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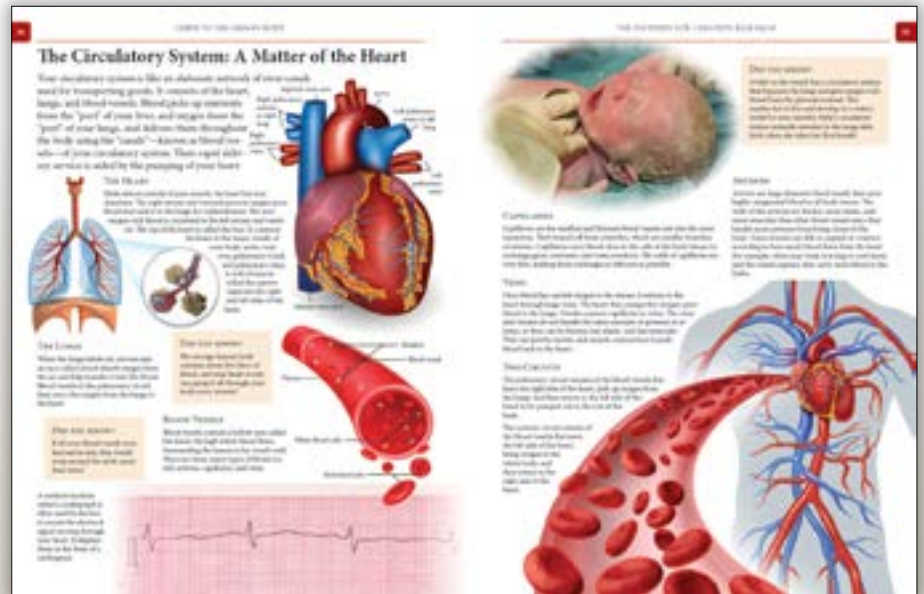
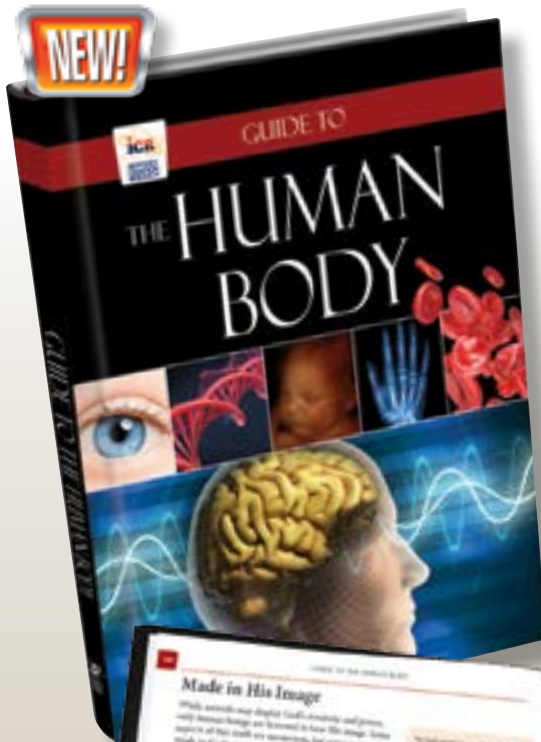
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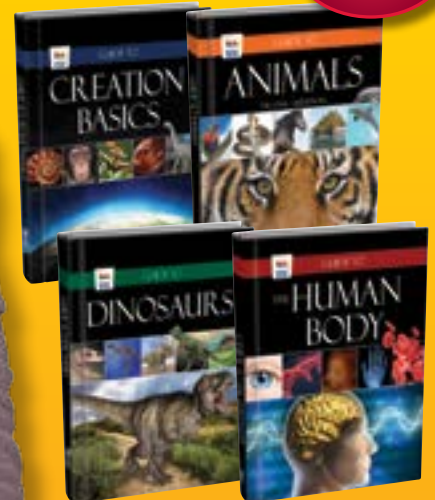


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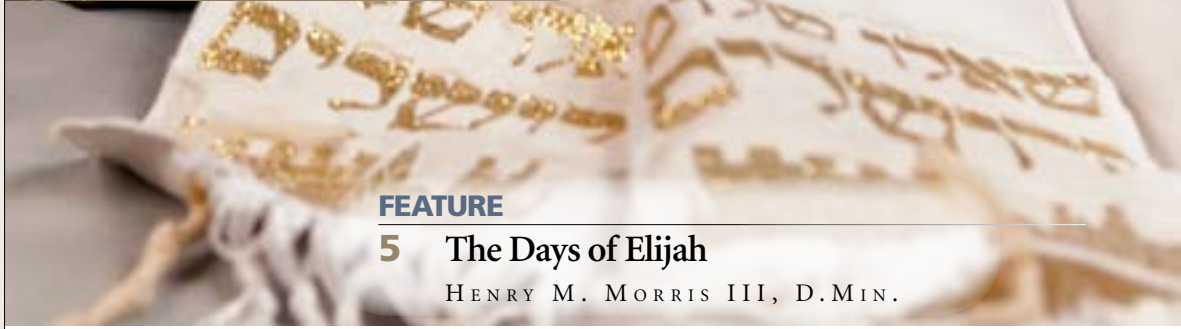
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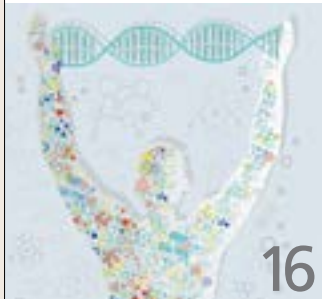


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The Legacy of ICR's Founder

February 2016 marks the 10-year anniversary of the passing of Dr. Henry Morris, the founder of the Institute for Creation Research. While preparing this month's *Acts & Facts*, I spent time looking over some of his writings and was struck by his unwavering commitment to God's Word as the accurate and authoritative source of truth about our world and ourselves.

I'd like to honor Dr. Morris by sharing some of his thoughts from *The Biblical Basis for Modern Science* (Master Books, 2002, available at ICR.org/store). He says, "The modern world is desperately in need of God's own wisdom with respect to the purpose and meaning of true science. The Bible will be found not only to reveal a thoroughly modern perspective on the real facts and principles of science but also to provide wisdom and guidance concerning its proper role in human life and in the eternal counsels of God" (page 12).

Through his work at the International Boundary and Water Commission in Texas, Gideons International, and several university faculty positions, Dr. Morris says his convictions were solidified: "The Bible was truly effective in changing lives and meeting human needs." He also wrote, "This study [of Christian evidences and doctrines and anti-Christian literature] has continued every year...from my youth to maturity to the status of senior citizen, and my conviction that the Bible is God's inerrant Word has become stronger and more confident....I taught engineering for almost 30 years, at five different secular universities...and so had many challenges and tests of faith,

as well as many wonderful confirmations of the power of the Word" (page 13).

At the time of his homegoing, he passed the mantle of ministry to those still serving at ICR. His son, Dr. Henry M. Morris III, ICR's CEO, continues guiding its mission. In this month's feature article, he says, "Our job is never done by merely pointing out that truth is on our side. We must continue to declare the Word of the Lord as long as someone is there to oppose it!" (page 7).

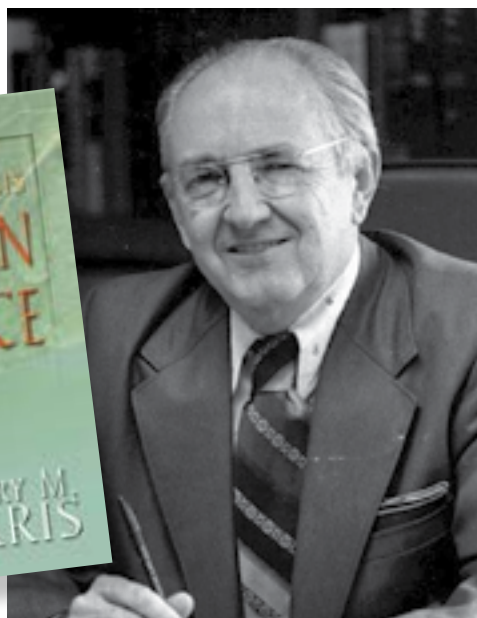
The ICR founder left behind a ministry committed to serving God in a unique way. Few churches, parachurch organizations, and nonprofit ministries are able to meet the specific challenges ICR is prepared to face. How many ministries demonstrate how science and the Bible reveal the same truths? How many churches are equipped with scientific data to train believers with biblical answers confirmed by science? And how many scientists glorify our heavenly Father as the Creator of the universe? ICR is uniquely equipped to use both scientific evidence and the Bible to declare the glories of our Lord.

The founder's grandson, Henry Morris IV, reminds us of his grandfather's life work and the need for ICR to continue the ministry of sharing creation truths ("Investing for Future Generations," page 22). He says, "[My grandfather's] passing marked the end of an exceptionally fruitful life serving the Lord that included 36 years devoted to full-time creation ministry....As the world grows increasingly hostile toward the message of Christ, now is the time for Christians to stand and proclaim the marvelous truths of Scripture....The staff and scientists at ICR are ready to do our part, and we are praying the Lord will lay it on the hearts of many like-minded servants to 'do business' with us."

Our founder left a legacy of commitment to the Word of God and a dedication to present accurate science regardless of the opposition. As we move forward in this new year, we are thankful for those who partner with us in carrying forward Dr. Henry Morris' great work.

Jayme Durant

EXECUTIVE EDITOR





THE DAYS OF ELIJAH

HENRY M. MORRIS III, D. MIN.

