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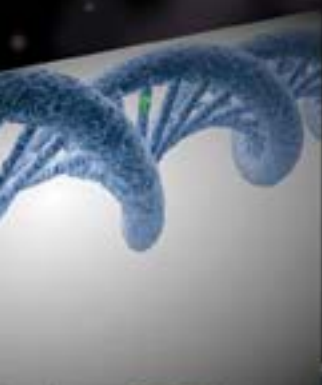
Willingly
Ignorant

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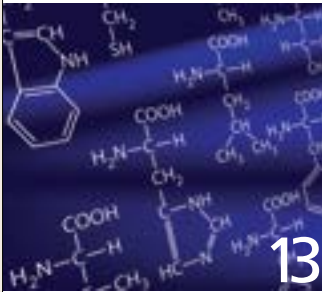
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Knowing Jesus

Several years ago, a dear friend had a severe heart attack and nearly died. Because of the severity of the attack, he went without oxygen for some time—too long—and he experienced lasting brain damage. His life has taken a detour from his long-held dreams, expectations, and plans. Instead of a comfortable suburban existence with a wife and four honor-student children, he now faces daily battles that he never imagined on those drives to the local high school where he was greatly respected as a highly successful coach and teacher.

One of his struggles today is in the area of memory loss. After his trauma, he couldn't remember the most impactful events of his life—not even his children's births. During the days, weeks, and months of his recovery, his wife told him the stories of the difficult pregnancies and



deliveries, her father's death, and their own wedding. He experienced the birth of each child with fresh joy, the death of his father-in-law with overwhelming first-time grief, and the story of his blissful courtship with his bride of over 20 years.

As a biology teacher, he had been accustomed to understanding sophisticated information and communicating sometimes very complex knowledge to high school students. In those former days, he was adept at performing detailed experiments in the science lab. However, after the heart attack and even today, years later, he encounters daily moments of frustration as he deals with his "new normal" life with limitations—a life now altered by cognitive disabilities.

But even with his limited intellectual ability, he has a profound grasp of spiritual truth. In one particularly poignant moment of worship during a church service, he turned a tear-streaked face to his wife and said, "I know Jesus. And there's no greater thing." This sweet believer was now limited in his understanding, even downright slow in comprehending daily tasks, but he understood that he knew the most important thing to know about life. He knew His Lord and Savior Jesus Christ—and there was no greater thing to know in all of life.

When I read Dr. Henry Morris III's article, "Willingly Ignorant," I was reminded of my friend. While my friend cherished every moment of getting to know Jesus all over again, there are those who take that opportunity for granted. They may have the intellectual capacity to win Nobel prizes and lecture about quantum mechanics, yet they willfully choose to *not* know the God of the universe. They choose ignorance.

My friend would give anything to put a complete thought together in a conversation or to remember precious memories of the past or to balance a bank account, while secular scholars have chosen to live in darkened understanding, unable to comprehend the truths of Scripture because they reject the God of creation.

Dr. Morris reminds us that we're all faced with clearly seen truths in Scripture and in creation. One simple truth is that willful ignorance yields a life of isolation from the One we were created to know and to worship. But even in the silence of separation from our creator God, we have been offered the opportunity to know Him through witnessing His work in creation and through the testimony of His Word.

I can't say that I want to go through what my friend went through or what he continues to encounter. But I recognize the value of his simple approach to life now and the wisdom he possesses in treasuring his opportunity to know Jesus and his comprehension that knowing Jesus is the greatest thing of all.

Jayme Durant

Jayme Durant
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Willingly Ignorant



HENRY M. MORRIS III, D.MIN.

For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water:

Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished.

(2 P E T E R 3 : 5 - 6)

It is helpful to remember that the arguments concerning creation versus naturalistic evolution are not a new scientific issue. The apostle Peter understood that the philosophy that rejected the message of Scripture was not scientifically based, but rather it was an open and conscious rejection of the evidence available in the “things that are made”—demonstrating that the very character of the Godhead and His eternal power are “clearly seen” (Romans 1:20).

In our own lifetimes, evolutionary scientists continue to generate sophisticated arguments to ignore the “clearly seen” evidence. Their own top-tier colleagues have begun to promote the (new) Darwinian idea—the notion that life originated from a primordial conglomeration of chemicals that over vast ages and through randomly generated combinations resulted in a “common ancestor” from which all life developed. Rejection of this fanciful tale is not limited to creationists! Nor has the naturalistic community just recently come to the conclusion that these theories will not work.

Sir Fred Hoyle and his brilliant associate Chandra Wickramasinghe, both well-established British astronomers and mathematicians, co-authored the book *Evolution from Space* in which they strongly condemned the possibility of life originating by chance from anything in the natural universe:

No matter how large the environment one considers, life cannot have had a random beginning. Troops of monkeys thundering away at random on typewriters could not produce the works of Shakespeare, for the practical reason that the whole observable universe is not large enough to contain the necessary monkey hordes, the necessary typewriters, and certainly not the waste paper baskets required for the deposition of wrong attempts. The same is true for living material...The likelihood of the spontaneous formation of life from inanimate matter is one to a number with 40,000 noughts after it...It is big enough to bury Darwin and the whole theory of evolution. There was no primeval soup, neither on this planet nor on any other, and if the beginnings of life were not random, they must therefore have been the product of purposeful intelligence.¹

This book was written nearly 30 years ago! Yet, no one has refuted their computations. Many have willingly rejected their insistence, but the proof still stands.

Dr. Richard Lewontin, a Harvard University geneticist, biologist, and social commentator, wrote an article in *The New York Review of Books* entitled “Billions and Billions of Demons.” Written less than 20 years ago, the article acknowledges that those who are “the initiated” of the scientific world are well aware of the need to formulate and process data that will prevent creationist thinking—even though it is an obvious effort to stop a “divine foot” from getting in the door:

Evolutionary scientists continue to generate sophisticated arguments to ignore the “clearly seen” evidence.

Our willingness to accept scientific claims that are against common sense is the key to an understanding of the real struggle between science and the supernatural. We take the side of science in spite of the patent absurdity of some of its constructs, in spite of its failure to fulfill many of its extravagant promises of health and life, in spite of the tolerance of the scientific community for unsubstantiated just-so stories, because we have a *prior* commitment, a commitment to materialism....It is not that the methods and institutions of science somehow compel us to accept a material explanation of the phenomenal world, but,

on the contrary, that we are forced by our a priori adherence to material causes to create an apparatus of investigation and a set of concepts that produce material explanations, no matter how counter-intuitive, no matter how mystifying to the uninitiated. Moreover, that materialism is absolute for we cannot allow a divine foot in the door.²

Acts & Facts readers will probably recognize Dr. Lewontin’s quote. Our speakers frequently cite it because it reveals a “willing ignorance” on the part of those who formulate the “evidence” foisted upon the naive public and struggling student bodies of the world.

One of the most common misunderstandings among Christians is that the biblical account of creation can be allegorized or harmonized with the evolutionary system of science. This is not possible. Both the evolutionary explanation for creation and the biblical account are faith cosmologies—that is, they are “stories” of how things came to be. But neither can be put to scientific testing. Science requires that you can test, reproduce, and falsify or prove the “story” that is being evaluated. Since neither evolution nor creation can be subjected to those criteria, each individual is left with the absolute choice of believing one or the other. In fact, it is only the Christian apologists who attempt to homogenize the two messages. The evolutionary naturalist never does and scoffs at the Christian who attempts to gain his favor by denying the words of the Creator—words only the Christian professes to believe.

These opposing belief systems can easily be compared by a simple chart listing the foundational points upon which they rest.

