

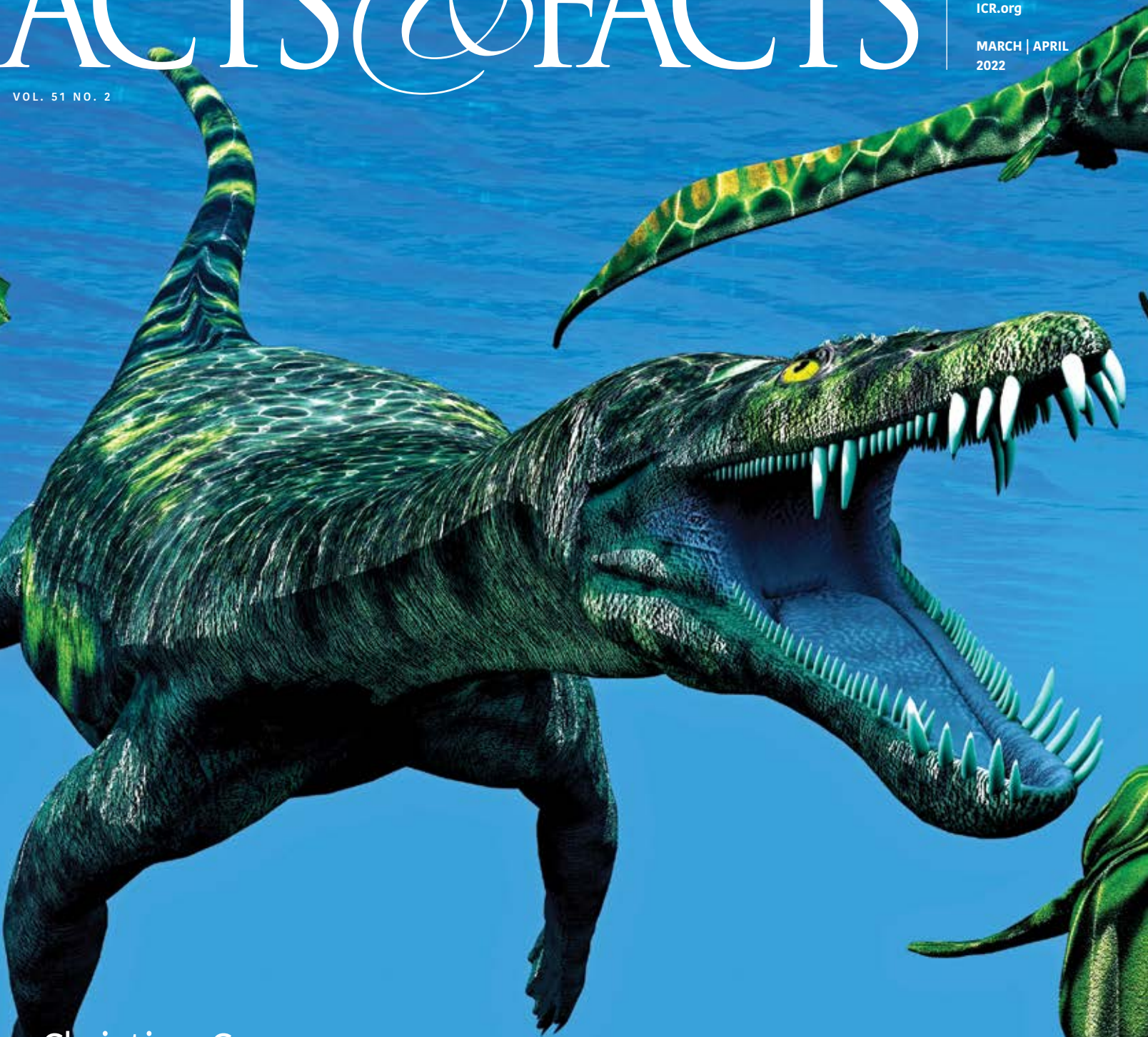
# ACTS & FACTS

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Is Imperative

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Dennis Davidson

[Jesus Christ] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 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. And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence. For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.

(Colossians 1:15-20)

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Front cover: *Nothosaurus* Marine Reptile  
Image credit: © Corey A Ford | Dreamstime.com



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# Christian Courage Is Imperative

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

## article highlights

- Throughout history Christians have demonstrated courage in the face of persecution.
- Today, many Christian leaders fear a backlash if they confess belief in six-day creation.
- Christians must first and foremost seek to please Christ Jesus rather than people.
- We can take courage from other Christians, and especially from Christ, who enables us to be strong.

Courage was a character trait I heard a lot about growing up, primarily from my dad but also teachers, and even on television. I saw courage to do your duty in *Combat!* and quiet, principled courage portrayed in *The Rifleman*, as well as brave characters in other programs.

After I became a Christian during high school, the Bible told me of Jesus' disciples courageously obeying God rather than men. Then in church history class at Moody Bible Institute, I read of many Christians who suffered persecution with courageous and forgiving faith. All these Christians boldly walked by faith in the steps of the Lord Jesus, who had courageously set His face toward Jerusalem and the cross.<sup>1</sup>

Courageous Christians are needed today as much as ever. At ICR events I'm often asked, "What resources does ICR have to train Christians and church leaders to take the doctrine of creation seriously?" The question implies that inadequate education is what's holding church leaders back from teaching Genesis 1–11 as real history. From my experience, however, a paralyzing, entrenched fear of man is often why pastors don't teach Genesis as history. The problem might be tied to diminished courage—not education.

When addressing courage, we should concede three facts. First, since we're not God, we cannot see inside someone's heart and judge their courage. Second, we honestly cannot predict our own behavior when suddenly faced with a terrifying situation. Even the tough American General George Patton acknowledged this during World War II. In a famous speech he stated, "Some of you men are wondering whether or not you'll chicken out under fire. Don't worry about it. I can assure you that you'll all do your duty."<sup>2</sup>

Finally, to anyone convinced they will surely stand, they must take heed lest they fall. Peter self-assuredly declared to the Lord Jesus, "Even if all are made to stumble, yet I will not be." When Jesus contradicted this, Peter "spoke more vehemently, 'If I have to die with You, I will not deny You!'"<sup>3</sup> What happened to him could happen to us.

## Fear Is Problematic

It's surprising how often Christians confess the fear in their hearts during interviews or conversations. They tell how they fear negative opinions, financial retribution, or possibly hurting evangelism by making Christians look ignorant to unbelievers. I'll briefly relate some experiences from my time working for ICR.

ICR scientists speak at several annual pastors' conferences. During the conferences at least one pastor will approach me and quietly say something like, "I don't believe in evolution and agree that the Bible teaches a recent creation just like you say." Then they'll add, "But if I taught that from my pulpit, then half my people would leave" (or a church leader would resign, or he'd jeopardize his job). The pastor's apprehension is often quite evident.

Next, the specter of being labeled scientifically ignorant by an evolutionist terrifies some Christians. They seem unfazed, though, by the terrible track record of major scientific blunders by evolution-

ists.<sup>4</sup> Paradoxically, they take antibiblical—indeed nonsensical—pronouncements of “modern science” as gospel truth.

The push to change the normal meaning of Genesis boils down to this question: Is Genesis 1–11 real history or mythology? For instance, did God create Adam from the dust of the earth and form Eve from his “rib”? Did God walk with them in the Garden of Eden, and were they tempted by a talking serpent? For apprehensive Christians, these accounts can sound mythological.

