ACTS & FACTS

INSTITUTE FOR CREATION RESEARCH

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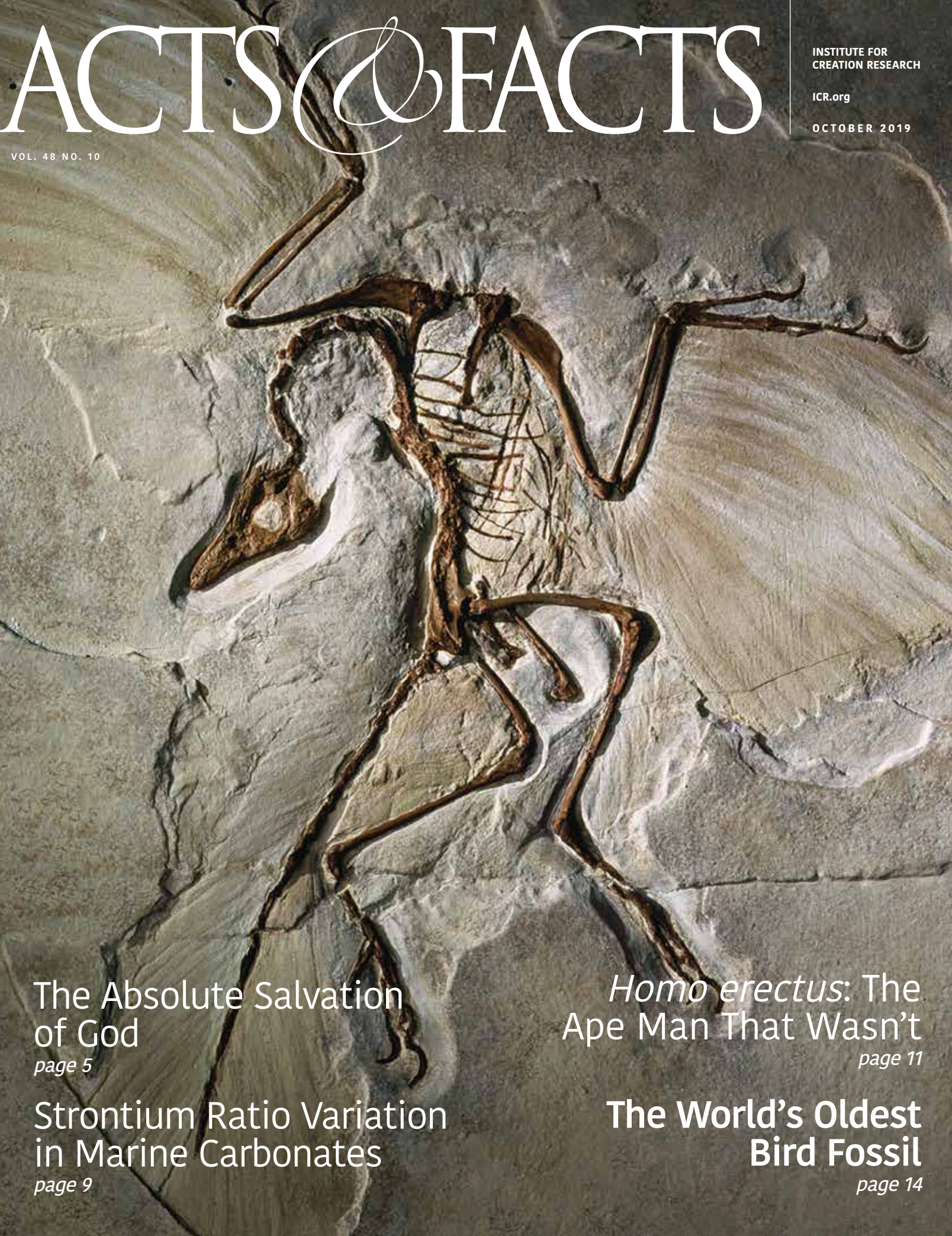

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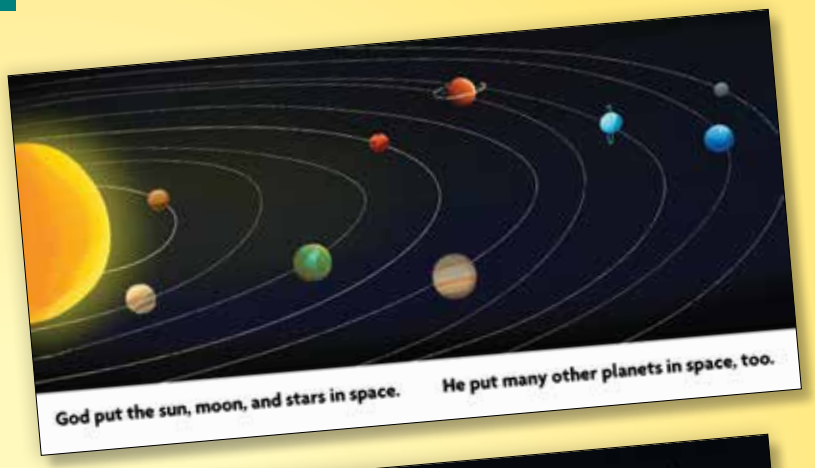

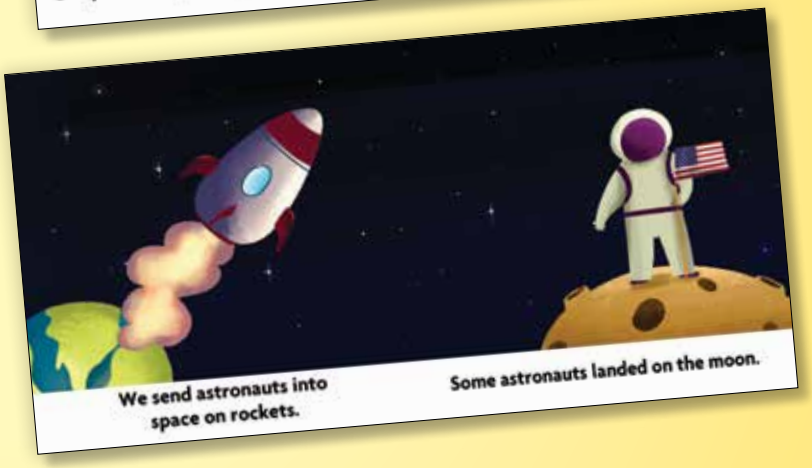

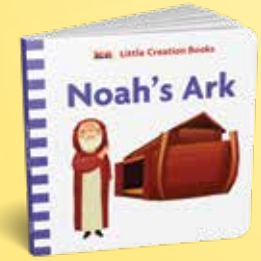

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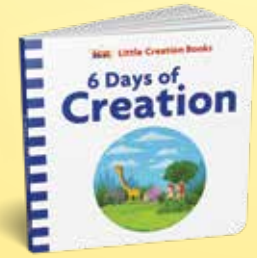

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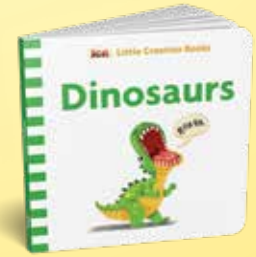

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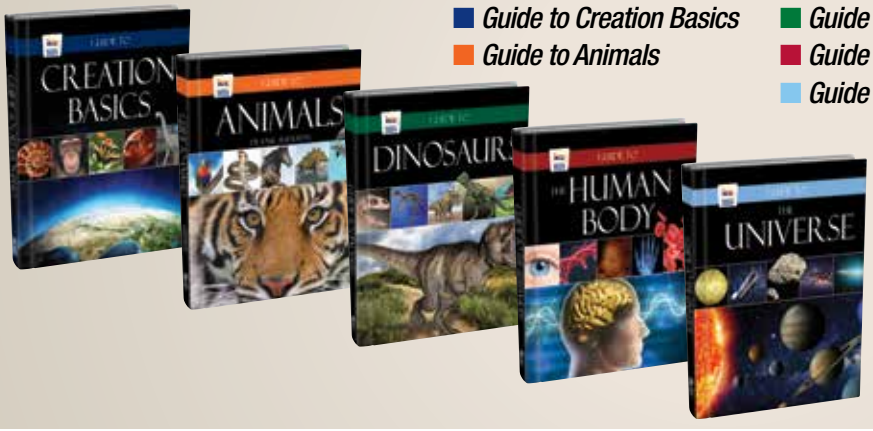

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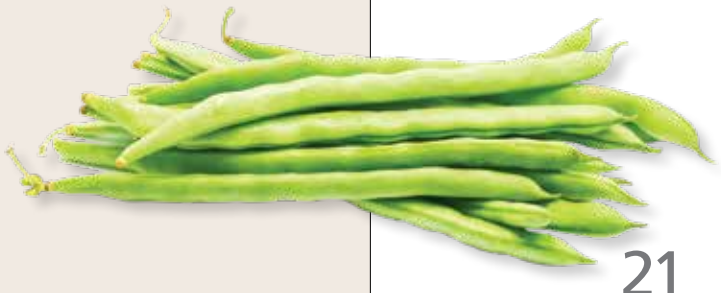


from the editor

What's the Point?

What's the point? Sometimes we ask this question when we're bogged down in a tedious project—when we're ready to be finished with the task at hand. Sometimes we ask it out of discouragement or fatigue. Other times, we're wondering if what we're doing is the best use of our resources. When we consider the question in light of creation, we're really asking *why does it even matter?* Is what we believe about our origins important?

Dr. Henry Morris III answers that question—*what's the point*—in this month's feature article, "The Absolute Salvation of God" (pages 5-7). He says, "The whole point is Jesus! He is Creator or He is not. He is Savior or He is not.... [Jesus] made this world and is the only One through whom the world can be redeemed."

Jesus is the point.

At the Institute for Creation Research, our scientists work with confidence that the data they uncover will point us to our Creator and Redeemer. ICR strives to show how science affirms what we see in Scripture and to dispel the notion that deeper investigation will undermine our faith. On the contrary, both science and Scripture point to Jesus.

Visitors to the September 2 grand opening of the ICR Discovery Center for Science & Earth History witnessed this firsthand as they explored creation-based exhibits and planetarium shows. You'll find photos and details related to the inaugural event on page 16 of this issue. Their visit ended with presentations focused on the life, death, resurrection, and return of Christ. Why? Because everything they'd seen, from the Garden of Eden to the Flood to the elaborate design of DNA, pointed to Jesus.