The Biblical Record	The Evolutionary Order
Matter created by God	Matter existed in beginning
Earth before sun and stars	Sun and stars before earth
Oceans before the land	Land before the oceans
Light before the sun	Sun—earth’s first light
Atmosphere between two hydrospheres	Contiguous atmosphere & hydrosphere
Land plants before marine organisms	Marine organisms first life forms
Fruit trees before fish	Fish before fruit trees
Birds before insects (“creeping things”)	Insects before birds
Land vegetation before the sun	Sun before land plants
Birds before reptiles (“creeping things”)	Reptiles before birds
Man before woman (creation)	Woman before man (genetics)
Man before rain (Gen. 2:5-6)	Rain before man
Creation completed—finished	Creative processes ongoing
Man caused struggle & death	Struggle & death—necessary & good



While the evidence for the scientific confirmation of the biblical model is vast and significant research is ongoing, the resistance to this evidence is increasing. Critiques of the evolutionary models are even increasing from among their own colleagues! However, all of those who embrace those naturalistic presuppositions are united in resisting any acceptance of a theistic or supernatural intrusion into the discussions.

The one exception to that resistance, interestingly, is the growing acceptance of Panspermia. This theory insists that life exists in some form throughout the universe and has found its way onto our planet by assorted space detritus (meteorites, ice crystals, etc.) or through the design of some form of super-intelligence that exists in another galaxy. Usually, the argument is based on the known *lack* of evidence for an evolutionary origin of life which then requires a non-evidentiary solution—that is, a presupposition (without evidence) that explains the predisposition to “believe” in naturalistic evolution of all things.

During the 30 years since Sir Fred Hoyle made his comments about life, and the 20 or so years since Dr. Lewontin arrogantly demanded that scientists design experiments to produce the anti-creation

dogma of naturalistic evolution, genuine science probed deeper into the universe and peered into the unimaginably tiny world of the atom and the unfathomably complex world of the genome. There is more evidence now than ever before for the omniscient design of everything! Using the

actual facts of science, man has built an exhilarating world of cities, computers, and commerce that now “has dominion” over the world as never before. The science and technology that enable man to do such things are based on the proven order, purpose, and precision of “the things that are made.”

Only a fool looks at the overwhelming and worldwide evidence and

then says, “There is no God” (Psalm 14:1).

“Willingly ignorant,” indeed! It is not surprising that God insists that those who reject the evidence that He has imbedded in the very creation itself are “without excuse” (Romans 1:20). ●

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



One of the most common misunderstandings among Christians is that the biblical account of creation can be allegorized or harmonized with the evolutionary system of science.



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■ MARCH 6-10

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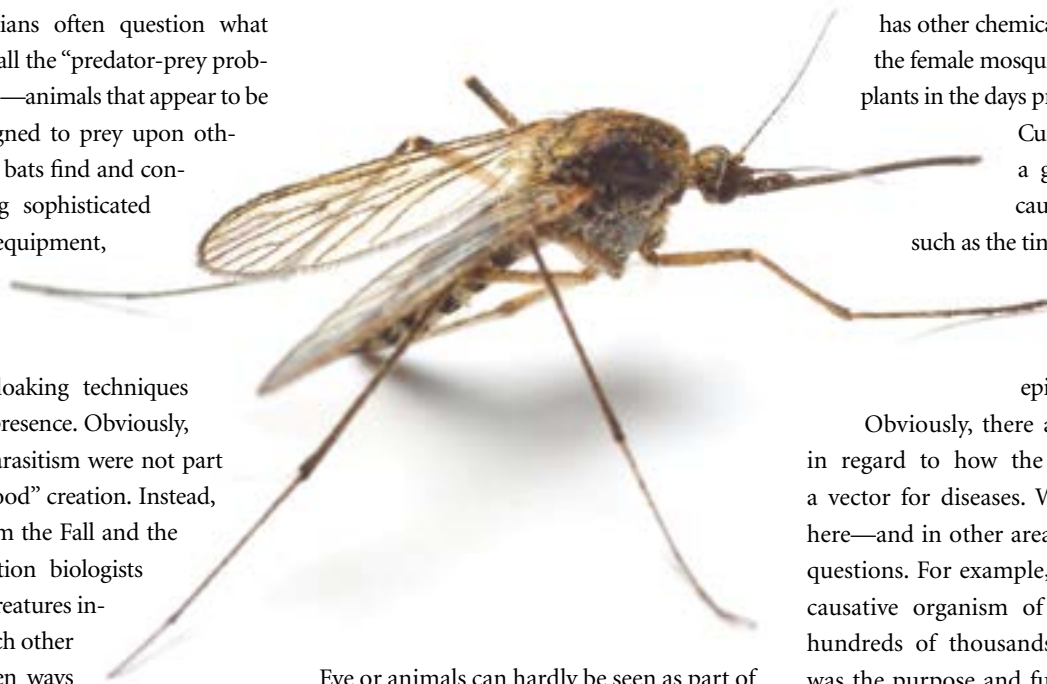
MOSQUITOES AND THE FALL

FRANK SHERWIN, M.A.

Christians often question what we call the “predator-prey problem”—animals that appear to be designed to prey upon others. For example, bats find and consume prey using sophisticated biological sonar equipment, and parasites devastate host bodies using biological cloaking techniques that mask their presence. Obviously, predation and parasitism were not part of God’s “very good” creation. Instead, they resulted from the Fall and the Curse, and creation biologists observe certain creatures interacting with each other in a host of fallen ways such as parasitism, predation, and competition. This was not always the norm, of course.

ICR biologists are currently looking at mosquitoes (family Culicidae) and their function before and after the Curse. Mosquitoes are good examples of insects that before the Fall were a functional and benign part of a “very good” ecosystem. They have since become vectors for some of the most devastating diseases in the world, such as malaria, Western equine encephalitis, yellow fever, dengue fever, and St. Louis encephalitis.

What was the purpose and function of the mosquito prior to the Fall? Biologists know the female must have a protein-based (blood) meal in order to aid in the production of eggs that are pure protein. Critics charge that mosquitoes biting Adam and



has other chemical similarities. Could the female mosquito have fed on these plants in the days preceding the Fall and Curse? We know that is a good possibility because we have creatures such as the tiny aphid that have no problem successfully penetrating plant epidermis and feeding.

Obviously, there are other questions in regard to how the mosquito became a vector for diseases. Work is being done here—and in other areas—to answer these questions. For example, *Plasmodium* is the causative organism of malaria that kills hundreds of thousands every year. What was the purpose and function of this protozoon prior to the Fall? Could there have been a non-parasitic *Plasmodium* cycle intact since the beginning? Investigating various kinds of malaria may shed some light on these questions.

