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INSTITUTE FOR
CREATION RESEARCH

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MARCH 2017

VOL. 46 NO. 3



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Published by
INSTITUTE FOR CREATION RESEARCH
P. O. Box 59029
Dallas, TX 75229
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EXECUTIVE EDITOR
Jayme Durant

SENIOR EDITOR
Beth Mull

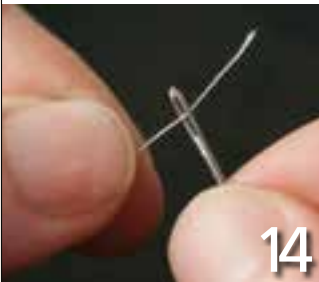
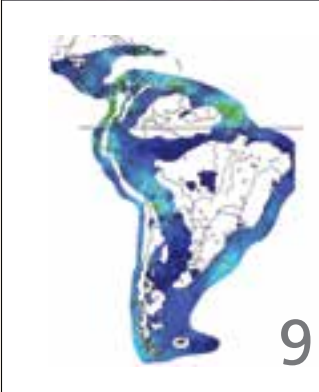
EDITORS
Michael Stamp
Truett Billups
Christy Hardy

DESIGNER
Dennis Davidson

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Working Together with One Mind

When my children were young, I often peeked in on them as they played in their rooms—especially if they were quiet. Crayon-scribbled walls taught me that lesson. Sometimes I'd be pleasantly surprised to see all four kids playing in the same room, doing different things—one arranging toy horses in a line, another building a Lego tower as tall as he could reach, a daughter donning petticoats with skirts and scarves piled in heaps around her, and one reading a book to herself



in the corner. Other times, I glanced in the room and found them all working together to build a fort. “Hold that end while I pull this chair under this end...” They were working cooperatively with a single goal in mind. Harmony and unity.

This is what comes to my mind when I read Dr. Henry Morris III's feature article this month, “All in Favor...” (pages 5-7). He's describing unity among believers. They are seeking the Lord's direction and following His leading, with one purpose and goal—to glorify our Lord. In this case, the goal is to build a Discovery Center to showcase the scientific evidence for creation, in keeping with ICR's mission to demonstrate how science confirms the Bible.

Dr. Morris' description of the ICR Board's decision-making process reflects unity in an attitude of service, “being like-minded,

having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind” and “[standing] fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel” (Philippians 2:2; 1:27). We are grateful to have such leadership for ICR.

Henry Morris IV provides more details about how you can partner with us in building this Discovery Center (page 22). We encourage you to continue working with us to reach others with the evidence for biblical creation. We have been amazed and encouraged by your faithful prayers and support as we've carefully planned each detail and every exhibit that will demonstrate the work of our incredible Creator.

The other articles in this edition of *Acts & Facts* demonstrate the kind of work our team of experts is involved in—the science that fuels the exhibits you will see displayed in the Discovery Center. Dr. Tim Clarey's research with ICR's Column Project is described in “South America Shows the Flood Progression” (page 9). Dr. Jake Herbert addresses the problems with some of the teachings of the BioLogos Foundation (pages 10-13). Brian Thomas describes God's design in RNA in a way most of us can understand (page 14), and he shows how “science and the Bible agree that God made the lights in the sky, including planets, only thousands of years ago” (page 20). Both Dr. Jeffrey Tomkins (page 16) and Dr. Randy Guliuzza (pages 17-19) reveal the futility of evolutionary explanations, and Dr. James Johnson highlights how animals display God's wisdom (page 21). Our entire ICR staff is committed to bringing you evidence that demonstrates God's glory in creation.

Even children know how to lay aside their varied interests and combine efforts toward a goal. But what we are building won't be set aside and forgotten in a couple of hours. With “one mind” we work together to bring you God's truth for His glory and your encouragement. And with one mind, we move forward to build a Discovery Center that will impact generations to come. Though ICR's projects and venues may vary, the message is still the same. Pray for us as we work together to make our Creator known.

Jayme Durant
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Behold,

how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious oil upon the head, running down on the beard, the beard of Aaron, running down on the edge of his garments. It is like the dew of Hermon, descending upon the mountains of Zion; for there the LORD commanded the blessing—life forevermore.

(Psalm 133:1-3)

All in Favor...

One of the major themes of the Bible is unity. Not just acquiescence or assent, but total agreement in mind and spirit. Such an ideal is very difficult to accomplish—especially among human beings! From time to time some churches have been privileged to note such an agreement, but it is rare even among those organizations founded by the Lord Jesus and under the oversight of the Holy Spirit. Occasionally, some Christian groups operate (at least at a Board level) with total unanimity as the “go ahead” signal, but more often than not we all fall victim to the “majority rule” culture of a democratic society.

I am very glad to pass on to our *Acts & Facts* readers that such rare unanimity was experienced by the ICR Board at our January 20, 2017, meeting. After several years

of consideration and prayer, the Board approved the start of construction of the ICR Discovery Center for Science and Earth History. I must tell you that the discussion was long and serious, but as the Lord seems to desire, when the decision was made everyone was in complete agreement that we should begin.

Backstory

We have, as many of you know, been seeking to raise enough funds to begin building the Discovery Center. The earlier stages of this vision began way back in the Santee, California, days as ICR tried to cobble together a series of displays that would demonstrate the paucity of evidence for the evolutionary story and provide some of the more positive evidence for the creation message of Scripture.

After it became clear that the Santee operation needed to move its headquarters to a central location to more efficiently meet the nationwide ministry requirements, all of us began praying that the Lord would provide a larger campus. Hopefully, it would accommodate the potential of a world-class museum or exhibit center that could more aggressively display the growing body of evidence that the Bible is both historically accurate and scientifically viable.

As should be the case, the need and the vision must also come under the verification of the Lord’s will. Sometimes the syncing of those elements is more demanding than it appears on the surface, no matter how much it is desired or how important the vision may seem. Often, the dream waxes and wanes with the demands of the moment, and Scripture seems to provide many examples of the necessity of ensuring

that the Lord's people do not get out ahead of His will—and that the Lord's people are absolutely in sync with the totality of the principles of Scripture.

One of those principles ICR has been committed to since its inception is not going into financial debt for anything—and not becoming encumbered with either governmental funds or human endowments that would hinder the free exercise of God's leading in the future. Often, those two simple requirements needed to be reaffirmed as opportunities presented themselves, but either the funding or the unanimity was not forthcoming.

Perot Museum

As word of the coming Perot Museum of Nature and Science hit the Dallas area in early 2008, the emphasis seemed to be on the “wonders” of the evolutionary story—and the enormous fundraising effort bumping \$200 million seemed to shout the desperate need for *something* to counter that attempt to present the awful distortion of nature as the “god” of creation.

Soon after that, I tried to encourage our Board to consider a project that could respond—at least in the DFW metroplex—with the truth for the young lives that would potentially be swayed by evolutionary philosophy. The Perot Museum planned to showcase the “evidence” in a magnificent edifice designed to present the half-truths and outright lies of evolution to the hundreds of thousands of young people in North Texas.

Unfortunately, as critical as the need

seemed to be, there were other pressing matters to consider. ICR was still young in the Dallas area, and our new staff needs were growing along with the increasing demand for seminars across the nation. Furthermore, the refurbishing of the old buildings, upgrading the labs, etc., required an ongoing special management of the precious operating funds the Lord provided through our very generous donor base.

Dallas Impetus

After we relocated ICR's headquarters to Dallas in 2006, a few of the gracious Christian businessmen in the Dallas area became interested in what we were doing. I was able to meet with some business groups and became involved in First Baptist Church of Dallas, from which relationships came some unusual financial help that enabled us to purchase adjacent property and prepare a sales and distribution center. It would serve ICR well as we planned for the potential exhibits, and also provide a large staging area for the acquisition of artifacts for the Discovery Center.

The property purchases required nearly two full years and multiple million dollars—all of which the Lord provided in extra gifts that put us in the position to build out a greater vision than we originally thought possible.

