning, is becoming a vanishing skill in our society." Dr. Lisle hopes that he can help believers defend their faith "in the face of adversity."

The *Stargazer's Guide to the Night Sky* taps into Dr. Lisle's expertise in astrophysics and his understanding of the galaxies. Astronomy and physics have always been areas of special interest. One of his favorite hobbies is viewing the night sky through a telescope. His other books include *Are ETs & UFOs Real?* and *Big Problems with the Big Bang*. While most astronomers and astrophysicists present the big bang theory as an explanation for our origins, Dr. Lisle says "they are simply wrong." Naturalists present their "alternative model to explain the universe naturalistically, and that goes against what the Bible teaches."

For over 40 years ICR has maintained its commitment to research and biblical truth, drawing talented research scientists like Dr. Jason Lisle from around the country to contribute their skills to our ministry efforts. Dr. Lisle will focus his research efforts in astrophysics, as well as lead ICR's gifted team of scientists who continue to investigate and demonstrate the evidence for creation. The Institute for Creation Research welcomes Dr. Jason Lisle! ●



Science Resources for the Homeschool

R H O N D A F O R L O W , E D . D .

Bible-believing parents who choose to homeschool their children do so for a number of important reasons, but many, if not most, choose this path in order to safeguard the godly upbringing of their children. They want them to have a solid education without having to undergo the constant assault of godless secularism that characterizes the public school classroom.

The Institute for Creation Research knows how important the right to choose your child's curricula is to homeschooling families. Parents must be on guard in order to make sure that the curricula and materials they choose to prepare their students will be from a biblical worldview, while still promoting critical thinking skills that will be vital for their college experience and life ahead.

For that reason, parents constantly ask me what resources ICR has available for homeschooling families. In keeping with its ongoing mission to equip parents and teachers with evidence of the accuracy and authority of Scripture, ICR developed *Science Education Essentials*, five special creation-based teaching supplements that parents and Christian school teachers can use alongside their normal curricula to teach young minds how science supports the truth of the biblical accounts of creation, the Flood, and other aspects of our earth and its history.

We also encourage parents to explore the ICR website (www.icr.org) for creation-based science information they can share with

their children on a variety of subjects. Our archive of science articles spans decades of ICR research and commentary on the important scientific issues of the day. Other online ICR resources are the weekly episodes of our new online video program *That's a Fact* and the *Science Essentials* education blog that I host, which offers weekly student activities and other useful information for the homeschool parent.

As important as it is to provide good, scholarly resources, ICR believes it is just as important to empower you with tools and information to help you review materials to find those that are appropriate for your children based upon a biblical worldview. Below are seven *Tips for Choosing Science Curriculum*:¹

- 1) **Look for the lingo.** Understand the key points of evolutionary science and the compromise theories, along with their buzz words, before you start looking at material.
- 2) **Review thoroughly.** Do the publishers/authors state their view on creation, science, or Genesis? There is no place for neutrality in creation science.
- 3) **Choose biblical, not Christian.** Ensure the curriculum teaches students science from a biblical creation worldview, rather than from any mix of Christianity and evolutionary ideas.
- 4) **Keep science in its place.** Never put science on such a high pedestal that it overshadows the authority of the Bible.
- 5) **Teach tough issues, but honor the Creator.** At some point prior to college, students will

need to be prepared with sufficient knowledge about evolutionary science. Teach it accurately, but within the context of biblical truth.

6) Avoid evolutionary ideas:

- Big Bang Theory
- Millions and billions of years
- Darwinian evolution and natural selection
- Animal to hominid to man evolution
- Genesis creation account is poetic or symbolic
- Death before sin
- Local or tranquil flood theories

7) Select biblical ideas:

- Genesis creation account (six 24-hour days, recent creation)
- Created kinds
- Man made in the image of God
- Literal Adam and Eve
- Death was a result of the Fall and is judgment for sin
- Global, catastrophic Flood of Noah's day

ICR offers DVDs, books, and other creation-based materials for use in the home through our online store. And we encourage you to check our monthly events schedule (page 7) for ICR speakers who may be headed to your area.² ●

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2. For more information regarding K-12 science resources and to find upcoming events for ICR speakers, visit www.icr.org.

Dr. Forlow is Education Specialist at the Institute for Creation Research.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We are very grateful for your hard work and the resources you've made available. We've been particularly enjoying the curriculum supplements in our homeschool. God preserve you.

— J.&J.K.

We would like to compliment you on your excellent Bible-driven Creation information. We have been using your books, devotionals, magazines, and DVDs for over 25 years. We are so thankful for your work, and we always tell people about your organization and its message. Thank you for sending Dr. Forlow's book, *Five Evidences for a Flood*. We thoroughly enjoyed it. By the way, we really appreciate that our church also has *Acts & Facts* in their lobby.