One of my favorite songs is “The Days of Elijah” written by Robin Mark in the early 1990s. It became widely known in the United States with the release of his 1999 album *Revival in Belfast*.¹ Not only is the music rousing and encouraging, but it hits a resonant chord in my heart as it contrasts the troubles of the battle with the promises of victory through Christ.

Elijah preached during the reign of Ahab, one of Israel’s worst kings. As Ahab began to rule, the Scriptures make two comments about him: “Now Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the LORD, more than all who were before him” (1 Kings 16:30), and he “did more to provoke the LORD God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel who were before him” (1 Kings 16:33). Making matters worse, he married Jezebel, the daughter of the pagan Sidonian king Ethbaal (1 Kings 16:31). King Ahab was an evil man, and he reigned for 22 years!

Fortunately, none of us have to put up with anything that bad—but think of Elijah’s marvelous ministry and what he was able to accomplish during one of the most awful periods in history. This is the same Elijah that James cites when we are promised that the “effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much” (James 5:16).

These are the days of Elijah,
Declaring the word of the Lord. . .
And though these are days of great trial,
Of famine and darkness and sword,
Still, we are the voice in the desert crying
“Prepare ye the way of the Lord!”

God called Elijah out of Gilead, a mountainous region northeast of the Jordan River, to confront Ahab with the news that God would stop the rain for three years in punishment and judgment for Ahab's wicked behavior. That was a bold and risky thing for Elijah to do, even with the vague social protection a prophet might have had. The drought would bring an economic disaster that would weaken Israel against all of its surrounding foes. Like so many prophets who spoke the truth, Elijah's life was in danger as soon as the words came out of his mouth.

It wasn't long after this announcement that God sent Elijah to "hide by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan" (1 Kings 17:3). There is no specific information about Elijah's mental state as the "ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning, and bread and meat in the evening; and he drank from the brook" (1 Kings 17:6). It might have seemed pretty cool to deliver God's powerful message to the wicked king and then have God give you some time off and personal care in such a special way. But then the brook dried up. (Remember the drought?)

Elijah still needed protection for a much greater challenge yet to come, so God sent him to the out-of-the-way village of Zarephath in the middle of pagan country. Sometimes God's leading doesn't seem to make sense.

The widow Elijah met as he entered the city was an interesting lady. Although quite poor, she was willing to obey the instructions of the strange prophet who gave

her a "word from the Lord." You may remember the account. Elijah asked for a cup of water, then insisted that she bring him a small meal—before she fixed any for herself and her young son. Obviously, the Lord gave Elijah the message, but it still required some bold character to demand the last bit of food from this poor widow. Well, she did as he commanded, and the oil and grain miraculously continued to meet their needs, as promised, until the drought ended (1 Kings 17:8-16).

But the devil never quits! The young son suddenly died and the widow's faith

Our job is never done by merely pointing out that truth is on our side. We must continue to declare the Word of the Lord as long as someone is there to oppose it!

broke, in spite of the evidence of God's provision. She began to rebuke Elijah. "What have I to do with you, O man of God?" (1 Kings 17:18). Rather than sulk or run away, Elijah immediately sought the Lord for instructions and petitioned Him for the life of the young man. When the boy was resurrected and Elijah presented him to his mother, she joyfully responded, "Now by this I know that you are a man of God, and that the word of the LORD in your mouth is the truth" (1 Kings 17:24). Sometimes God grants the extraordinary display of His power in the face of dire circumstances. We just

have to trust God to do the extraordinary!

These are the days of Ezekiel,
The dry bones becoming as flesh;
And these are the days of Your servant David,
Rebuilding a temple of praise.
These are the days of the harvest,
The fields are as white in Your world,
And we are the laborers in Your vineyard,
Declaring the Word of the Lord!

Finally, God called Elijah out of hiding to bring about the major confrontation with the false prophets of Baal that we remember so well. The evil authorities hunted Elijah to imprison or kill him for pronouncing the judgment of God on the wicked people. Ahab only saw Elijah as the "troubler of Israel" (1 Kings 18:17). But God used Elijah to purge the land from the horrors of decades of false teaching. Well, the story couldn't be more dramatic. Elijah demanded that Ahab and Jezebel assemble all of the prophets of Baal on top of Mount Carmel to test the power of the two "gods" Israel was worshiping.

All 450 fanatical, shouting, demon-worshipping prophets danced around their altar all day, pleading, "O Baal, hear us!" But there was no voice; no one answered" (1 Kings 18:26). With passion surging in his heart, Elijah taunted and mocked these powerful men, with the whole assembly of the "movers and shakers" of northern Israel watching. The false prophets cavorted and even cut themselves; Elijah coaxed and cajoled, but "there was no voice; no one answered, no one paid attention" (1 Kings 18:29). Sometimes it

seems like no matter what we say or do, nor how obvious the “bad guys” are, nobody seems to care or to respond. Sometimes it is hard to keep plugging!

But Elijah did! When the prophets of Baal fell exhausted to the ground, Elijah had the folks dig the trenches around his altar deeper and pour gallons of precious water over the ready sacrifice. There could be no doubt that God’s answer would come in a spectacular way—or not at all! So Elijah shouted, “LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that You are God in Israel and I am Your servant, and that I have done all these things at Your word. Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that You are the LORD God, and that You have turned their hearts back to You again” (1 Kings 18:36-37).

Behold He comes riding on the clouds,
Shining like the sun at the trumpet call;
Lift your voice, it’s the year of jubilee,
And out of Zion’s hill salvation comes.

And answer God did! Fire came down from heaven and vaporized the sacrifice, the altar, and the water in the trenches. “Now when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces; and they said, ‘The LORD, He is God! The LORD, He is God!’” (1 Kings 18:39).

There’s no God like Jehovah.
There’s no God like Jehovah!
There’s no God like Jehovah.

The work and its aftermath were not yet complete. Elijah knew he had to destroy the messengers as well as the message. That awful execution is definitely an Old Testament thing, but our job is never done by

merely pointing out that truth is on our side. We must continue to declare the Word of the Lord as long as someone is there to oppose it!

Yet even here, after one of the greatest victories over evil recorded in Scripture, Elijah had to run away from angry Queen Jezebel. Fearing for his life, he ran into the desert and hid in a cave. Sucking on his spiritual thumb and curling up into a spiritual fetal position, he despaired of his life and begged God to take him home.

Sometimes the highs and lows are so draining that our spiritual strength leaks out like helium from a balloon. All that is left is a saggy, baggy shadow of what should be. Sometimes, as our life nears its end, we think all that is left to do is just lie down and wait for the end. But, as with Elijah, the “Elisha” successor has to be identified and charged to carry on—in the case of ICR, it’s the “Elishas.” There are still 7,000 “whose knees have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him” (1 Kings 19:18).

God *still* has work He has called us to do. Generations are *still* left to be taught and won. The work is not done when we die. We must prepare for those who follow us! We must leave legacies behind for those who come after us. The Lord Jesus built His church that way (Matthew 16:18), and the Institute for Creation Research was founded to use our witness on Earth.

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1. The Days of Elijah. *Revival in Belfast*. 1999. Lyrics and music by Robin Mark. Integrity/Columbia.

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



I can’t help but see some parallels between the story of Elijah and ICR’s founder, Dr. Henry Morris. He stood up for the authority of God’s Word and the veracity of biblical creation.

The contest was not between Baal and Jehovah, but a battle for the evidence that supports creation rather than evolution. And like Elijah, ICR’s founder’s work did not end with his passing 10 years ago.

Dr. Morris’ legacy lives on in the work that continues here at ICR. In fact, our ministry is expanding beyond print, DVD, and radio with our desire to build the Dallas Museum of Science and Earth History.

The goal of this project is to simply tell “the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and His strength and His wonderful works that He has done....That they may set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments” (Psalm 78:4, 7). Great souls like Elijah have “like passions” (Acts 14:15; James 5:17) as we do, but they do not “grow weary while doing good,” knowing that in “due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart” (Galatians 6:9).

Join with us. Be part of the 7,000 who refuse to bow to Baal. Your gift is important, no matter how small you may think it is in comparison to the cost of the whole museum. If each of ICR’s “7,000” gives \$20 a month for the next 12 months, the museum will be in place and the new ministry underway. ✂

Complex Grammar in the Genome Defies Evolution

A recent press release from a prominent European research group started off with this amazing proclamation: “A new study from Karolinska Institutet shows that the ‘grammar’ of the human genetic code is more complex than that of even the most intricately constructed spoken languages in the world.”¹ Such a statement could not be more true or refreshing. The evolution-dominated research community consistently downplays the overwhelming evidence of intelligent design found in the human genome.

Many different languages exist in the genome, just as many different computer languages exist on your computer. They all work together to provide meaning, context, and function to the physical hardware of the system.² Without information expressed in programming languages, your computer would be nothing but an expensive paperweight. Complex encoded information with syntax, grammar, structure, and rules are required to run complex systems.

This new research, recently published in the prestigious journal *Nature*, began, “The set of rules by which a DNA sequence can be converted into knowledge of spatial and temporal expression patterns of a protein has been difficult to decipher.”³ Only one thing in our human sphere of understanding even comes close to the genome’s linguistic complexity and that is the variety of high-level computer programming languages. But even these elaborate programming languages don’t really compare since code in the genome contains information in both forward and reverse, code that overlaps other code, three-dimensional code, and many other mind-bending linguistic complexities.² Human written code goes in one direction, one word or character at a time.