An interesting prophecy in Isaiah 54:2 encourages Israel to “enlarge the place of your tent, and let them stretch out the curtains of your dwellings; do not spare; lengthen your cords, and strengthen your stakes” in preparation for a coming expan-



ICR staffers praying over the Discovery Center ground in the fall of 2010.

sion that they were unable to grasp at the time of the encouragement. Looking back on those few years, I can now see the Lord was trying to help us think a little bigger than we were at the time.

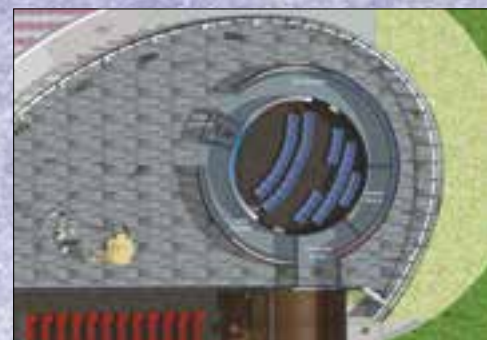
The years from 2006 through 2015 were challenging, but the Lord continued to supply all of our needs, enabling us to expand for the future and still meet the growing operational needs of our staff without ever going into debt.

“Go for It!”

We began construction plans in earnest in September 2015 after receiving a surprise estate gift in excess of \$2 million. You may remember my article in that month's *Acts & Facts* in which I cited Isaiah 54 and told our readers of the wonderful gift that helped me (and our Board) begin to expect that the Lord's timing was coming to fruition.

There was much yet to be done. Although we had spent about \$5.6 million by the fall of 2015 on property and artifacts, we really had no concrete idea of the size and

A view of the ICR Discovery Center from Royal Lane, the lobby and a bird's-eye-view of the planetarium.



cost of such a project. After the Board authorized me to move forward with a formal design, we hired the Beck architectural firm to help us, and in the ensuing several months they provided a great design that was formalized and approved—but was going to cost some \$20 million more than we had in the “bucket.”

I suspect you have already received a brochure or two about the design and the exhibit proposals, and many of you have responded with generous gifts to make this possible. We appreciate the way you have partnered with us in prayer and financial support to make this vision a reality.

“Say Aye!”

So, here we are now. The Board enthusiastically approved the construction phase. We have received well over \$10 million in donations, large and small, from nearly 7,500 donors during the 17 months since September 2015 and have spent an additional \$500,000 in planning, permitting, and burying the utility lines along the main boulevard that fronts our property.

A most generous donor and long-time supporter of ICR decided to commit to \$4.5 million in additional funds so we can begin the construction now! God is so good, my head and heart are still swimming!

Two Axioms of Capital Projects

As many of you can attest, any time you begin a serious capital project (kitchen remodel, home addition, church building, etc.) you can expect that it will take longer and cost more than the best and most honest estimate can extrapolate. Things always cost more as you get into them, and the time involved is always adjusted as the work progresses.

We would be naive to expect otherwise.

So, although we have enough to get started and the construction firm is happy with what is available, it is almost guaranteed there will be more needed in the days ahead. Some of you have not yet given to invest in this legacy project. I would encourage you to consider the possibility of sharing what the Lord has enriched you with—even if you consider it a small gift. Most of the gifts to this project have not exceeded \$100. Every gift counts, and every gift counts with the Lord.

I anticipate we will need another \$1 million to complete unexpected construction costs, and probably another \$3 to \$5 million for the completion of the exhibits. I do anticipate the Lord will provide whatever is needed. His provision thus far has been sufficient to increase our shallow faith. I do not expect He will let us down.

But, the Lord has *always* worked


through the gifts of His people. When we share our earthly things with the works of the Kingdom, God promises that we will share in the true value of the eternal Kingdom. Here are a few of my favorite Bible passages about giving to remind us all of God’s faithfulness.

- “Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you” (Luke 6:38).
- “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord” (1 Corinthians 15:58).
- “Yes,” says the Spirit, “that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them” (Revelation 14:13).

If you would like to learn more about the ICR Discovery Center, check out our website at ICR.org. The site provides an excellent perspective of how this Discovery Center will establish a legacy platform that will challenge the generations to come. ✍

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





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South America Shows the Flood Progression

New research confirms that the Flood recorded in Genesis was global. It also reflects the exact step-by-step biblical account of the floodwaters' progression.

In previous articles, I described ICR's Column Project, a research initiative in which we are building a database of stratigraphic columns from across the world.^{1,2} At that point we'd only completed North America and Africa, compiling stratigraphic information for more than 1,100 boreholes—oil well-bores, outcrops, cores, cross-sections, and seismic data—over these two great land masses.

Most recently, we've added 404 columns across South America, giving a total of over 1,500 compiled stratigraphic columns from around the world. This report describes some of the results of that study and gives compelling confirmation of the biblical Flood account described in Genesis 7.

What do we see? In Figures 1–6, we show the thickness of the six megasequences across South America. The Sauk is the earliest Flood layer, followed by Tippecanoe, Kaskaskia, Absaroka, Zuni, and finally the youngest layer, Tejas.³ Note how the coverage of the continent steadily increases with each successive layer, marking the Flood's progression.

These data indicate the Flood started out slowly, inundating limited areas at first but increasing a little more each time as the first megasequences were deposited, perhaps during the first 40 days (Sauk, Tippecanoe, and Kaskaskia). Later, during the deposition of the Absaroka Megasequence, the coverage dramatically increased until the Flood appears to have reached a maximum coverage level in the Zuni Megasequence, possibly around Day 150. Fittingly, this is

the exact same maximum level observed across North America and Africa, indicating a truly global event. Finally, the Tejas Megasequence seems to show the floodwaters receding—post-Day 150 of the Flood—and accordingly shows a similar coverage level to the Zuni.

Some may wonder why there isn't complete coverage across all of South America if the Zuni was the high point of the Flood. The answer is straightforward: the highest hills were only flooded by a modest amount of water, leaving little sediment behind as the floodwaters receded (Genesis 7:20). Late-Flood and post-Flood erosion likely removed these thin areas of sediment, exposing the crystalline crust we see across much of Brazil today.

The geology of South America confirms God's Word; the columns across the continent show a clear progression of the floodwaters, just as described in Genesis 7.

The waters prevailed and greatly increased on the earth, and the ark moved about on the surface of the waters. And the waters prevailed exceedingly on the earth, and all the high hills under the whole heaven were covered. (Genesis 7:18-19)

All over the globe the rocks cry out and tell the Flood story. And we can be thankful for God's promise in Genesis 9:15 that a global flood will never again destroy the world. ☞

References

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2. Clarey, T. 2015. Reading African Strata. *Acts & Facts*, 44 (9): 9.
3. Morris, J. D. 2012. *The Global Flood: Unlocking Earth's Geologic History*. Dallas, TX: Institute for Creation Research, 149.

Dr. Clarey is Research Associate at the Institute for Creation Research and earned his Ph.D. in geology from Western Michigan University.

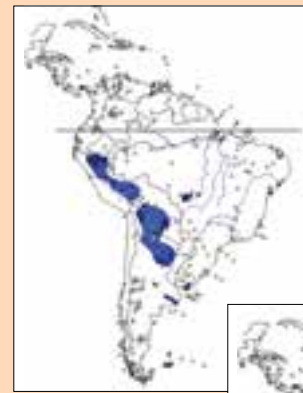


Figure 1: Sauk

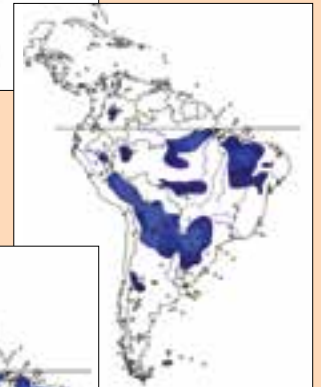


Figure 2: Tippecanoe

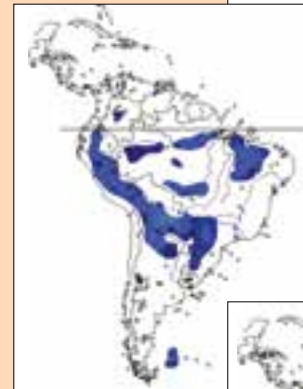


Figure 3: Kaskaskia

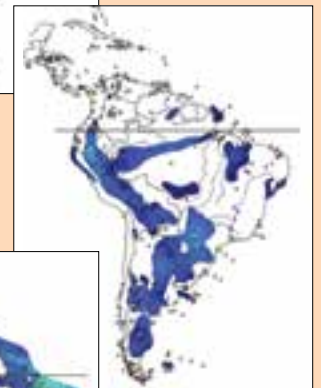


Figure 4: Absaroka

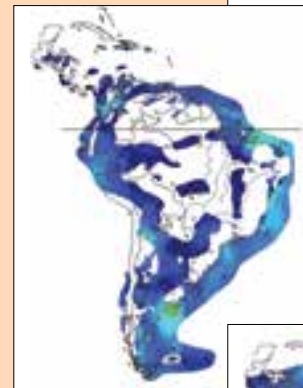


Figure 5: Zuni



Figure 6: Tejas

Images courtesy of Davis J. Werner.