In "The World's Oldest Bird Fossil" (pages 14-15), Dr. Brian Thomas shows us how the scientific data line up with what the Bible tells us about creatures—that our Creator made each animal according to its own kind. Dr. Thomas demonstrates how the oldest fossils reveal that a bird has always been a bird and not a bird turning into something else. Our Creator, Jesus, made everything after its own kind, just as Genesis 1 says.

Dr. Jeff Tomkins reminds us that "God created an ancestral human couple uniquely in His image on the sixth day of the creation week" ("*Homo erectus:* The Ape Man That Wasn't," pages 11-13). His finding that *Homo erectus* was fully human, not a transitional link between apes and people, affirms the truth of Genesis yet again. And what's the point of Genesis? Jesus.

Even children can begin to discover the faith-building connections between science and the Bible. Our latest children's books, *Earth: Our Created Home* (page 24) and Little Creation Books (page 2), can help you explain creation details to your children in ways they can understand. And all of ICR's resources will introduce them to their Creator.

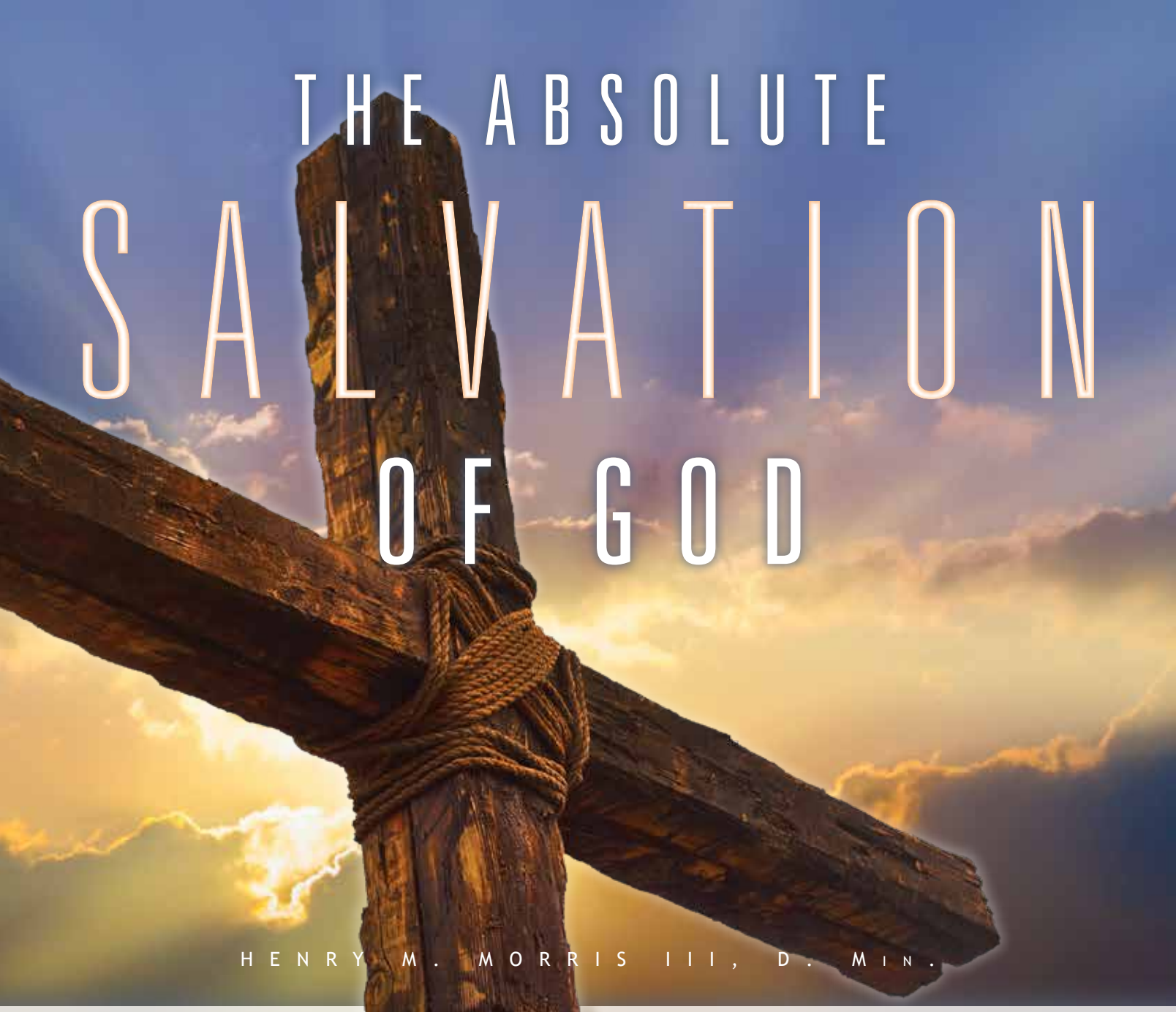
Why does ICR exist? Why does creation matter? What's the point? Jesus. And what we think of Jesus matters because it impacts who we are, what we live for, and where we're headed—today and in the future.

Jayme Durant

Jayme Durant
Executive Editor

For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. (Colossians 1:16-17)

THE ABSOLUTE SALVATION OF GOD



HENRY M. MORRIS III, D. MIN.

article highlights

- Many Christians think a six-day creation is an unimportant issue.
- Jesus' salvation work is tied to His work as Creator.
- Out of His great love for us, God provided His Son to defeat sin and death and offer us salvation.
- Despite our trials in this life, He promises final victory for His people.
- We can rest secure in the absolute salvation that only comes from God.

When it comes to the question of creation versus evolution, many Christians seem to think, "What's the point? What does it matter whether all this arrived here in six days or over billions of years?"

The Institute for Creation Research exists to proclaim the answer to this—the whole point is Jesus! He is Creator or He is not. He is Savior or He is not. Either He is the answer to what the world so desperately needs or we can all just turn to the philosophies, beliefs, and endless pursuits of our own choosing.

God alone offers salvation.

But those philosophies, beliefs, and pursuits will never lead us to salvation. That is only available through the One who made this world and is the only One through whom the world can be redeemed. The new ICR Discovery Center for Science & Earth History's goal is not just to present the science affirming the accuracy and authority of the Bible. As important as that is, the ultimate focus is on pointing people to the Creator Himself. The final Discovery Center exhibit offers an overview of the life of Christ, His saving work through the cross and resurrection, and His promised return to claim His own and establish His Kingdom. It's our prayer that visitors will come to know God's absolute salvation if it isn't theirs already.

And once that salvation is attained, we have the promise of God's provision and protection of His own. Romans 8:31 says, "What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?" When earthly struggles begin to weigh heavily on our shoulders, it's very important that we remind ourselves of God's eternal truths. These truths are not complex, nor do they require hours of Bible study to grasp. All of them can easily be confined to one sentence. Here are the main points.

God Himself secures our salvation; who then can possibly undo His work?

Although the rescue highlighted in the Psalms often refers to a military rescue, it also applies to the eternal rescue from sin that is the ultimate focus of God's Word. We can rest secure in God's care.

- Psalm 27:1—The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?
- Psalm 46:1-2—God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear.
- Psalm 62:6—He only is my rock and my salvation; He is my defense; I shall not be moved.
- Psalm 118:6—The LORD is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me?

Psalm 27:1—The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

God Himself is the giver and the protector of our salvation.

The Bible contains so many assurances on this subject that it seems God really wanted us to *know* salvation is an eternal gift. No human had any part in bringing salvation about, and no human can do anything to cancel or destroy that great gift. When the omnipotent triune God decides to act, no one and no thing can possibly stop, change, or undo that act.

- John 5:24—"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life."
- John 10:28—"And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand."
- Romans 8:34—It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.

God Himself did not hesitate to deliver His own Son as payment for us.

This is stunningly clear proof of His limitless love for us. God gave the dearest, the most precious, most excellent Gift He could possibly give—His one and only Son—for you and me! God will, therefore, "freely give us all things" (Romans 8:32).

- Romans 5:8—But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us
- 1 Corinthians 2:12—Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.
- 1 John 4:10—In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

God Himself justifies the ones who believe in Him.

The faith that allows us to believe in Jesus Christ's substitutionary sacrifice is God's gift to us (Ephesians 2:8-9). Once our minds appropriate that truth, the heart is enabled to believe, instigating the new creation that is the child of God.

- Romans 8:1—There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.
- 2 Corinthians 5:17—Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.
- 2 Corinthians 5:21—For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.
- Ephesians 4:24—That you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

God's children will know hardship in this life.

Jesus Christ was clear to His disciples that they would face trouble for following Him. However, God assures us that this suffering has the purpose of revealing Christ through us and in us. Ultimately, it will lead to our blessing.

- Matthew 5:10—"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."
- John 15:20—"Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also."
- 2 Corinthians 4:11—For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.

God unconditionally promises ultimate victory for His beloved children.

We are never separated from the eternal shelter of His love (Romans 8:38-39). Our victory remains eternally secure in spite of all that the Enemy does to thwart us. God allows us to undergo the greatest of trials, but in the end we can be assured that "death is swallowed up in victory" (1 Corinthians 15:54).

- Romans 8:36-37—As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.
- Romans 8:38-39—For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- 1 John 4:4—You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

Every twice-born child of God has been given a ministry and the gifts needed to accomplish it (Romans 12:6). For ICR, that ministry is to reach the world with the message that the Bible is God's truth and can be trusted in all things, even when it comes to areas of science. Thank you to those of you whose prayers and support have allowed us to carry out this work and enabled us to expand our outreach through the ICR Discovery Center. I'm sure you can join us in saying: "To God our Savior, who alone is wise, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever. Amen" (Jude 1:25).

Dr. Morris is Chief Executive Officer of the Institute for Creation Research. He holds four earned degrees, including a D.Min. from Luther Rice Seminary and an MBA from Pepperdine University.

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OCTOBER 20

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SCHEDULE

9:30 & 11:15 a.m. . . . Worship Services: "Why You Should Believe in a Literal Genesis"
3:00 p.m. . . . . . "Our Young Universe"
4:00 p.m. . . . . . "Dinosaurs and the Christian"
5:00 p.m. . . . . . "The Mystery of the Ice Age"

Jake Hebert, Ph.D.