In this recent study, researchers analyzed *transcription factors* and small portions of sophisticated vocabulary in the genome that specify the binding of different types of regulatory proteins.³ These proteins regulate genes. The team was especially interested in the different combinations of transcription factors that bind cooperatively in a gene-controlling region. Because of the limitations of current tech-

nology, they could only evaluate two transcription factor combinations at a time. But they analyzed 9,400 different binding interactions and the order of nucleotides (DNA sequences) that controlled them.

Consider the set of sequences that bind transcription factors to the DNA as a pair of words. Instead of simply deleting the space between two words to form a new, larger word, as in human languages, the system in the genome is totally different. In the genome, the individual words join together so that two transcription factors (proteins) will cooperatively bind in the same place and develop compound words through the three-dimensional altering

and interaction of the DNA molecule. This process creates a new collection of larger words that are not immediately obvious when looking at the two-dimensional linear arrangement of the DNA bases. By studying the physical binding of the transcription factors in many different combinations, the researchers uncovered yet another highly complex language. They also unexpectedly found that

DNA itself is just as involved in facilitating the binding process as the proteins themselves.

If complex information like this is so difficult to un-

derstand and decipher—even for highly educated humans with generous amounts of time and money—why do people find it hard to believe that an omnipotent, all-knowing Creator God engineered these marvelous genetic languages from the beginning? Clearly, we have only just begun to unravel the mysteries of the genome, and further discoveries will only glorify our great 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.



Code in the genome contains information in both forward and reverse, code that overlaps other code, three-dimensional code, and many other mind-bending linguistic complexities.



Earth's Young Magnetic Field

For thus says the LORD, Who created the heavens,
Who is God, Who formed the earth and made it,
Who has established it, Who did not create it in vain,
Who formed it to be inhabited: "I am the LORD,
and there is no other."

— I S A I A H 4 5 : 1 8 —

In the beginning, God created Earth's magnetic field, which He designed and installed during the creation week. This field protects our planet from the deadly effects of space-generated charged particles that come from cosmic rays, the solar wind, and coronal mass ejections. Its shielding importance cannot be overstated. Rather than striking living things, these harmful charged particles are redirected by Earth's magnetic field high in the atmosphere to collide with gas molecules. These collisions sometimes create beautiful light displays at the poles, phenomena we know as the *aurora borealis* and the *aurora australis*.

Magnetic fields can be generated by an electrical current. Most geophysicists believe that such a current deep inside the earth gives rise to our global magnetic field. But electrical currents decay over time, just like a battery running down, and this leads directly to the decay of the resulting magnetic field. Since the early 1970s it has been widely known and published that the earth's magnetic field is decaying exponentially.¹ This is an enormous problem for the secular view, because if the earth is billions of years old then the magnetic field should have run down a long time ago—even if it was exceptionally strong at one time. The earth's current magnetic field strength is

consistent with its accompanying biblical age of a few thousand years. Secular scientists propose that complex movements in the earth's interior are somehow able to recharge the magnetic field through magnetic reversals. But how do we know anything about the earth's deep interior?

There have been hypotheses and speculation from many eminent scientists but everything we know about the mantle and core has been gleaned remotely. A certain amount of data interpretation must occur to extract useful ideas about our planet's internal construction. For example, earthquakes generate seismic waves that pass through the earth. Observing these waves can provide information about Earth's deep interior if properly interpreted.

Two types of earthquake-generated waves include Primary (P) waves and Secondary (S) waves. The P-waves compress the layers of rock or liquid they pass through and travel approximately at twice the speed of an S-wave. Secondary waves travel as undulating waves that can shear rock apart but stop when they hit a liquid boundary. By observing these earthquake waves at research stations positioned around the earth, one can supposedly draw conclusions concerning the makeup of the earth's mantle and core. Figure 1 accurately illustrates this process.²

Early in the 20th century, interpretation of observational data led scientists to believe that the earth's core was liquid. This interpretation was reexamined in 1929 when Inge Lehmann found P-waves in what should have been P-wave shadow zones. In a 1936 paper she argued that the earth must have a solid inner core. Until recently, it has generally been accepted orthodoxy among geologists that the earth consists of a very thin crust, a thick rock mantle made of upper and lower sections, and a core made of a liquid outer core and a solid inner core.

Most secular scientists believe that the earth's magnetic field is produced by the convection of hotter pockets of molten material that rise through the liquid of the outer core, similar to a lava lamp. Coupled with the earth's rotation, these pockets are thought to become electrical currents that give rise to the earth's magnetic field. The process is called a *geodynamo* or *dynamo model*, the precise mechanisms of which are still hotly debated. Figure 2 shows an artist's illustration of how this process might occur.

But a fundamental problem with this geodynamo model has recently come to light. Geophysicists from two British universities discovered that liquid iron at the temperatures and pressures found in the outer core conducted heat two to three times faster from the outer core to the lower

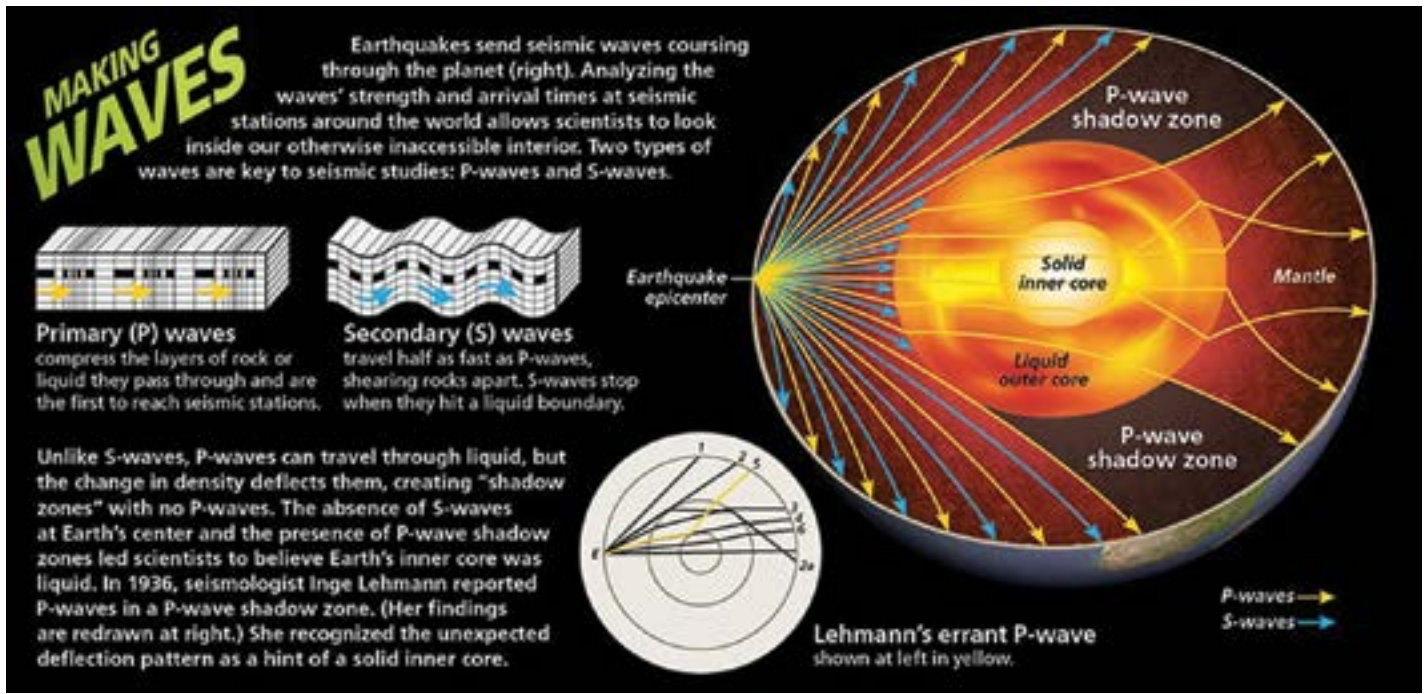


Figure 1.

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mantle than any of their previous models accounted for.³ This means that there would not be enough heat left in the outer core to power the critical heat-driven convection, the process long thought to sustain and renew the earth's magnetic field. Several recent attempts to save the dynamo model have been made, the most popular by a group of scientists from the University of Illinois and Nanjing University in China.⁴ They analyzed coda waves⁵ from 20 years of seismic monitoring data and concluded that their models support an inner core that is further divided into an inner-inner core that is solid and an outer-inner core that is liquid. This outer-inner core is then hypothesized to display the necessary characteristics for a convection-driven geodynamo.

A widely accepted theory maintains there have been many pole reversals of the magnetic field over the course of Earth's history. How, when, and why these reversals happened have remained in the realm of

naturalistic speculation. Dr. Russell Humphreys offered an interesting theory concerning these pole reversals that is consistent with the biblical record and merits serious consideration.⁶ Secular geologists will tell us that paleomagnetic phenomena⁷ in rock crystals definitively establish that the field has reversed polarity many times in the distant past. But has it really? Most of the conclusions concerning apparent paleomagnetic phenomena are based on small fluctuations in the recorded magnetic field as magnetometers are passed over the ocean crust. Do all the crystals in rock formations of a similar age provide the same magnetic field data?⁸ How can we be sure all the magnetic effects observed in rocks are produced by the earth's magnetic field and not some local phenomenon? David Strangeway believed it is probable that the erratic effects of remnant magnetism were due to lightning strikes.⁹ Dr. Thomas Barnes stated in 1972, "It is clear that paleomagnetic arguments for reversal of

the earth's magnetic field are not conclusive and depend in the main on arbitrary interpretations of selectively chosen samples."¹⁰

What are the actual observational facts concerning the earth's magnetic field?