REFUTING BIOLOGOS:

Do Japanese Lake Varves Prove an Old Earth?



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In 2010, the BioLogos Foundation published an article by old-earth geologists Gregg Davidson and Ken Wolgemuth presenting four supposedly unanswerable arguments for an old earth.¹ However, creation scientists can reasonably address their challenges.

Their first objection, the existence of salt deposits within the sedimentary rock record, can plausibly be answered by the extrusion of supersaturated brines from within the earth's interior as the "fountains of the great deep were broken up" during the Genesis Flood (Genesis 7:11). Upon coming into contact with cold ocean water,

these salts would have precipitated out of solution, quickly forming enormous salt deposits.²

Their second argument, that layering patterns in Grand Canyon can't be explained by a single flood, is frankly somewhat confusing and downplays recent well-drilling results.³ Their third argument is that the sequence of fossils is too orderly to be the result of the Genesis Flood. Although creationists do acknowledge a general pattern in the fossils, this pattern is better explained as a result of progressive flooding of different ecological environments—especially since fossils of land creatures are often found in marine sediments (and vice

versa) and fossils are often found in locations that contradict evolutionary expectations.^{4,5}

However, Davidson and Wolgemuth (D&W) also claimed that varves within a Japanese lake prove that the earth is at least 50,000 years old. Varves are repetitive groups of laminations within sediments that are assumed to represent successive annual deposits. D&W claimed that since 50,000 varves had been identified within mud from this lake, the earth must be at least 50,000 years old. Is that true?

Before answering that question, I should note that the following presentation is a summary of a technical paper that may freely be read online.⁶ Space does not permit us to list all the relevant citations here, but they are included in the technical paper.

Japan's Lake Suigetsu

Lake Suigetsu is a large lake located near the coast of the Sea of Japan that is about 34 meters (112 feet) deep at its center. Scientists drilled and extracted a core 75 meters (246 feet) long from the lakebed, enabling them to examine the layering patterns within the sediments. The sediments from the lakebed consisted of gray clay interspersed with white layers made up of the remains of algae called *diatoms*. Scientists assumed that each gray and white “couplet,” or varve, represents one year, with the white diatom layer forming during the spring and the gray layer forming during the fall/winter.

Are These Really Annual Layers?

Actually, the original researchers only reported 29,100 varves, although later researchers claim to have counted more than 50,000. In any case, there are good reasons to believe that many of the varves are *not* annual events. For instance, scientists drilled side cores next to the main core. Two different volcanic ash layers, representing two volcanic eruptions, were identified in the main core and one of the side cores. When each of the volcanoes erupted, its ash settled on the

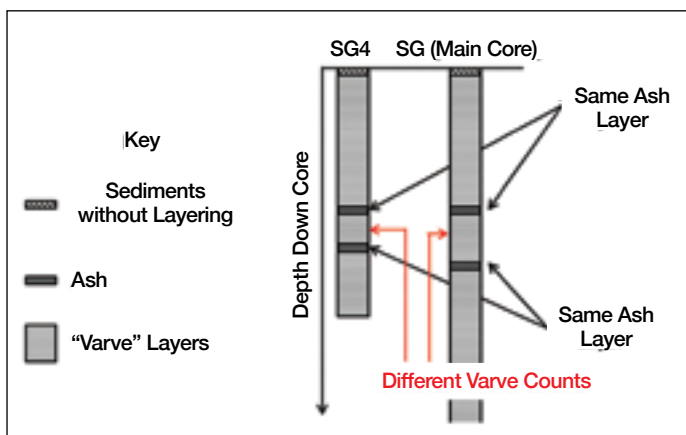


Figure 1. If varves can be relied upon to represent annual layers, then the number of varves between the two ash layers should have been the same in both Lake Suigetsu cores, but this was not the case. (After Figure 2 from Kitigawa et al, reference 7.)

floor of the lake. Thus, the ash layers corresponding to each eruption should be the exact same age, even in different cores. If the counted varves really are reliable age indicators, then the number of counted varves between the two ash layers should be the same in both cores—but they aren't (Figure 1).⁷

Later researchers acknowledged that as many as half the counted varves could not be clearly distinguished. When they encountered this problem, they assumed a constant sedimentation rate to “fill in” the gaps. Therefore, the true number of counted varves was much less than the 50,000 claimed by D&W, probably between 15,000 and 25,000.

Could These Layers Form Since the Flood?

Under the right conditions, tens of thousands of varve-like layering patterns *could* form in the 4,500 years or so since the Genesis Flood. The Flood/Ice Age model predicts an enormous amount of closely spaced volcanic activity in the centuries after the Flood, as well as extremely dry, windy conditions at the end of the Ice Age.⁸ This is important, because volcanic ash and dust are rich in silica, the main ingredient diatoms use when constructing their skeletons. Therefore, the Ice Age provides the opportunity for thousands of non-annual diatom blooms to occur in a few centuries, plausibly explaining the white diatom layers observed in the Lake Suigetsu sediments.⁹

Radiocarbon Confirmation?

But D&W added a “twist” to their argument. Scientists radiocarbon-dated leaf, branch, and insect fossils within the Lake Suigetsu sediments. D&W converted these radiocarbon ages into what they called “measured carbon-14” and then plotted those values against tree ring and varve calendar ages in their Figure 7 (our Figure 2).

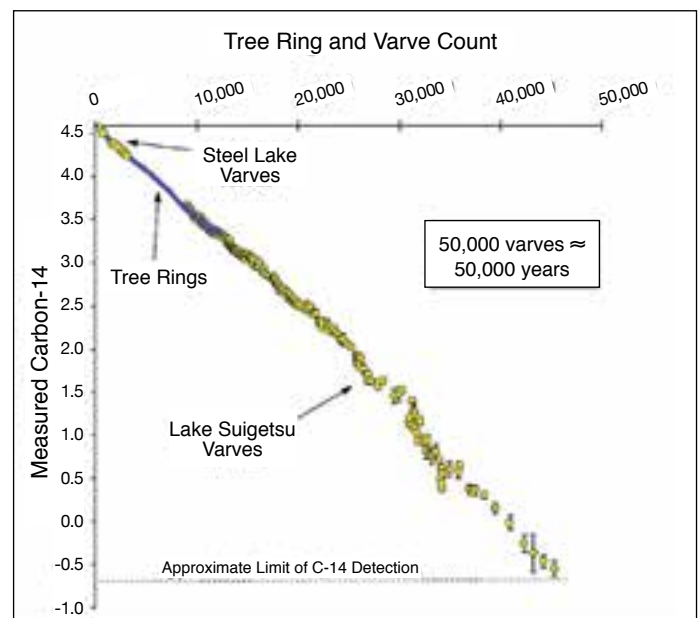


Figure 2. After Figure 7 from Davidson and Wolgemuth, reference 1.

D&W argued that since the yellow dots fell on a nearly straight line, this proved the radiocarbon ages were true calendar ages, at least for the last 50,000 years or so. If this were really true, it would indeed be a strong argument for an old earth. It would also suggest that the conventional assumptions behind radiocarbon dating are correct, in spite of evidence to the contrary accumulated by creation scientists (radiocarbon in dinosaur bones, coal, diamonds, etc).¹⁰

In order for D&W’s argument to be valid, two things must be true. First, it must be true that the calendar ages (obtained by varve and tree ring counts) really *do* equal the radiocarbon ages; and second, the tree ring and varve counts must be independent of the radiocarbon ages.