— D.&L.G.

I wanted to offer my thanks for the excellent work that you do. I particularly liked the way you expanded upon the meaning of the many blessings of the beatitudes in your January 24 *Days of Praise* text. Your work is always scripturally sound and fulfilling. I happened to share this particular message with a coworker and it was just the right time and the right thing for her—God's will at work in our lives!

— J.W.

I wish I was still teaching school or my daughter-in-law was still homeschooling. I'm retired and her children are going to a

Christian school and a [public] high school. I would have loved to have had one of your newest science posters. I always loved teaching posters when I was teaching. I have the book *The Genesis Flood*. I also got to hear [founder Henry Morris] in person a couple of times. Wonderful man of God. I used some of your information from *Creation Research* magazine years ago to write a paper for a class [in college]. The class was "Carl Sagan's Cosmos." I couldn't sit there and be quiet. I spoke out in class and read from Romans 1. When I got my paper back from the professor I got an A- and he said, "You almost persuaded me." Who does that remind you of? I've always supported ICR either through ordering material or praying. May the Lord continue to bless the ministry. We need it so much today.

— L.D.M.

I wanted to take the time to let you know how much we really appreciate your support of our programs and ministry efforts here [at this correctional facility], specifically, the *Days of Praise* devotionals your ministry sends to us faithfully every two months. These daily readers are very popular around here, and they are extremely beneficial because they keep the men's minds on healthy, spiritual things. Your resources are indispensable to the facility, our offenders' rehabilitation, and their futures. We consider you a critical partner in all our efforts to provide a healing and transfor-

mational correctional environment. I pray that your selfless contributions continue to prosper and make a difference in the world.

— D.S.

Praise the Lord for ICR! About 40 years ago, Dr. Morris and Dr. Gish were a great help to a new Christian who knew little and needed a lot of answers. I will support you until I die or Uncle Sam goes broke. I think both are coming.

— C.G.

Thanks for your excellent radio programs. I'm learning English, therefore. Your programs help me to improve my English, and at the same time, I learn about creationism. I wish God continues blessing you. From Venezuela.

— L.N.

Please tell Randy Guliuzza that his article on natural selection hit the ball out of the park! Why aren't mainstream scientists pointing out the fallacies in Darwin's natural selection? It's so easy to tear his theory apart. Natural selection has no power. It simply dies or it lives based on environmental surroundings. There is no intelligent entity that makes a decision/selection about anything. Supposedly brilliant scientists are allowing themselves to be duped, OR are they duping us? Keep up the great work, Randy!

— J.C.

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

HENRY M. MORRIS IV

For over 40 years the Lord has been faithful to provide for ICR's needs. His marvelous supply was particularly evident in recent years as ICR weathered the severest economic downturn in my lifetime. Even though many were personally hurting themselves, countless supporters continued giving and praying to sustain ICR's unique ministry for the cause of Jesus Christ. For this we are deeply humbled and thankful for those who choose to "lay up for [themselves] treasures in heaven" through their support of our essential work (Matthew 6:20).

Nonetheless, ICR is not blind to pragmatic solutions that benefit both our ministry and those who support us. So during the depths of the Great Recession, ICR began promoting certain giving opportunities that provide distinct advantages to donors. One of the most popular was our Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA) program, which has doubled in size since 2009 when financial markets collapsed. With continued instability in the economy, CGAs remain a very attractive option for seniors who wish to support ICR but still need a source of income.

Based on recent policy changes by ICR's Board of Trustees, donors over age 65 can now fund a CGA with ICR for as little as \$10,000. Like certificates of deposits (CDs), CGAs provide a guaranteed level of income. But unlike CDs, with dismally low payout rates near 1 percent, CGAs provide the absolute best secure return available with rates ranging from 4.7 to over 7 percent. Moreover, CGAs provide guaranteed income *for life*, partially tax-free payments, and a partial tax deduction—features the commercial industry cannot match. Plus, you will have the satisfaction in knowing your

gift will support ICR's ministry once God calls you home.

CGAs are based on your state of residency, and with few exceptions ICR is authorized to issue these special contracts in most states. CGA rates also vary by age, with older donors receiving higher rates, so visit ICR's recently enhanced Planned Giving section of icr.org/give to design your own plan. Or contact us directly with your name, state of residence, birth date, and gift amount—we will be delighted to design a customized proposal just for you.

Aside from your direct support of God's work, the single most important thing believers can do is to have a valid written will that provides for the Kingdom. Regrettably, over 50 percent of people who pass away each year do not have one. State laws of "descent and distribution" then take over and often deplete estates with unnecessary expenses, decide who will administer your estate, and determine who will function as the guardian of your minor children. And they will not allow bequests of any kind—to your friends, your church, or to ministries like ICR that honor the Lord Jesus Christ. In obedience to the Lord, please do not allow this to happen to you.