Christian apologist William Lane Craig revealed such fears to fellow apologist Sean McDowell.<sup>5</sup> Craig described how he came to believe that Genesis 1–11 isn’t real history but what he calls “mytho-history.” In this interview, Craig candidly explained his struggle to weigh all evidence fairly. He admitted an underlying fear that biases his evaluations—a fear of contradicting modern science. Craig disclosed:



I don’t *want* the young-earth creationist interpretation to come out true. To me, that is a *nightmare*. My *greatest fear* is that the young-earth creationist might be right in his hermeneutical claim that Genesis does teach those things that I described earlier [creation in six 24-hour days about 6,000 years ago; a worldwide flood that exterminated terrestrial life; God creating all language groups at Babel].<sup>5</sup>

Craig’s approach to Bible interpretation, like John Walton’s of Wheaton College,<sup>6</sup> depends on *extrabiblical* information. Though the Holy Spirit didn’t inspire writers to include it, Craig and Walton believe it’s *essential*. It enables them to do what average Christians reading the Bible can’t do—somehow get into the minds of the “original audience” and discern their thoughts way back when the Bible was being “written and read.”

Finally, fear of man is in the creationist community. I was telling another creationist ministry leader why I thought the Lord Jesus was greatly dishonored by Darwin’s projection of selective ability onto environments, which treats nature like a volitional substitute creator. My wife and I were stunned to hear him answer, “If we say that we don’t believe in natural selection, what will people think of us?”

These experiences are indicators that a potent reason for some Christian leaders to adopt the world’s position regarding Genesis or Darwinism isn’t inadequate education but fear.

### Are Homes, Churches, and Seminaries Leaving Something Out?

What if the U.S. Army gave the men of a foreign army the best equipment and instruction available, only to have those men flee in battle and abandon their equipment? What vital personal element is missing in this true-to-history, and disappointing, scenario?

Similarly, what if seminaries taught the best doctrine and required graduates to sign a statement affirming their Christian orthodoxy only to have those Christian leaders suppress their voices when the world—or their church board—makes ominous threats? A Christian congregation is not edified unless the leaders hold to solid doctrine and have the courage to teach all of it.

The Bible doesn’t say that courage is *solely* a personality trait that some people have and others don’t. There is definitely a volitional ingredient to courage, given that there are so many verses like these: “Hear, O Israel: Today you are on the verge of battle with your enemies. Do not let your heart faint, do not be afraid, and do not tremble or be terrified because of them” (Deuteronomy 20:3), and “the LORD is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me?” (Psalm 118:6). Pastors who expound on these truths strengthen the body of

Christ, but all Christians have a part.

Perhaps seminaries should have a core course on Christian courage, and students should show up already trained through parenting and mentoring.

### Biblical Courage: Five Practical Truths

It seems that courage is as much caught by example—and through practice—as it is taught by parents, churches, teachers, and, hopefully, by honorably structured secular societies. Let’s redouble our effort to teach about courage. As a start, we’ll consider a few nuggets of biblical truth.

#### 1. Courage is proportional to preserving what we deeply love.

“Nevertheless even among the rulers many believed in Him [Jesus], but because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue; for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God” (John 12:42-43). What a stark contrast in priorities. What a telltale choice: to speak for Christ or not.

The world’s way of punishing resisters and rewarding compliance can sift through a Christian’s priorities, including love. Some people love themselves supremely; they’ll do anything to survive. Most believers and unbelievers seem willing to sacrifice themselves for loved ones, but only Christians can be motivated to risk everything out of love for Christ. What do we love more—the praises of men or of Christ?

#### 2. Courage is proportional to commitment.

King Nebuchadnezzar threatened Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, saying, “But if you do not worship, you shall be cast immediately into the midst of a burning fiery furnace. And who is the

god who will deliver you from my hands?” They answered, “Our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up” (Daniel 3:15, 17-18). Certainly their courage reflects their love for God, but it’s also clear they were powerfully committed to doing what was right.

Evil actors may not intend to destroy life or reputation but other valuable things like truth, decency, and freedoms. These precious principles bring goodness to any society. How deeply a person is committed to their preservation (for themselves and posterity) will bolster their courage to oppose lies, anarchy, and tyranny.

### 3. Courage is proportional to hope.

One reason Christ Jesus became human was to “destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and *release those* who through *fear* of death were all their *lifetime subject to bondage*” (Hebrews 2:14-15, emphasis added). So, fear leads to bondage, but confidence in Christ’s power produces freedom. Confidence and courage are siblings. Troops facing certain defeat and death are usually less courageous than those with a chance to survive, who in turn are not as courageous as troops convinced of victory.

Thus, the confidence-building work of ICR is indispensable. Why? Confidence grows with better preparation. A vital mission of ICR is to help pastors lead, feed, and defend their flocks by providing them information to answer scoffers who menace the church. Next, true faith-anchoring confidence soars relative to our understanding of the richness found in Jesus—yet Christians are starved for the glory of Christ as Creator. ICR brings to light the genius, wisdom, and courage-building power seen in the Lord Jesus’ incredible works of creation.

### 4. Courage is inspired by other courageous people.

Goliath daily taunted Israel’s frightened army, but after David slew Goliath, “the men of Israel and Judah arose and shouted, and pursued the Philistines” (1 Samuel 17:52). Courage feeds courage.

I learned this firsthand as a freshman at Moody after signing up with Open Air Campaigners to do street evangelism on Saturday nights in downtown Chicago. I was a bit nervous on my first outing. As a young Christian I was a novice at witnessing to people—especially strangers on the street. But when I saw the team leader set up his paint board and begin to boldly preach the gospel to the curious onlookers, my determination was bolstered to witness to the person next to me. Confidence shot up over several weekends, and soon I wanted to preach the message.

### 5. Courage is given as divine enablement.

God gave special courage to Ezekiel, telling him, “Behold, I have made your face strong against their faces, and your forehead strong against their foreheads. . . do not be afraid of them, nor be dismayed at


their looks, though they are a rebellious house” (Ezekiel 3:8-9). What a remarkable insight about courage. Even as the Lord instructs us to choose the path of strength and courage, His gracious enablement to do it is always there.

## Conclusion

With the emphasis on courage waning—and coercive tendencies growing—in society, Christians must look to their leaders to model courage. I’ve served on pastor search committees where we evaluated a candidate’s gifts and biblical qualifications. An overlooked pastoral qualification that means more to me is this: “The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. But a hireling . . . one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees.”<sup>7</sup>



I’ll certainly probe for sound doctrine, but I also ask, “What have you done in the last year to demonstrate that you do not have a fear of man?”

Peter’s denial reminds us that we “must take heed” against self-assurance “lest [we] fall” (1 Corinthians 10:12). Conversely, the Jewish leaders’ reluctance to confess Jesus warns us of loving “the praise of men more than the praise of God” (John 12:43). With Christ-centered priorities and Christ-generated boldness, let us courageously confess His truth and His name, not fearing what men will do—the Lord Jesus is worth it. 

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5. Craig continued, “And I say that would be a nightmare because if that’s what the Bible teaches it puts the Bible into *massive*, I think irredeemable, conflict with modern science, history, and linguistics, and I don’t want that to happen. So, yes, yes, it’s true I don’t want young earth creationists’ interpretation to be right.” Sean McDowell Interviews William Lane Craig: Is Adam Historical? Uncommon Descent. Posted on [uncommondescent.com](https://uncommondescent.com) September 26, 2021, accessed December 23, 2021. Emphasis in original.
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7. John 10:11-12.

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# Paleontology Supports an N-Q Flood Boundary

JEFFREY P. TOMKINS, PH.D., AND TIM CLAREY, PH.D.

Defining where the global Flood of Genesis terminated in the rock record is of great importance in developing an accurate and cohesive story for the Flood. If the end of the Flood is placed too low, as is the case with proposing a Cretaceous-Paleogene (K-Pg, formerly K-T) boundary, it becomes necessary to speculate about implausible biological adaptations to explain many of the Cenozoic fossils.