Radiocarbon Ages Don’t Equal Varve Ages

The fact that the yellow dots fall on a more or less straight line does not alone prove that radiocarbon ages equal true calendar ages. The easiest way to see this is to simply plot the radiocarbon ages against the calendar ages—the ages that secular scientists *themselves* assigned to the Lake Suigetsu varves (Figure 3). If the

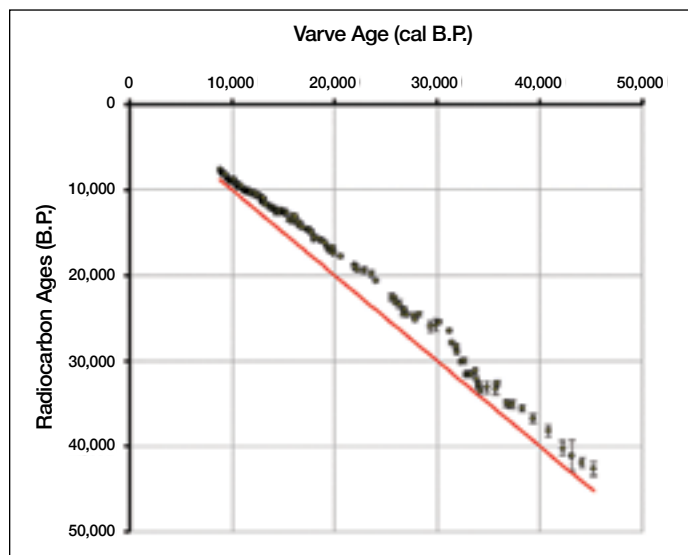


Figure 3. The radiocarbon ages generally do not agree with the varve ages, even though secular scientists were free to choose the calendar age of the first clearly distinguishable varve.

radiocarbon ages really do equal calendar ages, then the yellow dots should fall on the red line—but they don’t. One can’t help but wonder why D&W did not themselves simply plot the radiocarbon ages versus the varve counts, as this information was readily available to them. (They used it to construct Figure 2.) But because they instead plotted “measured carbon-14” against the varve counts, they obscured this important point.

Also, it should have been obvious, even from just the popular science literature, that radiocarbon ages generally do not equal varve ages. Secular scientists are excited about the Lake Suigetsu lake sedi-

ments because they hope these sediments will help them “calibrate” radiocarbon ages.¹¹ What does this mean?

Even secular scientists recognize that calculated radiocarbon ages rarely equal true calendar ages. Thus, they need some way to convert apparent radiocarbon ages into “true” calendar ages that they find acceptable. One way of doing this is to radiocarbon date objects whose true calendar ages are known. If one plots the calendar ages against the corresponding radiocarbon ages, a *calibration curve* or graph is the result. In theory, scientists can then radiocarbon date an object of unknown age, look up the radiocarbon age on the graph, and then get the corresponding calendar age. But why would you need a calibration curve if radiocarbon ages are already equal to the true ages? This fact alone should have alerted D&W that radiocarbon dating is not as simple as they seem to think—even if one accepts, for the sake of argument, the incorrect uniformitarian assumptions behind the method.

Radiocarbon Ages and Varve Counts Not Independent

Moreover, the varve ages were dependent on the radiocarbon ages. Varves could not be clearly distinguished at the top of the core, and so the first counted varve was located at a depth of 10.4 meters below the core top. Researchers then assigned an age of 8,830 years to this particular varve. One of the papers cited by D&W explains:

The absolute age of the LS [Lake Suigetsu] floating varve chronology has been determined by wiggle-matching 22 ¹⁴C dates from the younger part of the LS sediment to the revised German oak ¹⁴C calibration curve.¹²

In other words, researchers experimented with different ages for the Lake Suigetsu varves. Then they picked the chronology that gave the best possible match between the Lake Suigetsu data and the German oak radiocarbon calibration curve. This particular match occurred when they assigned an age of 8,830 years B. P. (Before Present) to the varve at a depth of 10.4 meters in the Lake Suigetsu core. This is obvious even in D&W’s own Figure 7 (our Figure 2). The yellow dots labeled as “Lake Suigetsu varves” do *not* start at 1, as one would expect from a simple counting process. Rather, the varve count starts at 8,830, a little to the left of the 10,000 on the horizontal axis.

Furthermore, the German oak tree-ring chronology was used to construct the radiocarbon calibration curve (the blue line labeled “tree rings” in Figure 2).¹³ The Lake Suigetsu varve counts aligned well with the blue line because they were *made* to align!

So, contrary to D&W’s assertion, the Lake Suigetsu varve ages were *not* determined independently of the radiocarbon ages.

What about the Steel Lake Varves?

Likewise, we shouldn’t be impressed by the good alignment between the blue line and the handful of yellow dots in the upper left-hand corner of Figure 2. This same alignment is shown more

closely in D&W’s Figure 5 (but not shown here). The yellow dots corresponding to the varve data from Steel Lake, Minnesota, did not originally fall on the blue line. This agreement was obtained only after secular scientists “adjusted” the Steel Lake values to *make* them agree! But D&W neglected to point this out to their readers, although it should have been clear just from the abstract of the paper they cited:

These results, together with other varve studies, demonstrate that an independent age-determination method, such as ¹⁴C dating, is usually necessary to verify, and potentially correct, varve chronologies.¹⁴

D&W’s whole argument hinges on varve ages being independent of radiocarbon ages, but the very papers they cite show that this was not the case!

Conclusion

We could say more about this subject, and D&W’s paper contains at least one other major mistake.¹⁵ Table 1 provides a “reality check” on their claims.

It is a shame that BioLogos has been using such a fallacious argument to dissuade Christians from trusting the straightforward history recorded in Genesis, but perhaps we can learn a lesson here—fallacious arguments can seem very convincing, even though they are wrong. Christians should never be intimidated into accepting the latest “scientific” claims that contradict the clear teaching of

Scripture. When these claims are examined more carefully, they are *always* shown to result from faulty logic and implicit denials of the Genesis record. ❄

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Dr. Hebert is Research Associate at the Institute for Creation Research and earned his Ph.D. in physics from the University of Texas at Dallas.



D&W CLAIM	ADDITIONAL RESEARCH SHOWS	CONCLUSION
Japanese lake bed has tens of thousands of annual layers (varves).	Dust storms and volcanic eruptions can form non-annual layers.	Most layers are non-annual and were formed by the volcanic eruptions and dust storms of the post-Flood Ice Age.
Researchers physically counted 50,000 varves.	As many as half of these layers were not clearly distinguishable.	Varve counts contain long-age bias.
Radiocarbon ages independently confirm varve age counts.	The purpose of radiocarbon ages was to correct or “calibrate” the varve counts.	Varve counts cannot logically be independent of radiocarbon ages if one is used to calibrate the other.
Radiocarbon ages “match” varve ages.	Nearly all the radiocarbon ages disagreed with the varve count “ages.”	Disagreement is especially noteworthy given that the researchers were free to assign the count number for the first distinguishable varve.

Table 1. A reality check on BioLogos’ claims regarding Lake Suigetsu varve counts.

God's Threading Machines



What does it take to slip a tiny thread through the eye of a needle and then use that thread to accomplish a purpose? Chimpanzees and other apes can't do this. It takes fine, precise motion. Three examples of using needle and thread point to God as a super-genius Creator.

In her later years, my grandmother sometimes asked me to thread a needle for her because her eyesight had dimmed. A sewing thread can enter only one place—the needle's eye—to fulfill its purpose. Maybe the sewer then uses it to hem a pant leg, stitch a seam, or embroider a garment. Whoever properly manipulates thread must have sight, make precise motions, and imagine the end product.

Certain machines use thread to create cloth mechanically. In handlooms, the weaver tosses a shuttle that carries a bobbin of weft thread between separated crosswise warp threads. The weaver then swaps thread angles before tossing the shuttle back to the other side. Some automated factory looms replace shuttles with slender rods called *rapiers*. One rapier brings the thread halfway across, then passes its thread to a second rapier that grabs the thread to pull it all the way across the cloth width. They hand off the thread something like 1,000 times a minute.

