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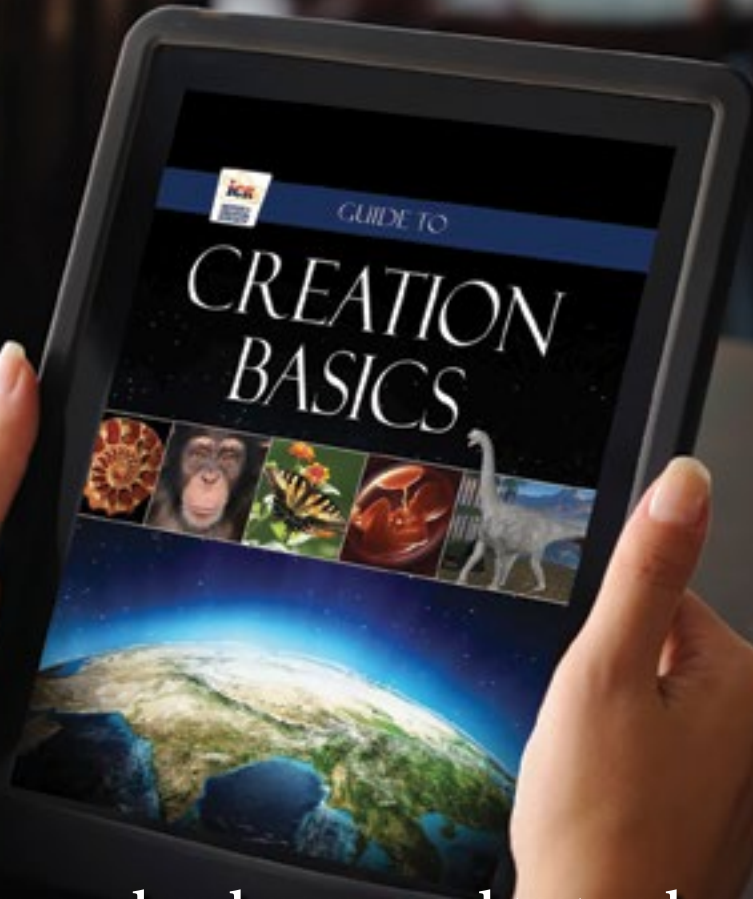
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## CREATION AND COLLEGE

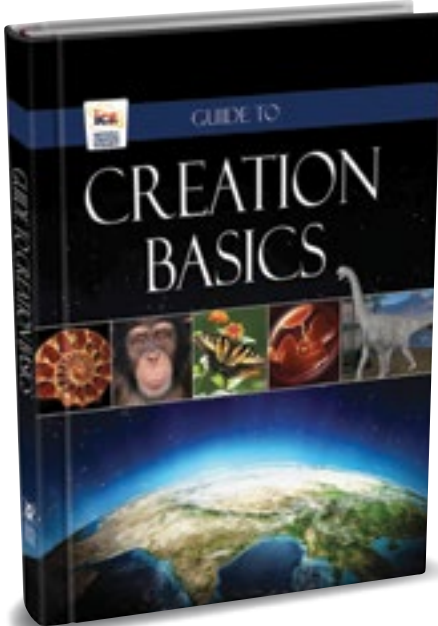


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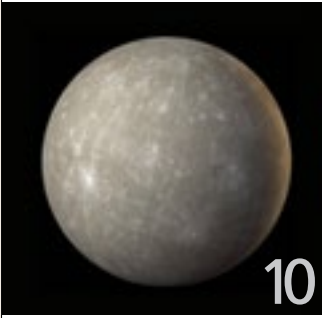
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# Turning Classroom Opposition into Opportunity

“Let your speech always be with grace...that you may know how you ought to answer.”  
(Colossians 4:6)

One of my daughter’s required courses in college was philosophy. Early in the semester, the professor opened the class by reading some Bible verses and then asking the students to raise their hands if they believed what he just read. My daughter was one of a very few with an upraised hand. She happened to be sitting in the first row that morning.

The professor looked at her and said, “Well you want to know what I think about that?” He took a few quick steps, slammed his hands on her desk, and leaned in a few inches from her face. His face was red and spit flew as he yelled, “I think that’s a mean-spirited God, and anyone who believes that must be a mean-spirited person!”



My daughter heard audible gasps throughout the classroom as she sat, composed and calm, but saying nothing in return. Afterwards, other students came up to her in the hallway, telling her they couldn’t believe the teacher had acted that way and that they admired the way she handled it.

As the semester progressed, my daughter found her professor more approachable when she asked genuine questions about his lec-

tures. Even though she was well aware of his hostility to Christianity, she participated respectfully and confidently in the class discussions with the professor calling on her frequently. At one point, he even let her read all of Romans 7-8 aloud during class, verse by verse. Students often approached her after class with questions about what she believed, saying they appreciated her questions and statements in class and that she obviously had confidence in her beliefs.

As a parent of four kids who have attended college and have encountered their share of challenges to their faith, I appreciate the words of wisdom Dr. Henry Morris III offers in his feature article, “Creation and College” (pages 5-7). He says, “The most productive process for maintaining a solid Christian witness and an open confession of biblical truth in an educational setting is often to simply ask questions.” His classroom guidelines will help any student facing a hostile academic environment.

If you have students in your life—or you are a student—other ICR resources can help you prepare for the classroom. Pick up copies of *Guide to Creation Basics*, *The Global Flood*, *Clearly Seen*, and *The Book of Beginnings* to build confidence in what you believe. Dr. Jason Lisle’s books *The Ultimate Proof of Creation* and *Discerning Truth* will further equip you with tools to respond to opposition in the classroom (visit [www.icr.org](http://www.icr.org)).

As my daughter neared the end of her undergraduate degree program, she began preparing her graduate school applications. She approached a number of professors for letters of recommendations. I watched her lay out the paperwork for several different graduate schools in neat stacks across our dining room table, and at the top of each stack was a glowing recommendation from her former philosophy professor. It doesn’t always turn out that way, but in this one case, she discovered that asking questions respectfully unlocked doors of opportunities.

**Jayme Durant**  
EXECUTIVE EDITOR



# CREATION AND COLLEGE

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

Many *Acts & Facts* readers have been involved with decisions about college choices for their children or grandchildren. Parents often ask our speakers what colleges they should send their children to—especially if they are considering careers in science.

These decisions bring up a number of issues parents must face, and the answers are not always simple to discern. Perhaps an overview of these challenges will help those who are now involved in their educational decision processes.

## Biblical Guidelines

Although the Bible does not provide a specific test for prospective educational institutions, there are several broad applicable guidelines for any decision that would expose our minds to information.

“I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one.” (John 17:15)

“Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.” (Colossians 2:8)

“Do not love the world or the things in the world....For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.” (1 John 2:15-16)

Many more passages could be cited, but these address the basic parameters that God has left for our safety net. First, we are not to consider ourselves “out of the world” but to be “kept” by God’s grace

and His Word from that which is evil. We are not to be isolated from the world as much as we are to be insulated from it. Second, we are warned to be alert to the real possibility of being robbed by the “love of common wisdom” and the “empty deception” that the tradition and “logical structures” of the world would bring. Another warning is that we must deflect the antithesis of “false knowledge” (1 Timothy 6:20). Ultimately, we are not to love the threefold dangers of the world’s enticements—fleshly passion, ungodly potential, or personal pride.

No matter where we go or how sheltered we might try to be, we cannot escape the matrix of corruption and the ungodly surroundings of sin. Our protection lies in a conscious decision to “seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness” (Matthew 6:33). Please remember that the battle is not only spiritual but an intellectual one as well: “As the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ” (2 Corinthians 11:3).

## **There will always be tension felt between the desire for righteous environments and the prerequisite for the skills necessary to function in the world until Christ returns.**

### **Practical Guidelines**

Assuming that we are making a conscious effort to comply with biblical guidelines for our lives, we are all instructed to “do business” until the Lord returns (Luke 19:13). Some of God’s twice-born are specifically called into a ministry field, but many more are called into professions that require other specialized training—thus, the need for further education. There will always be tension felt between the desire for righteous environments and the prerequisite for the skills necessary to function in the world until Christ returns.

As our culture drifts away from its Christian foundation, the need grows greater for more godly men and women in technical and intellectual fields—scientists, engineers, doctors, lawyers, professors, business entrepreneurs, and, yes, for politicians, artists, musicians, English teachers, coaches and film makers! Here are some practical suggestions:

👉 Be sure of your “calling”—but remain flexible. A genuine calling to a “full-time” ministry is surely significant, but some seek employment among churches merely to avoid the pressures of secular careers. God’s call to “do business” is just as spiritually fulfilling and biblically sanctioned as calling a pastor to a church. Charles Spurgeon is said to have given this thought-provoking advice: “If you can do anything else, do it. If you can stay out of the ministry, stay out of the ministry.” Often, the Lord will lead a person through

stages of education and experience for a hidden purpose only realized later in life. Consider the lives of the patriarchs and the long, difficult educational trials many of them endured.

👉 Get the best education that your station in life affords. While not many of us can get accepted into a Harvard or Stanford or West Point, if such an opportunity is granted, take advantage of the open door that the Lord has placed before you. The more widely recognized your education is, the more available opportunities for witness and ministry will become. Some Christian schools provide an excellent education for a liberal arts degree, but few provide training for technical careers. Advanced degrees are crucially important for those who seek leadership positions, and you may very well be led to a secular graduate school.

👉 Ensure a constant circle of godly Christian friends. This would apply even if you are going to a Christian college—maybe even more so. “And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching” (Hebrews 10:24-25). This requires a solid, Bible-preaching church as well as a Christian campus group. They exist in every college town—make the effort to seek them out.