For example, some K-Pg boundary advocates claim that legged proto-whales walked off Noah's Ark and then somehow morphed through saltation into the diversity of whales we see today.<sup>1</sup> This claim is very similar to the secular narrative. This interpretation becomes even more untenable because it forces all of the globally distributed whale fossils to be products of small local post-Flood catastrophes within a few hundred years after the Flood.

Despite this whale of a tale regarding an early Flood boundary, the global rock record provides a clear picture of the Flood sediments extending nearly to the top of the geologic column in the Upper Cenozoic—providing a Neogene-Quaternary (N-Q) Flood boundary.<sup>2</sup> In fact, the latest stratigraphic data from North America, South America, Africa, and Europe indicate that at least 30% of all Flood sediments representing the geologic column are Cenozoic (late Flood), a group of strata also known as the Tejas Megasequence.<sup>2</sup>

But it's not just the rock record that points to an N-Q boundary for the end of the Flood. Global paleontology pertaining to the Cenozoic layers contains extensive plant and animal fossils representing life that lived at higher elevations in the pre-Flood world. Two newly published papers by ICR scientists document this data in regard to global Cenozoic coal layers and South American paleontology.<sup>3,4</sup>

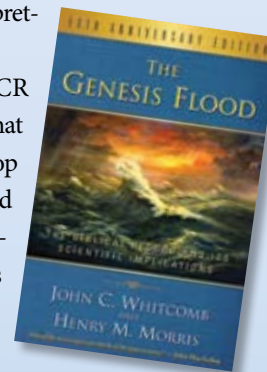
The first paper was published by ICR researchers Tim Clarey, Davis J. Werner, and Jeffrey P. Tomkins and shows how massive Cenozoic coal deposits are located on nearly every major continent, and in many cases are so vast they account for over half of that con-

continent's coal production.<sup>3</sup>

These huge Cenozoic coal beds are typically found in large basins and contain plant material ripped off higher elevations in the global Flood. The plant material was transported and caught and buried in basins as the floodwaters were pouring off the continents in the final phase of the Flood at the same time most mountain ranges were being uplifted. In addition, many offshore regions in the oceans also contain Cenozoic coals from plant material washed off the continents late in the Flood.

The second paper, published by Drs. Tomkins and Clarey, documents how the Cenozoic basin paleontology of South America also supports an N-Q boundary.<sup>4</sup> The Andes in Western South America is the longest continental mountain range in the world and was uplifted and formed late in the Flood. This massive uplift caused the floodwaters to pour off east of the Andes, dumping huge amounts of plants and animals into the deep basins that formed next to the newly uplifted mountains. Not only do these Cenozoic deposits contain land animals and plants but also marine creatures, typical of Flood sediments at all levels in the geologic column. A progressive flood burying animals and plants by ecological zonation, combined with mixing of marine fossils, are the two primary rules for interpreting the paleontology of the global Flood.

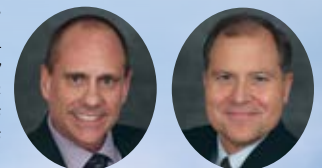
In his classic book *The Genesis Flood*, ICR founder Dr. Henry Morris originally proposed that the record of the Flood extended nearly to the top of the geologic column (the N-Q), which included what was formerly called the Tertiary.<sup>5</sup> Now his prediction has been fully vindicated, not only by ICR's extensive global geological Column Project but also by paleontology. 🙏



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Dr. Tomkins is Director of Research and Dr. Clarey is Research Scientist at the Institute for Creation Research. Dr. Tomkins earned his Ph.D. in genetics from Clemson University, and Dr. Clarey earned his Ph.D. in geology from Western Michigan University.



## article highlights

- The Neogene-Quaternary boundary documents the end of the Genesis Flood, which was predicted by ICR founder Dr. Henry Morris.
- The K-Pg boundary is too low to consistently explain the fossil record.
- Coal deposits and the mixture of terrestrial and marine fossils support the N-Q boundary and confirm Dr. Morris' prediction.

MARCH 7-9

Houston, TX  
Chafer Theological Seminary  
**Chafer Bible Conference**  
(J. Johnson)  
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APRIL 6-8

Redding, CA  
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(B. Thomas)  
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SAVE THE DATE

MAY 1

Gholson, TX  
First Baptist Church  
**Creation Sunday**  
(J. Hebert)  
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Houston's First Baptist Church,  
The Loop Campus  
**Greater Houston Creation Association**  
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the Creation Training Initiative**  
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University of North Texas**  
(B. Thomas)  
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APRIL 23

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APRIL 25-26

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with Dr. Tim Clarey**  
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OCTOBER 14-15

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of Genesis Conference**  
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"Can you add zing to this title and make this letter sing?"

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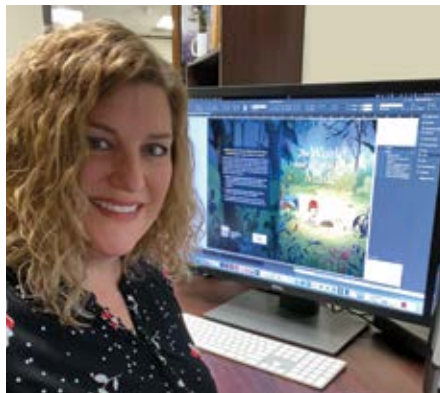
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Christy reviews spreads for an upcoming book



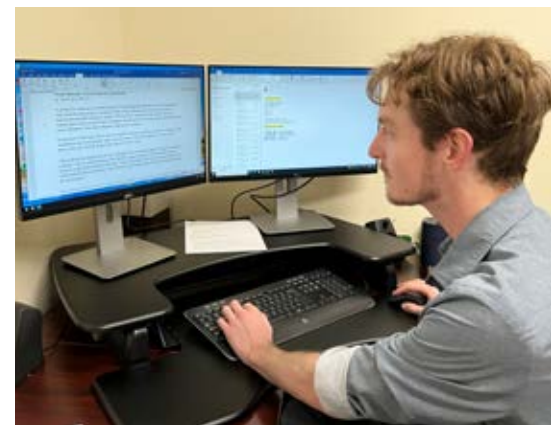
Michael, Jayme, and Beth review a layout proof for Acts & Facts



Susan designs the layout for a recent children's book



Lori illustrates a creation comic strip for the next issue of Acts & Facts



Truett edits news articles for online publication



TIM CLAREY, P.H.D.

PICTURED ROCKS  
NATIONAL  
LAKESHORE

THE  
BLANKET SAND FROM  
NOAH'S FLOOD

*Chapel Rock*



*Grand Sable Dunes*

### article highlights

- Blanket sands essentially cover large parts of the globe, and secular geologists can't adequately explain them.
- The sandstones at Pictured Rocks display cross-bedding and ripples that indicate rapid watery deposition.
- Today's rapid erosion also shows that the cliffs of Pictured Rocks haven't been exposed to the elements for extensive periods of time.
- Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, like other U.S. national parks, is a showcase for the Genesis Flood.

**P**ictured Rocks National Lakeshore lies a few miles east of the town of Munising, Michigan, along one of the most scenic shorelines in the United States. America's first national lakeshore, it was established on October 15, 1966.<sup>1</sup> The park has waterfalls and exposures of massive sand dunes, but it's best known for its nearly vertical multicolored sandstone cliffs that rise 50 to 200 feet above Lake Superior. And it turns out these stunning cliffs connect with similar rocks around the world.

The Pictured Rocks are known for their colored and stained sandstone cliffs. Different minerals give the rocks their various colors. Copper colors them blue or green, iron paints them red or orange, and manganese blackens them. Waters moving underground and discharging create these colors on the exposed cliffs.