The factory loom cannot see what it is doing, nor can it imagine an end product, but it can make a precise motion. Who could watch an industrial loom in action without immediately perceiving that whoever designed and built the loom had sight, precise motion, and a mindful purpose? In other words, the tools that humans make reflect human qualities and abilities. Did God make any threading machines?

Yes, He did, and without them our bodies would die in minutes. But His machines handle “threads” many times smaller than a human hair. If an RNA molecule, which carries the information needed to construct a protein, is like a thread, then the ribosome is like a needle's eye. The slender RNA winds through the ribosome, which helps translate the RNA's information.

What happens when bad thread enters a factory loom? A machinist stops the loom, diagnoses the problem, and devises a solution. Maybe a super-genius could devise a factory with no people, where machines diagnose and solve their own problems. Researchers recently discovered such machines working with ribosomes to correct faulty RNA.

Misshapen RNA strands stall inside their ribosomes. In yeast, this catches the attention of the oddly named *Ski complex*. Other organisms have similar complexes. Each Ski complex includes ribosome clamps, an on/off switch, and attachment points for an enzyme called *helicase*. The Ski2 segment of Ski complex clamps onto the stalled ribosome. It then pushes a dangling end of the RNA “thread,” called an overhang, into a channel that travels through helicase. Helicase likely threads bad RNA strands into the “eye”—a small opening—of a nearby exosome for recycling.

In a study published in the journal *Science*, a German and French team worked out the positions of the thousands of atoms that make up the ribosome, RNA, and Ski complex. The study authors wrote, “We observe that the mRNA 3' overhang is threaded directly from the small ribosomal subunit to the helicase channel of Ski2.”¹

Sighted, precise, imaginative people make factory looms that quickly and reliably slip threads through tight spots—but the machines sometimes need technicians. Similar reasoning demands a micro-sighted, precise-to-the-atom, and imaginative super-genius to make molecular machines that—like automated problem-solving technicians—thread flawed RNA strands into recyclers.

Truly, our God is the ultimate Genius. ✎

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Mr. Thomas is Science Writer at the Institute for Creation Research and earned his M.S. in biotechnology from Stephen F. Austin State University.



The concept of a graven or carved image¹ in the second of the Ten Commandments is sometimes misunderstood.

“You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them.” (Exodus 20:4-5)

What exactly does God mean by this term?

1. The main thrust of this commandment is that believers are not to worship anything that is earthly as a representation of God. The emphasis was on worshipping the idol, the image of an earthly thing, or the earthly thing itself in place of God. Idolatry is nearly always a major problem and downfall of God’s people—both then and now.
2. The first four commandments involve the direction of how we should relate to God; the remaining six describe our relationship with each other.
3. Although the Lord Jesus Christ is most certainly God in the triune Godhead and co-equal in every way to the Father and the Holy Spirit, in the incarnation Jesus became man so that the work of salvation could be completed. While He was on Earth, Jesus was most certainly physical—He was true man—and He clearly demanded worship of Himself and obedience to His teachings.²
4. The first four commandments focus on *Yahweh*: “Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen” (1 Timothy 1:17). And these commandments specifically insist that there is nothing on Earth, or under Earth, or above Earth that could be like *Yahweh*, “who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor

What Is a Graven Image?

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

- and everlasting power. Amen” (1 Timothy 6:16). All attempts to make a physical representation of *Yahweh*’s eternal Being were forbidden and would result in capital punishment.
5. The New Testament extends and applies idolatry to anything that is worshiped instead of God.³ The key is the worship of a thing or practice that takes the place of God. Attempting to portray the work of the Lord Jesus on Earth, in story form, is not worship or idolatry. That portrayal is merely an effort to tell the story of what Christ did while on Earth so that the gospel can be made clear and efficacious. Very few Christian groups use idols as a means to worship.

The Institute for Creation Research is known for holding to the literal words of Scripture in a day of “enlightened” science. We would never knowingly violate the words of Holy Scripture in any way. We are most careful in everything we produce. No picture or statue of the Lord Jesus as He was

on Earth is idolatry—unless that image is used as something to worship.

Films portraying the life of Christ have helped win hundreds of thousands to the Kingdom over the years. If the actor portraying Jesus is an idol, then the Lord God would never bless and harvest through that medium. Such representations of the Lord Jesus on Earth are not graven images or idols—He was here and could be physically seen and touched (1 John 1:1). Even His resurrected body is still human in form. It is the “God [who] is Spirit” (John 4:24) who cannot be seen or represented in any physical form that is the focus of the second commandment. ✎

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1. “Graven image” is used in the King James and Revised Standard translations and “carved image” in the New King James and English Standard translations.
2. In Matthew 4:18-22, Christ called the four fishermen Peter, Andrew, James, and John as His disciples. They physically left their nets that very day and followed Christ’s person during His entire ministry.
3. “Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry” (Colossians 3:5).

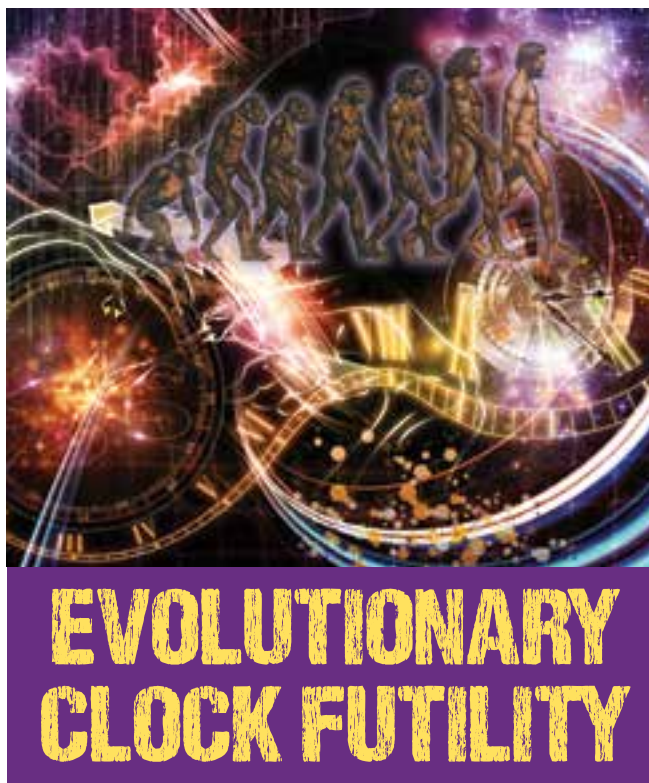
Dr. Morris is Chief Executive Officer of the Institute for Creation Research.

Evolutionists assign millions of years to fossils, and even to genes in the DNA of living creatures, in an attempt to bolster evolutionary theory, which needs the magic of “deep time” to seem plausible. But the supposed ancient clocks they use for these age assignments rarely agree with each other. In other words, the DNA clocks rarely line up with the fossil clocks, despite the fact that both clocks are statistically calibrated by the same evolutionary assumptions.

While paleontologists have assigned ancient dates to fossils since the late 1800s, the idea of a molecular clock in biology wasn't conceived until the early 1960s. This idea came about by comparing proteins between different types of animals combined with the alleged ages of animal evolution taken from the fossil record. Scientists hoped this strategy would lead to a unified evolutionary tree of life with accurate ancient evolutionary time points for the branches. Much to the disappointment of the evolutionary clock community, five decades of molecular clock research data have provided only contradictions and discrepancies.¹ David Reich, a human evolutionary geneticist at Harvard Medical School, recently stated, “The fact that the clock is so uncertain is very problematic for us...It means that the dates we get out of genetics are really quite embarrassing bad and uncertain.”²

Problems for evolutionary biological clocks exist at many levels. Various genes and/or DNA sequences give widely different evolutionary rates, not only when compared between different types of organisms, but even within a similar group of genes called a *gene family* in the genome of the same organism. Scientists use these rates to speculate about divergence dates (when one organism supposedly split off and formed another type of creature), but these widely different rates commonly disagree with dates derived from fossils in paleontology. Amazingly, these molecular data discrepancies exist despite the fact that biological sequence data are almost always calibrated by dates from fossils. Even though statistical tricks are used to manipulate the data toward a favorable matching outcome, the results almost always lead to conflicting evolutionary conclusions.

