

# ACTS & FACTS

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# Behind the Scenes of *Made in His Image*

ICR's 2014 DVD series *Unlocking the Mysteries of Genesis* continues to touch lives throughout the world. We're receiving a great response from viewers expressing their enjoyment of and appreciation for this groundbreaking biblical creation resource. Many of you are asking for more visual presentations like it. Since the first series seemed to strike such a chord, we've been hard at work in recent months with the production of our next DVD series, *Made in His Image*.

Host Markus Lloyd joins us again to walk viewers through the breathtaking process of a baby's development in the womb, the intricate workings of the human eye, the complex engineering of the hand, and the astounding abilities of the human body in motion.



*Made in His Image* highlights how God formed us with amazing design and capabilities to accomplish incredible feats.

I was on the set for almost all of the filming. Doctors, scientists, athletes, artists, musicians, and others shared their expertise and skills with us. ICR professional engineer and medical doctor Randy Guliuzza provides his commentary throughout each episode. NASA astronaut Col. Jeffrey Williams shares his deep love and appreciation for God and describes the effects of space on the body. Both men express deep reverence for our Creator, the Designer and Engineer of the human body.

When filming, we didn't spend all of our time in the studio. We went to NASA, medical facilities, gyms, parks, and baseball fields to

catch our experts in action. Accomplished people from many walks of life demonstrated their skills while exhibiting a profound sense of awe for God's work in creating the human body. Videographers captured unique footage from a camera drone flying high above the film locations.



The *Made in His Image* DVD series will be available in October. Homeschoolers will find it a valuable resource to use as a unit study, and the series will be perfect for Sunday school classes, churches, and small groups. One viewer guide highlighting each episode's main points and suggesting further resources will be included with each set, and additional viewer guides will be available through our online store at [ICR.org/store](http://ICR.org/store).

We began this series with the goal of showcasing God's incredible design, and we want viewers to experience the wonder of God's creation. When you see *Made in His Image* and witness the intricate details involved in the design and engineering of the human body, we hope you, too, will walk away saying, "Wow, only God could do this!"

*Jayme Durant*

**Jayme Durant**  
EXECUTIVE EDITOR





# THE MAKING OF MADE IN HIS IMAGE

J A Y M E D U R A N T

*As Director of Communications at ICR, I've had the delightful task of being immersed in the production process for our upcoming series, Made in His Image. I've discovered that most people are curious about the filming process. As we all know, any major project is bound to be met with laughable moments and lip-biting challenges. And during the making of this film, we had our share of both! So, here's a casual look behind-the-scenes.*



After extensive planning with the film production team, and writing and rewriting treatments and scripts, we interviewed doctors, scientists, surgeons, engineers, an astronaut, and other experts about the wonderful design of the human body. As a professional engineer who is also a medical doctor, Dr. Randy Guliuzza offered his unique insights during the scripting phase as well as during the interviews. Our scriptwriter worked closely with all these brilliant professionals, and she now claims to be qualified to enter medical school. I have every reason to believe her.

The production team spent time in the studio as well as on numerous locations, including parks and hotels, an opera house and a music store, a bike shop and a bridge, a softball park and a golf course, a gym and a pregnancy center, and even a restricted floor at NASA.

This filming process offered my first look at a camera drone in action. Incredibly cool! It looked like an alien bird with helicopter propellers and sounded like a giant mosquito. At the parks where we filmed, it drove the dogs crazy. At the construction site in a business park where we filmed, it drove the businessmen even crazier. Something about spies and security breaches.

Small children and grown-ups alike were drawn to the drone—it is, after all, a big guy's toy. At the gym, the drone clipped a climbing rope and crashed. Thankfully, it fell on gymnastics mats and only needed a few propellers replaced. But for an instant I was afraid I was about to see grown men cry.

Many of the shoots were scheduled for outdoor locations, and they happened to be at the beginning of a record-breaking rainy spring that pulled North Texas out of a years-long drought. Some of our scripts spoke of sunshine, so our host was talking about sunny days in the middle of thunderstorms. We obviously had to make many



last-minute script changes.

During one chilly early morning shoot, Markus Lloyd, our host, was demonstrating refraction with a pool net pole. He was wearing a T-shirt and swim trunks (while the crew wore coats) at an outdoor pool at the top of a Dallas hotel, when a thunderstorm hit, complete with lightning and hail. And yes, his script referred to a sunny day at the pool.