- 1) The earth's magnetic field strength has been directly measured since 1829.¹¹ Those 187 years of measurements demonstrate an exponential dependence of the earth's magnetic field strength with time.
- 2) The magnetic dipole axis of the earth's magnetic field is approximately 11.5° offset from the earth's rotational axis.
- 3) The magnetic dipole of the earth is not centered on the earth's core but instead is offset by approximately 700 km toward the direction of southeastern Asia.
- 4) Paleomagnetic evidence is frequently used to support the dynamo model and thus refute the rational conclusions represented by the observational evidence

Measurements indicate the earth's magnetic field is weakening exponentially and has a half-life of around 1,400 years. If we could travel back in time 5,600 years, the field would be approximately 16 times as strong as

it is today. This is a major problem for scientists who believe the earth is billions of years old. It appears God created the field at an ideal protective strength for Earth during the creation week ~6,000 years ago.

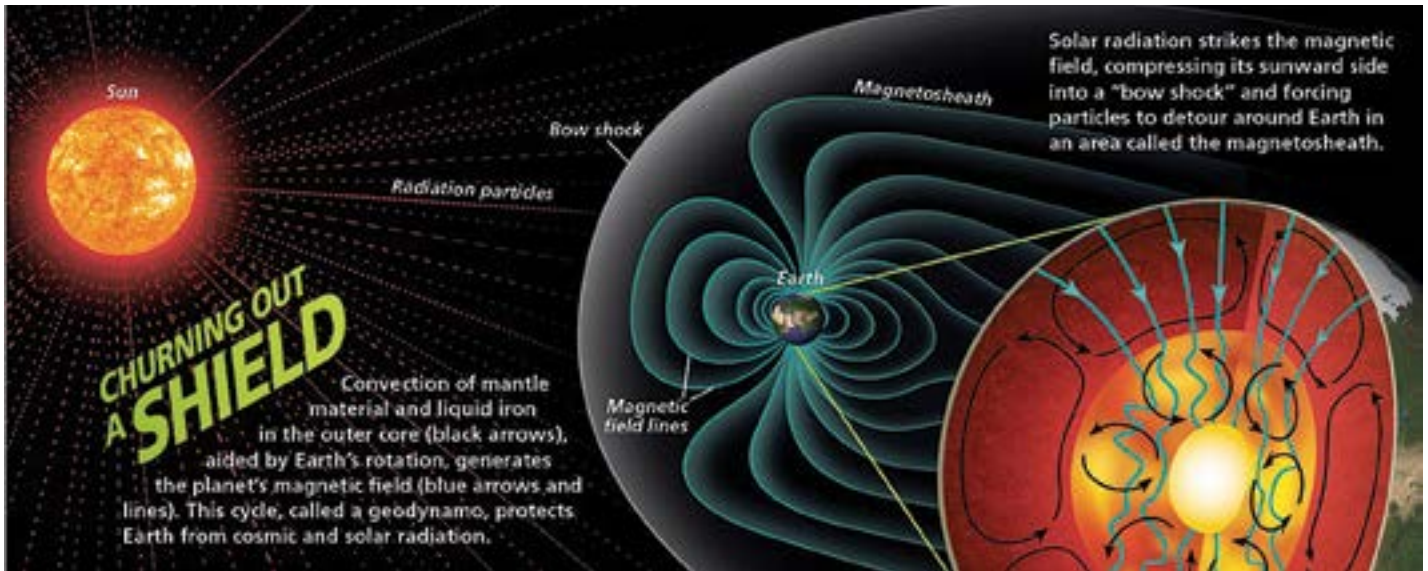


Figure 2.

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of item 1. But it is at best inferential in nature and strongly biased toward the deep-time, evolutionary worldview interpretation of data. We have never witnessed a reversal in recorded history.

- i) Paleomagnetic evidence for reversals in the earth's magnetic field can be selective, erratic, and self-contradictory. Samples taken from the early Pleistocene lavas at Cape Kawajiri, Japan, by E. Asami (1954) showed areas in the lava where the magnetization was normal, areas where it was reversed, and areas where they were mixed.¹⁰ This suggests rapid reversals of the magnetic field as suggested by Dr. Humphreys¹¹ but is certainly inconsistent with long time period variations of the earth's magnetic field.
- ii) Paleomagnetic measurements assume a deep-time age for their rock/sediment samples based on conventional geological timescales and dating methodologies.
- iii) Natural processes other than the earth's magnetic field can produce the remnant magnetization observed in rock/sediment samples. For example, in 1958 J. R. Balsley and A. F. Buddington discovered

a correlation between the state of oxidation and magnetic polarity in metamorphic rocks from the Adirondack mountains.¹²

- iv) Whether or not there have been reversals in Earth's magnetic field is a matter for further debate and investigation, but if reversals have occurred they most likely occurred rapidly over a very short time period during a major Earth-wide catastrophe such as the Flood.
- 5) Finally, the model for planetary magnetic field formation put forth by Dr. Humphreys^{13,14} has thus far proven to have more accurate predictive power concerning solar system magnetic fields than any put forth by the secular community, including the dynamo model. He successfully predicted the 4% decrease in Mercury's field strength during the timespan between the Mariner 10 space probe's visit to the planet in 1974 and the 2008–13 Messenger spacecraft's readings. His creation model's prediction was based on a 6,000-year age for the decay rates of Mercury and Earth's magnetic fields.

The best explanations for Earth's magnetic field are the ones that take all the observations into account. Dr. Humphrey's hypothesis that the earth's magnetic field

went through multiple reversals during the Flood year and has been decreasing ever since appears to be the best explanation we currently have. ☞

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MAJOR EVOLUTIONARY **BLUNDERS**

Our Useful Appendix—

Evidence of Design, Not Evolution

R A N D Y J . G U L I U Z Z A , P . E . , M . D .

Once there was a teenage girl with a sweet personality, selfless spirit, and diverse skills. But she was so envied by her cruel stepmother and two rude stepsisters that they forced her to constantly do the nastiest jobs in almost total obscurity. The Cinderella story is so universally appealing that it has been translated into over 60 languages and made into multiple films. In these types of stories, the perpetrators' bigotry reflects their constrained mindset. The worthy becomes worthless in their view.

Belief systems matter.

This is also true in origins research. Some belief systems liberate thinking. Others, like an evolutionary worldview, are so confining that evolutionary biologists may either observe non-existent or overlook ac-

tual biological functions based on preconceived notions of what they expect to see.¹ One example of this bias is the categorization of the human appendix as a worthless organ by thought-constrained evolutionists. This assumption hindered research on a truly useful part of our digestive system and highlights a colossal evolutionary blunder.

The “Useless” Appendix Is “Evidence” for Evolution

Since Darwin's time, the world's sharpest evolutionary biologists have championed the human appendix as unquestionable evidence *for* evolution and *against* intelligent design. But scientific research demonstrates the folly of both assertions by showing the appendix to be a fully functional organ.

Darwin cultivated a scientifically regrettable practice that still persists today. He imagined an evolution-caused loss of function for certain biological structures and declared them to be essentially useless—without ever seeking to understand their purpose. In 1874 Darwin said,

With respect to the alimentary canal, I have met with an account of only a single rudiment, namely the vermiform appendage of the caecum....It appears as if, in consequence of changed diet or habits, the caecum had become much shortened in various animals, the vermiform appendage being left as a rudiment of the shortened part....[Regarding humans] not only is it useless, but it is sometimes the cause of death.²

In 2007, over 130 years later, the presi-

dent of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Francisco Ayala, announced, “A familiar rudimentary organ in humans is the vermiform appendix.... The human vermiform appendix is a functionless vestige of a fully developed organ present in other mammals,” adding the punchline “Vestiges are instances of imperfections—like the imperfections seen in anatomical structures—they argue against creation by design but are fully understandable as a result of evolution by natural selection.”³

Ernst Mayr, another giant in evolutionary circles and former Director of Harvard’s Museum of Comparative Zoology, provided a definition of a vestigial feature. He said it was “a deconstructed, nonfunctional characteristic that had been fully functional in a species’ ancestor, like the eyes in cave animals and the human appendix.”⁴

Like Darwin, rather than search for a science-based discovery of function, Mayr fills the knowledge gap with a story that nearly deifies nature by projecting “protective” and “selective” powers onto the environment. He confidently asserts, “Many organisms have structures that are not fully functional or not functional at all. The human caecal appendix is an example....When these structures lose their function owing to a shift in lifestyle, they are no longer protected by natural selection and are gradually deconstructed.” Mindful to slip in the vital implications for beliefs about origins, Mayr pronounces, “These three phenomena—embryonic similarities, recapitulation, and vestigial structures—raise insurmountable difficulties for a creationist explanation, but are fully compatible with an evolutionary explanation based on common descent, variation, and selection.”⁵

Dr. Jerry Coyne, emeritus professor of biology at the University of Chicago, repeatedly offers the appendix as evidence against design. In 2005 he explained, “The human body is also a palimpsest of our ancestry. Our appendix is the vestigial remnant of an intestinal pouch used to ferment the hard-

to-digest plant diets of our ancestors....An appendix is simply a bad thing to have. It is certainly not the product of intelligent design: how many humans died of appendicitis before surgery was invented?”⁶

Then in his 2009 definitive work *Why Evolution Is True*, Coyne affirms, “We humans have many vestigial features proving that we evolved. The most famous is the appendix.” To punctuate the point, he inserts a bit of sarcasm: “Discussing the appendix in his famous textbook *The Vertebrate Body*, the paleontologist Alfred Romer remarked dryly, ‘Its major importance would appear to be financial support of the surgical profession.’” Finally, summing up, “In other words, our appendix is simply the remnant of an organ that was critically important to our leaf-eating ancestors, but of no real value to us.”⁷

“New research shows a network of immune cells helps the appendix to play a pivotal role in maintaining the health of the digestive system, supporting the theory that the appendix isn’t a vestigial—or redundant—organ.”