## Early Flood Blanket Sands

Nearly 500 miles from the Atlantic Ocean, the Pictured Rocks spectacularly expose some of the earliest Flood sediments, especially sandstones.<sup>2</sup> Called the Munising Formation in Michigan, this same sandstone can be observed across much of the U.S. (Figure 1). It's called the Tapeats Sandstone in Grand Canyon. Because of its great

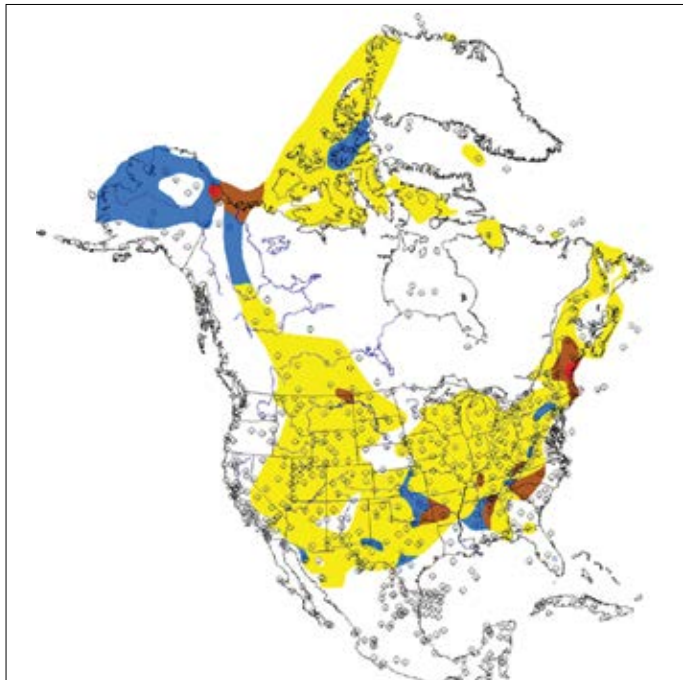


Figure 1. Basal Sauk map; sandstone is yellow.

extent and relative thinness, usually less than a few hundred feet, this sand layer is known as a blanket or sheet sand.

Blanket sands are widespread, thin sandstones spread over large portions of continents. Most are composed of pure, well-rounded quartz grains that contain almost no shale. Uniformitarian geologists have tried to explain their presence for decades and have failed to develop a satisfactory answer.

Some evolutionary scientists have invoked strange conditions that currently exist nowhere to try and account for these blanket sands.<sup>3</sup> Others have claimed that the exact same conditions had to exist at the same time across much of the continents for many millions of years despite the diverse geological environments seen in today's world. Pure, thin sandy layers that blanket the continents should not exist on an old earth.

But we have a better solution. ICR's science staff explains this vast sandstone layer as a consequence of the global Flood. The sandstone is the basal layer of the first megasequence, known as the Sauk Megasequence, that inundated parts of all the continents of the world.<sup>2</sup> We have found that this same sandstone layer exists across the globe. It often coincides with the so-called Cambrian Explosion, where fossils representing most animal phyla suddenly appear in the rock record, further matching the Flood narrative.



Munising Falls

## Deposition of Sandstones in the Early Flood

The continental-scale blanket sandstones that the Pictured Rocks (Munising Formation) represent were deposited on top of another, less-extensive sandy layer known as the Jacobsville Sandstone. This purple-colored sandstone is visible above the lake level in some parts of Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore. How and when did these layers get here?

Again, the Flood provides the answer. The Jacobsville likely formed in the earliest moments of the Flood as the Midcontinent Rift was bursting open. The Midcontinent Rift represents a tear within the crust of the North American continent running from Michigan in the north to Kansas in the south. Although the rift is only about as wide as the Red Sea, it contains stacked lava flows totaling up to 18 miles thick.<sup>4</sup>

Rift activity probably began when "the fountains of the great deep were broken up."<sup>4</sup> Tremendous volumes of black lava extruded from this rift, which can be seen in the Keweenaw Peninsula of Michigan. The center of the rift created the space for today's Lake Superior. Similar rifting occurred worldwide. The sandstones of the Jacobsville and other sediments were deposited along the rift's edges.

Both the Munising Formation and the Jacobsville Sandstones contain clues that indicate rapid watery deposition during the Flood. These sandstones exhibit stacked layers of cross-bedding, and many surfaces contain ripple marks. These features come from fast-moving shallow waters. The bottom layer of the Munising is known as the basal conglomerate due to its coarse pebbles of rounded quartz and chert.<sup>1</sup> Since it takes more force to move larger grains, pebbles indicate even higher-energy deposition at the base of the Sauk Megasequence.

## Rapid Erosion and Changing Landscapes

Why are the sandstone cliffs so prominent along the lakeshore? Part of the reason is that the cliffs follow natural vertical fractures in the sandstones that parallel the shoreline.<sup>1</sup> But the presence of sheer cliffs also indicate a youthful origin for the landscape. Again, the recent Flood provides the best solution.



*Miner's Castle*

Nearly every year, large chunks of the exposed sandstone break off and fall into Lake Superior.<sup>1</sup> In 2006, one of the “towers” of the iconic Miner’s Castle fell into the lake. Wave erosion and freeze-thaw activity expand the natural fractures and cause rock falls, some of which are huge.

The persistence and rapidity of this process is recorded in the numerous rock falls over the historic period, most notably the collapse of Grand Portal Point in 1900. The largest recent event occurred on July 29, 2010, and was captured with a digital camera by professional photographer Lou Waldock from a Pictured Rocks cruise boat.<sup>5</sup>

This rapid erosion indicates these rocks have not been exposed for eons. Mass wasting observed over the last 100 years provides proof. If the Pictured Rocks were exposed for tens of thousands of years or longer, there would be few cliffs left and likely no waterfalls either. If these cliffs are only a few thousand years old, then no won-



*Bridal Veil Falls*

der we still get to enjoy their beauty.

The sandstones of the Pictured Rocks fit perfectly in the Flood narrative. They were deposited as part of a massive worldwide rise in the ocean level (Sauk Megasequence). They exhibit structures like ripples and cross-beds, demonstrating their deposition in high-energy water. And the cliffs look young.

Michigan’s Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore showcases the Flood’s earliest beginnings in spectacular beauty. 🌊

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# DRAGON ART

## Defies Millions of Years

B R I A N T H O M A S , P H . D .

### article highlights

- ICR's Dragon Encounters exhibit challenges people to question dinosaur evolution and the supposed millions of years of dinosaur history.
- How could ancient artists, who'd never seen extinct reptiles, create works that so closely resemble fossil-based reconstructions?
- Many of these art pieces depict humans and dragons living at the same time.
- Dragon art supports the Genesis account of history.

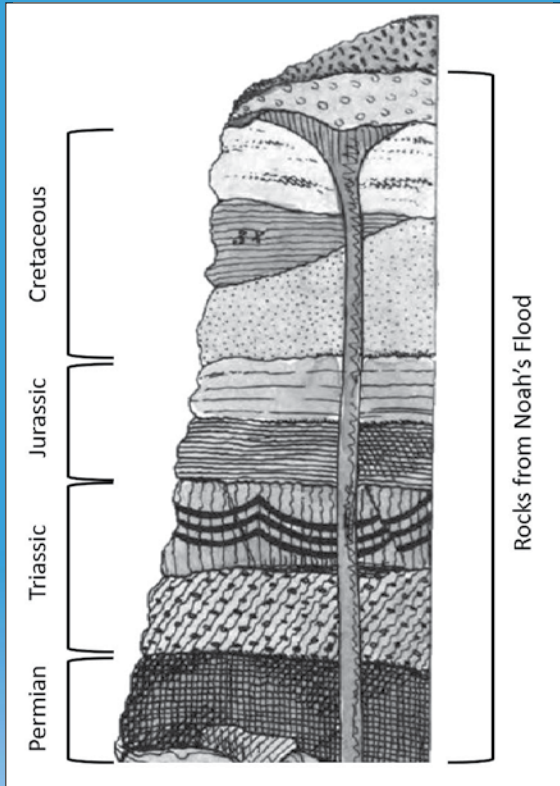
Of all the displays in the 30,000 square feet of the ICR Discovery Center for Science & Earth History in Dallas, the Dragon Encounters exhibit has become some visitors' favorite. It shows ancient art depicting what looks like extinct reptiles. This suggests our readers may also appreciate the ways these artifacts confirm the biblical creation position of world history.