Life training is a lifelong experience. Many have made the mistake of assuming that a particular degree or job is the end of educational responsibility. God’s Kingdom requires a much longer view. College or professional training is more than likely just the beginning—but it is a very important beginning. Whether one seeks a ministry career or a secular job, both should be seen as the calling God Himself has commissioned. Preparation for work in the Kingdom is tantamount to honoring the Lord as you “work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure” (Philippians 2:12-13).

All of the above advice could be summarized by this perspective: “Do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal” (2 Corinthians 4:18). Not many of God’s adopted children are “mighty” or “noble.” Most of us are ordinary folks whom God has called into His Kingdom with the overall commission to be “an epistle of Christ” in the “midst of a crooked and perverse generation” (1 Corinthians 1:26; 2 Corinthians 3:3; Philippians 2:15-16).

### **Classroom Guidelines**

Truth is affirmed by facts. Truth is most clearly understood in terms of “what” and “how.” These questions are generally the domain of science. “Who,” “when,” and “where” are generally the domain of history, and history is sometimes less certain because it depends on

## **The most productive process for maintaining a solid Christian witness and an open confession of biblical truth in an educational setting is often to simply ask questions!**

the written records of those who were present at the time the events were taking place. “Why” is largely the domain of philosophy and is the least certain of all disciplines. The further away from “what” and “how” a subject gets, the more dependent it becomes on the philosophy of the one doing the teaching. Whenever the “what” or “how” is mixed with the “why,” the danger of error is present.

Many young adults have been emotionally injured by attempting to correct a secular professor. Usually the motivation is good—the student wants to help his classmates or the prof see the truth in the face of some blatantly anti-Christian or arrogant sweep of philosophical blather. However well-meaning or well-versed a student may be, the classroom is often the worst place to share truth because the setting is designed to give all the power and intellectual edge to the teacher.

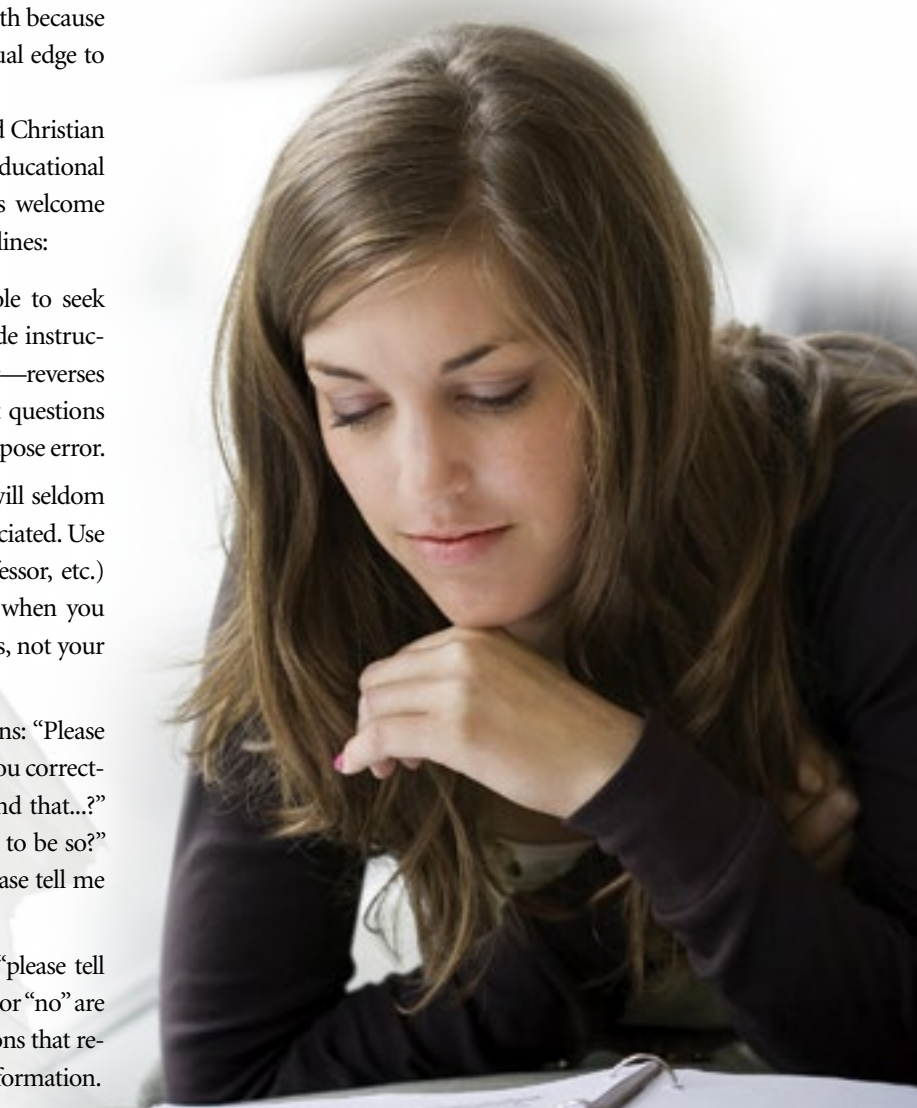
The most productive process for maintaining a solid Christian witness and an open confession of biblical truth in an educational setting is often to simply ask questions. Most educators welcome open discussion, and here are some basic classroom guidelines:

- 👉 Respect the teaching profession. It is the students’ role to seek knowledge. And the teacher’s responsibility is to provide instruction. Teaching the teacher—or confronting the teacher—reverses that role and usually ends in disaster. Asking the right questions will earn the respect of your classmates and will often expose error.
- 👉 Be polite, courteous, and factual. Sarcasm or disdain will seldom yield good results. Professional courtesy is always appreciated. Use proper titles when addressing teachers (Dr., Mr., Professor, etc.) and respond with “sir” or “ma’am” and “thank you” when you are addressed. Keep your questions focused on the facts, not your opinions. Learn when to stop.
- 👉 Use the student’s right to know when you ask questions: “Please help me understand...” “Please tell me if I understood you correctly. Did you mean to say...?” “Am I correct to understand that...?” “Would you help me understand why you believe that to be so?” “May I ask for the background evidence on that?” “Please tell me the basic reasoning behind that statement.”
- 👉 The most powerful phrases are “please help me” and “please tell me.” Questions that can be answered with a simple “yes” or “no” are weaker, although they may soften the approach. Questions that require responses are more likely to generate additional information.

The objective in this process is twofold: to elicit additional information from the instructor and to allow the class (and perhaps the teacher) to see the level of support for the information you are introducing into the discussion. Remember, the closer the class discussion is to the factual “what” and “how,” the less likely philosophy (or theology or worldview) is to be a part of the discussion—and the more the student is expected (and needs) to be involved in learning the content. The more “why” is involved, the more the student is at liberty to question—and to sort through the answers for genuine factual information.

Finally, consider this thought: Take the Kingdom view. Preparing for your servant role in the Kingdom is a long process. The job of a student is to learn and to become proficient in a skill that will empower him or her to “do business” until the Lord returns (Luke 19:13). ●

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



# ICR AUGUST EVENTS

## ■ August 1-3

The Woodlands, TX  
THSC Southwest Convention  
Family Conference  
806.744.4441

## ■ August 17

Waipahu, HI  
Calvary Chapel Pearl Harbor  
(R. Guliuzza)  
808.678.3994

## ■ August 18-20

Honolulu, HI  
First Assembly of God  
(R. Guliuzza, J. Lisle)  
808.836.2300

## ■ August 7

Fort Worth, TX  
Glenview Baptist Church  
(C. Morse)  
817.281.3361

## ■ August 17-19

Orange City, FL  
Volusia County Baptist Church  
(F. Sherwin)  
386.774.0181

## ■ August 21

Ewa Beach, HI  
Calvary Chapel West Oahu  
(R. Guliuzza)  
808.689.6297

## ■ August 14

Fort Worth, TX  
Glenview Baptist Church  
(N. Jeanson)  
817.281.3361

## ■ August 18

Waipahu, HI  
Calvary Chapel Pearl Harbor  
(R. Guliuzza, J. Lisle)  
808.678.3994

## ■ August 25

Kapaa, HI  
Calvary Chapel Kauai  
(J. Lisle)  
808.821.2228

## ■ August 16-17

Wilsonville, OR  
YOM Conference with  
Jon Micah Sumrall of Kutless  
(N. Jeanson, J. Lisle)  
971.327.2120

## ■ August 18

Ewa Beach, HI  
Calvary Chapel West Oahu  
(J. Lisle) 808.689.6297

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Nathaniel Jeanson  
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**FRI. & SAT. AUGUST 16 & 17**  
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ATHEY CREEK

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“When the well is dry, we know the worth of water.” This quote from Benjamin Franklin is all too true, especially in drought-stricken areas. Wells are supplied by groundwater that exists virtually everywhere below Earth’s surface. In some places like wetlands, groundwater nearly reaches the surface. In other locations, it may be hundreds of feet down and reachable only by drilling a well. Groundwater runs deep—continuing downward for as far as mankind has ever drilled, at depths greater than 30,000 feet—nearly six miles. But the water is always there and always slowly flowing through the sediments and rock layers of Earth at an average rate of 50 feet per year.

A recent report published in *Nature* by a team of English and Canadian scientists claims to have discovered groundwater supposedly over one billion years old in a deep mine in Canada.<sup>1</sup> The scientists sampled water from fractured crystalline rocks from the Timmins Mine 1.5 miles below the surface. The Timmins Mine is located in Ontario, Canada, within what’s called the Precambrian Shield, and it produces copper and zinc from an ancient volcanic complex.