These are definitive declarations—conclusions that the appendix is undeniable evidence for evolution and against creation. The result? By the mid-20th century, thousands of “prophylactic” surgeries had been performed based on assumptions that “the sooner [vestigial appendages] are removed the better for the individual.”⁸ Unfortunately, these recommended surgeries flowed from evolutionary beliefs rather than scientific findings.

Evolution’s Declarations Are Spectacularly Wrong

“Immune cells make appendix ‘silent hero’ of digestive health” was the November 30, 2015, headline for a report on recent

research in *ScienceDaily*.⁹ The story made plain that “new research shows a network of immune cells helps the appendix to play a pivotal role in maintaining the health of the digestive system, supporting the theory that the appendix isn’t a vestigial—or redundant—organ.” The study found that cells in our gut and appendix interface directly with intestinal microbes to regulate colonies of bacteria. The appendix facilitates recovery from threats to gut health by repopulating the gut with “good” bacteria.

One primary researcher quoted by *ScienceDaily* focused specifically on popular unfounded beliefs.

Professor Gabrielle Belz, a laboratory head in the [Walter and Eliza Hall Institute] Molecular Immunology division, said the study’s findings show that the appendix deserves more credit than it has historically been given. “Popular belief tells us the appendix is a liability,” she said. “Its removal is one of the most common surgical procedures in Australia, with more than 70,000 operations each year. However, we may wish to rethink whether the appendix is so irrelevant for our health.”⁹

Nature Immunology published the original research that found that “interplay between intestinal ILC3 cells and adaptive lymphocytes [types of white blood cells] results in robust complementary failsafe mechanisms that ensure gut homeostasis [stability].”¹⁰

Belz’s findings reinforce earlier research. A 2007 Duke University Medical School press release challenged Darwinism’s naïve view of the appendix: “Long denigrated as vestigial or useless, the appendix now appears to have a reason to be—as a ‘safe house’ for the beneficial bacteria living in the human gut.”¹¹ Informed researchers would neither be surprised nor make such a blunder since medical textbooks have identified functioning lymphoid tissue in the appendix for decades.

Detecting Darwinian Spin

In the face of scientific data confirm-

ing the appendix's usefulness, what could an evolutionist do? One option is to quickly admit the blunder and tell colleagues not to rescue the appendix argument—lest vain defenses compound blunder upon blunder. But the customary salvage approach, as Paul Ehrlich classically observed, is to stretch their super-elastic theory to engulf *any* observation—even conflicting ones.¹²

To put a positive spin on Duke's discovery of the appendix's usefulness, evolutionists exploited their theory's elastic nature. In light of the decades-old claim that a useless appendix was evidence for evolution, Brandeis University biochemistry professor Douglas Theobald's response to a useful appendix was "It makes evolutionary sense."¹³

In 2009 when Coyne wrote *Why Evolution Is True*, he was aware that the appendix "may be of some small use. The appendix contains patches of tissue that may function as part of the immune system. It has also been suggested that it provides a refuge for useful gut bacteria." But in the face of evidence inconsistent with the appendix as vestigial, he still spins a case for evolution by insisting that "the appendix is still vestigial, for it no longer performs the function for which it evolved."¹⁴ To understand Darwinian selectionism, people must master the art of spotting circular reasoning. Coyne's thinking is essentially assumptive—he knows evolution happened because the appendix is vestigial. And how does he know it's vestigial? Because it no longer performs the function for which it evolved.

Later, Coyne flatly states, "Our appendix is a nefarious organ" that no designer would own up to and that undoubtedly is one of many "evolutionary leftovers." Thus, Coyne asks what everyone should be thinking: "So why do we still have one?" His speculations reflect the quintessential selectionist explanation, which projects mystical powers onto nature and is otherwise beyond the realm of human verification. And since these speculative claims can't be verified em-

pirically, they are readily accepted as valid explanations. He says, "We don't yet know the answer. It may in fact have been on its way out, but surgery has almost eliminated natural selection against people with appendices. Another possibility is that selection simply can't shrink the appendix any more without it becoming even *more* harmful."¹⁵

However, selection may not be shrinking anything. *Science* reported that the appendix is more widespread in mammals than believed. Evolutionists now explain—enter elastic spin again—this surprising finding as the independent evolution of appendices between 30 to 40 times in different kinds of animals.¹⁶

The study found that cells in our gut and appendix interface directly with intestinal microbes to regulate colonies of bacteria. The appendix facilitates recovery from threats to gut health by repopulating the gut with "good" bacteria.

The Appendix: A Well-Designed Organ

Belief systems matter. Creationists infer that since organisms and sophisticated human-made things have similar characteristics that they were both designed and crafted for a purpose. Evolutionists tend to deify a "natural selector," favoring some random genetic mistakes that can either shrink organs or cobble them together from scratch. When evolutionists cannot immediately determine the function of an organ, they imagine how it could have lost its function and declare it basically useless. Biases inherent to belief systems can force adherents into faulty conclusions. The appendix blunder does not just indicate shoddy scientific research, it reveals the faulty belief system which drives evolutionary assumptions.

Therefore, when presented with an ap-

pendix whose function is an enigma, what should an unbiased researcher do? Study it with diligence and objectivity and draw conclusions from real evidence.

The appendix is strategically situated like a sentry at the entrance to the microbe-filled colon in the gut of every creature that possesses one. The appendix tissue that interfaces with microbes both reseeds and regulates microbe types as it performs vital digestive functions in the colon. The dynamic self-regulation of gut microbes helps these organisms to eat different diets and relocate into new niches. It's just one example of many types of innate self-adjusting mechanisms,¹⁷ which are always indicators of intentional design.

The human appendix, "long denigrated as vestigial or useless," is in reality a "silent hero" providing "robust complementary failsafe mechanisms" for good intestinal health. Kind of sounds like a Cinderella organ...and one having very good design. ✍

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Homo naledi: Claims of a Transitional Ape

In the December 2015 issue of *Acts & Facts*, we pointed out some strange circumstances surrounding the cave in which *Homo naledi*—one of the most recent hyped examples of a “human ancestor”—was discovered and addressed concerns over critical mismatches in body parts. But another problem casts even further doubt on the evolutionists’ claim that *Homo naledi* is a transitional creature between apes and humans: They haven’t used standard techniques to date the fossils.

The scientists assume the fossils are 2 to 2.5 million years old, fitting perfectly with their story of human evolution.¹ However, no results of any sort of dating method for *Homo naledi*¹⁻³ have been published, and so this estimate is not based on any empirical information.¹

Dating Methods

The researchers reported an attempt to date the fossils using the uranium-series dating technique, which measures the amount of uranium trapped in flowstone deposits and compares it to an assumed deposition rate.^{4,5} But they never revealed the results of this “failed” attempt because they claimed the process was contaminated from “fine dusting of a detrital component derived from associated muds.”³

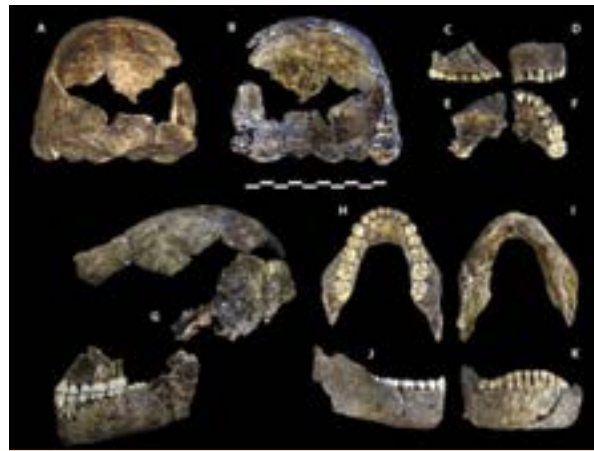
It appears they also assumed the bones were too old to test for measurable amounts of carbon-14.⁶ Finding no carbon-14 in the bones would help their case by eliminating age assignments of less than 100,000 years. In contrast, detectable carbon-14 would demonstrate a youthful age—placing *Homo naledi* alongside species of modern humans.

The researchers could also have used electron spin resonance dating that other evolutionists use for tooth enamel.⁷ *Homo naledi* researcher Lee Berger’s team found 179 dental crowns in the cave—yet no test

was conducted.³

Why wouldn’t a team of high-profile, cutting-edge scientists use every testing method at their disposal to help clarify exactly what these specimens are and what they truly represent?

Perhaps they’re doubtful about the results. If tests revealed an age of thousands of years, it would clearly expose these fossils as too young to represent an evolutionary transition—nullifying the discovery.



Fossil skull of *H. naledi*

Holotype specimen of *Homo naledi*, Dinaledi Hominin 1 (DH1). Copyright © 2015, Berger et al. *eLife* 2015, 4: e09560. Adapted for use in accordance with federal copyright (fair use doctrine) law. Usage by ICR does not imply endorsement of copyright holder.