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VERNON R. CUPPS, PH.D.

Strontium Ratio Variation in Marine Carbonates

article highlights

- If Earth is millions of years old, the byproducts of isotope decay would have been distributed steadily over that time.
- The isotope decay of the element rubidium would be reflected by the amount of strontium in seawater and thus in marine sediments.
- Instead of a steady increase in isotope byproducts over time, graphs of the data appear to indicate a catastrophic mixing of water and volcanic activity over a short time period.
- This matches the year-long Genesis Flood.

In 1948, geologist F. E. Wickman predicted that the decay of ^{87}Rb (a rubidium isotope) in the earth's crust and mantle would be reflected in a related increase in the $^{87}Sr/^{86}Sr$ (two strontium isotopes) in seawater as well as in strontium-bearing marine precipitates.[1] This would seem a perfectly reasonable prediction within the millions-of-years paradigm that the academic geological community of the time preferred. This allowed plenty of time for the isotropic distribution of ^{87}Sr and ^{86}Sr in seawater and the associated marine sediments.[2,3]

In order to test the above hypothesis, one study measured the $^{87}Sr/^{86}Sr$ ratio in 786 marine samples from various rock strata spanning from the present back to an assumed 560 million years ago.[2] Results are presented in Figure 1. Pre-Cenozoic ages (x-axis) are based on the stratigraphic data of F. W. B. Van Eysinger and Cenozoic ages are based on the stratigraphic timescale provided by L. B. Gibson.[4,5]

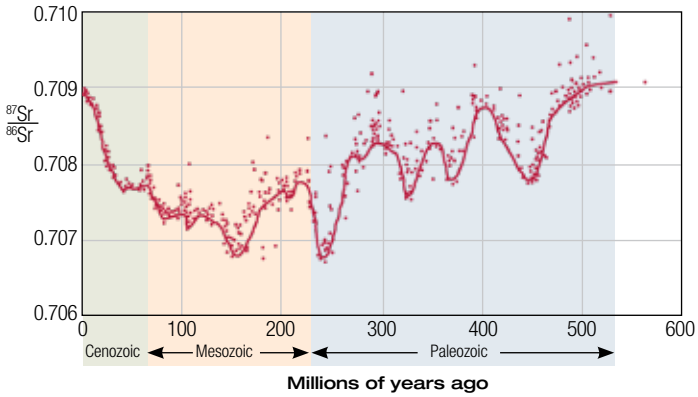

Figure 1. Plot of the $^{87}Sr/^{86}Sr$ ratio for 744 of 786 samples per the work of Burke.[2] The line represents the author's best estimate of seawater ratio versus time as a smooth function.

A virtually identical graph is presented by G. Faure without the actual data points (Figure 2).[3] More extensive measurements and a literature search by Veizer in 1999 verified the general trends observed earlier by Burke (Figure 3).[6]

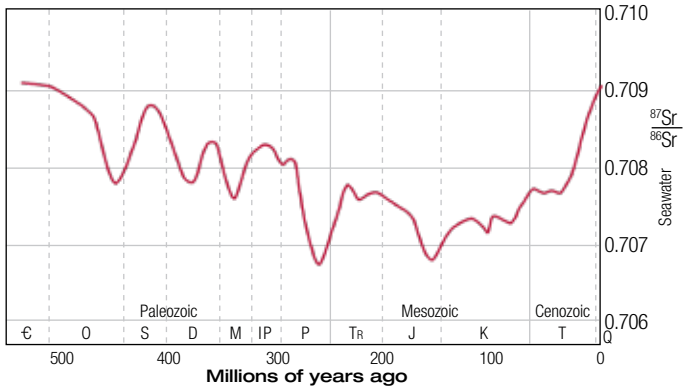

Figure 2. A plot for the variation of the $^{87}Sr/^{86}Sr$ ratio in seawater.[3]

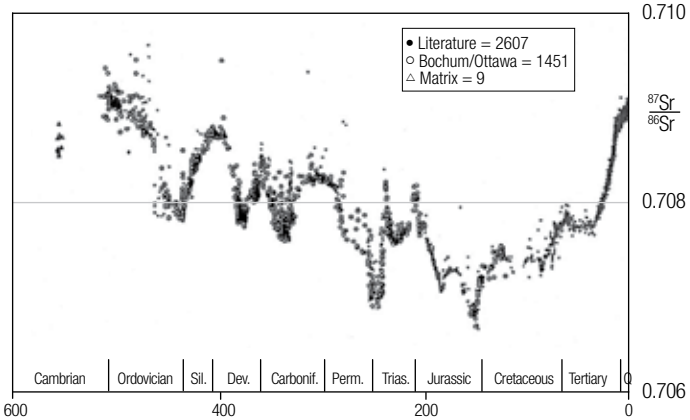

Figure 3. More comprehensive data for the $^{87}Sr/^{86}Sr$ ratio in seawater.[6]

Clearly, the authors of these studies couldn't go back in time and directly measure the $^{87}Sr/^{86}Sr$ ratio of seawater for any of the supposed epochs. So, how did they arrive at these ratios? Multiple samples from each of the sedimentary rock layers used to designate the x-axis were categorized as young volcanic, old sialic or granitic crust-like, and marine carbonate rocks. Each of these rocks makes some proportionate contribution to the overall $^{87}Sr/^{86}Sr$ ratio in seawater for a given time period. A model was developed to provide what is believed to be a reliable number for the $^{87}Sr/^{86}Sr$ ratio of seawater at each point in time. Faure summarizes the formula for this model in his 1986 textbook (Figure 4).[7]

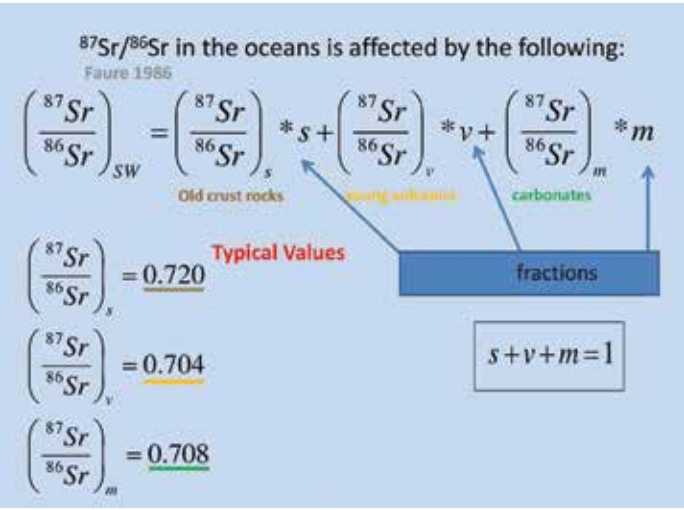

Figure 4. *Formulation of a model for arriving at values of the seawater $^{87}Sr/^{86}Sr$ ratio as a function of time.*[7]

Several challenging questions arise from these studies:

1. How is it possible for the relative natural abundance of ^{87}Sr and ^{86}Sr to be virtually the same today as it was 560 million years ago? If the only source of ^{87}Sr in the crust and thus in seawater is the decay of ^{87}Rb, shouldn't the ratio of $^{87}Sr/^{86}Sr$ have steadily increased over a half-billion-year-plus timespan?
2. Why do Burke and his co-authors throw away similar-aged samples with low strontium content or high insoluble content in order to obtain tighter clustering of the $^{87}Sr/^{86}Sr$ ratio?
3. Do the dramatic gyrations of the $^{87}Sr/^{86}Sr$ ratio better fit catastrophic mixing over a much shorter time interval?
4. The maximum value that the seawater $^{87}Sr/^{86}Sr$ ratio can reach in this model is 0.720 if contributions only come from sialic (crustal) rocks. Yet, values of 0.748 and 0.930 are observed in modern isochrons constructed from crustal rocks.[8,9]
5. Finally, stratigraphic dating was apparently used to establish the time frame during which each group of marine deposits was set down. How do we know that a certain rock layer was laid down 100 million years ago? We're told we "know" how old the rock layer is because of the fossils it contains, and we "know" how old the marine deposits are because of the rock layer they occur in. This is circular reasoning at its clearest and not acceptable science.

Wickman's initial hypothesis concerning the gradual increase of the $^{87}Sr/^{86}Sr$ ratio in seawater over geological timescales due to the decay of ^{87}Rb has been essentially falsified. Due to the long half-life of ^{87}Rb, one would only expect an increase of approximately 0.05% in ^{87}Sr due to its decay. This would only increase the $^{87}Sr/^{86}Sr$ ratio from approximately 0.70907 to 0.70942. This is a small amount compared to the observed changes but, depending on the measuring system used, is a detectable change over 560 million years. But even this change is not in the observational data. The observational data show the $^{87}Sr/^{86}Sr$ ratio of today essentially returning to its 560-million-year value.

The seawater $^{87}Sr/^{86}Sr$ ratio graph could be interpreted as a rapid catastrophic mixing of water with volcanic upwellings from the deep crust and the upper mantle during a year-long worldwide flood. The $^{87}Sr/^{86}Sr$ ratio seems to be stable before the Flood (~560 million years in secular time) and after the Flood (current ratio). Perhaps the marine deposits show a time frame closer to the one clearly listed in the Bible than the one favored by current geochronology.

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Dr. Cupps is Research Associate at the Institute for Creation Research and earned his Ph.D. in nuclear physics at Indiana University-Bloomington.

JEFFREY P. TOMKINS, PH.D.

Homo erectus: The Ape Man That Wasn't

Java Man Homo erectus

article highlights

- Many scientists misclassify *Homo erectus* as a transitional species between ape and human.
- So-called archaic *Homo erectus* traits like prominent brow ridges and small craniums are found in humans today.
- Secular dates for some *Homo erectus* fossils overlap dates for modern humans, countering the evolutionary story.
- Locations of some *Homo erectus* discoveries negate the out-of-Africa model of human migration.
- *Homo erectus* was human, and some of its fossils may have resulted from the Flood.

The archaic human species *Homo erectus* has been portrayed as an important ape-to-man transitional link. However, these fossils don't provide any real evidence of evolution. Many paleontologists and a majority of creationists think their unusual features are nothing more than variants of human traits and not transitional at all. Even more, some of them have been found in remote isolated island locations far from Africa and dated by secular calculations at up to 1.9 million years old. This completely derails the evolutionary story that humans migrated out of Africa just a few hundred thousand years ago. A biblical model of human origins provides a much better fit for the data.