The trustworthiness of the Bible's history—and thus the very character of the Savior who its pages claim to be responsible for its words—lies at the heart of our faith and how we interpret Earth's past.<sup>1</sup> If the Bible's account of an originally very good creation that

# Two Pitfalls to Avoid

Some creation activists have “seen” dinosaurs in artwork that shows something else. How do we avoid this?

1. Sometimes the art represents modern animals like cats. To make sure, and since each culture and time period had specific tendencies, one must study all kinds of representative art for comparison.
2. Sometimes the art reduces to a modern or even an ancient fraud. Care and expertise in artifact authentication, identification, and paleoanatomy play key roles in determining the degree of trustworthiness of each piece.



began without death only thousands of years ago really happened, then evolution's death for billions of years never happened. Dragon art has something to say about which version of history should stand.

What do we mean by “dragon art”? Our distant ancestors from around the world wrote descriptions; carved statues, figurines, and bas-reliefs; and drew and painted all kinds of terrifying reptiles. Just like modern dragon depictions, most of the historical material resembles no known creature and thus belongs to fiction. But rare instances do match known fossils.

Creation speaker and author Vance Nelson has vetted many

dragon artifacts. One of the steps he uses to verify ancient art is to compare it with digital renders (an artist's computer-generated images) based solely on fossil anatomy. Vance employs an evolutionary paleoartist who unwittingly ends up painting images that match the ancient art. I relied on Vance's book *Dire Dragons* when helping design our Dragon Encounters wall.<sup>2</sup> His book shows ancient images of dinosaur look-alikes, plus extinct reptiles that weren't dinosaurs but whose remains were found in Triassic and even Permian settings.

Rock strata from four sedimentary systems—conventionally named, from bottom to top, Permian, Triassic, Jurassic, and Cretaceous—all contain fossils of extinct reptiles. The standard evolutionary timeline assigns 235 million years to those four systems combined, an idea that artwork shown here challenges.

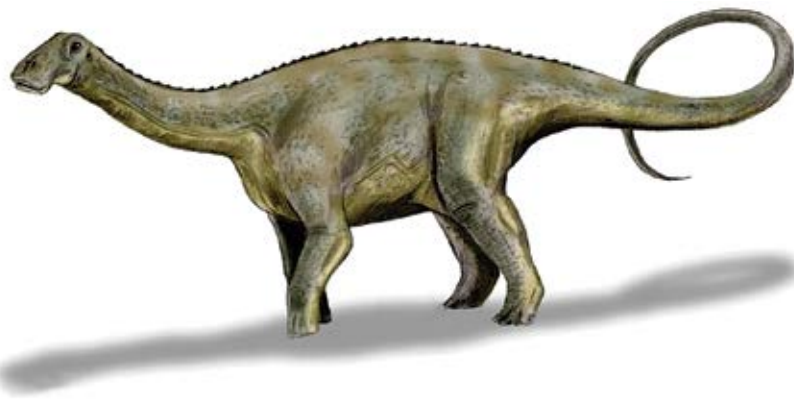
Secular researchers use specific animals found in a given rock to “date” that rock. What would it mean to find evidence of those same animals supposed to represent separate times alive together with our forefathers?

Several “dragons” in ancient art resemble extinct reptiles known from Cretaceous fossils. *Dire Dragons* shows evidence of the ceratopsian *Graciliceratops* and the theropod *Deinonychus* as examples from this rock system. *Nigersaurus* sauropod fossils from Cretaceous system rocks of Africa match specific body characteristics, most notably a short neck and wide snout, of a 13th-century wood carving in St David's Cathedral, Wales.<sup>3</sup> That erases over 65 million “years.”



*St David's Nigersaurus*

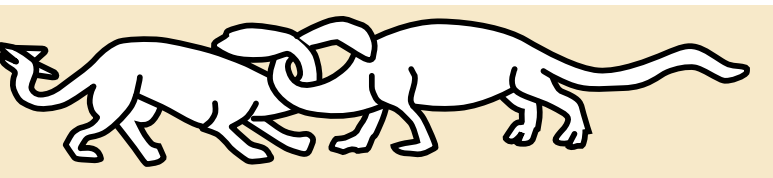
Image credit: Brian Thomas



*Illustration of a Nigersaurus*

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Ancient art shows other sauropods, or long-necked dinosaurs, which most often come from Jurassic layers. Another cathedral in the United Kingdom, this one in Carlisle far north of St Davids, has a small brass etching made in 1496 for Bishop Richard Bell's tomb that shows what looks like two sauropods. One of them has four tail spikes at the end of its long tail just like in fossils of *Shunosaurus*, which wasn't found until 1989.<sup>4</sup> This erases over 140 million "years."



*Bell's sauropod look-alikes*

Image credit: Dave and Joliet Lee



*Illustration of Shunosaurus*

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So far, this art shows dinosaurs, but the four Flood rock systems also have fossils of other extinct reptiles. The various nothosaurs (order Nothosauroida) comprise one such category found in Triassic system strata. Their features suggest an amphibious lifestyle. Their teeth extended past their jaws, probably effective for catching fish. A medieval altarpiece in Barcelona shows a dragon with teeth, head shape, and body size and proportions that match *Nothosaurus*. How did these ancient artists depict such striking similarities? This erases over 210 million total "years."



*Saint George Tapestry, Barcelona, Spain*



*Illustration of a Nothosaurus*

Even Permian system fossil look-alikes appear in ancient art. One French book crafted no later than 1409 titled *Belles Heures* (Beautiful Hours) contains prayers often directed to Mary among images of memorable scenes.

One scene shows a dragon that secular text analysts refer to as wholly fictitious. However, both the lizard-like European fossils of *Protosaurus* and the book's illumination look like a large dragon



with slender toes of varying lengths. What are the odds that these details plus the jaw shapes and body sizes would match this closely just by chance? Mainstream scientists assign 256 million years to *Protorosaurus* fossils and its Permian strata. If it really went extinct that far back, then how is it possible for a medieval artist to have pictured it so accurately? Fossils of these reptiles were not described until the 18th century.



### Belles Heures illustration

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### Protosaurus

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Taken together, these old depictions join others that threaten to collapse evolutionary age assignments. If Permian, Triassic, Jurassic, and Cretaceous reptiles lived at the same time, then they shouldn't be used to represent separate ages. We need a different historical framework.

In Scripture's account of Earth history, nothosaurs, sauropods,

horses, and humans lived at the same time but likely in separate environments before the Flood of Noah. Two of every land-dwelling, air-breathing beast went into the Ark. Unless nothosaurs survived outside the Ark with the ancestors of today's fishes, sea turtles, and other aquatic creatures, then two of them would have been on board, along with two young specimens of each sauropod kind.