The study authors claim to have found this “trapped” water in free-flowing fractures, discharging from exploration boreholes at the bottom of the mine. At the same time, they measured groundwater flow rates through these fractures that were greater than a half-gallon per minute, making it extremely hard to support the claim that the water was truly “trapped.” Yet, based on trace amounts of neon and xenon gases dissolved in the water, and the specific isotopes they found, the researchers calculated that the water was isolated below the surface for at least one billion years. The scientists never considered other sources for the unusual noble gases found in the mine water. Instead, they used evolutionary assumptions and models of Earth’s supposed ancient atmospheric composition to back their assertions.

Other authors have made claims of trapped ancient water systems within fluid inclusions, or water surrounded by mineral crystals.<sup>2</sup> There are even pockets of Ice Age water, a mere few thousand years old, trapped in low-permeable clays in Michigan that have become partially mixed with modern water.<sup>3</sup> But even the authors of the present study were surprised by their “extraordinary” discovery of trapped, billion-year-old water flowing freely from fractures in the mine.<sup>1</sup>

Contrary to the claims made by these scientists, trapping water in fractured rocks is impossible. One of the major problems with the

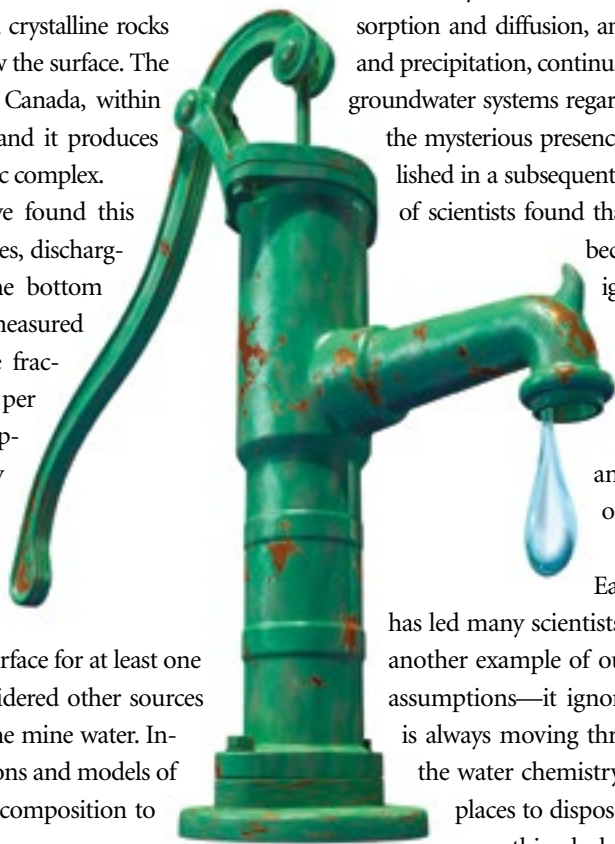
disposal of nuclear waste is finding a rock medium that can contain the spent fuel. Millions of dollars have been exhausted studying nuclear waste disposal in volcanic or igneous rock systems. Unfortunately, all of the proposed sites have shown evidence of continual groundwater flow through the rocks. These studies have demonstrated that fractured rocks even at great depths—more than one mile—commonly have high groundwater flow rates.<sup>4</sup> Because of these reports, groundwater flow in fractured rock is usually approximated as a porous medium, similar to sandstone, and follows general groundwater flow equations such as Darcy’s Law.<sup>4</sup>

Finally, these nature scientists never considered the almost unlimited interactions that take place at depth between the mobile water and the fractured rock surfaces that may be capable of trapping or dissolving unusual noble gases. Physical reactions between the water and the rocks, like adsorption and diffusion, and chemical reactions, like ion exchange and precipitation, continually alter the dissolved composition of all groundwater systems regardless of depth.<sup>4</sup> One possible solution to

the mysterious presence of these noble gases was recently published in a subsequent paper in *Nature Geoscience*.<sup>5</sup> This group of scientists found that noble gases like neon and argon, can become trapped within common crystalline igneous minerals found in the crust, just like the findings at the Timmins Mine. Groundwater flowing through the fractured rock and contacting these minerals could then release the gases and, consequently, explain their unusual occurrence in the mine.

Belief in an evolutionary origin for Earth, its atmosphere, and its ancient age has led many scientists astray from God’s truth. This paper is another example of outlandish claims based on evolutionary assumptions—it ignores continual groundwater flow. Water is always moving through the ground, which actively alters the water chemistry. As scientists and engineers search for places to dispose of nuclear waste, they are finding that everything leaks. ●

## Ancient Water Claims Have Leaks



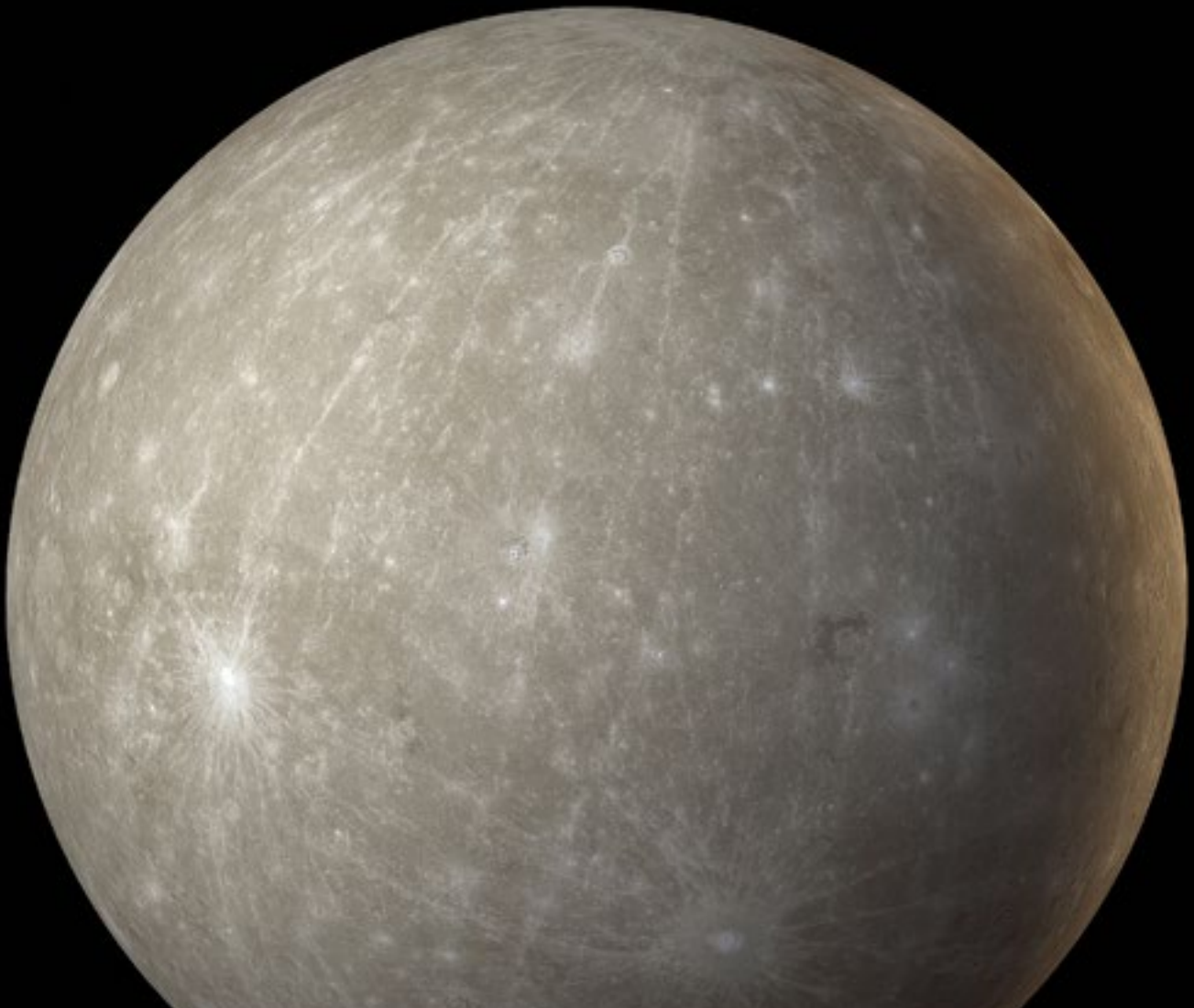
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J A S O N L I S L E , P H . D .



## The Solar System: Mercury

**T**he smallest planet of our solar system holds some big mysteries for secular astronomers, and it continues to delight creationists. Mercury is only 38 percent the diameter of Earth, making it the smallest and least massive of the eight planets. It is the innermost planet of the solar system, orbiting the sun at a distance of only

36 million miles. That is nearly three times closer to the sun than Earth is. Mercury is a solid, rocky world, with only a trace of an atmosphere. It has mountains, valleys, plains, and craters—lots and lots of craters! In appearance, Mercury resembles a 40 percent larger (in radius) version of the moon. But when it comes to creation research of the early solar system, Mercury provides many

interesting clues. The unusual characteristics of this world make for an intriguing study.

### **A World of Extremes**

Since it is closest to the sun, Mercury has the shortest “year” of any planet, taking only 88 Earth days to complete one orbit. So every time Earth completes one orbit, Mer-

cury has already made *four* trips around the sun. On the other hand, it has the *longest* solar day of any planet. A hypothetical observer on Mercury's surface would only see a sunrise every 176 Earth days!

The "sidereal" (relative to the stars) rotation rate of Mercury is 59 Earth days. If we could somehow watch Mercury through a telescope from a distant star, we would see it rotate one time every 59 days. This is called a "sidereal day" because sidereal means "star," and we are watching from the stars in this scenario. On the other hand, if we could somehow watch Mercury from the position of the sun, Mercury would appear to turn once every 176 days. This is called a "solar

ry. Thankfully, you have landed on the night side (barely), and your spacesuit protects you from the bitter cold surface. But it won't protect you from the 800-degree daytime temperatures that are about to occur when the sun rises in just a couple of hours! Thanks to Mercury's very long day, you could begin jogging west at a leisurely pace of two miles per hour. As long as you can maintain that pace, you could stay ahead of the sunrise and remain safely in the night for as long as it takes for the rescue ship to arrive. Effectively, you would be jogging in the opposite direction that the planet rotates, and at about the same rate, thereby permanently remaining in the safe shadow of night.