How *Homo erectus* Got Going

The first *Homo erectus* finds were given the names Java Man and Peking Man.[1,2] Eugène Dubois, a Dutch medical doctor and anatomist, made his famous discovery in 1891 on the island of Java and originally called it *Pithecanthropus erectus*. His Java Man consisted of just a skull cap, a thigh bone, and a molar tooth found separately in the same layer of volcanic ash. In fact, the skull and thigh bone were about 50 feet apart, but Dubois concluded they belonged to the same individual. An ardent evolutionist and Darwin fan, he immediately claimed he'd found a transitional form. His argument was based primarily on the skull cap's pronounced brow ridge and size. It was smaller than the average modern human but still well within the known variation for humans. The thigh bone was identical to modern humans.

Specimens of Peking Man, also known as *Homo erectus pekinensis* (formerly *Sinanthropus pekinensis*), were discovered between 1923 and 1937 during excavations near Beijing.[1,2] These fossils have been given evolutionary dates ranging from 680,000 to 780,000 years old.[3,4] The sum fossil total from this work includes six nearly complete crania, 15 partial crania, 11 mandibles (jaws), many teeth, some skeletal bones, and a large number of stone tools.[1,2] Modern human fossils were also found in an upper cave at the same site in 1933.

After these initial discoveries in Asia, similar fossil skulls were

found throughout eastern Africa. First promoted under the name *Homo ergaster,* it's now widely accepted that *H. ergaster* is the African form of *H. erectus.* The most complete *H. erectus* fossil was discovered in 1984 near Lake Turkana in Kenya.[5] Known as Turkana Boy, this fossil's skull features were similar to *H. erectus,* but its body was essentially identical to modern humans. Most researchers now agree the skeleton was from a juvenile of about 10 to 12 years of age who would have achieved a normal human height of close to six feet at maturity. The generally accepted evolutionary age of this fossil is about 1.6 million years—slightly younger than the Java Man fossils.

Turkana Boy
Homo erectus

The other major group of *H. erectus* fossils was discovered between 1991 and 2005 in archaeological excavations near the city of Dmanisi, Georgia, northwest of Turkey and situated between the Black and Caspian Seas. According to evolutionary dating, the five crania and four mandibles are about 1.8 million years old.[2,6] Although the fossils have been placed in the *H. erectus* category, the extreme size and shape variation of the skulls has caused controversy. In fact, evolutionists note that due to this variability, if the skulls hadn't been found close to one another and in the same rock layer, they would have been placed in different species categories. Several of the skulls look as though there may have been some sort of disease pathology at work.

What Makes a *Homo erectus* a *Homo erectus*?

The entire story of *H. erectus* is essentially built on about 300 very fragmentary fossils. The majority of these are nothing more than partial skulls, teeth, and broken bones. The only nearly complete *H. erectus* fossil is Turkana Boy, whose post-cranial skeleton was found to be nearly identical to modern humans.

Based on the diverse skull fragments and a few nearly complete crania, the defining features of *H. erectus* are a prominent brow ridge, a sloping forehead, reduced chin, more constricted temples than typical humans, larger teeth, forward-projecting jaw (prognathism), and cranial capacities on the lower end of the normal human-size spectrum.[2] In fact, one could say that *H. erectus* skulls are shaped similarly to Neanderthal craniums except that instead of being larger compared to modern humans, their heads were on average generally smaller. However, *H. erectus* cranial volume is still within the same range as modern humans. Research has shown that, in general, human or animal intelligence is not based on brain size but on creature-specific organizational properties.[2]

Kow Swamp Homo erectus

Recent *Homo erectus* in Australia and China?

In 1972, the fossil remains of about 50 Aboriginal humans were discovered at a burial site in the Kow Swamp region of Northern Victoria, Australia.[2,7] The researchers who reported the discovery described a distinct set of so-called archaic human traits "not seen in recent Aboriginal crania" that closely paralleled the traits of classic *H. erectus.* These included prominent brow ridges, sloping foreheads, prognathism, large teeth, and a minimal chin. But most importantly, along with the reported "archaic" features, the researchers claimed a very recent date by evolutionary standards for these fossils. The scientists in the report stated, "Analysis of the cranial morphology of more than thirty individuals reveals the survival of *Homo erectus* features in Australia until as recently as 10,000 years ago."[7]

In a 2006 finding in Mongolia, researchers reported a skullcap whose "analysis shows similarities with Neanderthals, Chinese *Homo erectus,* and West/Far East archaic *Homo sapiens.*"[8] Just like the Kow Swamp fossils, the evolutionary dates don't fall within the range of typical *H. erectus.* The most recent study of the Mongolian fossil now lists it at about 34,000 years old—a time considered very recent in the human evolutionary spectrum and on par with the Kow Swamp fossils.

The problem with both of these fossil discoveries is that evolutionarily speaking they have been put in the same age range as very recent anatomically modern humans. Had they been dated at one to two million years, they would have been considered bona fide *H. erectus* because they would then fit the evolutionary narrative. As things stand, they are considered mere anomalies to be swept under the rug to maintain the evolutionary myth that so-called archaic human traits disappeared long ago.

Archaic Traits Are Still Alive and Well

Secular scientists have discovered a human skull from Jebel Irhoud, Morocco, defined as having "anatomically modern" features and dated at over 300,000 years old.[9] This, combined with the fact of very "recent" humans with archaic features (the Kow Swamp and Mongolian fossils), highlights severe inconsistencies in the human evolution story.

If one wants to accept the evolutionary timeline, then *H. erectus*-like humans with archaic features and humans with anatomically modern features have hung out together on Earth for a long time, even up to the very recent past. But it gets even worse for the evolutionary picture because so-called archaic traits like prominent brow ridges, sloping foreheads, prognathism, and small craniums can still be found in living humans.[10]

Advanced Culture and Behavior of *Homo erectus*

Not only is there strong anatomical evidence that *H. erectus* fossils are just a variant of the human kind, there is also copious archaeological evidence that they were highly intelligent and exhibited a broad range of human behaviors. The condensed list below is based on an extensive scientific literature survey published in 2017.[2]

- Watercraft construction and seafaring navigation
- Language and communication skills
- Jewelry manufacture
- Cordage and knot-making
- Manufacture and use of stone and bone tools
- Controlled usage of fire and cooking
- Catching and processing fish
- Development of organized living and occupational spaces
- Art (petroglyphs, figurines, red ochre paint)
- Woodworking
- Coordinated large-game hunting and processing
- Development of clothing from animal skins
- Development of fibers and resins
- Social and family structure
- Care for the elderly and weak

Homo erectus and the Out-of-Africa Myth

The *H. erectus* fossil presence in China and southeast Asia, particularly on remote islands like Java, causes major problems for the reigning human evolutionary migration paradigm. First of all, it's obvious that intelligent seafaring humans made the journey over long stretches of open ocean to reach these islands. And if we accept the deep-time dating of *H. erectus* at up to two million years in remote places like this, then there are severe evolutionary time frame discrepancies.

For one thing, the supposed initial phase of human evolution is represented by the ape-like *Australopithecus*, which overlaps significantly in time with *H. erectus*. If they coexisted, how could one have been the evolutionary predecessor of the other? Even worse is the problem it presents for the current out-of-Africa model. This model proposes that humans migrated from Africa only about 100,000 to 200,000 years ago. But if that is the case, then how could they have existed on remote southeast Asian islands two million years before that?

Homo erectus Was Human After All

Not only is the *H. erectus* fossil record fragmentary and incomplete, but the bulk of the data indicates this category is simply a variant of the human kind. As mentioned above, so-called archaic *H. erectus* traits can still be found in humans today. Even many evolutionists recognize this. A recent article stated, "If you bumped into a *Homo erectus* in the street you might not recognise [*sic*] them as being very different from you."[11]

So, if *H. erectus* was fully human and the evolutionary narratives and timelines don't make sense even within a secular worldview, how does this fit with the Bible? First of all, the Scriptures are quite clear that God created an ancestral human couple uniquely in His image on the sixth day of the creation week. We also know that death, sin, and corruption entered the picture when Adam and Eve rebelled (Genesis 3). As the human population grew, people became so wicked that God destroyed the world in a global flood. It's possible that some of the *H. erectus* fossils may have been humans buried in the highest sedimentary layers of Flood rock, exactly where we would expect them.

Alternatively, some *H. erectus* fossils may have been from specific people groups that dispersed from the Tower of Babel after the Flood. The Kow Swamp burial site would be a good example. When human languages were confused at Babel, the resulting isolated groups would have led to a large number of genetic bottlenecks and lineages of humans with unique suites of trait variations such as skin color, skeletal sizes, and skull shape variations. Some creation scientists also speculate that genetic abnormalities would have surfaced more rapidly in small, isolated, inbred populations, which may explain some of the unusual variations seen in *H. erectus* skulls.[2]

Clearly, the biblical account of human creation and Earth history offers a much more satisfying framework in which to place human fossil discoveries than the scientifically flawed evolutionary narrative.

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BRIAN THOMAS, PH.D.

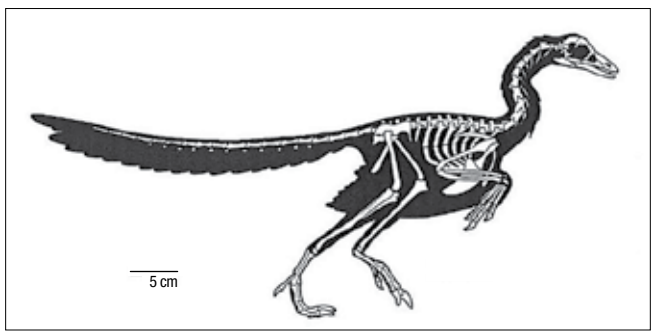
The World's Oldest Bird Fossil

article highlights

- Many textbooks, museums, and media reports portray *Archaeopteryx* as a link between reptiles and birds.
- They don't mention that *Archaeopteryx* was buried in the wrong rock layers to fit that story.
- A true bird fossil named *Protoavis* was discovered in layers even older than the ones *Archaeopteryx* was found in.
- *Protoavis* and *Archaeopteryx* fly in the face of reptile-to-bird evolution.