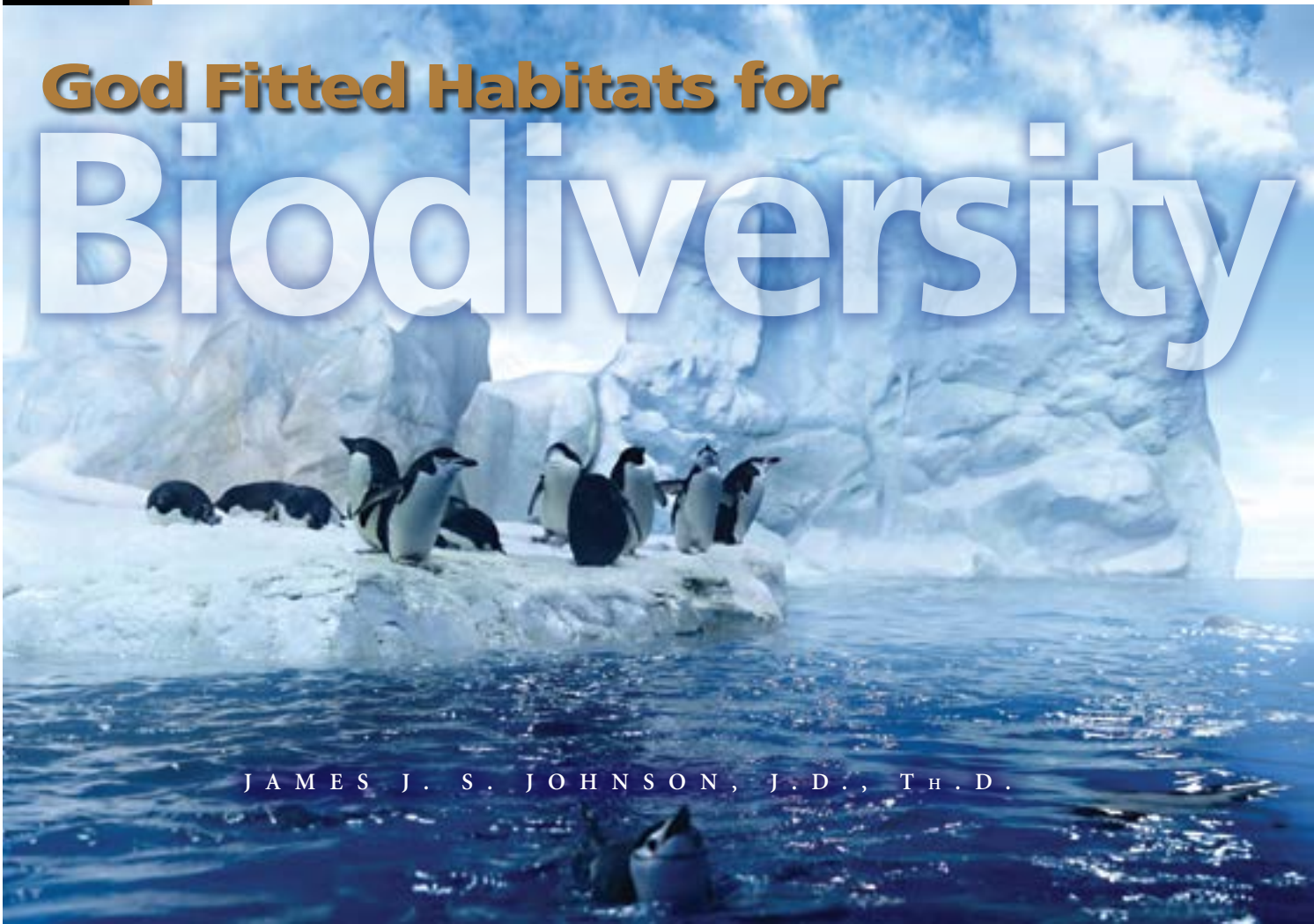
Much of the research conducted at ICR is driven by hypotheses based on what Genesis teaches. What were the mechanisms by which this change of state occurred from God’s perfect creation to our fallen condition today? As we continue this theoretical research, we hope we will see patterns that will help match theoretical answers to specific instances of predation and parasitism. ●

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



Eve or animals can hardly be seen as part of a flawless creation. Plus, mosquitoes had to have existed from the beginning. So if they didn’t pierce Adam and Eve prior to the Fall, then how did they survive, and where did they get protein for egg production?

Answers to such questions are becoming evident. To begin with, the female mosquito has a very sophisticated and surgical collection of piercing mouthparts. These structures are designed to pierce and to suck. Today, the female mosquito takes in blood that contains the red-pigmented protein called hemoglobin. But in the days between the creation and the Fall, was there a non-person or non-animal source of protein from which the mosquito could feed? Yes. Leghemoglobin is an oxygen or nitrogen carrier found in plants such as alfalfa and soybeans. Like hemoglobin, leghemoglobin is proteinaceous, red, and



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

God chose to fill the earth with different kinds of life. All over the world, we see His providence demonstrated in ecological systems. Different creatures live in a variety of habitats, interacting with one another and a mix of geophysical factors—like rain, rocks, soil, wind, and sunlight. But why does this happen? And how does it happen? These two questions are at the heart of ecology science—the empirical study of creatures interactively living in diverse “homes” all over the world.

Why did God design earth’s biodiversity the way that He did?

Two words summarize the answer: life and variety. Even in this after-Eden world, cursed and groaning as it is under the weight of sin and death, we still see a prolific and diversified creation.

God loves life. God is the essence and ultimate origin of all forms and levels of life.¹

God loves variety. God’s nature is plural, yet one, and He is the Creator of all biological diversity anywhere and everywhere on earth.²

Because God loves life and variety, we can understand *why* God favors different kinds of life forms, causing them to be fruitful—increasing their populations generation after generation. But other than God’s provision for humans—who are unique as God’s image-bearers, and who thus live out an altogether distinct ecological

“story”³—*how* does God provide for all kinds of plants and animals to interact as differently as they do on the earth?

Obviously, God cares for plants such as lilies, field grass, and trees⁴ and animals such as ravens and sparrows.^{4,5} Yet the big question for creation ecologists is this: How has God programmed and implemented His providential care for plants and animals to simultaneously ensure the success of their *population growth* and their *biodiversity*?^{6,7}

For creatures to successfully “fill the earth,” there must be both population growth and creature diversity within a geographical context—the earth. But is filling the earth merely a matter of proportionate distribution of the same animals and the natural resources that they need everywhere?

No.

Obviously, more resources are needed as populations increase, and *biogeographical dispersion* (i.e., animal populations spreading out into different territorial or migratory ranges) increases efficiency in vital resource access and consumption. But biogeography is much more complex than mere population dispersion because God in His wisdom designed many types of life forms, as demonstrated in both animals (including microbes) and plants.^{2,8}



Different Homes for Different Folks

Different types of habitats all over the planet collectively host an ecological smörgåsbord of alternative habitat opportunities. Consider how the following three examples of very different habitats are filled by aptly “fitted” creatures—providentially prepared creatures living in providentially prepared places.

1. *Polar ice-dominated lands and super-cold oceans* present a chilling challenge to animals seeking a home. However, cold-water creatures such as penguins and notothen fish (“cod icefish”) have anti-freeze glycoproteins in their blood and other body fluids, enabling them to tolerate the icy (sometimes below 0° Centigrade!) temperatures of Antarctica’s coastal waters. Ice worms survive on Alaskan glaciers. Some types of cold-tolerant insects “contain a type of anti-freeze in their bodies, while Alaskan midge larvae can be frozen and thawed over and over without apparent damage.”⁹

2. *Deserts, always arid and often super-hot,* pose a torrid threat to most life forms. How can anything survive in such scorching heat with almost no water? Many desert denizens—such as scorpions, lizards, and snakes—burrow underground or hide under rocks, evading the blazing daytime heat, emerging only at dawn, dusk, or

night to hunt or forage. Water is another challenge:

Desert creatures have a variety of ways of coping with the lack of water: by not sweating, for example, or producing very concentrated urine. The addax, a large Saharan antelope, gets all its water from its food, so never needs to drink. . . . The thorny devil [*Moloch horridus*], a spiny Australian lizard, soaks up water from damp sand through special scales. Camels regulate their body temperature to conserve water reserves.¹⁰

3. *Tidal coastlines alternate between dry shoreland and wet saltwater,* requiring that resident life forms tolerate salinity, water immersion fluctuations, and other repeatedly changing conditions.

Intertidal plants and animals must contend with a wide variety of environmental stresses. Twice daily they tolerate submersion and exposure to air and sunlight. Storms with crashing waves threaten to rip organisms off their substrates....Ice scrapes creatures off exposed rocks and freezes shallow tide pools, trapping the inhabitants.... In summer heat [tidewater] animals can suffocate, since warm water holds less dissolved oxygen....Shallow tide pools have the widest range of salinity, as rain dilutes or the sun evaporates the water....Despite all these [challenging habitat] difficulties, intertidal rocks are crowded with creatures competing for food and shelter.¹¹



Many more examples exist. Marmots make a modest living above timberline in the windblown and mostly cold arctic or alpine tundra. Sponges use filter-feeding to acquire underwater food in coral reefs. Chasmophyte plants bravely survive rugged conditions on limestone Mediterranean cliffs and gorges, despite thin soil, little water, and excessive daytime heat. Salmon (and steelhead trout) begin life in freshwater streams, survive a shocking salinity change as they migrate to oceanic saltwater, and then brave a reverse version of salinity shock as they return to their native freshwater streams to reproduce. Upper-story epiphytes in tropical rainforests survive the extreme heat and the threat of dehydration by closing their ventilation pores during the day and opening them only at night to conserve the moisture they need.