## **Dr. Humphreys had also predicted that Mercury's magnetic field will show measurable decay since the 1974 measurements. And this was confirmed by the 2008-2013 Messenger spacecraft.**

day." The reason for the difference is that Mercury orbits the sun as it rotates.<sup>1</sup> This is also true of the other planets, though the difference is generally much less.<sup>2</sup>

Mercury's slow rotation results in some other interesting effects. A given spot on Mercury is in direct sunlight for about 88 continuous Earth days at a time. And since Mercury is three times closer to the sun than Earth is, and since there is no substantial atmosphere to transport the heat, the surface temperature on the day side of Mercury can reach 800 degrees Fahrenheit—more than hot enough to melt lead. Perhaps even more surprising is that the temperature on the night side of Mercury can drop to -280 degrees Fahrenheit! This is because it is in continual darkness for up to 88 days and there is no significant atmosphere to prevent the nighttime surface from radiating virtually all its heat into space.

These extremes lead to some interesting hypothetical scenarios. Suppose your spaceship ran out of fuel, but not before you were able to land near the equator of Mercu-

### **Mercury's Strange Orbit**

Another curious aspect of Mercury's rotational (sidereal) period is that it is precisely two thirds of its orbital period. So Mercury turns on its axis three times every time it orbits the sun twice. In astronomy, whenever the ratio of two periods can be expressed by a simple fraction, it is called a "resonance." Mercury is the only planet in our solar system whose rotation period and orbital period are in resonance. There is a reason for this, and it involves Mercury's orbit.

Mercury has the most eccentric orbit of any planet—meaning that its orbit is noticeably elliptical and not as circular as the other planets. From Kepler's Second Law (see "The Solar System" article),<sup>3</sup> a planet in an elliptical orbit moves faster when closer to the sun than it does when farther away. The point of closest approach is called perihelion, and this is when Mercury moves the fastest. The most distant point is aphelion, and this is where it orbits the slowest. But Mercury's rotation rate does not change. Interestingly, when Mercury is near perihelion,

its rotation rate essentially matches its revolution rate, such that it keeps the same side pointed at the sun for several weeks.<sup>4</sup> This configuration is very gravitationally stable.<sup>5</sup>

It would be strange to watch this phenomenon from the surface of Mercury itself—if we could somehow survive there. Imagine we begin by watching a very slow sunrise. It takes almost 20 hours between the first moment when the top of the sun peeks over the horizon and the time when the entire sun is visible. The sun seems enormous from Mercury's perspective—appearing two and a half times larger in the sky than it does on Earth and over six times brighter! The sky remains black even when the sun is up, since Mercury lacks the comfort of Earth's thick atmosphere. The sun then gradually climbs higher in the sky over the next several weeks. The stars also rise in the east, seeming to move at about twice the speed of the sun. But as Mercury approaches perihelion, the sun seems to gradually slow its upward path, while the stars continue to rise and set at their usual pace. The sun is now noticeably larger than we witnessed at sunrise and over three times larger than it appears from Earth—and ten times brighter! Then the sun gradually comes to a complete stop and begins to travel slowly *backward* just slightly for about a week. We might feel like Hezekiah (Isaiah 38:8)!<sup>6</sup> It then slows to a stop once again and reverses direction once more. The sun then gradually resumes its forward path, shrinking and fading a bit as Mercury moves toward perihelion. The sun eventually sets in the west, roughly three months after sunrise.

### **Observing Mercury**

Since it is so close to the sun, Mercury appears quite bright in our nighttime sky, rivaling the brightest stars. Yet most people have never seen it. The planet can be a challenge to locate because it orbits so close to the sun and is easily lost in the glare. Most other planets can be seen late at night, when the sky is quite dark. But not Mercury—it is only visible at twilight and only at certain times of the year when it is in a part of its



orbit that appears (in angle) most distant from the sun. This position is called “greatest elongation.” At such times, it is possible to see Mercury just after sunset for “eastern elongations” or just before sunrise for “western elongations.”<sup>7</sup>

Thanks to Mercury’s short period, greatest elongations happen six (sometimes seven) times a year. Our next chance to see Mercury will be on October 9, 2013, or a few days before or after this. Go outside 20 to 30 minutes or so after sunset and look low to the west, just above the horizon. Venus will also be visible and bright and much higher in the sky. Look between Venus and the point where the sun sets and you will see the much-fainter Mercury.

**Most other rocky worlds in our solar system have tectonic, atmospheric, and volcanic activity that can remove evidence of any previous craters. But not Mercury. Its pristine surface may be a window into the original conditions of our solar system.**

**Mercury Confirms Creation**

Since Mercury is so close to the sun, and only visible low in the sky after sunset or before sunrise, Earth-based telescopic views of Mercury tend to be rather unimpressive and unrevealing. That all changed when NASA sent the Mariner 10 spacecraft to visit Mercury in 1974. During several flyby encounters, Mariner 10 was able to image much of the day side of Mercury in unprecedented detail. It also measured a substantial magnetic field for this tiny planet. This is disturbing news for secularists who believe

that our solar system is billions of years old, because a small planet like Mercury should not be able to maintain a magnetic field for so long. But this doesn’t surprise creationists.

Physicist D. Russell Humphreys, Ph.D., has an interesting biblically based model that is able to account for the current strength of planetary magnetic fields based on their true age of about 6,000 years.<sup>8</sup> His model lines up quite well with the current measured field strengths of the planets. Dr. Humphreys had also predicted that Mercury’s magnetic field will show measurable decay since the 1974 measurements. And this was confirmed by the more recent (2008-2013) Messenger spacecraft.<sup>9</sup>

Mercury has also been used to confirm other aspects of science. Theoretical physicist Albert Einstein’s general theory of relativity indicates that gravitational fields affect the measurement of space and time. One such prediction of relativity is that Mercury’s perihelion should “precess” at a different rate than classical physics would predict. “Precess” means that the ellipse of Mercury’s orbit slowly rotates such that the angular

location of the perihelion (and aphelion) gradually changes.<sup>10</sup> Observations have confirmed Einstein’s prediction, bolstering our confidence in general relativity.

Creationists have long debated when and how the craters we find in our solar system actually happened. Were the planets created with craters? Did God use some process to make the planets on Day Four such that the craters are the last material He brought to impact the surface? Did they happen after the curse or during the Flood year? And if so, why? Mercury may also hold the key to theories of cratering. Most other rocky

worlds in our solar system have tectonic, atmospheric, and volcanic activity that can remove evidence of any previous craters. But not Mercury. Its pristine surface may be a window into the original conditions of our solar system.<sup>11</sup> What other secrets can we discern from this fascinating little world? Time will tell. ●

**References**

1. To make this easier to understand, suppose that Mercury’s rotation and revolution periods were both exactly the same: 88 days. In this case, a person watching from a distant star would see Mercury rotate once in 88 days. But the sun would never see the other side of Mercury because the planet would keep its same “face” pointed toward the sun as it revolves around the sun. Likewise, a person standing on Mercury’s surface would never see a sunrise or sunset, if this were the case. The sidereal day would be 88 days, and the solar day would essentially be infinity.
2. Since other planets also orbit the sun, their solar days are also different than their sidereal day. But the difference tends to be much smaller than with Mercury. Earth has only a four-minute difference between its solar and sidereal days. The reason Mercury exhibits such an enormous difference is because the length of its sidereal day is comparable to the length of its year.
3. Lisle, J. P. 2013. The Solar System. *Acts & Facts*. 42 (6): 10-12.
4. At the time of perihelion, the orbital angular speed actually slightly exceeds the rotation angular speed for about one week. An observer on the surface would see the sun apparently move slightly backward in the sky for that one week.
5. Some orbital resonances are stable and self-correcting, such as Mercury’s. Others are unstable, such that an orbiting body will be continually perturbed until it is ejected into a different orbit altogether. This appears to be the reason why there is a deficit of asteroids having simple resonances with Jupiter’s orbit. These resonance orbits are known as the Kirkwood gaps.
6. Critics sometimes declare that God cannot do certain things, such as make the sun go backward as He did for Hezekiah. Such things are simply not possible, we are told. Yet this happens every three months on Mercury. It is probably not the same mechanism that God used for Hezekiah. Nonetheless, it is to the shame of those critics who attempt to tell God what He cannot do.
7. “Eastern” denotes that Mercury is east of the sun. It therefore can be seen in our western sky just after sunset. Conversely, “western” elongations are those in which Mercury is farthest separated to the west of the sun. At such a time, Mercury can be viewed in the eastern sky just before sunrise.
8. Humphreys, D. R. 1984. The Creation of Planetary Magnetic Fields. *Creation Research Society Quarterly*. 21(3): 140-149.
9. Thomas, B. Mercury’s Fading Magnetic Field Fits Creation Model. *Creation Science Update*. Posted on icr.org October 30, 2011, accessed June 1, 2013.
10. The perihelion distance does not change, only its angle. Imagine Mercury’s orbit lined up with a clock such that the perihelion is aligned with 12:00 and the aphelion is aligned with 6:00. As Mercury orbits the sun, the ellipse of its orbit slowly rotates counterclockwise such that at a later time perihelion would point to 11:30 and aphelion would point to 5:30. The precession of Mercury’s orbit is very slow, amounting to only 575 arc-seconds per century. Of this rate, 532 arc-seconds per century are due to gravitational perturbations of the other planets. The remaining 43 arc-seconds per century are due to the effects of general relativity. The agreement between the theoretical predictions and the observations is remarkable.
11. This may also be true of the moon. Yet some creationists believe that the moon was impacted more recently by comets or a meteor stream in association with the Flood of Genesis 6-8. It is unlikely that Mercury would have been strongly affected by the Flood due to its great distance. So differences between Mercury and the moon may help us understand better when these events occurred.