Ask college freshman biology students to name the oldest bird fossil and they'll probably say the evolutionary icon *Archaeopteryx*. In that case, you'd hear the wrong answer. The story of which fossil receives the prize for the oldest bird has as many twists as the story of bird evolution itself.

The tale took flight with the 1861 discovery of a lone feather in Germany's now-famous Solnhofen limestone layers. Just two years later, British anatomist Richard Owen obtained a Solnhofen whole-body fossil with feather impressions for the British Museum. Owen clashed with Charles Darwin by saying that creature changes happen through orderly principles instead of from natural happenstance. Both he and Darwin agreed, though, that *Archaeopteryx* was the world's oldest bird, and it kept that crown for a century.



Protoavis

It was discovered only two years after the publication of Darwin's famous book *On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection*, and Darwin promoters soon showcased *Archaeopteryx* as a missing link. To them it represented mostly a bird with reptilian features still remaining from its supposed evolutionary past. English writer and social commentator H. G. Wells wrote in *The Science of Life*, "As it is, *Archaeopteryx* is in its general construction a perfect link between the two great groups of birds and reptiles, though more than halfway to modern birds."[1] Headlines reinforce this same supposed link status today,[2] even though studies continue to show *Archaeopteryx* was just a bird.[3]

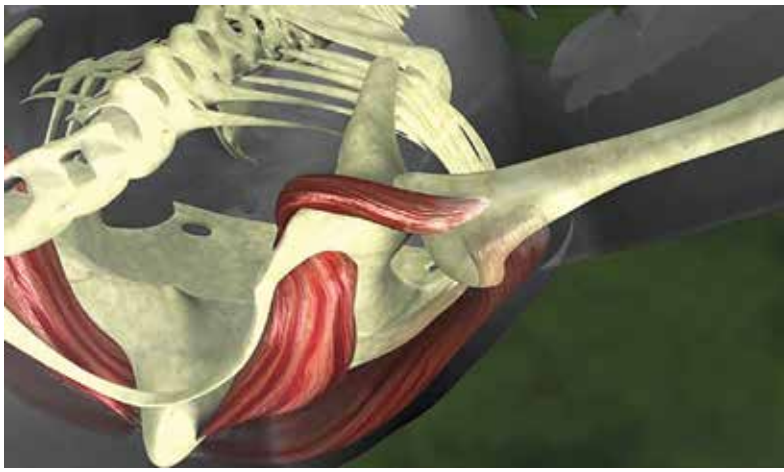
Despite its iconic status, this fossil's geological position is out of sync with evolution. When we factor in the fossils found in Jurassic System rocks outside Germany, the Jurassic Solnhofen limestones place the extinct bird amidst dinosaur layers. According to an increasingly popular evolutionary tale, an unknown starting reptile evolved into dinosaurs. Then some of those dinosaurs—the theropods—later evolved into birds. Theropods and birds both have three forward-facing toes on each of their two legs, but the similarities essentially end there. Birds balance from their knees, while theropod legs swing from the hips like human legs do.

The evolutionary story assumes that natural processes adjusted all the appropriate theropod bones, muscles, and nerves into a bird system perhaps several times over the 186 million years that supposedly spanned the Triassic, Jurassic, and later Cretaceous rock systems. The total lack of an undisputed transition between hip- and knee-walkers counters the evolutionary tale. Likewise, the discovery of short-lived feather protein remnants in the original *Archaeopteryx* fossil counters the assumed evolutionary time.[4]

What lower-to-upper fossil sequence would support bird evolution? It needs a reptile-dinosaur-bird sequence from the bottom-up. Ideally, the first bird should occur in Upper Cretaceous layers as the culmination of millions of years of reptilian-ancestor evolution. Instead, most theropods occur in Cretaceous layers far above *Archaeopteryx*'s Jurassic setting. That's like having grandparents descend from their grandchildren. *Archaeopteryx* fossils are positioned too low to tell a perfect evolutionary story. But what if someone found a bona fide bird in even lower layers?

In 1983, paleontologist Sankar Chatterjee described Triassic bird fossils from west Texas. They belonged to a bird kind he named *Protoavis*. Talk about out of place! The Tecovas Formation from which Chatterjee's teams collected several *Protoavis* fossils has an evolutionary age assignment of about 75 million years before *Archaeopteryx*, which is already too old to fit evolution. No wonder Chatterjee wrote, "From the beginning, *Protoavis* was received with much skepticism."[5]

Why do evolutionists treat *Protoavis* with skepticism? Not because of its anatomy. If anything, *Protoavis* looked more like modern birds than the later-buried *Archaeopteryx*, which lacked a large keel bone structure in the middle of its chest. *Protoavis* had a keel-shaped sternum and a shoulder girdle with the supracoracoideus pulley system typical of modern flyers,[6] all integrated with its toothy mouth and bony tail. In spite of this, Chatterjee's colleagues reject or ignore *Protoavis* because it doesn't fit theropod-to-bird evolution. Chatterjee still believes that reptiles evolved into birds—he just thinks it happened much earlier than most paleontologists assert. But that's like having great-grandparents descend from their great-grandchildren.



Wing structure of a modern snow goose showing a supracoracoideus muscle and keel-shaped sternum similar to what was found in Protoavis.

As of August 2019, the opening paragraph of Wikipedia's description of *Archaeopteryx* says, "Older potential avialans [birds or supposed evolutionary ancestors of birds] have since been identified, including *Anchiornis*, *Xiaotingia*, and *Aurornis*."[7] The four-winged *Anchiornis* must have been a bird because it had feathers. And it must have been deposited only thousands, not millions, of years ago because researchers found feather proteins in it, just like they did in *Archaeopteryx*.[8] All three of the bird-like fossils listed in Wikipedia predate *Archaeopteryx* by only 10 million supposed years. *Protoavis*' 75 million years must make the website entry's authors too uncomfortable to even mention.

Dinosaurs did not evolve into birds. The imaginary transitions wouldn't have been able to fly or walk. How could they even survive? *Archaeopteryx* was not H. G. Wells' "perfect link" at all. It had the anatomy of a walking, gliding bird with no in-between features such as pre-feathers or lizard hips. And *Archaeopteryx* was entombed before its supposed ancestors.

The prize for the oldest fossil bird currently belongs to the Triassic *Protoavis*. Its high-tech flight anatomy and its low-lying rock layer fly in the face of bird evolution's twisted tale.

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The ICR Discovery Center for Science & Earth History Is Now Open!

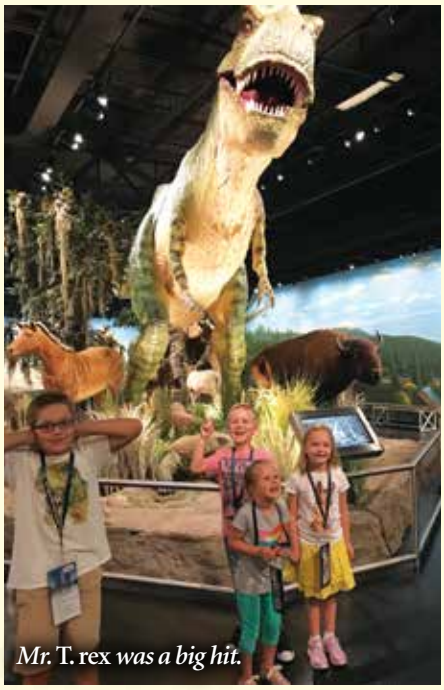
The Founders of Science exhibit includes ICR founder Dr. Henry M. Morris.

The Origins of the Universe exhibit is awesome!

September 2, 2019, marked the grand opening of the ICR Discovery Center for Science & Earth History. On that first day, over 1,600 visitors experienced a journey through Earth's history in the exhibit hall, explorations of space and sea in the planetarium, and live science presentations throughout the day in our new auditorium. It was a joy to see people of every shape, size, and color flowing through the doors to discover how science confirms creation.

When visitor Lisa Shepler was asked to describe her Discovery Center experience, she said, "Awe and wonder! We went to the lecture and [Dr. Randy Guliuzza] was talking about how science is worship. And that's exactly how I felt. I love science—it just helps you to worship the Lord!"

The Discovery Center exhibit hall begins with a nod to the founders of science and includes a portrait of ICR founder Dr. Henry M. Morris, who is often referred to as the father of modern creationism. ICR was founded in 1970 in Santee, California, and the expansion of its influence to Dallas, Texas, today is a testament to God's faithful work through His people. We're so grateful for the way He's used our supporters' prayers and generosity to make the Discovery Center possible.



Mr. T. rex was a big hit.

Stand on the edge of Grand Canyon.

Do you know a family, school, or church group that could benefit from what the Discovery Center has to offer? Please help us spread the word! If you couldn't join us during the opening weeks, we hope you'll come for a visit soon. Check out our website **ICRdiscoverycenter.org** for tickets and details on planning your visit. Annual memberships are available at **ICRdiscoverycenter.org/Membership**

Pick up ICR resources, science kits, and more at the Discovery Store in the lobby.

Yes, we're open, but we still need funds to fully complete this incredible ministry outreach. Visit **ICR.org/DiscoveryCenter** for more information. Partner with us in prayer and help us proclaim the truth of our Creator, the Lord Jesus Christ!

Evolutionism Contradicts Christian Evangelism

RANDY J. GULIUZZA, P.E., M.D.

article highlights

- The Bible states that a real Adam brought sin and death to all people but that all who trust in Jesus Christ as Savior will not perish but have eternal life.
- Evolution negates Adam, Eve, original sin, the Christian meaning of sin and salvation, and the very reason Jesus' earthly life was necessary.

Is evolutionary theory compatible with the church's basic functions of worship, evangelism, and the edification (building up) of believers? In last month's article, we saw how evolutionism has a profoundly negative effect on a believer's worship.[1] But what does it do to evangelism?

Let's consider a young man named Dan, an outstanding mechanical engineering senior at a state university. He regularly shares the gospel of salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ and is a faithful member of his church.

However, things drastically changed for Dan in the second semester. During a sociology lecture on human evolution, the professor called on Dan to participate in a mini-debate on the subject. Dan was somewhat familiar with the topic based on some training he had received in Sunday school. He thought this was a rare opportunity to tell of his belief in the Lord Jesus.