A recent fossil discovery in Patagonia places a glaring spotlight on this embarrassing clock problem.³ Extremely rare and delicate fossil remains of tomatillos (Mexican husk tomatoes)—a member of an economically important group of plants called nightshades



that includes potatoes, peppers, tobacco, petunias, and tomatoes—has popped up in rock strata in Argentina alleged to be 52 million years old. For evolution, this early time period is long before the dates previously ascribed to these species of plants by both paleontologists and biologists. Furthermore, the fossil tomatillo fruits look exactly like those growing today, exhibiting no evolution over the alleged eons of time. Because evolutionary biologists have sequenced the genes from many different types of nightshades and come up with many ancient dates and supposed evolutionary relationships, these fossils are particularly disturbing and only serve to highlight the futility of evolutionary dating systems.

As noted in a previous *Acts & Facts* article, when biologists remove the biased evolutionary time calibrations from their molecular clocks, they almost always arrive at dates that correspond with a biblical creation timeframe of 6,000 to 10,000 years.⁴ But because bias-free empirical clocks don't match up with the myth of Darwinian evolution, they are rejected out of hand. The empirical scientific facts support the Bible and not the failed opinions of man. ✂

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Dr. Tomkins is Director of Life Sciences at the Institute for Creation Research and earned his Ph.D. in genetics from Clemson University.



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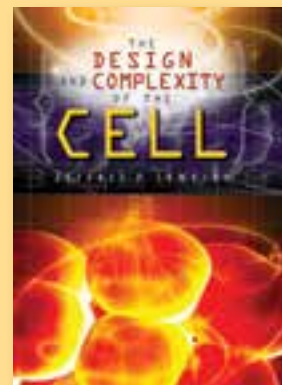
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Convergent Evolution Is a Seductive Intellectual Swindle

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

When it comes to swindles, it would be hard to top Liz Carmichael. She spun a tale about obtaining proprietary secrets from her deceased NASA engineer husband that enabled her to start and become CEO of a totally bogus car company marketing the Dale. This fictitious 84 mpg, three-wheeled car bilked millions from investors in 1975...and all the while Liz was actually a man, Jerry Dean Michael, impeccably dressed like a woman. No investor ever saw the car factory or drove a Dale. Yet, “Liz” always talked with investors so matter-of-factly about “her” wholly imaginary industrial realm that they willingly visualized everything within their hopeful minds, where it took on a vivid life of its own.

An intellectual swindle rivaling this is the wholly imaginary fabrication called *convergent evolution*—the idea that the same traits evolved independently in completely different organisms. Like “Liz’s” investment pitch, evolutionists also write about it so matter-of-factly that it has taken on a genuine life of its own in all their willing minds. Why do they embrace convergent evolution so eagerly? Because it serves as a rescuing device for an important dogma of evolutionary theory. (A rescuing device is a completely fabricated conjecture devised to save someone’s theory from contrary evidence.)

Evolutionary theory holds that physical features shared by different creatures are strong evidence for evolution. To evolutionists, common traits are best explained by their descent from a common ancestor—not by a shared common design. Darwin taught:

All the...difficulties with classification are explained, if I do not greatly deceive myself, on the view that the natural system is founded in descent with modification: that the characters which the naturalists consider as showing true affinity between any two or more species, are those which have been inherited from a common parent...that community of descent is the hidden bond which naturalists have been unconsciously seeking, and not some unknown plan of creation.¹

However, this highly revered tenet greatly needs rescuing because so many nonhereditary similarities contradict it. Convergent evolution is the fabricated conjecture evolutionists invoke to explain

very similar characteristics between creatures that *could not* have been inherited from a common ancestor and that evolutionists *will never* accept as having been produced by an intelligently designed internal programming that is specified for common purposes.

Evolutionary literature often contracts convergent evolution down to its central idea and simply calls it convergence.

The Basic Notion of Convergence Is Imaginary

It is tempting to start an evaluation of convergent evolution by identifying all its problems. This is where a word of caution is necessary. Like other key elements of evolutionary theory, convergence is *not* an observable process but is rather “observed” only in someone’s mind as imaginary visualization. Convergence is another evolutionary mystical, mental construct.

We should not naively proceed into matter-of-fact discussions of convergence without questioning the basic premise that such a Darwinian process truly happened. If we don’t question it, we give convergence a life of its own—just like “Liz” got her investors to hand over their money for an imaginary product and thus perpetuated the misleading of other people. It is better to begin by rejecting the idea that convergence accurately explains *any* historical realities and then show that fanciful narratives about convergence amount to *ad hoc*, just-so stories.

A Magical Story Substitutes for Purposeful Internal Programming

In *Why Evolution Is True*, Jerry Coyne explains convergence by describing two similar-looking but unrelated cacti: “I have both types growing on my windowsill, and visitors can’t tell them apart without reading their tags.”² He knows that common ancestry cannot explain their similarity, so he focuses on eliminating the explanation that their shared traits result from designed internal programming for common purposes. Switching from science to theology, Coyne asks:

Why would a creator put plants that are fundamentally different,

but look so similar, in diverse areas of the world that seem ecologically identical? Wouldn't it make more sense to put the same species of plants in areas with the same type of soil and climate?²

By answering his own question with a "I wouldn't do it that way" reply, Coyne dismisses any consideration of design—a classic evolutionary tactic. He thus dodges thoughtful discussion of possible design-based explanations.

Coyne also substitutes what he believes is a "well-known"—i.e., matter-of-fact—scientific alternative in lieu of designed internal programming. Yet, he merely invokes a simple magical story that is not based on fact but only exists in his mind.

Again one must ask: If animals were specially created, why would the creator produce on different continents fundamentally different animals that nevertheless look and act so much alike?...No creationist, whether of the Noah's Ark variety or otherwise, has offered a credible explanation for why different types of animals have similar forms in different places. All they can do is invoke the inscrutable whims of the creator. But evolution *does* explain the pattern by invoking a well-known process called *convergent evolution*. It's really quite simple. Species that live in similar habitats will experience similar selection pressures from their environment, so they may evolve similar adaptations, or *converge*, coming to look and behave very much alike even though they are unrelated.²

Another evolutionary authority, the late Ernst Mayr of Harvard, claimed convergence illustrates how evolution functions as a substitute "engineer": "Convergence illustrates beautifully how selection is able to make use of the intrinsic variability of organisms to engineer adapted types for almost any kind of environmental niche."³ Evolution is thus the "intrinsic variability," or a creature's normal heterozygosity, coupled with the natural process of struggling to live that fractionates the diverse alleles into various populations.

Casually Invoking Convergent Evolution Everywhere

Evolutionary literature projects engineering prowess and God-like volition onto unconscious nature and weaves an active nature-agent into its narratives.⁴ This helps the incredible accomplishments claimed for evolution appear more believable. Ascribing the ability for nature to repeatedly "converge" on the same trait in very diverse organisms—sometimes separated by many millions of years, even to *identical* genes—gives convergent evolution a seemingly omnipotent capability.

For evolutionists, convergence's supreme power is both implicit and pervasive. A belief expressed in a study published in *Nature* "hints that evolution may be finding the same genetic solutions to a problem more often than previously thought" and "that convergent molecular evolution is much more widespread than previously recognized."⁵

The litany of incredibly complicated biological traits to which convergent evolution is casually appended as the explanation is enormous. A few examples from evolutionary literature will highlight some of the capabilities ascribed to convergence.

For instance, the power of convergence is projected in extinct wildebeest-like mammals that had trumpet-like nasal passages remarkably like the nasal crests of hadrosaur dinosaurs—even though both were allegedly separated by millions of years. By casually explaining this anatomical similarity by convergence, evolutionists morph it into wondrous evidence for evolution.