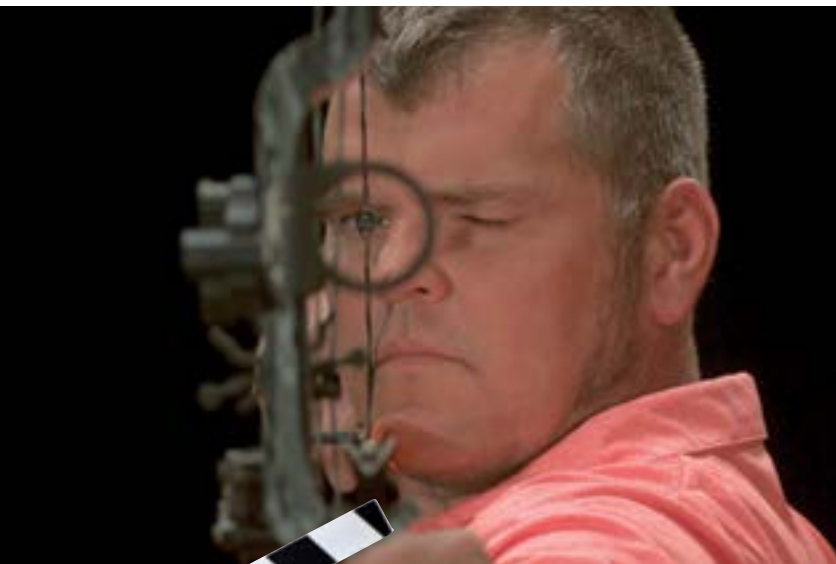
Teleprompters are difficult to read outside. Markus is such a pro that he can quickly memorize lines—even in just a few minutes—when the teleprompter fails him. We’ve found a real gem in Markus. He loves the Lord and believes in ICR’s work, and the authenticity shows when he delivers lines. Although, during the golf scenes, he almost hit those of us sitting at the director’s table. Filming stopped while the crew quickly set up screens for protective shields. Golf lessons may be in Markus’ future.

Markus sings and impersonates famous people while he’s waiting for filming to start. He also likes saying words like “Herodotus” and “vestibular” and “puncta.” Over and over. I know this because I eavesdropped on his line rehearsals—his mic was on while I wore headphones. And by the way, Herodotus doesn’t appear anywhere in this series. It’s a holdover from our previous *Unlocking the Mysteries of Genesis* film experience with Markus. I guess it made quite an impression on him.

We filmed in a gated outdoor area owned by the Joule Hotel in Dallas. The enclosed area held a piece of artwork unlike anything I’d ever encountered—a giant eyeball, complete with bloodshot squiggles covering the surface. It also had an empty chair positioned next to it as part of the art. The purpose of the chair is a mystery since the iron gate stays locked and no one can get to the chair to sit in it. Artificial turf

surrounding it stays a constant green year-round, completing the masterpiece. I’m not sure what any of it means. Word on the street was that at one time the hotel wanted to put up a parking garage there, and the city wouldn’t let them. The story goes that city officials claimed a parking garage would be “an eyesore.” So, as contemporary Dallas urban legend has it, the hotel opted for eyeball artwork instead.

Filming outdoors in the city provides many challenges, including planes, trains, buses, cars, people walking on sidewalks while laughing and talking on phones, crying kids, barking dogs, birds, boats, golf carts, motorcycles, music from neighboring businesses, doors ding, backhoes, back-up beepers on construction equipment, and more planes after you’ve already waited for one to pass. Indoor filming also has its noise issues, including doors shutting, people walking on tile or talking, elevator dings, and



the people who want their five seconds of fame. For the record, the ever-present planes, trains, and buses can still be heard indoors. And it's worse when you're filming in a location near the flight path of a major airport.

I discovered that important people at opera houses don't like to be told "Quiet on the set!" even if the instructions aren't aimed specifically at them. Their heels click louder and quicker on marble floors when the director yells those words.

We made the trip to NASA in Houston to film astronaut Col. Jeffrey Williams. He has graciously provided several interviews—our staff and film crew were in awe after spending time with this amazing man. What a testimony to God's goodness, provision, and grace!

When we arrived at NASA, we were photographed and received badges that gave us access to the facilities. We had helpful guides and were allowed on the training

room floor, which was like a giant playground for most of us. We even took photos of ourselves in the "Unity" and "Destiny" Modules of the ISS.