Scattered Bones

The mystery of how the bones ended up in the deep cave chamber won’t be easily resolved. Sedimentary evidence in the cave floor suggests periods of higher water flow rates.¹ And the bones were broken and randomly dispersed in the upper eight inches of sediment.³

Berger and his team think the bones were deliberately placed by living *Homo naledi* in a burial ritual.³ He claimed, “Disposal of the dead brings closure for the living and confers respect. Such sentiments are a hallmark of humanity. But *H. naledi* was not human.”¹ However, the long, convoluted path within the cave to ritually bury these remains makes this interpretation unlikely, and others disagree with Berger. Richard

Leakey believes they probably washed in, stating, “There has to be another entrance.”¹

The scattering of these bones within the upper few inches of sediment in the cave floor suggests recent emplacement. They could have washed in during periods of high water flow, perhaps during the Ice Age, when water levels and climate fluctuations were more dramatic and sporadic. The Bible indicates the Ice Age took place around 4,300 years ago.⁸

Conclusion

The geology, anatomy, lack of dating, and evidence of recent water action reveal that the media blitz and excitement over *Homo naledi* is essentially based on falsehood.

These fossils are most likely thousands of years old and deposited post-Flood. The claimed new species appears to be a mosaic of different species put together based on evolutionary biases, not scientific evidence. God did not make creatures that were “almost human,” and no evidence has refuted this—including *Homo naledi*. ❌

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Applying Design Analysis to Microbiome Research

Researchers continue to discover unique microbial communities on and in our skin, mouth, gut, and airways. This collection of viruses, bacteria, and fungi is termed the *microbiome*. Our relationship with our microbiome has been quite intimate from creation since it accomplishes vital tasks for us.

Yet evolutionists and some creationists explain microbe-human relations in warlike paradigms. The overriding question is this: If God originally created the world without death and disease, where did our bodies get their disease-fighting capabilities? Creationists need biblical explanations that are scientifically sound and not simply lighter versions of evolutionary lines of thinking. Therefore, our research views microbes as creatures designed to work in harmonious relationships with other organisms; this view is consistent with creationist biologist Joseph Francis' proposal over a decade ago that was recently updated.¹

Methodology

The author of this article proposes objective design analysis as a useful investigative approach to biological systems. Biological research typically understands systems by disassembling them. This is called *reverse engineering*. However, design analysis begins with *forward engineering*. Design researchers think through the major elements and assembly sequences needed to achieve a specific outcome. They also reference similar human-made systems to help predict findings before applying reverse engineering to correlate the functions of the discoveries.

Design analysis methodology describes only measurable innate elements in devices or processes—it does not concoct mystical events to fill in missing information. Therefore, design analysis helps clarify a trait's true cause. In biological contexts, design analysis also helps expose the lack of evidence for expressions of environmental agency that evolutionists believe are at work.

So, how exactly do these trillions of microorganisms on our body interact, regulate, and harmonize with the individual? Design analysis starts by asking how human engineers could overcome human-microbe dissimilarities and distinct boundaries between them to produce beneficial interaction. Some bridging mechanism is required. A logical design solution demands that the microorganisms and the human must connect through an interface. Assuming a creation perspective, could God have built such an interface in organisms?

Forward Engineering Human-Microbe Interactions

Interfaces help autonomous entities, like humans and microbes, exchange information and material.² Designers use in-depth knowledge of unrelated systems to integrate their functions with three indispensable interface elements:

- 1) **Authentication** mechanisms that differentiate between self and non-self entities;
- 2) **Protocols** to standardize rules/processes governing the exchange; functioning through a
- 3) **Medium** containing conditions that are mutually accessible to both entities.

Design analysis anticipates that an innate interface system fully controls the harmony between humans and microbes—with human elements displaying the three distinguishing characteristics listed above. We call this a *microbe interface system*.

Implications

When “immune” systems are interpreted and defined in survival terms, it is liable to mislead. Pre-Fall “defensive” systems may create a conundrum for creationists, but an essential interface system that harmonizes autonomous entities, like humans and microbes, makes perfect sense. Therefore, design analysis can identify naturalistic biases, such as the reference to an interface system as “immune.”

Humans associating with trillions of microbes since the time of creation certainly implies designed interfacing. Seen from this perspective, the human microbe interface system has likely *not* changed significantly from its original *regulatory* purpose.

From a design perspective, the “immune” system could be more accurately renamed the “microbe interface” system. ✍

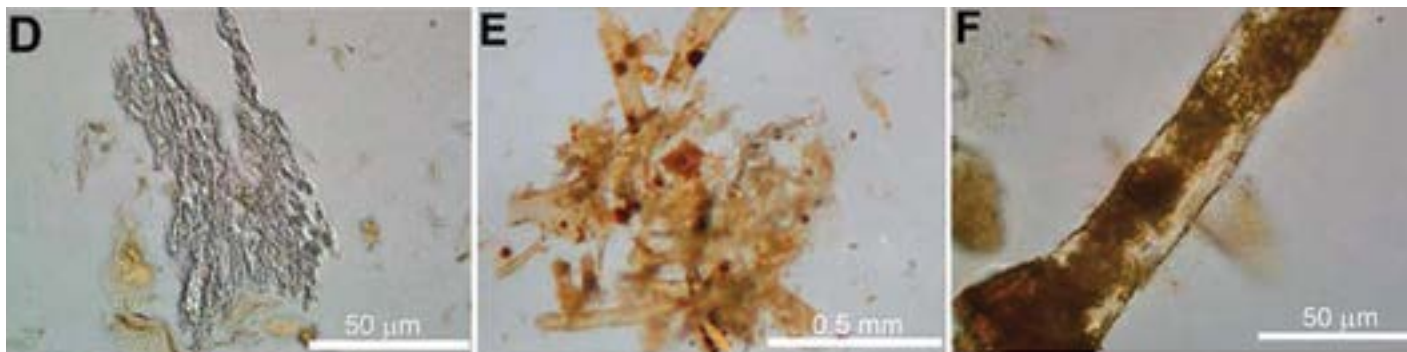
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Duck-bill Dinosaur Blood Vessels



Scientists keep finding short-lived biochemicals and even soft tissues in fossils! Over the years, they have found unmistakable evidence of specific proteins like collagen and hemoglobin, and even what look like red blood cells and bone cells, in dinosaurs and other fossils.¹ Most soft-tissue structures occur as mineralized remains that preserve merely an impression or outline, but a few preserve decayed remnants of the original cellular structures. These original structures should be long gone after about one million years. A new report of intact blood vessels in a duck-bill dinosaur bone pinpoints ways that such discoveries challenge old ideas about fossils.

A team of biomedical and earth scientists first chemically removed everything but the blood vessels from deep within the dinosaur bone.² They found 10 proteins, including tubulin, actin, myosin, tropomyosin, and histone H2A. A chemical analyzer read sequences of amino acids in each protein—like reading each word in an essay. They found enough similarities between the dinosaur proteins and those of reptiles and birds to conclude they were from a real animal, but enough differences to suggest that it was an extinct animal, like a dinosaur.

These dinosaur protein sequences help answer two key questions. First, did fungus or bacteria produce structures that masquerade as blood vessels? Well, bacteria don't even make these proteins. They're ruled out. And no known fungus makes hollow, branching tubes, so that rules them out, too. That means these are real dinosaur blood vessels.

Blood vessels from deep inside dinosaur bone.

(D) Demineralized bone matrix from MOR 5928 is white under transmitted light. (E) MOR 2598 vessels and matrix after EDTA demineralization show rounded red inclusions. (F) Higher magnification of isolated MOR 5923 vessel, showing amorphous red intravascular contents.

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This leads to a second question: Can real blood vessels last 80 million years? Definitely not, and here's why. Scientists have measured decay rates for collagen and DNA, but not for these 10 specific dinosaur blood vessel proteins. Studies show collagen should last no more than about a million years if kept cold.¹ Do these other proteins show scientific evidence that they could last many times longer than collagen, given ideal conditions? Chemistry shows just the opposite.

For example, consider one of the duck-bill dinosaur proteins called *beta tubulin*. The team found that it contained chemically stable amino acids like glycine and valine. These could last a very long time, but the protein's aspartic acid and methionine remain ready to react. Organic chemists have watched batches of aspartic acid react quickly and easily with available oxygen, and methionine readily reacts with oxygen to form methylsulfoxide.

These standard chemical breakdowns eventually turn blood vessels into gooey puddles. But scientists found methionine and un-reacted aspartic acid inside dinosaur blood vessels—not gooey puddles. Thus, even though we don't have specific decay rates for proteins like tubulin or actin, the amino acids that make them up—also

found in collagen—should decay at least as fast as collagen.³ Because no empirical study has demonstrated that a protein could last much beyond a million years, these researchers supported their belief in deep time with faulty logic instead of science.⁴

Blood vessels in dinosaur bones look young. Why? Because they are made of proteins with short-lived amino acids that look like they have not been around long enough to completely react with oxygen. This good science again confirms Scripture's account of a recent creation. ✎

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Planetarium Unlimited

The following are excerpts of an interview with ICR's Director of Research and astrophysicist Dr. Jason Lisle about ICR's plans to build a new creation science museum and state-of-the-art planetarium. Please visit ICR.org to access a video of the full interview hosted by Science Writer Brian Thomas.

BT: We're here to talk with Dr. Jason Lisle about this museum, but let's first get to know him. What got you started on space stuff?