The "mini-debate" turned out to be a sham. The professor opened the discussion with a long rant against Christianity. He took most of the time for himself. He peppered his talk with humorous sarcasm of Christians and the Bible. This had the class in hysterics. In the few minutes remaining, Dan attempted to present scientific

facts regarding evolution. Class attention was disrupted by lingering laughter. But by far the worst disturbance was the constant interruptions by the professor. Dan could never finish a full sentence. At one point as Dan explained how there are no clear-cut ape-to-human fossil transitions, the professor scoffed that people like Dan might be the best evidence for cavemen.

Dan felt like just walking back to his seat. But he did the last thing the professor expected. He asked for a rematch the next week with a dean acting as referee. Initially, the professor refused. But then he conditionally agreed if Dan could find "just one other person to take his side." Dan agreed.

Dan asked another Christian, Beth, with a solid academic record in geological engineering to be his partner for the next debate. She thought for several moments. She agreed with Dan that evolution was a ridiculous theory and that it certainly contradicted the Bible. She continued, however, that college was only a small portion of a person's life. She had to consider the personal impact of helping Dan. Her involvement could spell doom for a decent recommendation from her department for a job or graduate school. Her career could be ruined. The conversation ended with her questioning both his "good judgment" and his concern for her as a friend to "even ask me" to participate.

The second debate never took place. Dan still received an A in sociology. But now fewer students take him seriously when he tries to share the truth about Jesus Christ due to his "anti-scientific" views about evolution.

If you had time to talk with Dan and Beth, what would you say?

Evangelism Defined

Evangelism and the gospel are summarized in 1 Corinthians 15:1-4:

> Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved….For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures.

If we define the gospel "according to the Scriptures," this would indicate that related passages should be considered. Pulling several together, we may say that evangelism is a Christian's duty (Romans 1:14-17) as commanded by the Lord Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:47; Acts 1:8) to preach the good news of salvation from sin (1 Timothy 1:15) by the word of God (Romans 10:17; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4) through the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 2:21; 4:12; Romans 3:21-26; 1 Peter 1:18-19) for the purpose of someone's salvation (Romans 10:14-15; 2 Corinthians 5:18; Ephesians 6:19; Jude 1:20-23).

1 Corinthians 15:21-22 presents a fact tied directly to creation: "For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive." Thus, a real Adam brought real sin and death to everyone, meaning that all need a real Savior—the "second Adam"—who is Jesus Christ.

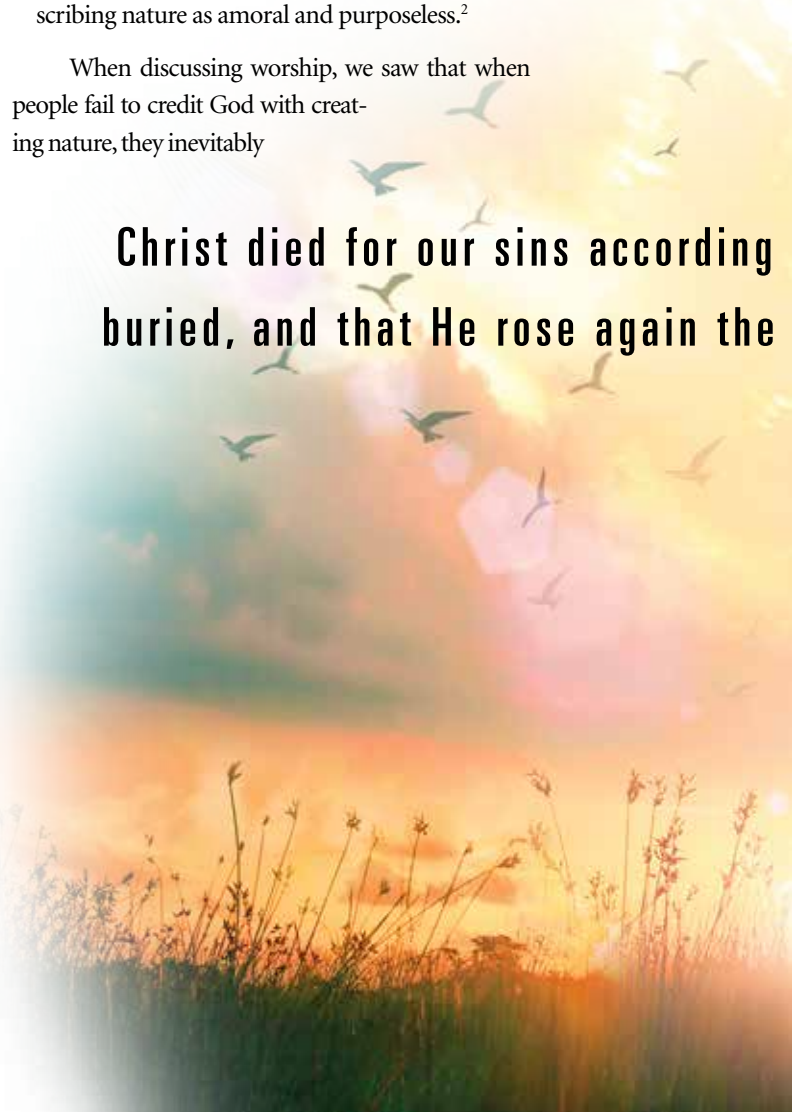
Evolutionism Nullifies the Meaning of Sin, Salvation, and the Savior

Evolutionary ideas have religious implications. The atheistic notion that nature creates itself—from the Big Bang to the diversity of life on Earth—is contrary to the biblical truth that God created nature. Last month we saw how this strikes at the very doctrine of God.[1] Evangelism deals directly with a person's accountability to God. A person may indeed want to mentally deflect dealing with that impending reality. Evolutionism offers a Creator-denying, and thus conscience-appeasing, worldview that allows someone to live as if God doesn't exist.

Historians depict the longstanding tension between what evolutionism means and the Christian faith. William McLoughlin of Brown University sums up what many Christians concluded early on about evolutionism:

> It challenged the Bible by denying its account of creation. It challenged the concept of an absolute moral law by its doctrine of survival of the fittest. It challenged the millennial goal by describing nature as amoral and purposeless.[2]

When discussing worship, we saw that when people fail to credit God with creating nature, they inevitably

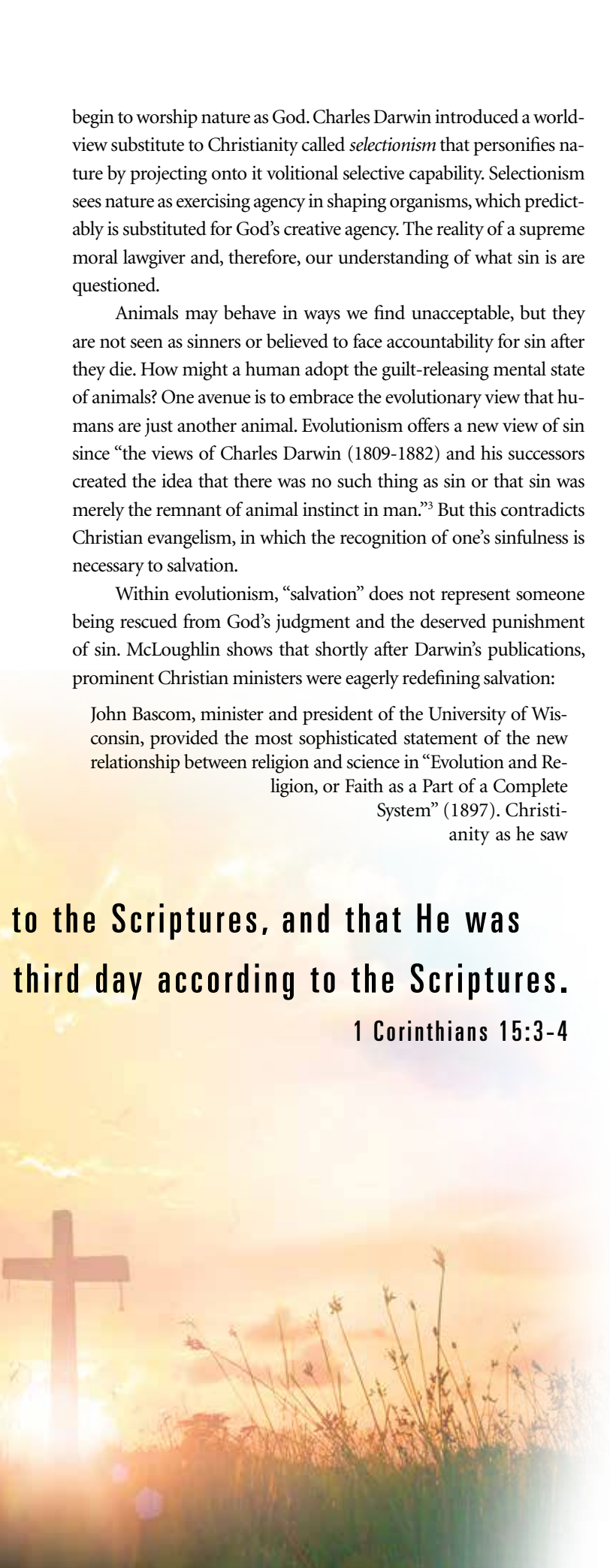


begin to worship nature as God. Charles Darwin introduced a worldview substitute to Christianity called *selectionism* that personifies nature by projecting onto it volitional selective capability. Selectionism sees nature as exercising agency in shaping organisms, which predictably is substituted for God's creative agency. The reality of a supreme moral lawgiver and, therefore, our understanding of what sin is are questioned.

Animals may behave in ways we find unacceptable, but they are not seen as sinners or believed to face accountability for sin after they die. How might a human adopt the guilt-releasing mental state of animals? One avenue is to embrace the evolutionary view that humans are just another animal. Evolutionism offers a new view of sin since "the views of Charles Darwin (1809-1882) and his successors created the idea that there was no such thing as sin or that sin was merely the remnant of animal instinct in man."[3] But this contradicts Christian evangelism, in which the recognition of one's sinfulness is necessary to salvation.