If dinosaur and horse representatives both survived the Flood on the Ark, then why do horses still live today while the dragons went extinct? The ancient art itself offers a clue. Dragons became famous for being slain, possibly even with the Creator's approval.<sup>5</sup> Vance Nelson's book *Amazon Expedition* details research conducted on an ancient Peruvian pictograph made thousands of years ago showing another sauropod look-alike.<sup>6</sup>



### Peruvian sauropod

Image credit: Quirino Olivera Núñez. Used in accordance with federal copyright (fair use doctrine) law. Usage by ICR does not imply endorsement of copyright holder.

This scene includes armed natives surrounding this large, threatening dragon. Even to this day, humans who pioneer a new region often quickly remove the most threatening animals. A Bible-based history accommodates all the major observations, including rock strata with fossils from the Flood and later man-made artifacts that show some representatives of those fossilized creatures still alive after the Flood.

By affirming the history in the Bible through their dragon art and writings, our own ancestors perhaps unwittingly have pointed out the trustworthy character of the God who inspired the Bible. 

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# Flightless by Design or Designed by Death?



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Jesus is amazing! He is also brilliant and glorious. It can be difficult to find the right words to describe Him. Earth is absolutely filled with His brilliantly designed life—everywhere. Environments can be vastly different, and what we call inhospitable or harsh can be a happy home to some specifically designed creatures.

Birds use their God-given ability for flight to literally crisscross the planet. Some seasonally migrate to locations with abundant food sources, while others stick it out as permanent year-round residents.

Since birds can travel so easily, why don't they all find some lush place in the tropics and just stay put? God tells us why

not in Genesis 1. He designed and built these animals to fill Earth, and that's just what they do. Some live in the lush jungles of the world, while others choose to live full-time on small islands in the middle of nowhere.

One such bird is the white-throated rail. Years ago, this rail flew to a small island and then did the unthinkable—it became flightless! Flight is such an incredibly beneficial ability to possess. Why would any bird ever give it up?

Many believe this bird didn't become flightless by design. They surmise instead that a random genetic mistake disabled it, and flying birds were at a competitive disadvantage to survive, thus populating the

island with flightless birds only.

How do you eliminate only the birds with the extremely beneficial ability of flight? These selectionists believe that strong winds blew most rail that still had usable wings out to sea and killed them. By mere chance, this left more rail that can't fly on the island. Next, these ground-bound birds bred with each other and reproduced only flightless rail. This "wind wipe" happened repeatedly year after year until eventually the weather and death are credited with "designing" a new flightless species of rail.

But this explanation is a fanciful story. One reason stories like these are concocted is to try to find a way to credit nature rath-

## article highlights

- Why would flightless birds live alongside flying birds if evolutionary forces were in play on both?
- The flightless rail lives on islands where it has no need of flight.
- Flightlessness is not caused by a mutation. It's a designed innate attribute that helps rails thrive.

Rails are engineered to be flightless if needed so they can thrive on a faraway tiny island and thereby fill the earth just like Jesus designed them to do.

er than God for designing creatures. Why would anyone repeat a story this improbable given that multiple generations of birds with wings live alongside flightless rails on the same windblown island?

This modern-day faith in Darwin's concept of natural selection obscures the truth and the creativity of Jesus. Death does not design; Jesus does. Unfortunately, creationists sometimes come along and repeat this make-believe story. I used to believe and teach others these selection-based views. I unknowingly attempted to harmonize Darwin's thinking with the Bible by acquiescing that "selection" happens, but no new information is added to a species since the change occurs in only one direction—with a loss of information.

Both of these assertions are misleading. Change doesn't happen in only one direction. Many new features and capabilities can be added to a created kind of animal. This is because nothing is really being added to or subtracted from the genetic information. What is happening is radically different from Darwin's ubiquitous anti-design scenario of random mutations filtered by mystical "selection events." Molecular biology now informs us that sensors and information already within the organism switch genes on and off—sometimes thousands at a time—based on predetermined limits via epigenetics.

Genetically speaking, perceived losses or gains appear to happen when two types of one kind crossbreed, or hybridize. The hy-

brid doesn't gain all of the genetic capabilities from the two parent types, but it doesn't make anything new either. The capabilities had to be placed there by God from the start of creation.

But this isn't what's happening in the case of the rail. Rails live on islands right next to many types of flighted birds. The wind doesn't appear to affect the flying birds. The fact is we often find flighted and flightless birds living together. Birds are designed with magnificent creativity and variety. They don't all have the same wing shape, head, beak, body mass, talons, behavior, etc.

In this case, a crucial distinctive is that birds don't all have the same basal metabolic rate, or BMR. Rail can vary their metabolism in a powerful way that drastically reduces energy requirements for living.<sup>1</sup> Flying rails migrate to an island and can then switch to a full-time island-living lifestyle. Many drastic changes take place, and even their body temperature can be 10 degrees lower than a flighted bird. Their heavy breast muscles used for flight can consume 32% of total daily energy used, so they're reduced in size. Their wings and related muscles are also reduced. They have fewer offspring, and general behavior characteristics slow down.

All of these changes have been observed repeatedly with rail. The changes make them flightless but allow them to remain on the island year-round. Other birds can fly off if food becomes seasonally scarce. Not the rail, though. It's designed by the Lord Jesus with systems in place that make it the

perfect ground-dwelling bird. Flightlessness is not a mutation, and it's certainly not designed by wind.

Another bird ability that also contributes to the confusion of bird flightlessness is wing size variation with altitude.<sup>2</sup> Often, wing lengths of birds vary based on the altitude where they live. For example, birds that live in the Rocky Mountains have offspring with a longer wing than ones found at sea level. A longer wing is ideal for lower air densities at high altitude but less efficient at sea level.

So, birds have built-in sensors and systems to optimize wing bone length to altitude. Evolutionists mistake this ability for the source of flightlessness.<sup>3</sup> They extrapolate this capability far forward to apply it to the rail. Their selectionist interpretive framework leads them to miss seeing data indicating that flightlessness is a purposefully engineered innate response to conserve energy.

Rails are engineered to be flightless if needed so they can thrive on a faraway tiny island and thereby fill the earth just like Jesus designed them to do. 🐦

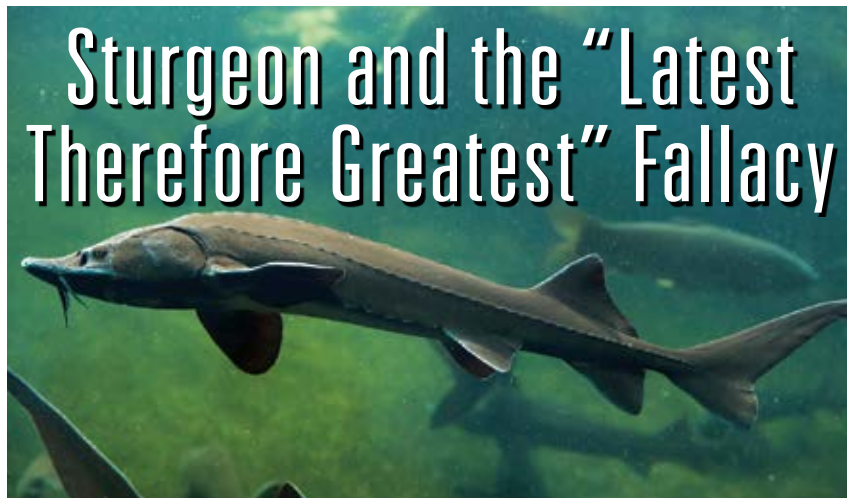
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Chesapeake Bay, the world's largest bay, continually confuses evolutionists, but not so Atlantic sturgeons, who periodically spawn in that bay's tributary rivers.<sup>1</sup> Why? Erroneous assumptions about Atlantic sturgeon (*Acipenser oxyrinchus*), compounded by the "latest therefore greatest" fallacy, are at least partly to blame.



article highlights

- Atlantic sturgeons spawn in both spring and fall, contrary to conventional thinking.
- This demonstrates that creatures are more dynamic and complex than many assume.
- Simplistic assumptions often color evolutionary thinking. In the case of sturgeons, data from centuries past appear to have been ignored.
- Darwinian thinking can and does harm science.