ICR's Planned Giving website contains highly interactive modules to assist you in crafting a well-planned will—click on the Wills Guide and Plan Your Will links to get started. ICR can also provide samples of well-written wills and helpful brochures on proper will preparation. Most wills can be prepared relatively inexpensively by a knowledgeable attorney and ICR can recommend one in your area. And should you desire to support ICR, it is easy to include a simple bequest to ensure a portion

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(Galatians 6:9-10)

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Mr. Morris is Director of Donor Relations at the Institute for Creation Research.



Provide, Protect, *and* Share



Mary on Easter Morning

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

“**T**he first day of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early, when it was yet dark, unto the sepulcher, and seeth the stone taken away from the sepulcher” (John 20:1).

Most of the events regarding our Lord’s ministry on earth are not found in all of the gospels, but all reveal that it was Mary Magdalene who was at the tomb early on the first Easter morning (compare Matthew 28:1-10; Mark 16:9-11; Luke 24:1-10).

Who was this woman, that had been accorded such honor? She is first mentioned as one out of whom were cast seven devils (Mark 16:9; Luke 8:2). Her deliverance and conversion were so marked that she, along with several other women, attached themselves to Christ’s entourage as He traveled about, and “ministered unto him of their substance” (Luke 8:3).

His disciples forsook and denied Him, but she was present at his crucifixion (Matthew 27:55,56; Mark 15:40; Luke 23:49; John 19:25). She was still with Him as He was removed from the cross and laid in the tomb (Matthew 27:61; Mark 15:47; Luke 23:55). She organized the effort to anoint the body with spices after the Sabbath (Mark 16:1; Luke 23:56).

And what was the reward for her faithfulness? “Now when Jesus was risen early the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene” (Mark 16:9). Then she had the privilege of being the first evangelist, telling the disciples the Good News “that she had seen the LORD” (John 20:18).

We can surmise that she was present at His other appearances and that she was close by when He ascended. She was certainly in the upper room (Acts 1:12-14), and was likely present for the events of Pentecost (Acts 2:1).

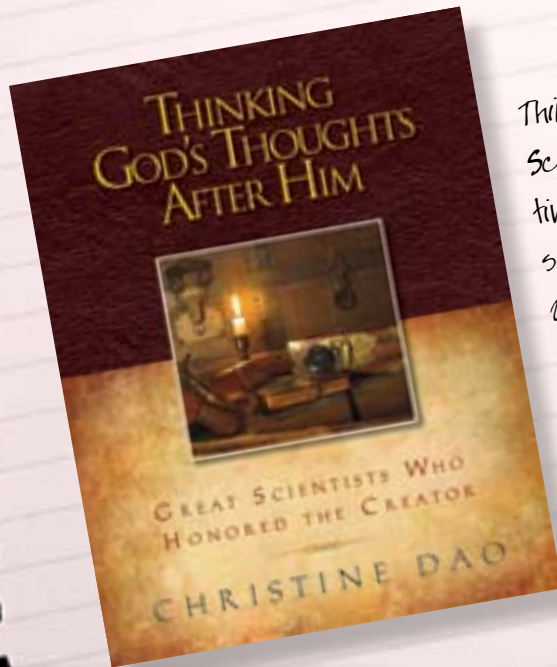
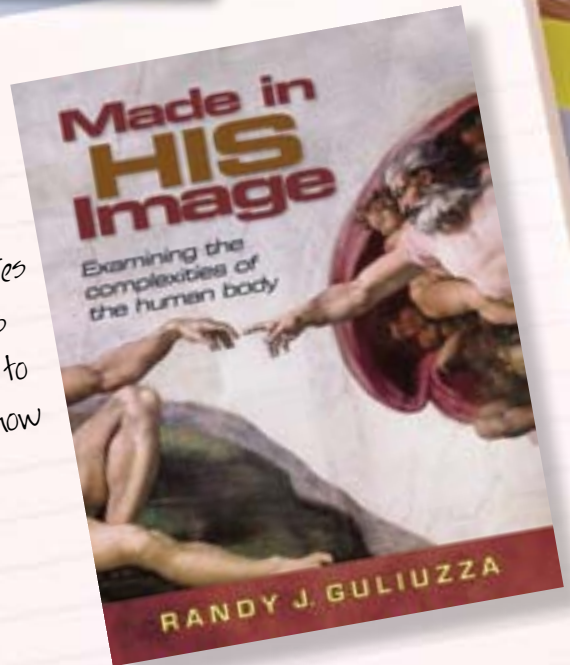
Mary may have experienced these events firsthand, but because of what He did, we can likewise experience His resurrected presence and Spirit, participate in the same joyous ministry, and welcome Him when He returns.

Adapted from Dr. Morris’ article “Mary on Easter Morning” in the March 1997 *Days of Praise*.

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

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