Within evolutionism, "salvation" does not represent someone being rescued from God's judgment and the deserved punishment of sin. McLoughlin shows that shortly after Darwin's publications, prominent Christian ministers were eagerly redefining salvation:

> John Bascom, minister and president of the University of Wisconsin, provided the most sophisticated statement of the new relationship between religion and science in "Evolution and Religion, or Faith as a Part of a Complete System" (1897). Christianity as he saw it was a spiritual process of adjustment to environment; salvation was the slow, evolutionary progress of the race in conformity with the laws of nature.[4]



Christians had long understood that God directly created the first human couple, Adam and Eve. The reality of Adam—and his original sin—was opposed by "new ideas and a new vocabulary [that] were being used to explain man's place in the universe. Man was redefined as the descendant of a 'hairy quadruped' that, over eons of time, had evolved from an amoeba-like cell in 'the primordial slime.'"[5] Thus, "because man was not guilty through original sin, *there was no need of Christ as Saviour*."[6]

Even though ICR geneticist Dr. Jeffrey Tomkins has refuted the claim that humans and chimpanzees are 98% genetically similar,[7] two theistic evolutionists still recite a 98% similarity as proof positive that humans were not directly created by God:

> In a recent pro-evolution book from InterVarsity Press, *The Language of Science and Faith*, [Francis] Collins and co-author Karl W. Giberson escalate matters, announcing that "unfortunately" the concepts of Adam and Eve as the literal first couple and the ancestors of all humans simply "do not fit the evidence."[8]

Theistic and atheistic evolutionists embrace the same selectionist mechanism of evolution, yet it seems only the atheists recognize how evolutionary thinking negatively impacts Christian evangelism. One outspoken atheist succinctly and accurately explained why

> Christianity has fought, still fights, and will fight science to the desperate end over evolution, because evolution destroys utterly and finally the very reason Jesus' earthly life was supposedly made necessary. Destroy Adam and Eve and the original sin, and in the rubble you will find the sorry remains of the son of god. Take away the meaning of his death. If Jesus was not the redeemer who died for our sins, and this is what evolution means, then Christianity is nothing![9]

The effect of evolutionism on the church's duty to evangelize is devastating. Like Dan, we need to fully believe the Bible and be bold in our witness. Next month's article will examine the effect of evolutionism on the area of edification.

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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.

BRIAN THOMAS, PH.D.

Quick and easy answers for the general science reader

Q: Why Did God Make Mosquitos?

A: My wife and I enjoy evening walks with our dog when the Texas weather lets us. Unfortunately, mosquitos seem to like good weather too. And they recognize my wife is much sweeter than I am. She often asks, while swatting at them, why God made mosquitos. Usually the question is just a way to express her frustration over getting bit. She has my sympathy. My attempts to explain go something like this.

The first mosquitos God made didn't seek to suck blood. Nor did He make their piercing-sucking mouthparts to transmit deadly diseases like yellow fever or malaria. We know this from Genesis 1:31: "Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good." Ask my wife if she thinks mosquito bites are good and she'll give you a side-eye glance. Say that they are *very* good and she may suggest you take a drug test. Mosquitos annoy, but the diseases they transmit can kill. So, something happened to turn those originally "very good" insects into the flying mini-vampires that terrorize us today.

The apostle Paul wrote, "We know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now,"[1] and mosquitos are part of this whole creation. You could ask my wife about birth pangs. She delivered five babies with no anesthesia. One penalty of sin was pain in childbirth, according to Genesis 3. God told Eve, "In pain you shall bring forth children."[2] Paul likens the groans, labors, and pangs throughout the whole world to a mother's birth pangs.

article highlights

- Why did God make creatures like mosquitos that appear to be harmful?
- God initially made every creature "very good," so something must have changed these insects.
- The creation is under the curse of sin, and so are mosquitos.
- In the new creation, creatures like mosquitos won't be harmful.

Those labors feel miserable, but they bring forth new life and new joy. Birth pangs wrack mothers' whole bodies, but each one signals something better lies ahead. The momentary groans in this life point to an everlasting world God has promised He will remake. "'For as the new heavens and the new earth which I will make shall remain before Me,' says the LORD, 'So shall your descendants and your name remain.'"[3] God allowed mosquitos to fall from perfection—like so many other current pests, poisons, parasites, and problems—so they would remind us that this well-crafted but breaking-down "creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God."[4] This present cursed world is not the ultimate home for Christ-followers. We should invest elsewhere.

So, what purpose did mosquitos serve before they started misbehaving after the Genesis 3 curse? Nobody knows for sure since we can't go back to Eden and find out. But many mosquito species use their unique mouthparts to take nectar from flowers or fruit. Of the 3,500 or so named mosquito species, only a few hundred harangue humans. Perhaps all of them took nectar meals in the beginning.

Even in today's disease-wracked creation, mosquitos supply a link in many food chains. Their aquatic larvae filter and clean cloudy water. Their wiggly bodies feed fish, tadpoles, and dragonfly nymphs. Birds, bats, and spiders eat the adults. Plus, the majority of the species that dine on nectar also pollinates plants.

Rest assured, one day "they shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea."[5] So, the next time a pesky mosquito pierces your pelt, let it remind you that "both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up"[6] to make way for a new earth without misbehaving mosquitos. If God makes mosquitos for the new earth, they will only remind believers of the Lord's genius. Any mosquitos in that day will give us cause to praise during pleasant evening walks.

References

1. Romans 8:22.
2. Genesis 3:16.
3. Isaiah 66:22.
4. Romans 8:19.
5. Isaiah 11:9.
6. 2 Peter 3:10.

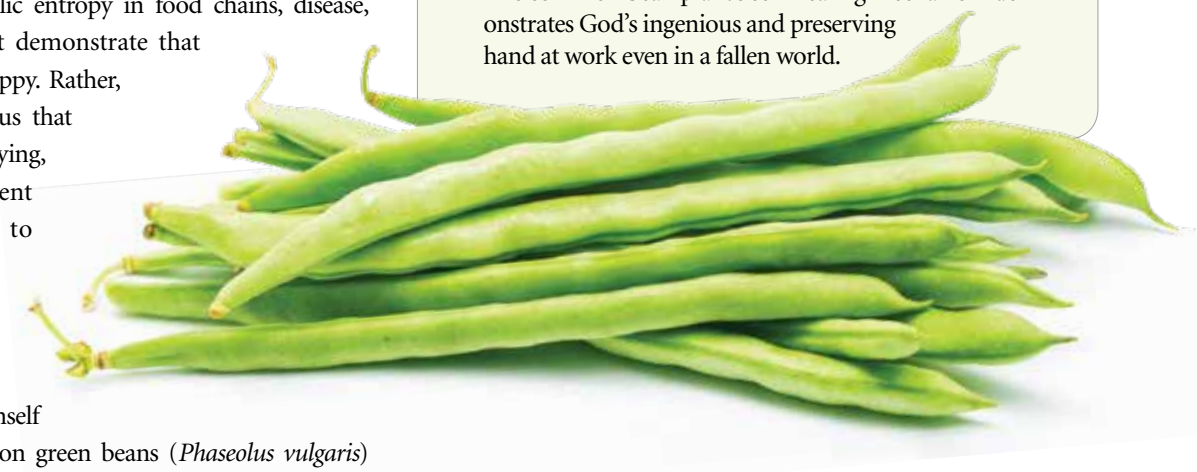
Dr. Thomas is Research Associate at the Institute for Creation Research and earned his Ph.D. in paleobiochemistry from the University of Liverpool.

JAMES J. S. JOHNSON, J.D., TH.D.

Green Bean Bioengineering Shows Creator's Care

article highlights

- Some people think waste, decay, and death indicate that God created our world in a sloppy and reckless manner.
- Death, decay, and deterioration are due to the Fall.
- The common bean plant's self-healing mechanism demonstrates God's ingenious and preserving hand at work even in a fallen world.



Years ago in a college campus discussion, an unbeliever argued that the world's waste displays God's disorderliness. He called God a "prodigal" creator—an insult adopted from a popular evolutionist.[1]

Did God create wastefully? No. While God's creation contains waste today—such as metabolic entropy in food chains, disease, and even death—this doesn't demonstrate that God Himself is reckless or sloppy. Rather, waste in our world reminds us that Adam's sin triggered death, dying, and deterioration in fulfillment of God's original warning to mankind.[2]

Even after the Fall, God's efficiency and carefulness are showcased throughout the fallen creation. God Himself is never wasteful—and common green beans (*Phaseolus vulgaris*) prove it. The humble green bean plant can teach us a lesson in God's efficiency and preservation.

When bean plants are bruised or bitten by a caterpillar, what if the valuable sap in the plant's vascular tubing kept flowing to the injury site, leading to an unrestrained loss of sap? That's comparable to an injured human or animal losing blood. In humans and animals, injuries are often mitigated by blood clots (coagulation) and/or scab formation. But what about bean plants? Is there no hope against losing sap when internodes or tendrils are broken off or otherwise damaged?

Bean plants detect when they are repeatedly disturbed.[3,4] This can be measured by repeatedly bumping plant stem internodes or tendrils in one set of plants (the experimental group) while not similarly bumping another set of bean plants (the control group), followed by microscopically comparing sap in both.[3]

More callose—an important polysaccharide (i.e., large polymeric carbohydrate)—is microscopically observable in the super-stressed phloem tissue.[3] When dissolved glucose material is converted into precipitated callose, the callose forms semisolid plugs within phloem sieve plate pores. These clumps act like parts of a temporary cell wall. By such clumping, the callose plugs function like the plant equivalent of blood clots, restricting sap flow into damaged plant parts. If callose plugs were not produced, the vascular plant equivalent of hemophiliac bleeding would threaten the plant's survivability.

The fancy term for this injury-mitigation mechanism of producing structural change after detecting external perturbation is *thigmomorphogenesis*. This biochemical-physiological process illustrates environmental tracking, followed by beneficial responses to physical injuries that match the physical conditions detected by bean plant mechanosensors.[3,4]

This is obviously a clever response to injury, but where did it come from? Beans have no brains.[5] Obviously, God designed how this works. So, next time you eat green beans, think about how carefully and efficiently God designed and bioengineered them.

Is God a "prodigal" creator? No! Even plant injuries receive God's sub-microscopic care, as thigmomorphogenesis demonstrates. God is not wasteful or callous. Callose shows it.