Dr. Lisle is Director of Research at the Institute for Creation Research and received his Ph.D. in Astrophysics from the University of Colorado.



Of all the beautiful and awe-inspiring mountains in the Alps, the Matterhorn can elicit the strongest emotions. From snow skiing to mountain climbing, or just sitting and admiring it, none can match its majesty.

In earlier days, when scientific creation thinking was new, the Matterhorn became somewhat of an icon for creationists. The classic book *The Genesis Flood* described it as an “upside down mountain,” with fossils in the wrong order according to evolutionary predictions, and thus evidence for the great Flood of Noah’s day.

Sedimentary rocks near a mountain’s summit are supposed to be the youngest (i.e., they contain fossils thought to be more recently evolved) and should overlie lower strata that should be older, all things being equal. Yet on the Matterhorn, the reverse is true. Rocks dated as Cenozoic (containing fossils thought to be some 40 million years old) underlie rocks dated as Mesozoic (thought to be 200 million years old) according to evolutionary uniformitarianism. If they really were deposited on the Matterhorn in that order, then the whole system is wrong—it’s literally flipped on its head. Creationists of the day insisted that the great Flood was not constrained to deposit things

in an evolutionary order, and the observed order was only due to the dynamics of Flood waves.

But *The Genesis Flood* was written in 1961, before the evidence for plate tectonics began to accumulate. Now, while specific theories vary widely, no student of Earth history doubts that past world-restructuring events have taken place. Creationists have accepted this in the form of catastrophic plate tectonics or a variety of other models. This is not a capitulation to evolution, but a healthy response to new data. It has been recognized by all serious creationists that the great Flood, described in such breathtaking terms in Scripture, must have been nothing less than a worldwide tectonic episode that forever altered the entire planet. Everywhere we go, we should see its results—and we do! The Flood would have involved mega-volcanoes, super earthquakes, colliding tsunamis, extensive sheet erosion, and more. The vagaries of the Flood could have produced almost any geologic feature. Often, evidence for the dynamic hydraulic processes of the Flood is misinterpreted as evidence for great ages of slow and gradual processes.

Following Flood deposition of vast layers of sedimentary rock, the Alps were formed as Africa collided with Europe, rumpling the flat sediments into massive moun-

tains. The sediments on the Matterhorn were still soft at the time of deformation, for they are tightly folded. It doesn’t take a long time for sediments to harden, given proper conditions. Those on the Matterhorn appear folded close together, not like hard rock that readily breaks when bent. The time between deposition and folding was perhaps just the months of violent tectonic activity during the Flood, not millions of years. Local high areas might have slid downward, resulting in a seeming reversed order. The Ice Age that followed the Flood covered much of Europe with moving glaciers that scoured the uplifted, and by then hardened, rocks into the majestic mountains we admire today.

Remember, there is nothing about the sediments or their fossil content that speaks of millions of years of age. These are imposed strictly by the assumption of evolution. The application of a biblically compatible history to the rocks results in better scientific understanding and more satisfying personal implications as well.

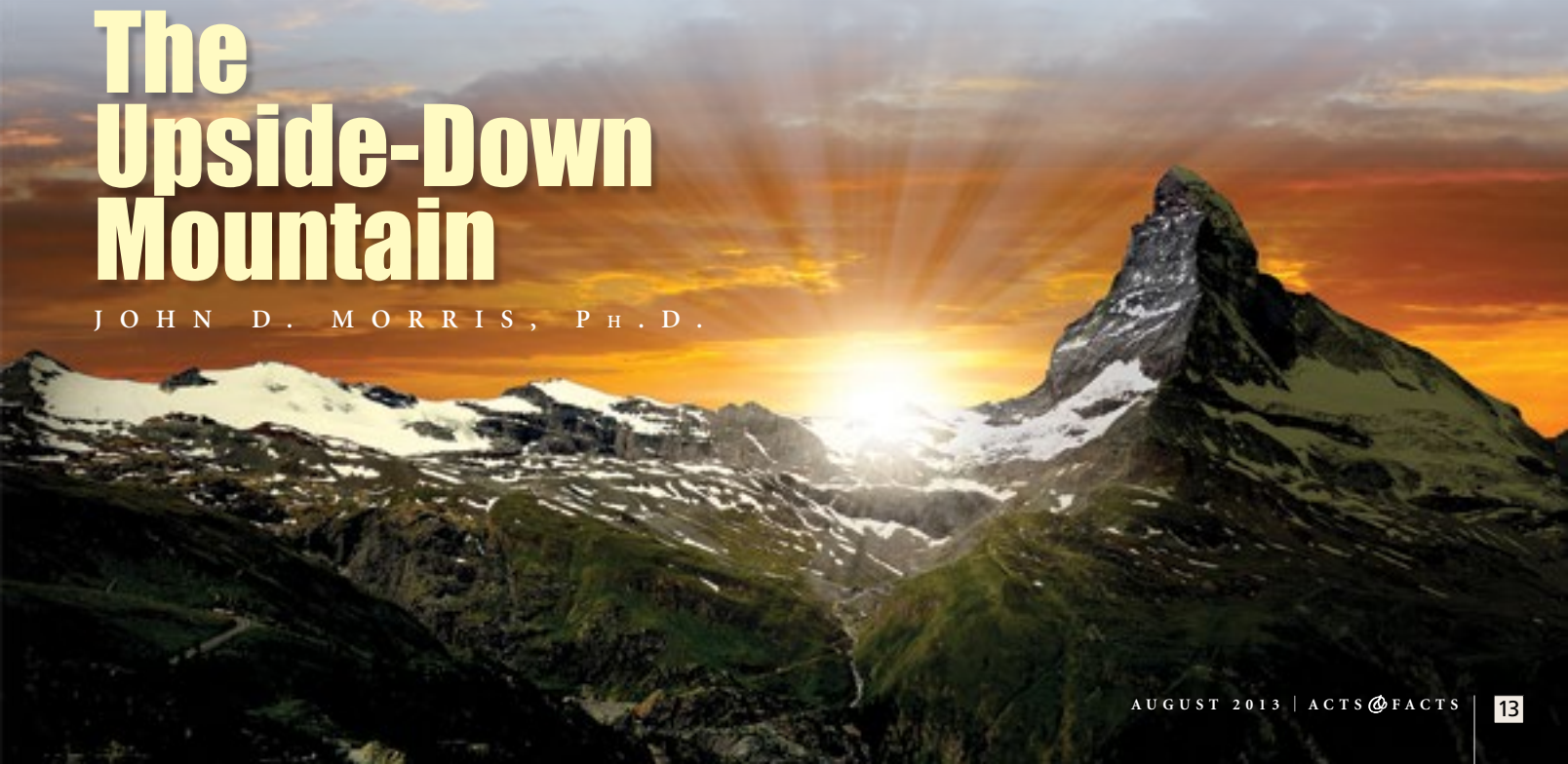
“Before the mountains were brought forth, Or ever You had formed the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God” (Psalm 90:2). ●

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



# The Upside-Down Mountain

JOHN D. MORRIS, PH.D.



# How Does a Dog Smell Fossils?

BRIAN THOMAS, M.S.

**G**ary Jackson and his dog, Migaloo, trained to sniff out buried remains, work with local Australians to uncover archaeological sites and help police locate the remains of murder victims. According to *The Sydney Morning Herald*, “Migaloo quickly located the 600-year-old remains of an indigenous Australian,” which researchers found a decade ago.<sup>1</sup> But her specialized training resulted in an unforeseen cross-over—Migaloo can also smell fossils.

A dog should not be able to smell fossils if the standard fossil formation story is true. This scenario assumes trickling minerals slowly replaced long-dead bones over millions of years. This process supposedly replaced all original bone material, essentially forming rocks that preserve only the bone shapes. If true, then the bones should no longer smell any different than the surrounding rock.

Animal remains buried for several dozen or maybe even several thousand years might retain some of their original organic components. But that would require special conditions, like rapid burial followed by quick drying, to protect the remains from hungry microbes. Since all rocks are porous, no underground encasing could indefinitely protect remains from chemical reactions.<sup>2</sup> If the original material was not replaced by minerals, then it would have decayed and disappeared long before a million years elapsed—especially under a warm Australian climate.

Apparently, nobody explained these complicated fossilization issues to Migaloo and her sensitive sniffer. The black Labrador-bull mastiff identified megafauna bone remains tagged at 2.6 to 5.3 million years old.<sup>3</sup> How did she do it?

University of Queensland paleontologist Steve Salisbury told *The Herald*, “It seems very feasible to me that there would still be odour attached to a corpse but fossil bone is another thing. We’re talking millions of years old, where the original bone and internal structure has been re-mineralised and essentially become a rock. That’s why I question whether she can smell the difference.”<sup>4</sup>

Why does Salisbury prefer the undemonstrated age assignment



news.com.au

over Migaloo’s demonstrated ability to smell fossils? The dog *did* smell something different, showing that underground processes never did re-mineralize those fossil bones—at least not entirely. And if they still retain original organics, then they are not millions of years old. Shouldn’t a scientist follow the observable evidence instead of blindly believing in millions of years?

After all, paleontologists continue to find un-mineralized fossils—fossils that clearly contain original proteins and cells—designated as tens of millions of years old from numerous U.S.

states, Brazil, Argentina, Great Britain, Germany, several Chinese provinces, Italy, and Belgium. Studies continue to identify animal proteins in deeply buried fossils, including collagen, elastin, ovalbumin, histone, keratin, osteocalcin, and even hemoglobin. Time has taken its toll on these long-buried proteins, but they retain enough of their original integrity for clear identification.<sup>4</sup> The still-intact organic molecules inside these fossils indicate they are many times younger than tens of millions of years. So there’s every reason for skepticism over the age range assigned to the fossils that Migaloo sniffed out.