Consider these Darwinism-promoting sentences recently posted on the Chesapeake Bay Program website:

The Atlantic sturgeon is a bony, ancient-looking fish that visits the Chesapeake Bay in spring to spawn in Virginia's James and York rivers.... Sturgeons are prehistoric fish that have existed for more than 120 million years.<sup>2</sup>

The second sentence errs with evolutionist-imagined eons of surplus years, whereas the Bible reports sturgeons as originating on Day 5 of the creation week ~6,000 years ago (Genesis 1:20-22). Yet the innocent-looking first sentence is also false because it's been well-documented, for enough years to justify notice, that sturgeon of Chesapeake Bay's tributaries primarily spawn in fall, not in spring!<sup>1-4</sup>

It now appears that one reason adult fish [i.e., spawning Atlantic sturgeon] were overlooked [and assumed "extirpated"] is that *biologists were looking at the wrong time....Initially, the biologists concentrated their search in the spring.*<sup>3</sup>

Why were these fish not seen? Sturgeons are large fish—sometimes 7 to 12 feet long and weighing 200 to 500 pounds—so they should not be difficult to see!<sup>2,3</sup> However, in the 1990s, "most biologists" reported that only the James River had a small-yet-breeding springtime population of sturgeon. But during autumn, the James River has thousands! Also, nearby tributary Pamunkey River sports spawning populations, as well does tributary Marshyhope Creek.<sup>3</sup>

Professor Dave Secor, who once labeled Chesapeake's sturgeons as "ghosts" of the past, now admits that these sturgeons now mostly spawn during autumn.

Although a bit embarrassed by being wrong, I am also delighted. Duped by sturgeon, I became their student rather than their authority....Historically known to be springtime big-river spawners, fall spawning now seems to be the dominant behavior.<sup>4</sup>

Were sturgeons already spawning during autumn prior to the

1990s, or is this phenological pattern something new, e.g., a CET-based rapid self-adjustment?<sup>5</sup>

Also, what if Atlantic sturgeons can spawn during both springtime and autumn? Oversimplification errors, such as when evolutionists assume that "all" East Coast fish should limit their anadromous spawning (migrating from saltwater

to fresh to spawn) runs to springtime, should be critically examined because God's animal life cycles are never "simple" and not prone to one-size-fits-all explanations.<sup>1</sup> Moreover, it helps to research all of the relevant data—don't just "cherry-pick" the "latest" publications of "leading" scientists.<sup>1</sup>

Actually, historical records report Atlantic sturgeons spawning in the Chesapeake Bay watershed from March throughout September.<sup>3</sup> Ignored in 2011, Dr. Matthew Balazik disputed the "Chesapeake sturgeons are extirpated" pessimism. Colonial-era records (e.g., in 1613) recorded sturgeons spawning in later September.<sup>3</sup> Likewise, American Indians named August's full moon "the sturgeon moon" due to its spawning phenology.<sup>3</sup>

But pre-Darwin science data are often ignored by evolutionists, who discount empirical observations and reports of not-so-modern observers, erroneously assuming that only "the latest [evolution-based] science" is worth trusting.<sup>1,4</sup>

Lesson takeaway: Not-so-modern data reported by reliable eye-witnesses should be weighed as relevant to avoid the "latest therefore greatest" fallacy.<sup>1,3,4</sup>

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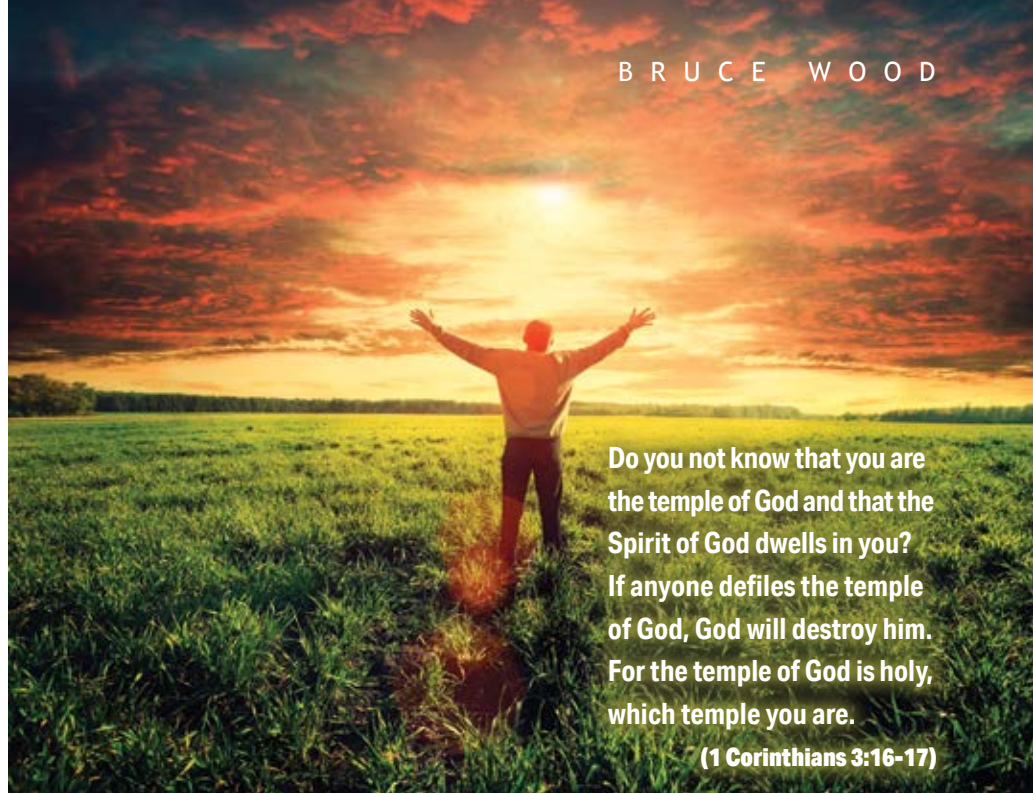
# STRENGTHENING GOD'S HOLY TEMPLES

We read in 2 Chronicles 24:4, “Joash set his heart on repairing the house of the LORD.” The historical context of this verse has to do with the death of the wicked queen Athaliah. The seven-year-old Joash was then made king by Jehoiada the priest. Sadly, the temple had fallen into disrepair during Athaliah’s tyrannical rule.

We see in Old Testament history how the upkeep of God’s temples was undermined by one major cause: failure to know and obey God’s Word, thus allowing His physical temples to deteriorate. In 2 Kings 12, Jehoash (another spelling of Joash) asked everyone who “purposes in his heart to bring into the house of the LORD” financial gifts to “repair the damages of the temple, wherever any dilapidation is found” (vv. 4-5).

Today, God’s temple is every believer in Christ (1 Corinthians 3:16-17). As Paul had an apologetic (defense) against those twisting Scripture “to their own destruction” (2 Peter 3:16), so too Christian “temples” need to be “rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith” (Colossians 2:7).

One goal included in ICR’s Mission Statement is edification, part of which is to “help pastors lead, feed, and defend their flocks by providing scientific responses to secular attacks on the authority and authenticity of God’s Word.” The majority of such at-



Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.

(1 Corinthians 3:16-17)

## article highlights

- God’s temples need continual and vigilant upkeep.
- Christians are God’s temples today—temples in Christ.
- Prayerfully consider supporting ICR as we equip and build up the body of Christ.

tacks has been to contradict the Genesis creation and thus challenge the Person and work of our Creator, Jesus Christ (John 1:1-3).