Ecologically speaking, all of life exists in a dynamic (not static) situation—always—because habitats constantly change over time. These changes are due to a mix of geophysical factors (climate changes, hurricanes, earthquakes, soil erosion, desertification, fires, volcanic eruptions, avalanches, changes in salinity or soil pH, etc.) and are also due to the impact that these living things have on their respective habitats.

Thinking God’s Thoughts After Him

In order to have a *biosphere* (a planet that hosts life forms) where different kinds of plants and animals survive and thrive, God had to “solve” what we humans would consider a “problem” (but it was no problem for God): What conditions on earth would be needed to facilitate both the population growth and the biodiversity of creature kinds?

Some ecological conditions might work for a world full of just a few kinds of animals and/or plants, but God did not want a monotonous planet. So He designed an earth that could and would host a huge variety of life form kinds. Befitting God’s own divine essence—the ultimate source of (and ultimate logic for) all created life and variety—God’s panoramic plan was for many different kinds of creatures to populate and fill His earth. And because He loves beauty, God even chose to integrate His eye-pleasing artistry into the variety of His creatures and the wide array of their respective habitats.¹²

Where Do We Go from Here?

This temporary earth, however, is passing away (Romans 8:18-22). God has planned for a new earth after Christ returns in glory (2 Peter 3:1-13). Meanwhile, at death, believers in Christ Jesus will discard their obsolete earth-suits, and like terrestrial caterpillars metamorphosing into airborne butterflies immigrate to Heaven, a prepared place (with many mansions) for a prepared people.¹³

Yet even in this mortal life—thanks to God’s providence—we are a prepared people living in a prepared place (with many dwelling places): Earth, our temporal home. And this same earth—thanks, again, to God’s providence—is also a prepared place for all of God’s prepared creatures, great and small.

Surely God’s detail-rich provisions for these little creatures—even “simple” sparrows—should encourage us to appreciate His providential care, tailored for each one of us who uniquely bears our Creator’s image and who has received God’s gift of redemptive life in Christ:

I sing because I’m happy, I sing because I’m free,
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.¹⁴ ●

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Engineered Protein "Evolution" Proves Biological Complexity

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

Researchers recently announced the first systematic laboratory-induced mutation of successive amino acids in a nearly complete simple bacterial protein.¹ The results demonstrated how protein chemistry and structure, in even the most simple of life's proteins, are irreducibly complex. The research also showed how the random processes ascribed to genetic mutations are unable to propel favorable evolutionary progress that could lead to new selectable traits.

Proteins are chains of amino acids that are coded by the information contained in DNA. Three successive nucleotide bases of DNA code for a single amino acid of a protein, and cells use 20 different amino acids. The specific order of amino acids is required, not only for basic protein functionality, but also for optimized functionality.

In this study, researchers successively changed the DNA code of a bacterial gene to individually mutate every amino acid in a simple bacterial protein of 83 amino acids in length. They then tested the ability of that protein to interact with its target chemical—a ligand, which is a binding molecule in the cell. The section of protein that interacts with a ligand is called the “active site.” The researchers also tested the ability of successively mutated amino acids in the active site of the protein to bind to an artificial substrate.

The researchers ultimately proved that proteins have a variety of specific regions or sectors that are highly sensitive to mutation, meaning that amino acid changes in these regions are not tolerated and completely destroy protein function. They also demon-

strated that proteins have other regions that are more tolerant of mutation, areas in which changes do not completely destroy the function of the protein. Instead, these changes reduce the protein’s optimization and lower its efficiency.

Virtually all amino acids in proteins play some specific role because proteins are not just

While this was a classic case of human-guided bioengineering in a high-tech laboratory environment, it was hardly an example of naturalistic evolution in a real cell or organism.

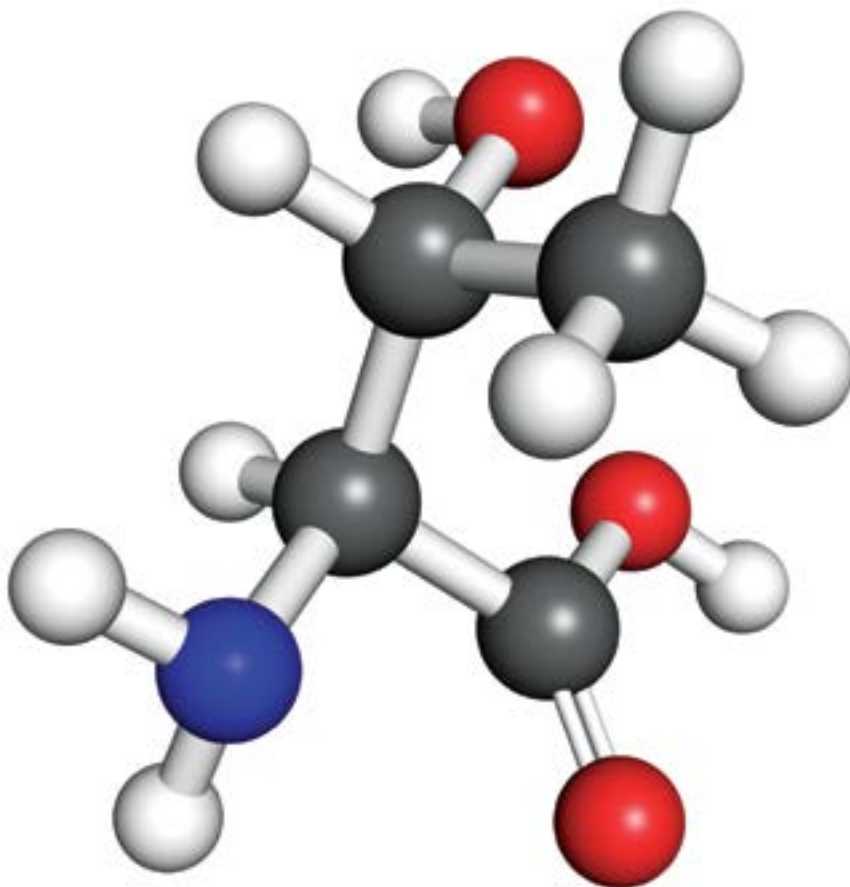
linear chains of molecules—each has a specific chemical function. After they are formed, proteins are folded into specific three-dimensional structures. The linear order of amino acids determines the ability to be folded into specific functionally relevant shapes.

In the simple bacterial protein the researchers tested, 20 out of the 83 amino acids (24 percent) were highly intolerant of change, meaning that they are essentially off-limits to “random mutational evolutionary processes.” Many of these mutation-resistant amino acids were in key sectors of the protein associated with its interactive capabilities with its ligand binding partner. Unfortunately for evolutionary concepts, this is exactly where you would want mutations to occur if they were to aid new cellular interactions that might somehow produce a new trait.

The researchers successfully mutated an amino acid in the sector where the binding region was located, and they were able to get the protein to bind to a non-native ligand. In other words, they engineered the protein to bind to an unnatural lab chemical. This is something a protein would never have encountered in its natural bacterial cell environment. While this was a classic case of human-guided bioengineering in a high-tech laboratory environment, it was hardly an example of naturalistic evolution in a real cell or organism. Nevertheless, evolutionists proclaimed this as some sort of proof that proteins are able to evolve and find new binding partners.

While the other 63 amino acids in the protein could be changed successively and independently of each other without completely destroying the protein’s function, their changes were limited to only a few of the possible 19 other amino acids that they could be changed to—amino acids with similar chemistries. This is because many amino acid changes, even outside the most critical sectors, alter the overall chemistry and the three-dimensional properties of the protein in negative ways that lower the protein’s optimum functionality. It was also apparent that amino acids in different parts of the protein had irreducibly complex, long-range interactions with each other that also contributed to the proper function of the protein. These long-range interactions could only be engaged and accounted for after the protein was in its three-dimensional conformation.