“I’d like to believe it. If she can find fossilised bone, then that would make our searches a lot easier. I’m ready to watch and be surprised—that would be really exciting,” Salisbury said.<sup>1</sup>

Jackson continues to train and test Migaloo’s potential. If she emerges as a bona fide fossil-smelling dog, she would demonstrate something much more exciting than easing fossil searches—her nose would show why original organic materials in fossils should influence a reassessment of secular ages. ●

## References

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2. Specifically, bone collagen turns to dust after 700,000 years at 50°F. Its time-to-dust estimate is less than 15,000 years at 70°F. See Buckley, M. and M. J. Collins. 2011. Collagen survival and its use for species identification in Holocene-lower Pleistocene bone fragments from British archaeological and paleontological sites. *Antiqua*. 1 (1): e1.
3. “Megafauna” means “large animal” and often refers to large animal varieties that existed during and after the Ice Age but have since gone extinct, like the giant moa bird that once lived in Australia.
4. Many of these finds are described at [www.icr.org/fresh-fossils](http://www.icr.org/fresh-fossils).

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# Hot Mantle Initiated Ocean and Flood Beginnings

TIMOTHY CLAREY, P.H.D.

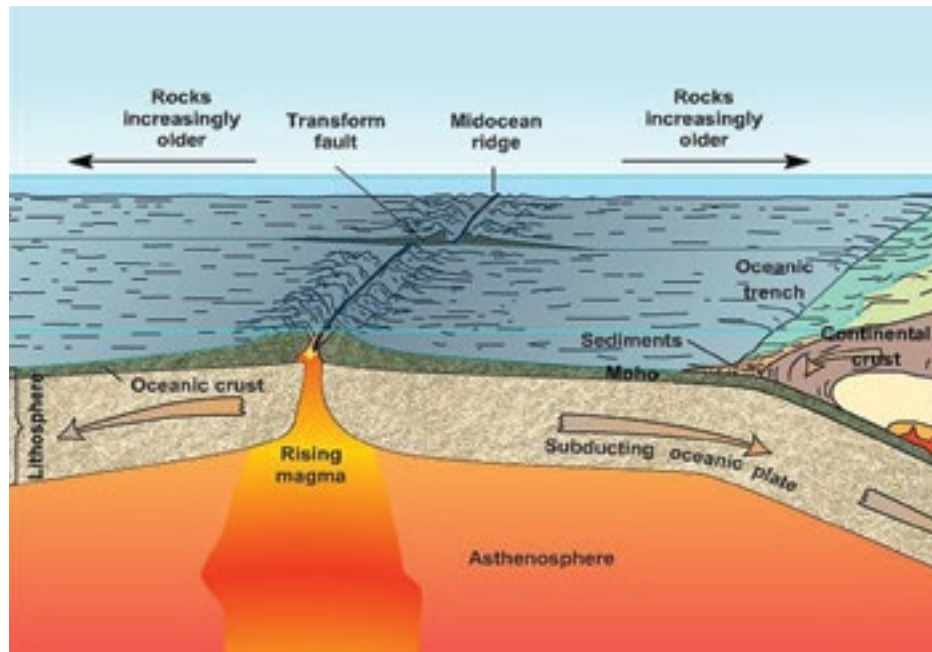
A new discovery may shed light on how the great Flood began. In a paper published in *Nature Geoscience*, German scientists found evidence suggesting the earth's mantle was up to 300 degrees Fahrenheit hotter during the initial, formative stages of the Atlantic Ocean—when the continents began to violently pull apart to create it—compared to today.<sup>1</sup> Over time, the mantle cooled to current levels.

The scientists studied the composition of oceanic crust using deep-sea drilling core samples and found a systematic change in chemistry from the shoreline—the edge of the continents—to that of the middle of the ocean. The shifts in the core sample's geologic chemistry were linked to changes in the temperature of the underlying mantle that generated the oceanic crust.

These findings suggest that the initiation of the great Flood began with an anomalously high-temperature mantle beneath the pre-Flood continents. As the continents rifted apart, new ocean crust formed rapidly between them, and molten mantle filled the ever-widening gap, supporting the concept of catastrophic plate tectonics as postulated by creation scientists.<sup>2</sup>

Today, new ocean crust forms along ocean ridges where continental plates continue to slowly pull apart. The ridges, a system of subsea mountains that run through every ocean, are ridges rather than valleys because the spreading seafloor is hot and constantly rises due to its lower density. The ridge system extends for over 37,000 miles and accounts for about 75 percent of the present volcanic activity on Earth.<sup>1</sup>

The German scientists also noted that the average ocean ridge today resides at a



depth of 1.8 miles below sea level. In contrast, they calculated that the ridges above the hotter mantle in the past would have only been about 0.6 miles below sea level—well over a mile higher!<sup>1</sup>

What effect would this have had? Shallower ridges from higher heat flow would have raised global sea levels, at least partially accounting for the inundation of the continents during the Flood event. Later, as the mantle progressively cooled, as confirmed by this paper, the ocean ridges would have sunk, dramatically dropping sea level and draining the water off the continents to end the Flood.

In a related article summarizing the recent findings, it was pointed out that “much of the ancient oceanic crust seems to have been generated under conditions that are rare beneath present-day ridges.”<sup>3</sup>

Rare indeed. The global Flood was a one-time unimaginable event, never to be

repeated (Genesis 9:15). The high-mantle heat that apparently initiated the breakup of the pre-Flood continents only occurred once in the past. This heat flow also raised the seafloor ridges and helped flood the land masses. The subsequent cooling of the mantle dropped the ridges and provided a way for the water to drain off the land and back to the deepening ocean basins. Present-day volcanic activity at the ocean ridges is minute compared to the catastrophic formation of oceanic crust during the year-long Flood. It's amazing how science again and again confirms biblical truth. ●

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2. Austin, S. A., et al. 1994. Catastrophic plate tectonics: a global flood model of Earth history: in *Proceedings of the Third International Conference on Creationism*. R. E. Walsh, ed., Pittsburg, PA. Creation Science Fellowship, Inc., p. 609-621.
3. Langmuir, C. 2013. Older and hotter. *Nature Geoscience*. 6 (5): 332-333.

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# Dinosaurs, Stars, and Special Creation at Gateway Church

M I C H A E L H A N S E N

**D**inosaurs in Texas? On June 5, 2013, over 2,000 dino lovers visited Gateway Church in Southlake, Texas, to hear Brian Thomas of the Institute for Creation Research speak about dinosaurs, the first in a three-part series of creation talks from ICR experts. An estimated 1,000 online viewers also took part in this powerful learning experience.

Several large dinosaur-fossil replicas, provided by Creation Truth Foundation, greeted the attendees in the lobby before the lecture. Fossil replicas also adorned the stage, prompting one of the performers during the worship session to say, “There are dinosaurs

on stage. That’s just a reminder—God is COOL!”

After a warm welcome from the audience, Mr. Thomas delivered a powerful and dynamic talk on dinosaurs and the Bible. From fascinating historical and scientific facts to wacky dinosaur waddles, he captivated the audience with his expert knowledge on the mysterious creatures. He talked about how dinosaurs were not merely the stuff of human imagination, but creatures made by an all-powerful God. Mr. Thomas also presented five clues that confirm the Bible is right about dinosaurs, starting with Genesis 1.

After the talk, one attendee told ICR staff members that she had big questions

about dinosaurs when she was younger. But her third-grade teacher told her never to ask questions about them again, and she walked away without any answers. At the Gateway event, however, she said Mr. Thomas answered the questions she had asked and she felt as if a heavy burden was lifted off her shoulders.

Continuing the series of creation talks the following week, astronomer and ICR Director of Research Dr. Jason Lisle wowed the audience with a stunning presentation on astronomy. He addressed the glory of God, basic facts about the universe and its age, the uniqueness of Earth, and the alleged starlight and time problem. The Bible is correct when it addresses each of these areas, he told the at-



*Dr. Randy Guliuzza*





tendees. And while the Bible isn't specifically a manual on understanding outer space, it addresses the subject of astronomy where it is absolutely accurate. And although we cannot know for certain whether or not the universe is truly infinite, we can be confident that our God is omniscient and omnipotent.

ICR National Representative Dr. Randy Guliuzza, a medical doctor and professional engineer, closed out the series on June 19 with a presentation on special creation,

human beings, and the amazing system of human reproduction. He said that the Genesis account is correct when it speaks about God's creation and design of the human body, marriage, and the mandate to fill Earth. The male and female bodies were designed for each other, and their complementary systems are so intricate that they reflect the incredibly complex design power of our Creator.

Gateway Equip is a midweek disciple-

ship and learning program for members of Gateway Church. Many different topics pertaining to spiritual growth are offered in these multi-week classes, but this is the first time the topic of creation has been presented to this local body of believers. Much of what the media and education systems tell us about dinosaurs, astronomy, and the human body is based on an anti-biblical, anti-God worldview. As a result, many people have been trained with an evolutionary and long-age worldview that contradicts God's Word. ICR presentations dispelled these myths. ●

*Mr. Hansen is the Student Community Coordinator for the Institute for Creation Research*



*Dr. Jason Lisle*



*Brian Thomas*



# Is Biblical Creation a Distraction to Evangelism?

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

**T**he Institute for Creation Research and other biblical creation ministries are sometimes criticized as distractions from the ministry of evangelism. The alleged concern is that the promotion of biblical creation as taught in Genesis creates controversy by derailing the evangelism process—distracting people from learning about who Jesus is and trusting Him as their Savior.