The fossil record provides tangible, historical evidence for the mode and operation of evolution across deep time. Striking patterns of convergence are some of the strongest examples of these operations, whereby, over time, similar environmental and/or behavioral pressures precipitate similarity in form and function between disparately related taxa.⁶

The precision of convergence is seen in finding out that 59 swimming or flying animal species ranging from mollusks to insects, birds, bats, whales, and fish all use the same fluid motion mechanics. The tips of their wings, fins, etc. all bend at essentially the same point and flex 26 degrees. The research team pondered, "What factor(s) drive natural selection to converge on highly constrained bending kinematics across such a wide range of animal groups?"⁷ They speculated that nature molded these diverse organisms as it drove them independently through time in the quest for energy efficiency.

The scope of convergence is seen in multitudes of organisms evolving eyes. Evolutionists claim that similar environments constrained creatures to converge on comparably complex eyes—independently at least 40 times, and probably as many as 65 times.⁸

But even if claims of Darwinian convergence were not *ad hoc* stories, the concept still has serious problems.

Problem 1: Imagining Coincidence upon Coincidence

Developmental biologist Sean Carroll reports that a similar gene, *Pax-6*, "has been found to be associated with eye formation in animals with all sorts of eyes." Convergence is normally the explanation of choice for these similarities. But Carroll rejects convergence as implausible since that account simply invokes "a remarkable coincidence in that the *Pax-6* gene was called upon repeatedly to build eyes from scratch in these different groups of animals."⁹ Instead of convergence, he embraces another imaginary account that is equally implausible. He believes these genes were remarkably "conserved" unchanged for 600 million years in organisms as diverse as flies and elephants—while other genes became so intensely mutated they caused the evolution of flies and elephants.

Carroll's "remarkable coincidence" is exceedingly restrained. Similarities of marsupial and placental mammals are presented as another showpiece of convergence. Evolutionists believe that on Australia and the Americas, nearly identical environmental conditions—drought, flood, heat wave, Ice Age, famine, disease, food types, predators—were occurring over vast ages in nearly identical intensity, timing, sequence, and other factors to mold not just *a gene* but whole suites of physiological and anatomical features to coincidentally arrive at remarkably similar body types for dogs, wolves, cats, anteaters,

moles, mice, Coyne's cacti, etc. Two intelligent design researchers sum up, "Without some form of design or teleological guidance, convergent evolution requires a piling of coincidences upon coincidences that strains credulity."¹⁰

Problem 2: Convergent Evolution versus Darwin's "Community of Descent"

Every occasion in which evolutionists must invoke convergence argues against similar features being strong evidence for evolution. When looking at similar features, which evolutionary explanation is legitimate—convergence or common descent? Or should both be taken as imaginary scenarios? Consider a report on unexpected genetic similarities for genes enabling echolocation in whales and bats.

The discovery represents an unprecedented example of adaptive sequence convergence between two highly divergent groups.... [Study author Stephen Rossiter said,] "It is generally assumed that most of these so-called convergent traits have arisen by different genes or different mutations. Our study shows that a complex trait—echolocation—has in fact evolved by identical genetic changes in bats and dolphins.... We were surprised by... the sheer number of convergent changes in the coding DNA."¹¹

The same report stated:

If you draw a phylogenetic [relationship] tree of bats, whales, and a few other mammals based on similarities in the prestin [a hearing gene] sequence alone, the echolocating bats and whales come out together rather than with their rightful evolutionary cousins.¹¹

Addressing this specific contradiction, Lee Spetner perceptively observes:

Convergent evolution is...an invention. It was invented solely to avoid addressing the failure of the phylogenetic tree to support Common Descent. There is no theoretical support for convergence, and whatever evidence has been given for it is the product of a circular argument.¹²

The blunder of evolutionary theory is that similar features are evidence for evolution...except when they aren't.

Problem 3: Convergent Evolution Was "Stunningly" Wrong

What about the teaching of 40 independent evolutionary developments of various eyes? That manifested into another incredible evolutionary blunder. "This view was entirely incorrect," Sean Carroll notes after citing genes called *Hox genes* that control eye development in sighted creatures. "The late Stephen Jay Gould...saw the discovery of *Hox* clusters...as overturning a major view of the Modern Synthesis [natural selection fractioning out genetic variability]." Carroll candidly continues, "Natural selection has not forged many eyes completely from scratch; there is a common genetic ingredient to making each eye type, as well as to the many types of appendages, hearts, etc."¹³

A Better Organism-Focused, Design-Based Explanation

The general evolutionary view—that nature acts as an exercising agency to mold passive organisms into unlimited forms over time as they are docilely driven by environmental challenges called *selective pressures*—is bankrupt. No scientific paper has ever quantified a "selective pressure." "Converged," "conserved," or other evolutionary words that project volition onto nature serve as rescuing devices. Convergence is not an observation demonstrated to flow from objectively discernible causes but is a declaration based on mental pictures—a metaphysical conjecture that substitutes for a total absence of explanation.

However, creationists have long explained similar traits in very diverse creatures as functioning toward similar purposes. They expected to find shared genetic programming to guide the traits' development, an expectation confirmed in *Hox* genes, gene networks, and other mechanisms.¹⁴

In a recent rebuff to convergence, ICR geneticist Dr. Jeffrey Tomkins discussed how pythons and boas can each express—evidently quite quickly—some highly similar yet environmentally specific traits that enable them to fit and fill different niches.¹⁵

These findings tend to confirm design-based creationist theory that emphasizes active, problem-solving organisms that are capable of extraordinary self-adjustments to fill dynamic environments. Future research will likely confirm more details of how creatures can detect signals during development (and also afterward) and make self-adjustments to their own traits per internal algorithms. Sensors, algorithms, and other internal system elements enable them to actively and continuously track environmental changes—not be passively driven and molded by them.

Such extreme bioengineering magnifies the profound wisdom of nature's true creative Agent, the Lord Jesus Christ (Psalm 104:24). ☞

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Dr. Guliuzza is ICR's National Representative. He earned his M.D. from the University of Minnesota, his Master of Public Health from Harvard University, and served in the U.S. Air Force as 28th Bomb Wing Flight Surgeon and Chief of Aerospace Medicine. Dr. Guliuzza is also a registered Professional Engineer.



Q: Are Planets Only Thousands of Years Old?

A: Go to a standard planetarium show or watch a television documentary on the solar system and you'll hear that the planets formed about four and a half billion years ago. But the many evidences favoring recent planet formation counter that idea. Each of these evidences contains a clocklike natural process that is still ticking even though it should have gone dead long ago if it began billions of years ago.

For example, Saturn's beautiful rings look bright and clean. Billions of years of space dust should have tarnished the ring's ice crystals into a dull gray long ago. Saturn's moon Enceladus continues to jet ice from 101 geysers near its south pole. Secular astronomers face a challenge in explaining why all this material didn't exit Enceladus millions of years ago and why this little moon still has enough energy to fuel its many geysers.¹

Next, some planets and moons emit too much heat to fit the billions-of-years model. Neptune emits twice the heat it receives from the sun, and Enceladus emits some 10 times the heat secular scientists predicted.² If God made Neptune and Enceladus relatively warm in the beginning, they should still have extra heat after only thousands of years—but not billions.

Planetary atmospheres also boggle long-age expectations. Researchers recently puzzled over the methane atmosphere around Saturn's big moon Titan. They wrote, "A question that remains unanswered is, where is all the methane coming from?" Radiation from the sun permanently converts the methane into larger molecules, mostly ethane. The ethane should have fallen to the surface for millions of years, forming hydrocarbon oceans. But "that turned out to be wrong as well," they wrote.³ Titan's youthful atmosphere still has

plenty of methane.

Even one of the many newfound, very distant extrasolar planets—named GJ 1214b—challenges secular scenarios. Some astronomers believe it has a very watery composition. But it orbits near a red dwarf star with enough radiation to have vaporized the planet's water—unless the planet is young enough to still have some originally created water.⁴ Finally, astronomers labeled weird, blade-like formations of methane ice on Pluto's youthful surface as standing for "a few tens of millions of years."⁵ How could Pluto have avoided formation-erasing collisions like those that made the moon's impact craters for all that supposed time?