Some evolutionary biologists claimed that this study showed how amino acids could change (mutate) and not destroy a protein’s

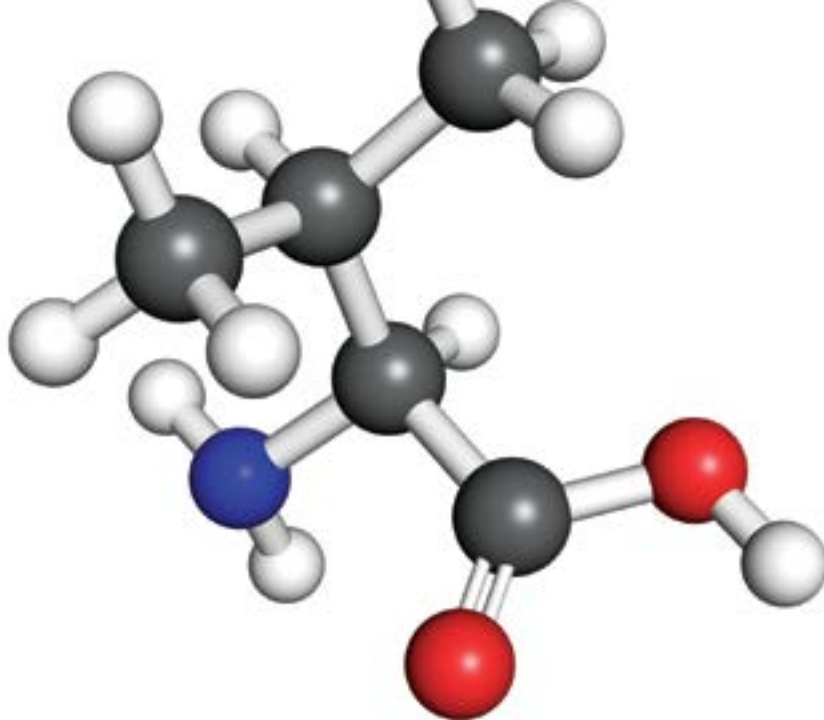


function during that process of change, illustrating how molecular evolution could be possible. However, the data showed that random evolutionary processes in even the most simple of bacterial proteins actually have impossible hurdles to overcome, even if they only happen one amino acid at a time. The work also demonstrated how key sectors of proteins are so tightly and optimally designed that they tolerate virtually no change whatsoever.

Imagine if this sort of experiment were done in even more complex multicellular biological systems where proteins are considerably larger and more complex. Many types of proteins are only subunits of much larger protein complexes that also have metal ions, carbohydrates, and ribonucleotides integrated into their structures. For example, the shelterin protein complex helps protect and maintain the ends of telomeres. It consists of six different proteins that all provide multiple aspects of cell and genome regulation. These individual proteins are coded by different genes in the genome and must assemble at chromosome endpoints in a specific manner, and they are all dependent on the veracity of each protein subunit. A wide variety of mutations—all associated with some type of genetic disease—have been documented in these proteins.²

Amazingly, some evolutionists think that a large protein would be more favorable to mutation than a smaller one. On the surface, this idea sounds reasonable. However, the idea that having more amino acids could increase the odds of getting a favorable evolutionary outcome through random changes is a false line of logic when applied to engineered systems. Larger and more complex proteins (enzymes, DNA-binding proteins, etc.) clearly represent an incremental or commensurate increase in functional information and ability. They simply have more complex features and perform more complicated functions than smaller proteins. This is particularly true in multicellular organisms where the genome is contained in the nucleus and the cell system is considerably more complex than a bacteria's cell system.

A good analogy is found in the comparison of a wristwatch and a cell phone. The removal of a single electronic component from



each system would result in the failure of the whole system in both devices. The individual components (chips) in each system are more complex in the cell phone than in the wristwatch, but each component is just as critical to the overall system's function. There is *not* more room for error in the cell phone just because it is bigger or its components are more numerous.

The concept that larger proteins have more room for error or tolerate more “slop” is a fallacy. Indeed, a recent set of research papers regarding the sequencing of the human exome

The idea that having more amino acids could increase the odds of getting a favorable evolutionary outcome through random changes is a false line of logic when applied to engineered systems.

(protein-coding regions of the genome) showed that variation in human proteins are not only rare, but they are associated with heritable diseases in many of the cases.³ Most of the genetic variation in the human genome is actually associated with non-coding DNA that is involved in controlling the expression of protein-coding genes.

Mutation is also not well-tolerated in proteins because proteins do not act unilaterally.

Individual proteins are not isolated components—they are integral parts of a larger cellular system with multiple layers of interlocking genetic and physiological networks.

The main problem regarding false ideas about protein evolution is one of perception associated with the steady diet of academia's evolutionary false teachings. We see a car, computer, or a toaster and immediately comprehend that it has been designed and engineered by human intelligence. However, when we see biological systems that are magnitudes of complexity more highly designed and engineered than the devices produced by mankind, then we are told that these things “somehow arose by random-chance processes” in some sort of cosmic naturalistic casino. Nothing could be further from the truth, and the data from molecular biology continue to prove it.

Once again, the details of intelligent design clearly displayed in molecular biology—even in a seemingly simple bacterial protein—point directly toward the creative hand of God. ●

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



The Dispersal at Babel

*Let us build us a city and a tower.
(Genesis 11:4)*

JOHN D. MORRIS, P.H.D.

Momper, Joos de - The Tower of Babel

According to Genesis, Noah and his family disembarked from the Ark and offered a sacrifice to God in thankfulness for their great deliverance. God responded by giving them the rainbow as the sign of His promise to never again judge the earth with a similar flood. The promise came with the command to fill the earth, certainly through worldwide migration.

However, God's holy nature was not altered—He still demands judgment for sin. It wasn't long before mankind was again in full rebellion against Him. Under the leadership of wicked Nimrod, they built an astrological observation tower at Babel from which to worship the creation rather than the Creator. At that time, all people spoke the same language, and working together, the rebellion-minded members built the tower in open disobedience to God's migration command, boldly defying Him with the assertion "lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth" (Genesis 11:4). Most of the family groups had probably remained together while rapidly multiplying. God could not leave this dual-pronged rebellion unpunished. He confused their language, halted the cooperative rebellious building project, and enforced migration.

In an instant, people found it impossible to communicate with one another, and individual language groups banded together

to move elsewhere. The strongest, most prominent groups, including the forerunners of the Sumerians, the Babylonians, the Akkadians, and the Assyrians, probably remained where they were, forcing the others to leave. They retained technology that they had previously acquired and founded advanced city states, while other powerful groups claimed the fertile territory nearby—areas with desirable natural resources such as the Nile River basin. The remaining clans migrated where they could, with stronger ones continually displacing the weaker. Some moved south to the African continent, and others moved east to Asia. The Ice Age was spreading across Europe, and groups who moved there were forced to adjust their lifestyles.

Genesis 10 records these migration routes, mentioning the incipient nations and territory. In general, the Semites—descendants of Shem—retained control of the region of Mesopotamia, while the Japhethites migrated toward the northeast and northwest into Europe and Russia, and the Hamites moved south into Africa and east into Asia. There was some mixing and extinction of family groups, but they had little choice—they had to move. The Table of Nations in Genesis 10 documents the resulting migrations and is recognized as a magnificently accurate historical document with many of the nations recognizable throughout time until today.

All groups took with them the knowledge of God, the Flood, and proper worship, as well as the false worship practiced at Babel. Many new civilizations constructed similar towers or pyramids and began worshiping the stars, using the same imaginary star pictures in the Zodiac. Written scripts were rapidly developed in numerous areas, using completely different systems and symbols.