References

1. The scoffer proudly accredited his notion of God's supposedly reckless wastefulness in creation to Tim Keller's *The Prodigal God: Recovering the Heart of the Christian Faith* (Penguin, 2011).
2. Genesis 3; Romans 5 and 8. Some people recklessly allege that Earth's entropy shows God's inefficiency, but Scripture clarifies how God balances the consequential curse of Adam's choice with His providential care for the world pending Christ's promised return and restoration of His fallen creation. See Johnson, J. J. S. 2010. Misreading Earth's Groanings: Why Evolutionists and Intelligent Design Proponents Fail Ecology 101. *Acts & Facts.* 39 (8): 8-9.
3. After chemical staining, squashed bean phloem tissue can be examined under ultraviolet microscope using a fluorochromatic technique. This reveals the presence of precipitated callose. Jaffe, M. J. et al. 1985. Thigmomorphogenesis: The induction of callose formation and ethylene evolution by mechanical perturbation in bean stems. *Physiologia Plantarum.* 64 (2): 271-279. In this title, the ambiguous term "evolution" means "production."
4. Börnke, F. and T. Rocksch. 2018. Thigmomorphogenesis—Control of plant growth by mechanical stimulation. *Scientia Horticulturae.* 234: 344-353. This illustrates continuous environmental tracking (CET) in green beans. The bean plant physiologically self-adjusts by switching "on" a preprogrammed biochemical response to fit the environmental challenge. For beans to be fruitful, multiply, and fill habitats, they needed God to give them CET systems. Guliuzza, R. J. 2019. Engineered Adaptability: Continuous Environmental Tracking Wrap-Up. *Acts & Facts.* 48 (8): 17-19.
5. Beans didn't self-invent the systems that restrict sap flow by converting dissolved glucose into precipitated callose for "plugging" the pores of sieve plates to prevent the plant version of hemophiliac bleeding.

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

MICHAEL HANSEN

The Best-Kept Secret in Texas

Have we told you lately how thankful we are for your prayers and financial support? ICR's ministry happens because of the Lord's blessing through your partnership.

Because of you, we have encouraged and equipped hundreds of thousands of believers with a wealth of scientific evidence that confirms the Bible is right and its message is true. One follower attributes ICR with removing an "overwhelming" stumbling block:

> As a biological scientist, I had an overwhelming conflict with evolutionary "law" as taught in our universities. ICR has resolved this conflict, praise God.

Many still don't know about the "best-kept secret" in Dallas, Texas—ICR and the ICR Discovery Center for Science & Earth History. Your contributions help us introduce our ministry to new friends through the *Acts & Facts* magazine, email updates, conferences, and more recently online giving campaigns.

ICR has a global ministry. But our own neighborhood—the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex—is home to over seven million people. We have a great need to proclaim God's creation truth in our own backyard.

This is why we participate in online giving events like North Texas Giving Day, the largest regional fundraising and volunteering event in the nation, and Giving Tuesday, a one-day global giving movement that inspires gifts of time, donations, goods, and advocacy. Over the last three years, and with your help as ICR ambassadors, we've raised over $62,000 and built awareness about the biblical creation message.

As we approach another season of giving, we want you to know how encouraged we are by your faithful support. Your financial gifts ensure God-honoring scientific research and open the doors for guests of our brand-new ICR Discovery Center. Please consider partnering with us each month. Visit **ICR.org/donate/giving** to schedule your donation.

We thank you even more for your kindness and love shown through your prayers and petitions to the Lord on our behalf. Together, let's focus on spreading the good news of our Creator and Savior, Jesus Christ!

Mr. Hansen is Digital Marketing Specialist at the Institute for Creation Research.

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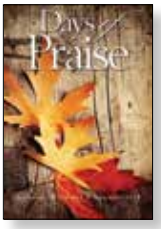
You responded to a letter I had written to ICR concerning an article, "My Journey Back to God" [by Douglas Ell, November 2018 *Acts & Facts*]. In your response you provided ample information addressing all of my inquiry. I thank you, and anyone else concerned, for helping me. **Most importantly I want you to know that I have given my life to Christ!** You played a significant role in my journey.

One article you provided, entitled "Did Medieval Artists See Real Dinosaurs?" [by Brian Thomas, July 2018 *Acts & Facts*] was instrumental to my scientific inquiry. Let me now state that I was not attempting to prove or disprove the existence of God as that is something I can't do. My inquiry was more so to determine the reasonableness of God....

I am embracing science in a whole new way....As a Christian, I cannot know all and explain all. But I can witness my journey and explain why I believe, all the while admitting what I don't know. I have questions, I do not have doubts.

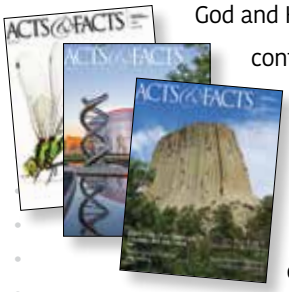
— J. S.



Please convey my thanks to the writers/contributors of the *Days of Praise*. I think they do a phenomenal job of ministering God's Word through this little daily devotional. My compliments to the person, too, who chooses the designs that glorify the Lord on the front cover. I look forward to them to see what they have come up with for each quarterly session. Most of all, I appreciate the uncompromising view upholding the truths of God's Word from various perspectives. In a day in which it seems anything goes and the gospel seems more despised, it's good to know that the gospel doesn't change for our convenience.

— V. W.

Our scientific creationism class at church started me on a quest for knowledge that began in the late 1980s. Confirmations of truth have reinforced my faith in God and His Word. These confirmations have come not only from the many DVDs and books but also from the excellent articles in the *Acts & Facts* magazine. Since late 2011 I have retained each original copy. **I recently decided to catalogue the articles by their general topic and have found that you already have an archive base and actual digital copies of the publications going back to 1999 on your website [ICR.org].** For anyone wanting to do a catch-up, there it is. The magazine's somewhat technical at times, but kudos to your staff. *Acts & Facts* is a great testimony for our Creator God!



— T. D.

Just finished this wonderful text [*The Book of Beginnings* by Dr. Henry Morris III]! I brought it to work...as you can imagine, co-workers asked a lot of questions about "what on earth" I was reading. One of the physicians asked to borrow it. **A few weeks later [she] said she couldn't bring herself to give it back! She was giving the info a lot of thought.** I reassured her she could keep it and have ordered myself another copy. For those reading this post...this book is so worth a read...teaching me why I believe what I believe and equipping me with answers for the skeptics!

— C. E.

NASA astronaut Col. Jeffrey Williams signing books at the ICR booth at the Nashville Sing! Conference in August

Grace Community Church pastor Dr. John MacArthur and ICR Director of Events Chas Morse.

I became aware of this organization [ICR] a few months ago—wonderful science to support creation! You may...run into the intellectual type when trying to witness to someone.... and they may not listen to the simple message of salvation. But those people can sometimes be shown the science and may finally learn the truth—the science behind creation—and how impossible it would be for anything other than God Himself to have created our world and universe!

— B. L. P.

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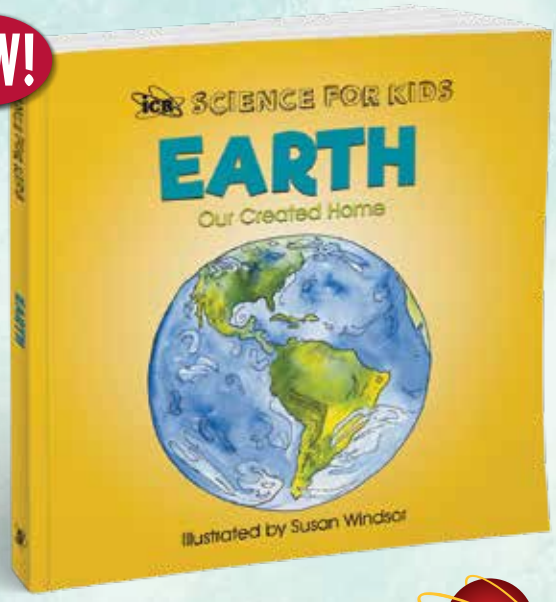
NEW!



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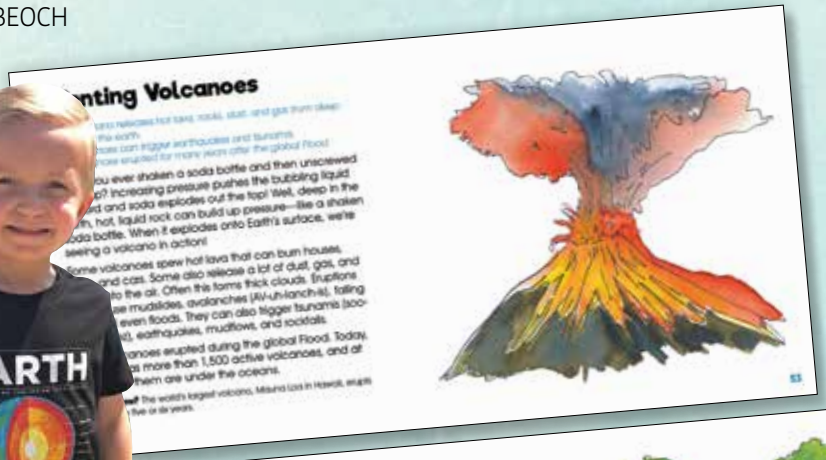

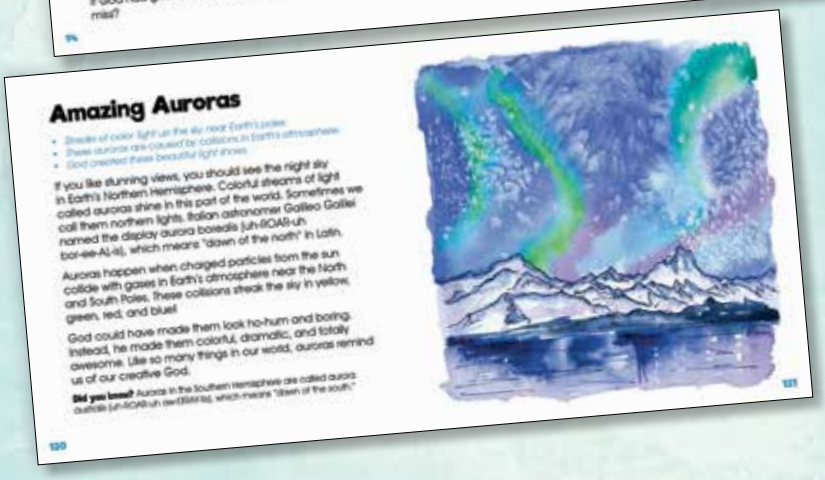

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