JL: I've loved outer space since I was a little kid. I remember seeing these beautiful images...of star fields, stunning colors of these nebulae, it's artwork of God. There's something kind of spiritual about it. My dad had an interest in astronomy and his dad before him, so they kind of paved the way for me.

BT: Was there a challenge to your Christian faith as you prepared academically?

JL: I went through the secular program all the way through....There currently are no Christian schools that will give you a truly biblical six-day creation view of astronomy. So I had to go through a secular program if I was going to get a degree in astrophysics.

Most of astronomy, a lot of it is really just good science. Sometimes they'll get into the storytelling aspect of it, "We think that

millions of years ago this star formed." Well, once you've talked about that you've left the realm of science, and I knew that—I recognized that it's not something we can observe and test and repeat in the present. That really didn't bother me—I could distinguish the storytelling from the genuine science.

Psychologically, it's a little bit of a drain because you're with a group of people, and most of them have a very secular worldview. And so the way they interpret the evidence is somewhat consistent with their worldview—and there's a pressure to conform to what other people believe. But that's a psychological pressure.

BT: I hear from the world that some of the strongest arguments against biblical creation's timeline come from the stars. If the stars are so far away—and they are—and the light travels at this speed—and we assume it does—then they have to be billions of years old in order for that light to have reached here. Is there a quick way to answer that or not?

JL: One assumption...is that light travels the same speed in all directions....The bottom line is: the speed of light, when it's directed toward an observer, can be as fast as infinite. Using that definition, which Einstein agreed was one acceptable definition, it takes no

time at all for the light from distant galaxies to reach the earth. So of course it can happen in the biblical timeframe. It's hard to explain that in a quick soundbite answer. The fact is, physics—as we understand it—does allow for instantaneous light travel.

BT: Wow, that's a real game changer. Will you be able to incorporate that kind of information in our new museum and especially in the new planetarium? First of all, what is a planetarium?

JL: A planetarium is basically a hemispherical dome where you can project images, generally images of the night sky; and in the past that's all they could do. They could project images of the star field. The old-style approach was quite limited. Today, there are no limitations on what we can do. Modern projection systems are digital, which means we can project anything on our planetarium dome. We can leave the earth and travel into outer space, visit these other planets—and it looks like you're there because it's surrounding you on all sides. It's really exciting.

BT: What other features would you want to





The Butterfly Nebula. Image credit: NASA/ESA/Hubble.

put in those planetarium shows?

JL: A lot of stuff that confirms biblical creation. There are many issues that demonstrate the universe can't be anywhere close to the secular age of billions of years. For example, the internal heat of some of these planets. Most planets actually give off more energy than they get from the sun. Some of the big planets, like Jupiter, they're made ... mostly of hydrogen and helium gas, and yet Jupiter gives off twice as much energy as it gets. That's also true for Saturn and Neptune. That's a big problem in the secular view, and most people aren't aware of that. That's something that we'll showcase in the planetarium.

BT: Who cares if the stars are billions of years old or just thousands of years old—what difference does it make?

JL: If the whole universe is thousands of years old then it means the Big Bang cannot be true. It means evolution cannot be true in terms of...molecules-to-man evolution. It blows away the secular worldview. If it could be demonstrated that the universe were bil-

lions of years old then it means the Bible's not true. These issues do matter—they affect our worldview. They come in contact with our worldview. It's very important we interpret the evidence properly, and it's one of the things we'll showcase in the planetarium. When the evidence is properly understood, it confirms the biblical worldview and therefore refutes the Big Bang and billions of years.

BT: And if the Bible's right about history, then it's right about important other matters.

JL: Jesus made that point in John 3:12: "If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things?" He's making the point that if we don't trust the Bible on earthly matters—things we can in principle test scientifically—if the Bible got those details wrong, why would we trust it on how to inherit eternal life?

A lot of Christians don't realize they have a double standard. They're rejecting the Bible on some issues, and they're accepting it on others. Their children see that inconsistency, and then they walk away from the church. And then people ask, "Why are our children walking away from the church?" Well, they can see that Mom and Dad don't really believe the Bible in some areas, and that leads young people to think it's not really trustworthy. Why should I trust it in matters of salvation if it can't be trusted in matters of Earth history?

BT: Now we're getting right into the heart of what this museum is supposed to be about. You mentioned earlier you wanted the planetarium and the rest of the museum's displays to be entertaining. What part does entertainment play in reaching the next generation?

“

Today, there are no limitations on what we can do. Modern projection systems are digital, which means we can project anything onto our planetarium dome. We can leave the earth and travel into outer space, visit these other planets—and it looks like you're there because it's surrounding you on all sides. It's really exciting.

”

JL: Perhaps entertaining isn't the right word. It needs to be captivating. It needs to grab people's attention and draw them in.

BT: We don't want entertainment for entertainment's sake, we want captivation for education's sake.

JL: Exactly. There are a lot of scientific facts that, if you present them to people in the right way, they say, "Wow, that's fascinating. I didn't know that!" Science, when you do it properly, confirms biblical creation. We need to draw people in. The museum is designed to whet their appetite.

BT: How long does it take to put together a brand-new planetarium show?

JL: It takes a while—between three and six months. It's like making a movie. Today all the images are computer-generated. They look totally real at this point. It will feel like you're in space. We can also do it in 3-D.

BT: With the glasses?

JL: Yes, it's going to feel like you are in space.

BT: Are you going to add Pluto to our planetarium?

JL: Absolutely. That's one of the neat things about our planetarium—if NASA discovers something new today, I can have it in the planetarium tomorrow.

We'll have constantly changing shows. And because the planetarium is a digital environment, it doesn't have to be limited to astronomy. We could do a dinosaur show or a rafting trip down Grand Canyon. Maybe a trip into a human cell and see the DNA... even down to the level of an atom. It's virtually unlimited. 🦄

For more information, visit ICR.org/museum.

Q: Were Dinosaurs on Noah's Ark?

A: When visitors inspect ICR's seven-and-a-half-foot-long model of Noah's Ark, the dinosaur figurines on the bottom deck tend to catch their eyes. They often ask about those dinosaurs, giving our tour guides a chance to explain how dinosaurs fit in biblical history.

First, God created each dinosaur as a “beast of the earth” on Day Six of the creation week just before creating Adam and Eve.¹ Dinosaurs lived at the same time as man for about 1,650 years before the Flood came.² However, dinosaurs may have mainly lived far away from people since dinosaur fossils occur with shallow marine and swamp-living plants and animals and not with human fossils. Soon after creation, Adam and Eve sinned, so God said, “Cursed is the ground for your sake.”³ This curse affected everything, and eventually all men, and apparently even animals, became so corrupt in their violence⁴ that God cleansed the whole earth of their filth when “the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water.”⁵ The Flood made dinosaur fossils.

God told Noah, “Of every living thing of all flesh you shall bring two of every sort into the ark, to keep them alive with you; they shall be male and female.”⁶ So we know that representatives of each kind of dinosaur went on the Ark. Genesis also indicates that animals on the Ark had nostrils and lived on

land, which dinosaur skulls and legs reveal.⁷ Fossils show that even the largest dinosaurs hatched from eggs not much larger than a football. Noah's family would likely have taken young sauropods on board the Ark—not full-grown, 100-foot dinosaurs. Most of the other 60 or so dinosaur kinds would have occupied only one corner of one of the Ark's three decks—like the model on the ICR campus shows.⁸

After the Flood, dinosaurs and all the other Ark animals migrated from the Middle East to the habitats they preferred. Dinosaurs probably headed to swampy places that became deserts centuries later.⁹ Genesis 13:10 says, “And Lot lifted his eyes and saw all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered everywhere (before the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah) like the garden of the Lord, like the land of Egypt.” The Jordan plain near the Dead Sea began drying after Sodom's fiery destruction. Egypt also dried.¹⁰ Any dinosaurs in these areas would have moved or died when their habitats dried.

The final Bible dinosaur scene comes from Job.¹¹ Clues that behemoth best matches a sauropod include its supreme strength and power, its swampy habitat, its reference as the “first of the ways of God”—suggesting it was the largest created land-living creature—and its tail like a cedar tree.^{12,13}

Job lived after the Flood, so if he could “look now at the behemoth,” and if behemoth was

a dinosaur, then some dinosaurs survived the Flood on Noah's Ark.¹⁴

Eventually dinosaurs around the world went extinct, likely because the closing Ice Age brought radical climate changes and people drained swamps and killed off threatening creatures. Memorable encounters gave rise to dragon legends, written descriptions, paintings, and carvings of dinosaurs from around the world.¹⁵

Were dinosaurs on Noah's Ark? History both inside and outside the Bible says, “Yes.” ☞

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God's Timing Makes Sense of **ADVERSITY**

Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls to Him in doing good, as to a faithful Creator.

— 1 Peter 4:19

“Why do people suffer bad things that they don't deserve?” It was the inquirer rather than the question that was surprising: a seven-year-old boy.

The answer to this child's question is provided in the book of Job.¹ In Job's experience, he questioned why an infinitely wise, good, and powerful God would allow a basically good man to suffer terrible calamities on Earth while letting other humans, who behave far worse, escape such calamities. Such inequity confuses child and adult alike, especially if one assumes that total “fairness” is supposed to be achieved during this earthly lifetime.² But how do you explain Job—its theology of human suffering, and how God tests human character *in time* for His eternal purposes—to a second grader?