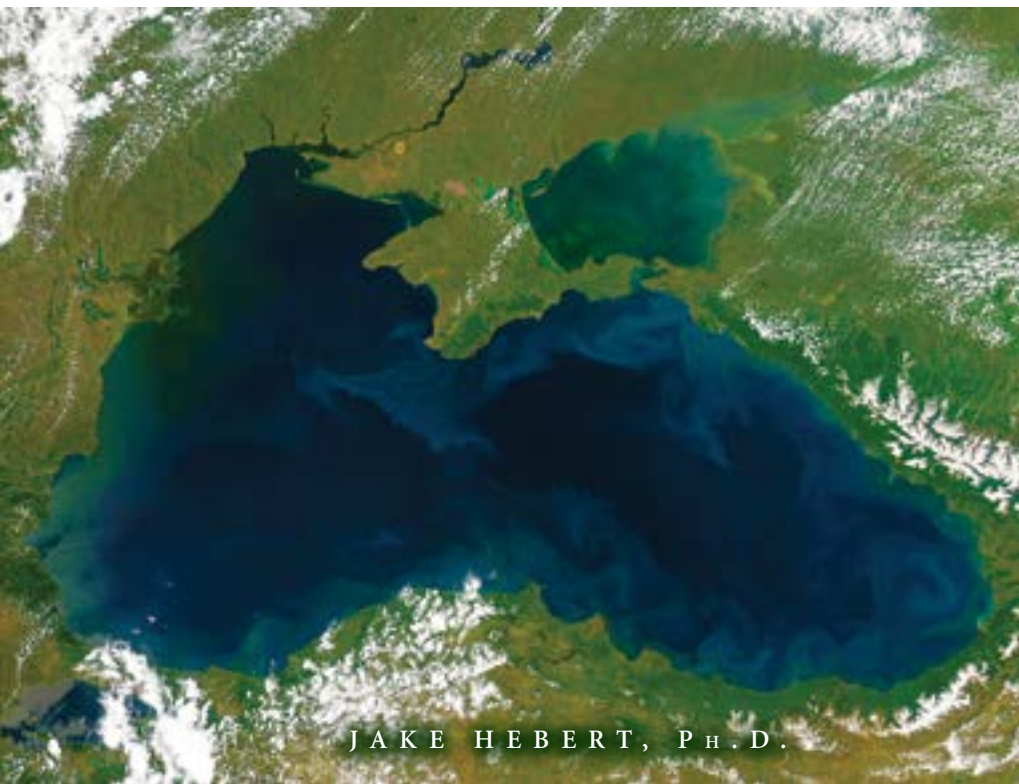
Those groups whose population contained individuals with special skills quickly founded technological civilizations with construction projects, metal working, agriculture, etc., while those without such abilities focused simply on surviving. Tribes living in the harsh environment of Ice Age Europe often lived in caves for safety and warmth, all the while losing pieces of their once-common knowledge as they adopted a hunter-gatherer mode of existence. Simultaneously, numerous budding civilizations accomplished great engineering feats that perhaps even today would be difficult to duplicate. These early people were hardly the ignorant subhumans that we often see depicted as recently evolved from the animals. Man was smart at the start because he had been created that way.¹ ●

1. Adapted from Dr. John Morris' new book *The Global Flood*.

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



Was the “Black Sea Deluge” the Flood of Noah?



J A K E H E B E R T , P H . D .

Robert Ballard, the underwater explorer who became famous for discovering the wreck of the *Titanic*, recently claimed to have found evidence for Noah’s Flood in the Black Sea.¹ Could this be true?

Although Ballard mentions Noah’s Flood, he does not believe in the worldwide Flood that is so clearly described in Genesis 7:19-24. Nor does he believe Noah actually built an Ark or even that Noah was a real person. Rather, he has come to accept the “Black Sea Deluge” hypothesis,² which states that catastrophic, but local, flooding occurred when a rising Mediterranean Sea pushed enormous amounts of water over the Bosphorus (a strait between Europe and Asia) into the Black Sea. The Black Sea is thought to have been a freshwater lake at the time of the event, and this flooding is believed to have increased both its depth and size. Some secularists claim this Black Sea Deluge eventually inspired the story of Noah.

In this view, the biblical Flood account is nothing more than a myth based upon faint recollections of a catastrophic, local flood.

But if the Genesis Flood is a myth,

then why are stories of a global flood found throughout the world? And why are many of these narratives remarkably similar to the biblical account?³ The existence of such stories is *exactly what one would expect* if the Flood of Noah were a real, historical event. Noah’s family would have remembered this cataclysmic event and passed those recollections on to their descendants. Some of the stories became garbled over time, but other accounts retained remarkable similarities to Genesis’ accurate, divinely inspired account. If such stories did *not* exist, wouldn’t these same skeptics cite the absence of such recollections as proof that the Genesis Flood never happened?

Moreover, the biblical account is by far the most sober and credible of all these flood narratives. In fact, an Ark built to the specifications described in Genesis would have been extremely seaworthy.⁴

The real Genesis Flood explains the existence of water-formed sedimentary rock layers that cover much of the earth’s surface. Entombed within these layers are the fossilized remains of billions of animals that were rapidly buried, many of them in massive fossil “graveyards.”

The Genesis Flood can also explain this smaller Black Sea flood. It was likely caused by an increase in ocean level resulting from melting ice sheets toward the end of a single post-Flood Ice Age. During the Flood cataclysm, hot material from the earth’s interior would have significantly warmed the post-Flood oceans. This would have resulted in increased evaporation, leading to massive precipitation falling as snow at higher latitudes. Extensive volcanic eruptions during and after the Flood ejected aerosols into the atmosphere. These aerosols reflected significant amounts of sunlight back into space, resulting in cooler summers. These cooler summers prevented snow and ice from melting and grew the high-latitude ice sheets. Toward the end of the Ice Age, when the ice sheets eventually melted, catastrophic localized flooding occurred, including the Black Sea Deluge.⁵

God’s global judgment on the sinful pre-Flood world was a real historical event, and it cannot be relegated to a mere local flood. Evidence of the Flood demonstrates that God has judged sin in the past—and He will also do so in the future (2 Peter 3:7)—as the worldwide distribution of rocks and fossils bears mute but eloquent testimony. ●

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THE DETAILS ARE IN THE "DEVIL"

BRIAN THOMAS, M.S.



A 2005 *Nature* journal article¹ announced a fossil discovery that “contradicts conventional evolutionary theory that early mammals couldn’t possibly attack and eat a dinosaur because they were timid, chipmunk-sized creatures that scurried in the looming shadow of the giant reptiles.”² Chinese paleontologists identified the jumbled bones and teeth of a juvenile *Psittacosaurus* located in the stomach region of a larger mammal. This fur-bearing dinosaur eater may have looked much more familiar than evolutionists would wish.

Named *Repenomamus robustus*, the *Nature* study authors wrote that its body length was “comparable to that of a large Tasmanian devil,” and other features of this fossil mammal also look devilish.¹ Secular scientists dated the Chinese sediments containing these fossils at 130 million years old, and they believe that Tasmanian devils are a more recent invention of evolution.³ Would scientists who hold such beliefs ever concede that the fossil *actually was* a Tasmanian devil even if details showed it?

The Tasmanian devil and *Repenomamus* skeletons look more similar than those of

a wolf and Chihuahua, yet the wolf and Chihuahua are both dogs.⁴ Modern human skulls and skeletons can look quite different from their fossil counterparts, but all are within the created humankind. Objective scientists would consider the possibility that fossils may be varieties of still-living creatures. In fact, the list of “living fossils”—modern-looking creatures found in dinosaur rocks—is quite long and includes tuataras, crocodiles, ducks, loons, parrots, salamanders, turtles, all manner of fish like the famous coelacanth, clams, dragonflies and many other insects, spiders, Wollemi pine, ginkgo, palm trees, cycads, and ferns.