Does teaching biblical creation truth interfere with a proper presentation of the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior? Before that question can be squarely answered, consider the context of the controversy. Dr. John Morris addressed this issue:

A student once asked, “In your debates, have you ever known of somebody who was saved as a result of the debate?”

My father [Dr. Henry Morris] and Dr. [Duane] Gish had several hundred debates. One time we ran a request in *Acts & Facts* to respond to a survey regarding the debates. One question was a salvation question. Many people responded, saying it was a very instrumental point in their journey to Christ.<sup>1</sup>

Some would argue Dr. Morris was alluding to favorable anecdotal evidence—that he offered no realistic allowance for the individuals who were “turned off” from seeking God because they were alienated by creation-versus-evolution polemics. Others might fault his report as being too vague. They might say he failed to provide any meaningful qualification regarding how to teach creation. They may question whether teaching about creation “in the beginning”

helps or hurts a seeker’s journey, his ability to learn about God, and his willingness to come into God’s eternal sheepfold through His only begotten Son.

Clarification about who our Creator God is helps us appreciate Jesus and how He can rescue human souls as the uniquely all-sufficient kinsman-redeemer of Adam’s fallen race.

## What about the value of rescuing one sheep?

Certainly for the one lost sheep who comes to the Good Shepherd, statistics are irrelevant (John 10:1-16; Luke 15:3-7). That truth fits one classroom example, which began with a Christian student’s desire to show a biblical creation movie in the main

## “People need to know Jesus Christ as offended Creator before they can believe with understanding on Him as sin-bearing Savior and Redeemer.”

auditorium of a North Carolina state university’s law school.<sup>2</sup> The university granted permission to show the movie on campus, but the student was inept at using the media equipment provided. Providentially, his best friend and study partner was mechanically adept, and he agreed to run the film projector for the event. Ironically, the technically talented friend was a doubter—unconvinced that the Christian faith was truly reliable. The creation movie was packed with scientific information and analysis, proving how purposefully living creatures and their indispensably necessary submicroscopic components—such as DNA and RNA—are designed and constructed and how they operate.

In the movie, the creation scientist Dr. A. E. Wilder-Smith explained the material and informational importance of chiral molecules (e.g., the left-handed amino acids needed to build the hardware of life) as well as the mind-boggling complexity and details of human chromosomes.<sup>3</sup> A moderated and emotionally spirited discussion followed the showing, with audience viewpoints voiced by both evolutionists and creationists, several of whom were faithful ICR supporters.

But, at the end of the evening, the creation movie’s message was not truly over because the helpful student who ran the projector began thinking about how all of his scientific doubts and excuses were resolved. That conclusion was more than academic—it had logical implications, including some big questions such as: What do I do with the Creator who has proven beyond a reasonable doubt that He is God—the Creator whom Dr. Wilder-Smith declared “became my Redeemer” in the Person of Jesus Christ?

After a time of wrestling with pride and receiving more encouragement to believe in Christ, the mechanically gifted student be-

came a thoroughly convinced believer in the Lord Jesus. The creation apologetics movie was helpful in eliminating excuses that were once barriers to saving faith for that former skeptic—through viewing the movie, he was guided toward becoming a fully persuaded sheep.

### Does teaching creation help or hinder evangelism?

Individual experiences may be exceptional cases.<sup>4</sup> So the question remains: Does teaching biblical creation with an emphasis on “in the beginning” routinely help gospel evangelism?

Yes—teaching about how God created in the beginning helps us introduce the saving gospel of Christ. In fact, objective evidences in the Bible demonstrate that biblical creation truth is one of the underlying theological foundations for evangelizing unbelievers. For example, consider the role model of Paul’s apostolic ministry. Paul began evangelizing Gentiles with an introductory declaration of God as the Creator (Acts 14:15-17; 17:19-34). But there is even a stronger proof of this point in the introduction of John’s gospel, the only book of the Bible that is explicitly written for an evangelistic purpose:

In the beginning. It is significant that the Apostle John began his gospel with the words: “In the beginning.” He obviously intended that his record should start with the same words as Genesis, that is, with creation. Since his explicit purpose in writing was to win his readers to Christ as Son of God and Savior (see John 20:30-31), he realized the foundational importance of prior belief in special creation of all things by God. People need to know Jesus Christ as offended Creator before they can believe with understanding on Him as sin-bearing Savior and Redeemer. A foundation of true creationism as the

only meaningful context for true evangelism is thus revealed through John, under divine inspiration.<sup>5</sup>

John did not “distract” his readers by beginning with creation (John 1:1-3; 1:10-12). Rather, his gospel authoritatively presents the evangelistic gospel message by introducing Jesus as the incarnate Creator God apart from whom nothing was made that was made (John 1:3; see also John 20:30-31). Therefore, biblical creation truth is the proper theological foundation for evangelism—for explaining how Christ became our Messianic Savior whom we should believe in.

God chose to first introduce Himself to us as our Creator—that same Creator God who, as Dr. Wilder-Smith gratefully acknowledged, “became my Redeemer” (Genesis 1:1; John 1:1).<sup>2</sup> And that is how we should introduce Him to others. When was the last time you showed or gave away a creation movie such as *God of Wonders*?<sup>6</sup> This can be a very nonthreatening way to witness. DVDs like this help us appreciate the glory of our Creator, and they can help us evangelize lost sheep who need to be brought into the fold. ●

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2. The law school illustration alludes to the use of a biblical creation movie that focuses mostly on explaining creation science rather than providing a gospel presentation. See Wilder-Smith, A. E. 1983. *Origins: How the World Came to Be*. Origins video series, volume 3. Mesa, AZ: Films for Christ. The movie’s content matches much of what appears in A. E. Wilder-Smith’s book *The Natural Sciences Know Nothing of Evolution* (Costa Mesa, CA: The Word for Today Publishers, 1981; translated from the original German by Petra Wilder-Smith).
3. The creation science movie featured Dr. A. E. Wilder-Smith, a European young-earth creationist inventor who earned three doctorates in the overlapping sciences of biology, chemistry, and pharmacology. See Wilder-Smith, A. E. and B. Wilder-Smith. 1998. *Fulfilled Journey: The Wilder-Smith Memoirs*. Costa Mesa, CA: The Word for Today Publishers.
4. Exceptional results may illustrate God producing good results from not-so-good circumstances, or even from human misbehavior (Genesis 50:20; Numbers 22-24).
5. See the editorial footnote by Henry M. Morris for John 1:1 in Morris, H. M. 2006. *The New Defender’s Study Bible*. Nashville, TN: World Publishing, 1563.
6. *God of Wonders* DVD, available through the ICR online store ([icr.org/store](http://icr.org/store)).

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



# Q: Could We Clone a Dinosaur?

BRIAN THOMAS, M.S.

**A:** In short, no way. But Christians should understand the biblical and biological reasons why not. Then we can have a meaningful conversation with friends and family, made more relevant by the theatrical re-releases of 3-D versions of the *Jurassic Park* films that imagine cloned dinosaurs.

Evolutionists also answer “no” to this question, but for a somewhat misguided reason. Christians should understand this, too. An online *LiveScience* article listed seven ways that dinosaur science has changed in the 20 years since *Jurassic Park* was first released, and the seventh item on the list argued that cloning dinosaurs would not be possible because their DNA would have completely degraded after millions of years.<sup>1</sup> It referenced a recently published DNA-in-bone decay rate.<sup>2</sup> The senior author of that study—and head of Murdoch University’s ancient DNA research laboratory—Mike Bunce emailed *LiveScience*, “Even under the best scenarios, in 6-7 million years [the DNA would be gone.]”

So, if someone found dinosaur DNA, it would require that the fossil be younger than 6-7 million years. Indeed, one paleontologist recently reported finding *Tyrannosaurus rex* DNA and nuclear proteins, albeit using hushed and guarded wording, showing that dinosaur fossils are not nearly as old as secular scientists often claim.<sup>3</sup> Does real dinosaur DNA now mean we *can* clone a *T. rex*? The answer is still no, because DNA decays so fast at Earth-surface temperatures that DNA in bone would still degrade too quickly to use for cloning after just several thousand years.

But none of this addresses the main reason why cloning a dinosaur remains outrageously unlikely. It relates to the seldom discussed Law of Biogenesis: Life always comes from life. One could also describe how, so far as we know, life always comes from the same basic *kind* of life. In practical language, a finch has never hatched from an iguana egg, or vice versa.

Modern whole-animal cloning reflects this within-kind life principle by using like-kind mothers. In 1997, Scottish scientists cloned the famous short-lived sheep named Dolly by replacing *sheep* egg cell DNA with adult *sheep* skin cell DNA, then chemically coaxing the egg to begin development. Researchers then used in vitro fertilization to implant the tinkered egg into a *sheep* womb. Similarly, other scientists have so far cloned goats, calves, mice, pigs, and a few other animals using cells and wombs from within their basic kind.<sup>4</sup>



It takes a whole creature (i.e., a mother) to produce another generation of that creature. One cannot make a dinosaur with mere dinosaur DNA any more than one can make an apartment complex with its mere blueprints. The mother’s body provides an array of technically precise biological essentials, including various hormone levels, and pH, nitrate, CO<sub>2</sub>, and temperature balancers. So, even if we somehow had access to high fidelity *T. rex* DNA, we could not clone a whole dinosaur without a real, living female *T. rex*, complete with her ability to properly produce eggs.

However, cloning a mammoth might be possible. Finding quality mammoth DNA presents the first major hurdle. Siberian scientists working on a remote arctic island recently found a thawing female mammoth carcass with flowing red blood that might harbor useful genetic material. But any hint of hope for success lies in a mammoth’s living relative—a female elephant—likely one of its kind.