The scientists and other staff members of ICR have labored for over 50 years to provide resources and related services to correct faulty theological foundations, as well as equip God’s “temples” with cutting-edge research that’s founded on Scripture containing science-related passages. Those who have partaken of ICR’s events, publications, and media productions have attested to their increased theological and scientific knowledge that has empowered them to proclaim and defend our Creator and His Word.

I can personally testify to the quality of ICR’s workmanship. My faith in the philoso-

phy of evolution for 26 years was replaced with faith in Jesus Christ. The content in *Acts & Facts*, books, and other media—as well as doctrinally correct churches—gave me the ability to eventually give tours in the ICR San Diego creation museum for 16 years and become an ICR staff member.

We read in 2 Kings 12:15, “Moreover they did not require an account from the men into whose hand they delivered the money to be paid to workmen, for they dealt faithfully.” Even so, those within the ICR family have used their “craftsmanship” to produce the finest creation research and resources available.

Please consider investing in ICR as a co-laborer. Your financial gifts will help us reach the lost and provide powerful theological and scientific apologetic tools to win and strengthen many. Together, God’s temples will glorify Jesus Christ, our Creator, Savior, and future Restorer of a new heaven and earth.



Mr. Wood is an Event Coordinator and Q&A Specialist for the Institute for Creation Research.

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Upon seeing Carlsbad Caverns on the November [2021] cover of *Acts & Facts*, it brought back a fond memory. I was talking to a ranger...who insisted in her lecture, “Stalactites are millions of years old.” I said, “Are you really sure?” **I produced a photograph I took of what is known as a “swamp cooler” in the Southwest, a.k.a. an evaporative cooler, with a three-inch stalactite on it.** I asked..., “How many millions of years old do you think this swamp cooler is?” The look upon this young person’s face was amazing, to say the least.

— S. F.



I just finished reading the [Carlsbad Caverns National Park] “Fast Formation” article in the [November 2021] *Acts & Facts*. I am a geologist who had some information that might add support to the article. Growing up in New Jersey, **I noticed stalactites hanging down from overpasses on the Garden State Parkway and in some NYC subway tunnels.** Every time I would hear or read someone indicate it takes thousands to millions of years to form these features, I would recall [the] things I mentioned above and laugh. I tried bringing them to others’ attention, but they would argue that those were probably special and different environments but could never actually explain them away.



Stalactites descend from subway platform in Brooklyn, New York

Image credit: Matthew Wills

— A. C.



[ICR President] Randy Guliuzza is one of my heroes of late—his insights to the human body are an inspiration. I read his recent article on “Reinventing the Wheel” [November 2021 *Acts & Facts*, co-author Aaron Guliuzza] with delight. **He nails it on the subject of software reuse.** As a 36-year trench warrior in software architecture and design, the phrase “code reuse,” while highly desirable, is elusive for many developers. The key to unlock this arrived in identifying patterns of reuse. A glimmer of this arrived with drivers and libraries

**Giving the Facts**



Written by Trey Bowling. Illustrated by Lori Fausak.

but not directly in application-level software until patterns were also identified at this level. “Code reuse” became a byproduct of pattern reuse. **But don’t we see patterns in the living systems? As Randy points out, these things repeat themselves all over the creation in patterns of reuse everywhere.** God bless Randy for exposing these things with easily understood language and examples, and making this knowledge known to more people.

— D. B.



*Days of Praise* is the very best, doctrinally sound and uplifting so that we are informed of God’s truths accurately each day! Try for yourself and be blessed as I have for over 30 years!

— C. P. H.



Christian Apologetics: Excellent. Keep growing! This is an incredible ministry, and I absolutely love all you do. Praying for you to grow and continue to bless others in the truth of Christ. **You inspire young Christians everywhere, including my seven-year-old daughter, who desires to be a creation scientist at ICR.**

— C. A.



I can’t tell you how much your publications have meant to me! They have helped me sort out my views on creationism versus evolution. Having the scientific facts to support belief in the inerrancy of Scripture has been so faith-building! **The biological research you are doing and the theory you are developing are very exciting to me, as they point more and more to our bodies, our planet being created, not evolved.**

— A. L.

Have a comment? Email [Editor@ICR.org](mailto:Editor@ICR.org) or write to Editor, P. O. Box 59029, Dallas, TX 75229.  
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Have you ever seen a hummingbird float from flower to flower? Its long beak and skinny tongue dip into a flower to gather nectar. Hummers are the only birds that can fly backward. Their wings move in a figure-eight pattern, flapping up to 80 times per second. Did you also know...



- ✓ Tiny, curved “cups” along its tongue’s tip open to hold nectar, then curl up tightly after the bird swallows. Its body quickly turns the nectar into fuel for its fast flight.
- ✓ Hummingbirds see more shades of color than humans can. This helps them spot food and friends, as well as nearby predators.
- ✓ Some people say hummingbirds evolved from a tree swift (bird) through small changes over millions of years. But a hummingbird could not survive without all the right parts in the right place at the same time.
- ✓ These beautiful acrobats display the beauty, skill, and power that the Lord Jesus has built into His creation. Hummers don’t show evolution—they’re proof of God’s amazing design!

Fill in the blanks.

“Then God said,...‘Let birds \_\_\_\_\_ above the \_\_\_\_\_.’”  
(Genesis 1:20)

Can you guess each hummingbird’s name?

- a. green-crowned brilliant
- b. long-tailed sylph
- c. black-chinned hummingbird
- d. ruby-throated hummingbird
- e. bearded helmetcrest



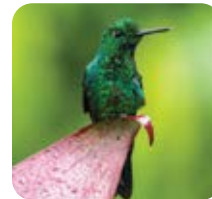
1. \_\_\_\_\_



2. \_\_\_\_\_



3. \_\_\_\_\_



4. \_\_\_\_\_



5. \_\_\_\_\_

## Make your own hummingbird feeder



You will need a water bottle, straws, red and yellow foam, scissors, twine, a hot glue gun, and an adult to help.



Cut circles out of the yellow foam and flower shapes out of the red foam. The red color will attract the hummingbird.



Cut 3 small holes into the empty water bottle, and cut holes in the middle of the circles and flowers. Cut three pieces of straw.



Put a straw through a flower and glue it into the hole of the water bottle, leaving the straw halfway in the bottle.



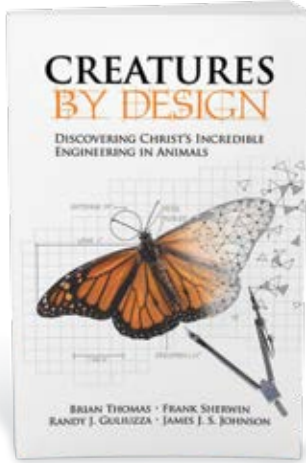
Tie twine to the top of the water bottle. Boil 1/2 cup of sugar with 2 cups of water. Let cool. Then fill the water bottle up to the straws.



Hang your feeder off a branch outside and watch for the hummingbirds!

Fill in the blanks: fly, earth. Answers to hummingbird type: 1. b, 2. c, 3. e, 4. a, 5. d.

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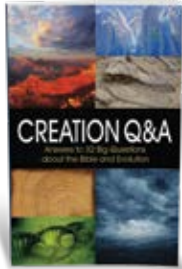


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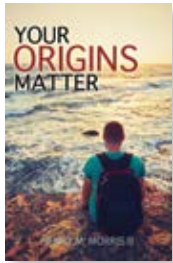
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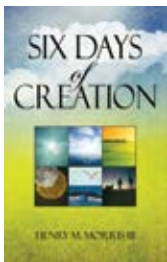


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