Could *Repenomamus* representatives still walk the planet? A *Geotimes* news article covering the find stated that *Repenomamus* “most resembled a Tasmanian devil.”⁵ But the comparison can go beyond visual recognition to more objective measures. Devils are marsupials, and marsupials have unique skeletal features. For example, the tear duct holes in their skulls are located on the edges of the eye sockets. Images of the *Repenomamus* skull clearly show tear duct holes in the same location. Marsupials—not placentals—have a pair of bones that extend from their pelvis toward

their head. These epipubic bones support marsupial pouches in some species. Intriguingly, Figure 2 from the *Nature* article pictures a *Repenomamus* fossil partly encased in sedimentary rock with an epipubic bone clearly labeled.¹

As for the differences, *Repenomamus* had a higher ratio of sharp, pointed teeth to flatter grinders and slightly longer legs than modern devils. But these kinds of minor differences are well-known as variations within living kinds. Other diagnostic features of Tasmanian devils shared by *Repenomamus* are the inward angle of the lower jaws and a hip that outwardly angles the devil’s hind legs. Overall, this Chinese fossil mammal, buried with dinosaur bones in its belly, looks extraordinarily similar to the modern Tasmanian devil. Clearly, the burden of proof lies squarely on evolutionists to give anatomical or some other measurable, scientific reasons why *Repenomamus* was not simply deemed a fossil Tasmanian devil.

If evolution occurred, we would expect ancient mammal-like fossils to be found from creatures transitioning *between* kinds, not creatures that look virtually the *same* as living kinds with fully formed physical traits. But if biblical creation presents true history, we would expect modern animals and plants to have lived and died among extinct kinds. If the fossil called *Repenomamus* is just a Tasmanian devil, it clearly confirms creation. ●

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Why Do Scientists Trust Flawed Methods?

BRIAN THOMAS, M.S.

Last month, the Creation Q & A column briefly answered the following question: Does radioisotope dating prove that the earth is millions of years old? We offered four reasons why radioisotope dating does not work.¹ Whenever this information is presented to a live audience, someone usually asks the next question.

Q: If radiodating can be scientifically falsified, then why do most scientists continue to trust these flawed methods?

A: Often, those who ask this question assume that scientists objectively weigh all evidence as though they have no biases. But people cannot do science without some set of beliefs about origins, destiny, and meaning. Scientists choose research questions that conform to their pre-existing beliefs, introducing bias at the outset. All experimental results are likewise interpreted according to beliefs, adding more

bias to an investigator's conclusion. Secular scientists trust the million-year time ranges that faulty radiodating methods present for at least four reasons.

First, long ages fit their belief that natural processes, not God, generated man, life, the earth, and the universe. Aligning their results with their belief system can be more important than validating the reliability of radiodating. Peter foresaw that nature-only heresies like these would infect the church.² He warned believers to refute scoffers who "willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water."³

In addition, many scientists are "men, who hold [down] the truth in unrighteousness."⁴ They may be familiar with the scientific and logical evidence against radiodating, but they suppress this knowledge. In a way, they lie to themselves to ease their pretension that the Bible's history is wrong or that the holy Creator either does not exist or is distant and unconcerned—views that help justify immorality. Some scientists accept

faulty radiodating methods in order to make their sinful lifestyles feel less shameful.

Another reason scientists might cling to faulty dating methods is to retain their secular jobs. The film *Expelled*⁵ and the book *Slaughter of the Dissidents*⁶ documented credentialed scientists who found their names blacklisted within the scientific community after they dared to question Darwinian dogma. Sadly, this world may never know what fruitful contributions they could have made. Outcasts serve as examples for their peers, demonstrating the consequences of open dissent from

status quo doctrines such as dating the earth in millions of years.

Finally, many scientists have never encountered a reason to distrust radiodating. Geology textbooks do not explain its shortcomings, so scientists are not taught to question the results of radiodating. Often after ICR events, scientists will express surprise that they had achieved advanced degrees without ever hearing the specific, legitimate reasons to distrust radiodating.

Those who trust incorrect radiodating age estimates may purposefully limit their knowledge to concepts consistent with their secularized beliefs or sinful choices. Some fear job loss, while others have never heard or fathomed an alternative. ●

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- In summary, the four reasons we explained in the February *Acts & Facts* were:
 - These methods assume that the system's decay rate is always constant, but experiments show decay rates do fluctuate.
 - Radioisotope methods often yield grossly old ages for rocks known to be young.
 - Excessive helium atoms emitted by radiodecay are found trapped in granite crystals. The helium atoms should have escaped the crystals within thousands of years, thus radioisotopes in granites decayed much faster in the past than they do today.
 - Short-lived polonium radiohalos found next to uranium radiohalos must have formed within a window of several weeks while the granite was at the right temperature to record them.
- See 2 Peter 2:1.
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Mr. Thomas is Science Writer at the Institute for Creation Research.

Charitable Clarity at the Edge of the Fiscal Cliff

HENRY M. MORRIS IV

In the wee hours of January 1, 2013, Congress avoided the looming fiscal cliff by passing the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 (ATRA). It is debatable how much “relief” ATRA actually provides, since the general effect of the bill is to create higher tax rates for upper-income taxpayers. But ATRA does offer clarity on a broad array of tax issues, including several provisions that are favorable towards charitable giving.

Perhaps the best part of ATRA is what was *not* included. In its search for “revenue” to feed its appetite for debt, Congress had considered such ominous proposals as capping charitable deductions and limiting the tax savings on charitable gifts. Fortunately, these proposals were not included, but even as I write, Congress continues to debate these and other measures to address much larger financial problems. For the time being, at least, we can be thankful that our nation still recognizes the importance of charitable giving and will continue to reward ICR donors for their gifts to our ministry.

Among ATRA’s most favorable provisions was the extension of the popular IRA Charitable Rollover through the end of 2013. IRA owners age 70½ or older can make gifts up to \$100,000 to ICR without declaring it as income. Such IRA gifts also count toward required minimum withdrawals (RMD), providing a rare twofold opportunity to support ICR while avoiding taxes on income that

might otherwise be required. IRA gifts are easy to make—simply contact your IRA administrator and give them our name, address, and federal identification number (95-3523177) along with the amount you would like to give.

The biggest news of ATRA was the creation of a new top tax bracket and a higher long-term capital gains rate on the sale of major assets. A whopping 39.6 percent is now required from all married persons making \$450,000 or more in taxable income (\$400,000 for single persons). For persons in this bracket, the long-term capital gains rate was increased to 20 percent, and combined with the additional 3.8 percent Medicare tax, the overall capital gains rate for upper-income persons will be 23.8 percent. Factoring in potential state tax rates, top earners could face a combined income tax rate between 40-48 percent and a combined capital gains rate for major sales between 28-33 percent! No matter how you look at it, individuals with higher incomes and those considering selling major assets are now facing higher taxes.

Thankfully, strategic charitable giving—through gift annuities, charitable remainder unitrusts and annuity trusts, or a well-planned will—can often minimize the tax bite no matter what your income level may be. ICR is well-equipped to issue and manage most gift annuities and charitable remainder trusts directly, and we can help in your will preparation

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(GALATIANS 6:9-10)

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by referring you to a knowledgeable attorney in your area. ICR’s Planned Giving website (click on the *Planned Giving* link at www.icr.org/donate) contains highly interactive modules and calculators to help you determine which vehicle might be best for you. Better yet, please contact me for personalized assistance at hmorrisiv@icr.org or call 214.615.8313.

ATRA contains many other provisions not covered here, but overall it was fairly kind to charitable giving. Donors with higher incomes and larger capital gains tax bills should find renewed incentive to engage in charitable planning, and ICR stands ready to help. We invite you to prayerfully consider how you can partner with us to ensure your resources support the Lord’s work. “Caesar” is entitled to that portion God has authorized for “him” to take—the rest belongs to God (Matthew 22:21). ●

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





Thank you so much for blessing us with your wonderful resources. [Our son] plans to use *The Ultimate Proof* in his senior Bible class where they are debating the religions of the world. In this class, the students are required to support their beliefs in God, to give facts to defend their faith, and how they can use these facts to witness to others. My wife and I were blown away with the study Bible and are looking forward to being able to open it together to study God's Word. As Children's Ministry workers, we are always looking for different ways to share the truth of the true and living God with the children.

— T.L.

I have greatly enjoyed and profited much spiritually from your publications over the years, especially *Acts & Facts* and *Days of Praise*, and I owe my present repudiation of evolution to your ministry.