Scientists with the determination to attempt cloning a mammoth deserve admiration. Meanwhile, unless we find a still-living female dinosaur, “*Jurassic Park* will remain a fantasy.”<sup>5</sup> ●

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



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donation I just sent via the Internet. It was with sadness I learned...of the passing of Dr. Gish. He came to speak here [and]... through his ministry...my interest in the debate was reawakened. Since then I have been actively involved in the small but influential creation movement in Japan...[and] I am very thankful to report that [it] is having an impact on the general Christian population...I wanted to express my thanksgiving at least once to ICR for her ministry to me these decades."

The seed has been sown in the field of the world, and these letters testify that God has truly used ICR in reaching "the uttermost part of the earth" (Acts 1:8). This is, indeed, "the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes" (Psalm 118:23). It is my hope that many fellow believers will be encouraged by this, and will join ICR in prayer and financial support to see an even greater harvest in the years ahead. ●

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



## Letters FROM Abroad

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

Only a handful of creation science ministries were in existence when the Institute for Creation Research began in 1970. Today there are numerous organizations—at least one in nearly every U.S. state, and dozens more in countries around the world. The global expansion of the creationist message is particularly remarkable, a fact recently impressed upon me by many encouraging letters from believers overseas.

Take, for instance, this sweet note from a long-time supporter from Australia: "Thank you for the many years of sending the monthly *Acts & Facts*. Such top notch materials you have published...what a marvelous Creator God we serve! Thank you ICR... you are helping many to see Him better!"

From a missionary in Germany: "My high regard for ICR was recently reaffirmed when I received your personal, handwritten note. Thank you too for the unexpected gift of *Six Days of Creation!* Your publications are wonderful, especially *Acts & Facts*, and are always heavily used within our home-school community. Continue the good work!"

An Army chaplain emailed me from Iraq: "Thank you for the special gift of *Days of Praise*...I received a box today for the 300 troops I serve! I myself have received *Days of Praise* for many years, and I love them—they are a great blessing to me. These little devotionals are so versatile and easy to use, and packed with the power of God. They will help us reach and teach the soldiers in Christ's name."

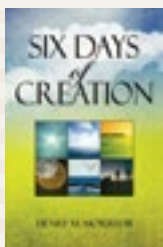
Via email from Malaysia: "Thank you

for your letter...in reply to my contribution to the work of ICR. I am delighted to be of some small help. I praise God for His goodness to us, and especially for the work started by your dear grandfather, Dr. Henry Morris, and continued on through the ICR ministry. Keep boldly declaring the deity and sovereignty of our Creator and Redeemer Jesus Christ...You are a great blessing to us!"

From England, the land where modern evolutionary thought began: "ICR is brilliant...one of the best ministries for Christ's kingdom I have ever encountered! I used to be a chap who thought, 'Why could not God have used evolution to create all things?' I now realize how ignorant I was, uneducated in God's profound truth and blinded by Satan's deception. I now feel... equipped and ready to answer a world that believes...[in] a Godless existence. Thank you! Thank you too for the Morris brothers for walking in their father's footsteps to maintain this Godly ministry. We pray God continues to bless your work. Cheers!"

And from Russia: "The ICR *That's a Fact* shows are very wonderful! A friend help me find them...when I search for videos to learn my English. We are Christian here and go to home church. We use the scientific data...is simple to understand and so easy point to God and the Bible, not evolution. Thank...you for your work! I hope to meet the ICR people one day, if not here, then in heaven with King Jesus."

And finally, I received this marvelous report from a fellow creation warrior (and tsunami survivor) in Sendai, Japan: "...just a word of thanks to accompany the...small



I received your book, *The Six Days of Creation*. It was a gift sent from the wonderful ICR staff. As I continue to read it, my heart is being blessed beyond measure.

My husband of over 36 years recently went home to be with the Lord. Every day he would read *Days of Praise*. My Jim loved that little booklet, and it brought him a great deal of comfort. It continues to be a source of comfort to me, as well.

*The Six Days of Creation* is the most exciting work I have read in some time. Jim would have loved reading it with me, but I know Heaven far surpasses anything that this world has to offer. I can, however, share this amazing book with my children, grandchildren, friends and the pastors at our church.

I can't tell you how thankful I am to have such an awesome tool to share....Thank you for sharing your knowledge with all of us who will have the honor of reading your excellent work.

— C.B.

#### A note from the owner of Migaloo, the fossil-sniffing dog from Australia (see page 14.)

I just read the [*Creation Science Update*] article [Can This Dog Sniff Out Fossils?] from Brian Thomas and what a fantastic



article on Migaloo. I have not got all the answers on what Migaloo is actually smelling but I do report the results. As this is all new we don't know the full potential, but I am excited at conducting the tests. I do know that a fossil has an odour that a dog can detect, I don't know if they can detect fossils buried deep underground. In the one and only fossil search Migaloo located around 12 fossils on the surface of the ground, 2 of the finds were collected 6 months earlier and put

in 2 piles and the others were on the surface and untouched. Migaloo was able to clearly indicate [the] fossils and ignore all the rocks, wood, stones etc.

Great news as I have an opportunity to search with Migaloo a known mega-fauna area this week with a local fossil expert. They removed some fossils here 20 years ago and there is nothing left on the surface so this is a great opportunity to conduct a second test. I am also keen to organise some official testing soon so we can all know the limitations of the dog.

God Bless,

— G.J.



I first heard Dr. [Duane] Gish speak at UCSD around 1972. My biology major Christian friends were so appreciative of him because they too felt attacked by their profs. Having been raised a Christian, I've really never had any trouble accepting 6-day creation approx. 6,000 years ago. But I was very happy for the beginnings of ICR back then.



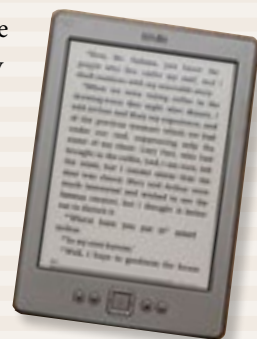
It was quite a few years later that I became reacquainted with ICR when Steve Austin spoke at a hotel close to Christian Liberty Academy in Arlington Heights, IL, sometime in the '80s. It was a good impression on my kids, at the time. I think that's when I got on the mailing list. I have been very impressed with the faithfulness of Dr. Gish and Dr. [Henry] Morris. I hope they are enjoying their rewards.

— J.C.

Thank you for all your ministry blessings. We watched your ministry grow into a global movement and new wonderful teachers along the way. We...enjoy *Acts & Facts* and *Days of Praise* so much. Because of what you mean to my husband and I, and we believe so much in your ministry, I'm sending you a gift. Love in Christ.

— B.M.

I was wondering if there will be more books by your researchers that will be available on Kindle. My reason is a personal one, but I also know lots of people that use Kindle and it's becoming increasingly popular. I am very busy and have very little time to read books the traditional way. Instead, I have an older model Kindle that reads books out with the text-to-speech function. I spend over 2 hours driving to and from work each day so I have ample opportunity to listen to all kinds of books on the journey.



One book (set) I'm particularly keen to read is *Earth's Catastrophic Past*. I know I don't have time to get through such a large volume as these 2 books unless it is read out loud to me. So if this book set became available on Kindle, that'd be great. Thanks for piecing together long ignored evidence for creation for the rest of us to read.

Regards,

— J.M.

I liked Dr. Hebert's article [regarding] the fact that life could not have started spontaneously due to the laws of chemistry, and I totally agree. I asked my father, who was a top organic chemist (and to my knowledge an evolutionist) whether it could originate from a mixture of simple elements like Nitrogen, carbon, and hydrogen and oxygen, and he emphatically said "no" since the only reactions [that] have a 100% completion rates are those which produce either gases (like baking soda combining with vinegar) or precipitates, and organic reactions rarely do this! I appreciate his monthly insights!

— L.I.



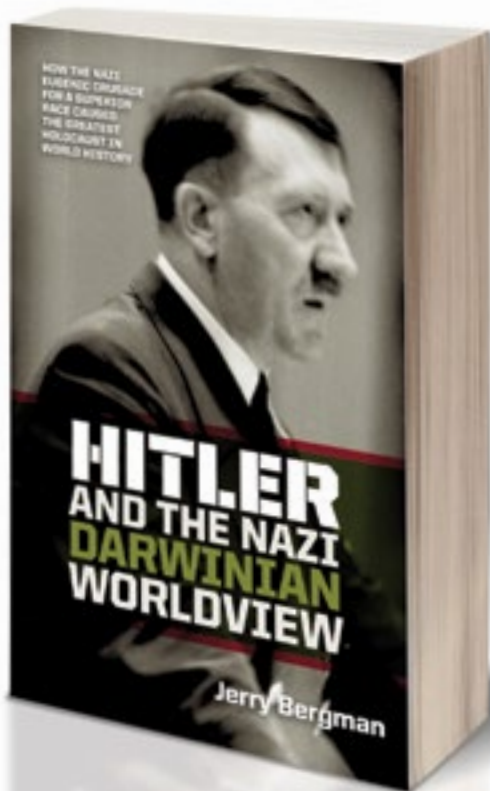
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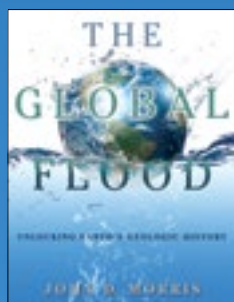
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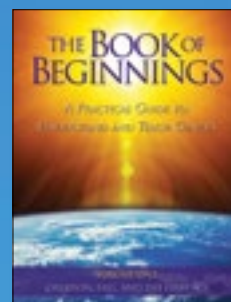
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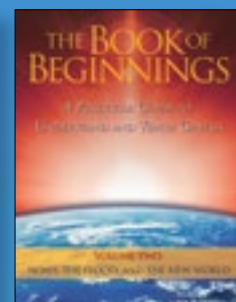
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