Start by explaining the importance of how temporal needs are followed by timely care, in our own lives, using a “nature sermon”—the same approach God Himself used while He was replying to Job's agonizing questions. God pointed to how He takes care of earthly creatures through His providential timing. Lion and raven babies hunger first, then they eat.³ Wild goats and deer have designed timeframes for gesta-

tion, then birth occurs.^{3,4} Hawks and eagles fly with purposeful timing, synching their flights to thermal air currents and season-timed migrations.³

Sequential timing is vital for the important things in this life, even the basics of being born, metabolizing food, and daily movements. Timing contextualizes all of the temporal adversities in human life, too. But eventually, all temporal afflictions end.⁵

God was testing Job's moral character. We know this now because we have the entire book and know the entire ordeal, including the happy ending.⁶ But if God had told Job about the test in advance, including how God was proving that Satan was an impudent liar, it would have ruined the legitimacy of Job's own trial of faith.^{2,6} What Job learned through his agonizing ordeal was synched to sequenced timing—God's timing—so that Job's sufferings ultimately ended and counted for good.⁶

God delayed some answers, but He did not ignore Job. He provided Job with proof of His wisdom and goodness and power in a sermon about nature (Job 38–41). He gave adequate information to Job, emphasizing that He was Maker and Master of His own creation, orchestrating and operating its synchronized moving parts (including hu-

mans and animals) so that, as Paul would later say, “all things work together for good.”⁶

Amazing! God has ordained seasons and migrations, fitted deer and goats for pregnancies, and provides food to animals to satisfy their hunger.^{3,4} God's timing is important in our own daily challenges, whether we are seven or 77, reminding us like Job that even amidst life's many confusions and agonies we can trust His all-wise and providential care. God knows what He is doing! ✉

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3. Job 38:39-40 (lions); 38:41 (ravens); 39:1 (mountain goats); 39:1-4 (deer); 39:26 (hawks); 39:27-30 (eagles). The movements of hawks and eagles in Holy Land habitats are rich studies in themselves. See also Cansdale, G. S. 1976. *All the Animals of the Bible Lands*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.
4. For example, wild goat mothers of various *Capra* species, common in the ancient Near East, take about five months to carry their babies to birth so God's designed development has adequate time to occur. However, deer mothers such as *Cervus elaphus* and *Cervus dama*, both common in the ancient Near East, typically carry their young for about seven months—during which time God's bioengineering was preparing their fawns for life on the outside. Hayssen, V., A. van Tienhoven, and A. van Tienhoven. 1993. *Asdell's Patterns of Mammalian Reproduction*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 437 (goats), 401 (deer).
5. James 5:10-11.
6. Troubles are guaranteed in this life (Job 5:7; 1 Corinthians 10:13), but God promises a happy ending that makes eternal sense out of temporal confusion to those who love Him and are called for His purpose (Romans 8:28).

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



INVESTING FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

Ten years ago this month, ICR founder Dr. Henry Morris was called home to heaven. His passing marked the end of an exceptionally fruitful life serving the Lord that included 36 years devoted to full-time creation ministry. While the homegoing of any Christian is a curious mix of sadness and joy—for all believers shall be reunited one day (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17)—the passing of our founder was an especially uncertain time for ICR. Even with transition plans in place, we wondered how to continue the work of such an extraordinary servant whom God used so greatly for the cause of Christ.

Many solid Christian ministries decline once their founder retires or passes away. Yet the tenets established by Dr. Morris—most notably ICR's total commitment to the authority of Scripture—have served us well. God marvelously guided and provided in the years that followed, and by His blessing ICR continues to “do business” (Luke 19:13) via new ministry outlets that reach more people today than ever before. Consider the following.

The ICR science staff continues to uncover remarkable evidence of the Bible's accuracy and remains the fountainhead for much of the creation science research in the world today. Online education programs offered through our School of Biblical Apologetics (ICR.edu) have equipped thousands of Christian leaders and laymen to effectively influence their world with the truth of Scripture. ICR's website, one of the first of its kind dedicated to biblical scientific creationism, hosts millions of visitors annually. Over the last three years, our *That's a Fact* video shorts have been viewed online nearly 10 million times by people from 150 countries. ICR's monthly *Acts & Facts* magazine and quarterly *Days of Praise* devotional contain information committed to biblical authority and are offered free to hundreds of thousands of people worldwide. We have produced dozens of new books and exceptional DVD resources to glorify our



Creator, like the groundbreaking *Unlocking the Mysteries of Genesis* and our new four-episode *Made in His Image* series.

But we have the opportunity to do much more! A world-class science museum and planetarium have enormous potential to reach even more people, and we're praying God will allow ICR to begin building soon. By His provision, we own the building and the necessary property for expansion—all debt free! But more importantly, God supplied the in-house scientific expertise needed to design an innovative complex that will showcase the evidence that confirms Genesis and dispels the myth that science disproves the Bible. The Dallas Museum of Science and Earth History will be unlike anything else in the world! Please visit ICR.org/museum for more information.

As the world grows increasingly hostile toward the message of Christ, now is the time for Christians to stand and proclaim the marvelous truths of Scripture to those willing to hear (Matthew 13:9). The staff and scientists at ICR are ready to do our part, and we are praying the Lord will lay it on the hearts of many like-minded servants to “do business” with us.

I am certain my grandfather would be an enthusiastic supporter of this new museum initiative. I hope you share ICR's excitement in the possibilities this project could produce for our Creator's cause. Please carefully consider how you might invest with us—and experience the joy of being part of a project that will reach future generations for Christ. ✂

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



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I really appreciate your article “The Imaginary Piltdown Man” [*Acts & Facts*, December 2015]. It gave me a new understanding into the mindset of an old-earth evolutionist. In my opinion, your assessment of their frame of mind is very accurate and will help me relate better to them in conversations. I am a young-earth creationist, formerly an old-earth evolutionist, and am thoroughly enjoying learning more and more scientific evidence supporting the YEC point of view.

— A. P.

Loved reading about the Piltdown Man hoax in the December issue of *Acts & Facts*. It reminded me of the Cardiff Giant hoax perpetrated in the 1800s. It can still be seen in Cooperstown, NY, at the Farmer’s Museum. I have been receiving *A&F* since the first issue, and it is one of the few issues I read all the way through. Also, love *Days of Praise*—use it daily in my devotions and share it on Facebook. Such a blessing.

— D. H.

I’ve been researching the ICR website recently and have found it tremendously helpful. Thank you! I appreciate all the work that has gone into educating others about God’s creation by deepening understanding of God’s Word. It will help raise a generation that understands the implications of biblical creation.

— A. P.

I have been asked to teach, for the second time, a 12-week course at my church I have named “The Gospel According to Genesis.” *The Unlocking [the Mysteries of Genesis]* DVDs are utilized during each lesson. I also give out printed material from a variety of sources, with ICR being the primary one. For the first lesson I give out copies of the chapter [Jim Johnson] and Jason Lisle wrote in the *Creation Basics & Beyond* book titled “How Should We Then Interpret Genesis?”

— L. N.

Facebook Posts:

I love the work you guys are doing so much. I am going to donate [to the museum] because of the confidence I have in [Dr. Henry Morris III] and Jason [Lisle] to further advance the Kingdom. Good that you are looking at the folks that may be here after us.

— D. B.

Facebook responses to recent articles on the Dallas Museum of Science and Earth History:

Now this is a place I’d love to visit if I’m ever in the USA. Science doesn’t disprove God. It only solidifies proof of His sovereign existence.

— M. D.

This is wonderful! People need to learn that history, science and the Bible all fit beautifully like a glove! This is what I was taught in my biblical research, teaching, and fellowship classes! The Bible is a blueprint for living and to all things pertaining to God and His creations. It all comes together so beautifully, nothing is created by man, God is the original Creator of everything except evil!

— C. W.

This is a great undertaking! Thank God for His provisions through His faithful servants.

— M. F.

Praise GOD! This is such a big door opening for our children and youth—for EVERYBODY! I will continue to give GOD the praise!

— L. B.

As a resident of Dallas, we are all excited.

— T. F.

Tweets:

There’s always a studied answer to the wild reports of the media. Thanks for bringing sanity to this. [Referring to *Acts & Facts* December 2015 article] *Homo naledi*: New Claims of a Missing Link

— M. B.

My mind [is] just totally blown! Did you hear it? Thanks to Frank Sherwin & @ICRscience on the planetary balance of our Solar System! [The Perfect Balance of Our Solar System] WOW!

— S. G.

Have a comment? Email us at editor@icr.org or write to Editor, P. O. Box 59029, Dallas, Texas 75229. Note: Unfortunately, ICR is not able to respond to all correspondence.

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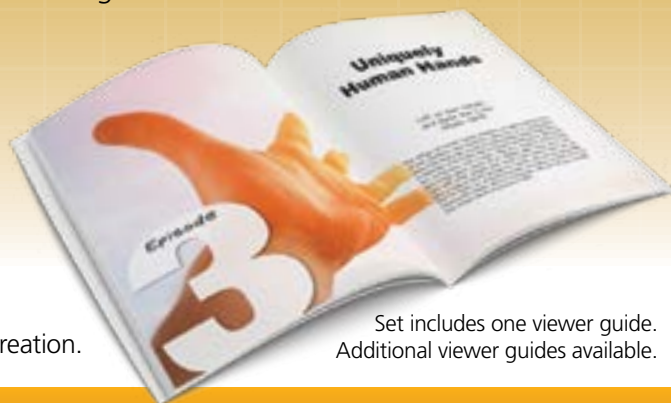
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