— D.P., New Zealand



I just finished reading Dr. John Morris' book *The Global Flood*. Although the book is preaching to the choir in my case, I did learn significant new material which addressed many questions I had considered. Thank you for an excellent publication. I have offered to let others read this book, but because it involves a global flood which is described in the Bible, it is "religious" and, therefore, not scientific—so [it is considered by secular teachers to have] no merit in scientific thinking. It is discarded outright with no consideration to even open it. As a scientist myself (chemist), I am dismayed by the close-mindedness and outright rejection of non-uniformitarian thinking by others in my own profession. Satan has blinded these people to the truth no matter how elegant the refutation of their worldview might be, but the truth must continue to be told.

— C.P.

My 92-year-old Christian father has enjoyed reading *Days of Praise* and *Acts & Facts* for years. He is on an extremely fixed income, but he wanted to send in something to support your ministry. He has become unhappy with his *National Geographic* and *Smithsonian* magazines and has chosen NOT to renew them, due to their evolutionistic leanings. Instead, [he wants to] send the money that he would have used to renew those to you.

— J.H.

Thank you so much all the way from Papua New Guinea. I really and truly enjoy reading all the powerful stuff that has been sent to me over the years.

— P.M., Papua New Guinea



I just wanted to thank you for the devotional *A Firm Foundation* that I recently received. I have been using it as a daily devotional and have enjoyed it very much.

Your ministry is a huge blessing, and I know it cannot be easy to carry out your work in the pro-evolution academic environment we live in. I pray you will continue to stand firm on the sure foundation you are resting on, and that the Lord will continue to provide for not just your current needs, but for you to do much more in the future to magnify the glorious creation of our Lord Jesus Christ. I am honored and privileged to support you.

— J.A.



Your editor article in January *Acts & Facts* [is a] really good recap of the main points of biblical grace. I especially liked the paragraph about the Old Testament women and how they "found grace." I thought it was very lyrical in its prose. In other words, I hear a song in there somewhere. Thank you!

— S.H.

I have been receiving *Days of Praise* since it first began, and my Bible contains numerous notes gleaned from those devotional pages. ICR continues to do a wonderful work of defending the Bible and God's six-day creation, and I'm thankful for all I have learned through your fine ministry.

— F.F.



Thank you so much for your monthly *Acts & Facts*. The cover always looks great. I first got to meet ICR when two of your scientists came to my

school [for a] two-day presentation on how evolution is not possible—they gave us so many reasons! I hope you can continue your work for years to come!

— N.S.



Thank you for your ministry. In Dr. Hebert's article in the December *Acts & Facts*, he mentioned that young creation scientists are needed. Sadly, many

older folks have lost hope for my generation, but I would like to encourage y'all by saying that there are a few of us young people, like myself, who aspire to be involved in creation ministry in some way. I have met a few others as well, but we are few and, generally, far between. Personally, I aspire to work in creation children's ministry, which I have been able to start doing a little while in college. I've even found a small creation museum relatively close to home that I volunteer at about once a week.

— S.B.

Have a comment?

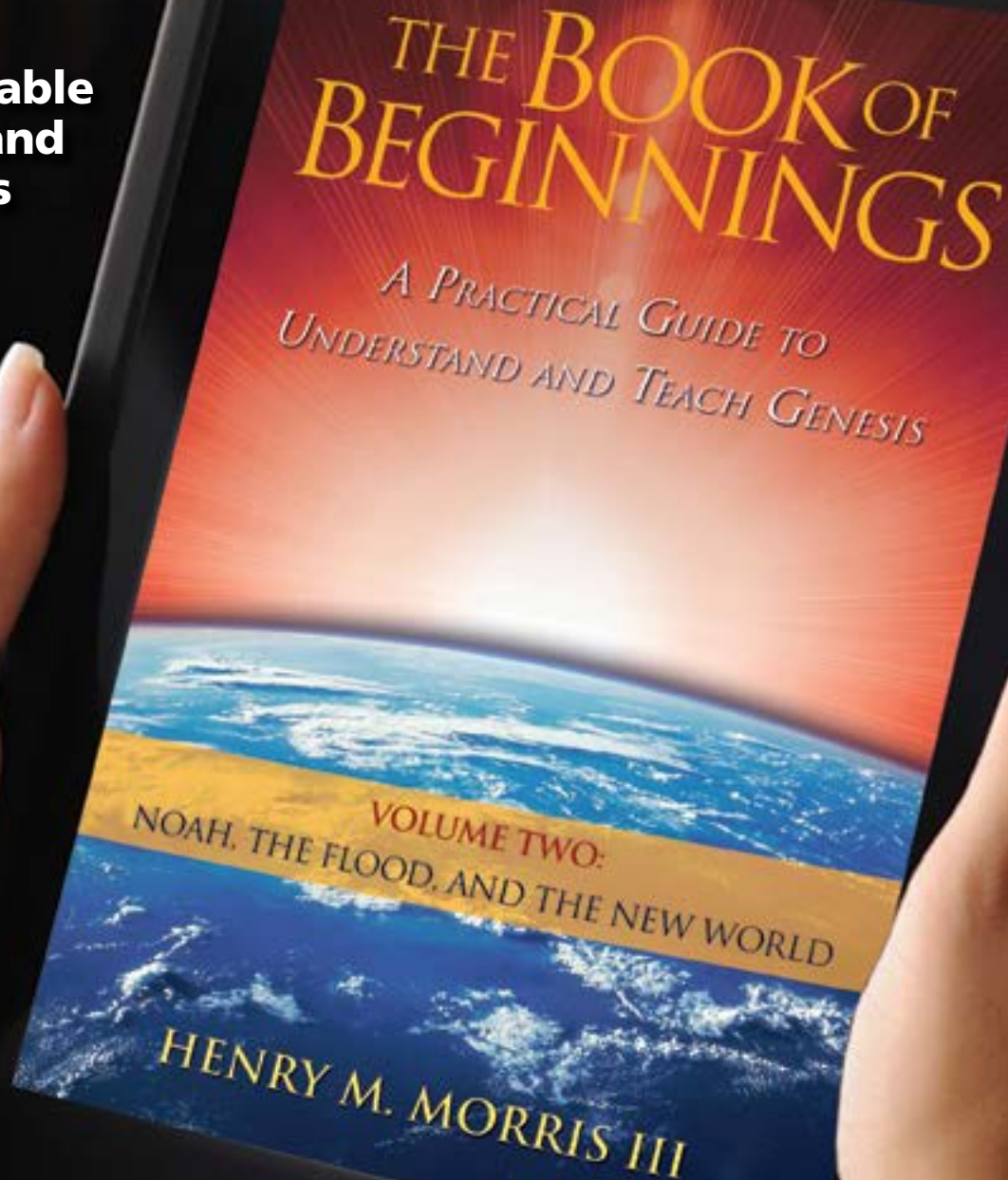
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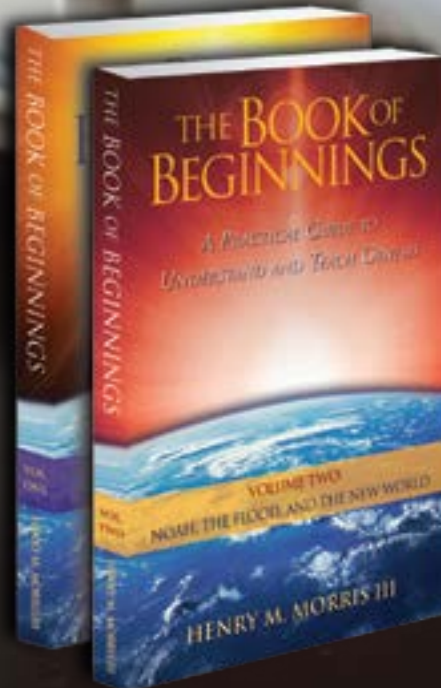
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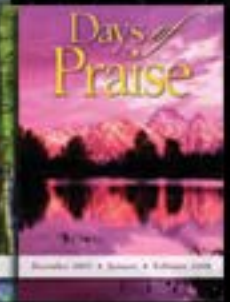
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