These examples merely dip a toe into the deep waters of youthful planetary features, including young-looking magnetic fields. ICR has a collection of articles (ICR.org/recent-universe), plus a new book (*Guide to the Universe*), that illustrate young-looking planetary and other outer space features. They confirm the recent creation that the Bible clearly teaches. Isaiah 51:13 says, "And you forget the LORD your Maker, who stretched out the heavens and laid the foundations of the earth." Science and the Bible agree that God made the lights in the sky, including planets, only thousands of years ago. ☞

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Mr. Thomas is Science Writer at the Institute for Creation Research and earned his M.S. in biotechnology from Stephen F. Austin State University.

Clever Creatures: “Wise from Receiving Wisdom”

Animals fascinate children. They should amaze adults, too, yet often we are too busy to take time to ponder and appreciate the God-given traits of the creatures who share our world.

Why should animals capture our attention? They are alive! Unlike plants, which are like biological machines (having no self-consciousness),¹ higher-order animals like mammals and birds are truly alive, often displaying what might be called personalities. Although qualitatively distinct from humans—who are made in God’s image (Genesis 1:27)—animals have what Scripture calls a “soul” (Hebrew *nephesh*).²

This soul is something more than the animal’s physical body. A dog’s soul departs at death, yet its physical body remains. Thus, there is a difference between a dog’s immaterial life and its material body, just as we humans have physical bodies distinct from

our immaterial selves. The animal’s soul is revealed by how he or she intelligently thinks, communicates, learns, and makes decisions—including problem-solving choices.

Although many animal behaviors exhibit preprogrammed responses to outside world conditions, not all animal behavior is instinctive. Some animal behaviors reveal that God chose to give them cleverness—abilities to *learn* new ideas, to *fit* new situations, and to *solve* practical problems of daily living.

As [Benjamin] Beck tells us in his book *Animal Tool Behavior*, [a crow] was fed partly on dried mash, which its keepers were supposed to moisten. But sometimes (being merely human) they forgot. The crow, undaunted, would then pick up a small plastic cup that had been provided as a toy, dip it into a water trough, carry the filled cup across the room to the food, and empty the

water onto the mash. “If the water was spilled accidentally,” Beck writes, “the crow would return to the trough for a refill rather than proceed to the food pan with an empty cup.” The bird was not taught to do this. “The [problem-solving] behavior appeared spontaneously,” Beck reports.³

Many other examples of problem solving by resourceful animals could be given. Domesticated livestock, family pets, wildlife, and laboratory-tested animals come up with clever solutions to the challenges of daily living to secure food, water, air, shelter, rest, information, and reproductive success.³⁻⁵

But the resourcefulness of animals should not surprise us. Proverbs informs us that God wisely installed wisdom into animals—even small creatures like ants, conies, locusts, and lizards.⁶

Literally, these animals are “wise from receiving [God’s] wisdom.”⁷ Fascinating! 🦅

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



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Building Biblically



After years of planning and praying, the leadership of ICR has made the decision to begin construction on the ICR Discovery Center for Science and Earth History. We are thrilled to get started and excited by this significant addition to our ministry. At the same time, we realize what a major commitment this is for us, and my father's lead article in this month's issue provides an excellent summary of our journey to this point. But it's equally important for our supporters to understand the mindset behind the scenes as this initiative was carefully considered.

The first two major building projects recorded in the Bible—Noah's Ark and the Tower of Babel—provide marvelous insight into godly principles we should follow. Noah, the only man at the time who "found grace in the eyes of the LORD" (Genesis 6:8), was warned by God of His coming judgment on the wickedness of mankind. God told Noah to build the Ark, and Noah spent the next 100 years in obedience to Him. Nimrod, the first postdiluvian man to become "a mighty one on the earth" (Genesis 10:8), likely organized people to build the

first city and tower on the plains of Shinar. The people's reasoning was simple: "Let us make a name for ourselves" (Genesis 11:4).

These examples show the first principle to consider is motivation. Why are we building? Is it, like Noah, in obedience to God and for His will and glory? Or is it for personal pride and for the glory of man?

The building of the first temple in Jerusalem provides another key principle. King David, described by God as "a man after His own heart" (1 Samuel 13:14), longed to build a permanent house of worship for the Lord. David spent years making "abundant preparations before his death" (1 Chronicles 22:5) and was divinely given "the plans...by the Spirit" by which it should be constructed (1 Chronicles 28:12). He even gave a large portion of his personal fortune to the project (1 Chronicles 29:3-4). But God denied David's desire to personally build the temple and instead gave that responsibility to his son Solomon (1 Chronicles 22:7-10).

This account shows the second principle to consider is God's timing. Isaiah tells us plainly what we all know intuitively: God's thoughts and ways are higher than

ours and do not come to us naturally (Isaiah 55:8-9). While we may have every reason to believe God has truly called us to build, are we convinced it is the right time—God's time—to begin?

ICR's Board discussed these biblical building principles at length in their January meeting before beginning deliberations on the Discovery Center. Like Noah, ICR obeyed the Lord's will as best as we can determine it. Like David, ICR spent years preparing, planning, and gathering, and most of our staff members have given portions of their small "fortunes" to the project. And like Solomon's charge, ICR is now convinced the time is right!

Financial support for the Discovery Center was very strong during 2016, and we are closing the gap on the total funds needed. But we aren't quite there yet, so please consider taking advantage of ICR's active matching gift challenge. All gifts to the Discovery Center will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$4 million! Please visit ICR.org/donate/museum to donate online, or mail your check payable to ICR (write "Discovery Center" on the memo line). The time is right, and this God-given opportunity couldn't be better (Galatians 6:10). Thanks in advance for helping us finish the course. ✉

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



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I attended two of the Truth on Tour lectures at Denton Bible. I first attended “Your Origins Matter” and then “Astronomy Points to Creation.” Both lectures were given by Dr. Jason Lisle. I would rate them both as beyond outstanding. Both empowered me to make a stronger witness.



I purchased *Guide to Dinosaurs* for my seven-year-old, and he loves it! I pray daily for your organization's efforts and for the funds to be collected for the museum in Dallas. How this will glorify the Lord! You are making a huge difference in this broken world.

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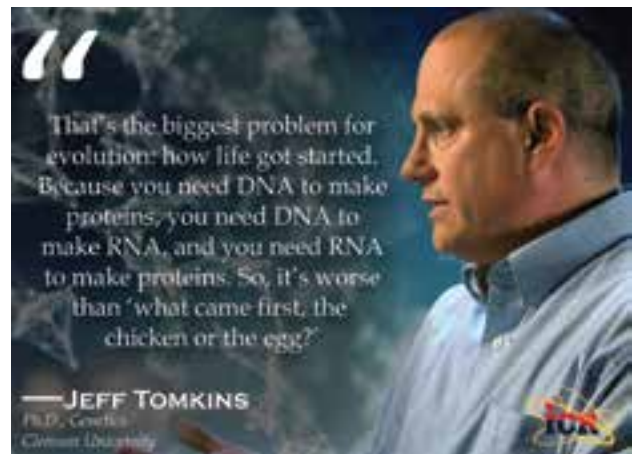
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This incredible magazine [*Acts & Facts*] needs to be in the hands of every student and faculty member in secondary education.

— A. J.

“ Shalom, I received your *Days of Praise* this morning. I love reading them each day—**they're very encouraging** and contain so much teaching which seems so lacking in many churches today. ”

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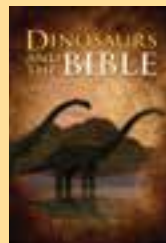
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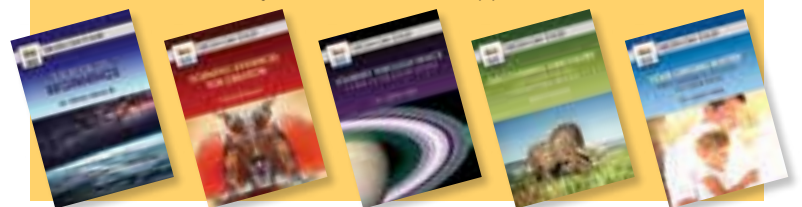
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