The film crew was so mesmerized by the facility that we made the fateful mistake of staying at NASA too long. We had another shoot scheduled for a nearby Houston park, but by the time we made it there, it began to rain. The sky turned black, and we filmed during a thunderstorm under make-shift tents. The poor audio guy had his work cut out for him, and our medical expert in the scene was incredibly gracious about enduring such challenging conditions.

We asked some former college baseball players to participate in high-speed filming. My son was one of them. The young athletes hustled after work to make it to the filming and good-naturedly donned girls' softball uniforms that the wardrobe provider had mistakenly arranged for them. One of the

players' pants split almost immediately, and the "gaff guy" was there with tape to put the pants back together. They played on a softball field, which is very different from a baseball field. The pitcher threw with no mound and a dirt infield. The batter, who rarely strikes out, was instructed to intentionally miss the ball. The catcher, who was left-handed, used a right-handed glove to catch the 90-mile-per-hour fastballs. And nothing stopped them from trash-talking as if they were in a real game.

The gaff guy had a challenge with the athletes, since logos are on everything related to sports. He applied colored tape to change the appearance of trademarks anywhere they appeared on clothing, shoes, hats, equipment, furniture, props—everywhere.

We discovered during the shoot that our fictional father Mr. Miller couldn't pitch, so we pulled in an extra to pitch for him. That required another script change.





When we shot the gymnastics scenes, a homeschool group participated. The parents were enthusiastic about their kids being a part of the project. We had a lot in common—I homeschooled my own four children from kindergarten to high school.

During the shoot on a bridge, the scene called for Markus to put the final piece of a puzzle in place as he delivered his last line. The prop guy provided a 500-piece puzzle, but it wasn't put together at the beginning of the scene. How hard can it be to put together a 500-piece puzzle? Well, over an hour later with seven crew members frantically attempting to fit uncooperative pieces together, the puzzle barely had the edges connected. That scene was re-shot later that week. Live and learn. Puzzles aren't just a challenge for kids.

You may wonder when you watch the bridge scene—what is that thing waving in the background? Yes, it's a Texas flag behind Markus as he sits on his bike. As I watched that flag fluttering in the background during the film preview, I thought of a previous plane trip in which the military

young man sitting next to me laughed as we landed. He saw the Texas flag flying and remarked only Texans flew their flags alongside the U.S. flag. He grinned at me and said, "Well, welcome to the Republic of Texas." It's hard to film in Texas without capturing a glimpse of that proud banner.

Film vocabulary is like a foreign language at times. When you hear the word "craft" on a film set, it doesn't mean scissors and glue. It refers to a table of food and an ice chest of drinks. "Slate" is that iconic clapperboard that we all think of when we envision a camera beginning to roll for a shoot. The "boom" is the pole that holds the long fuzzy mic. When the director yells "Nat!" that means it's time to be quiet and still so that the audio guy can record the *natural* sound of the environment. And they really do say "That's a wrap!" at the end of a shoot.

When the production crew used fog machines in the studio, they had to keep the room cold—so cold that I wore a down jacket and had a sweater across my legs. I even wore gloves in earlier fog scene shoots.

The Downtown Pregnancy Center

provided a sonographer and an exam room to film the fictional Miller family sonogram scenes. Mrs. Miller wore three different-size pregnancy bumps during those shoots. The rest of us had donuts that tasted like cake for breakfast, and I hoped my stomach wouldn't end up looking like Mrs. Miller's final bump before the filming was complete.

I scrutinized most scenes through the monitor, making notes and checking off the script during the process. Did the set look and sound real? I learned to watch for flares, wardrobe malfunctions, and stealth logos. And more than once while Markus was reading some detailed technical scientific jargon, he stopped his lines, looked my direction, and said, "Really? *Really?* Who talks like that?"

ICR scientists, Markus. Really.

*The moments I've provided here are a few of the incidents that made me chuckle during the making of the series, but the message of Made in His Image is engaging and impactful—a resource we hope God will use to touch this generation of believers and unbelievers alike. Watch for it in the fall on our online store at [ICR.org/store](http://ICR.org/store). ●*





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# Ancient Blood Cells Still Red

**D**o we live on an earth that is 4.6 billion years old or only thousands of years old? The age of our planet is a significant stumbling block for many Christians and keeps countless others from even considering the Scriptural message—specifically, the gospel. Indeed, an old earth means death isn't really the wages of sin (Romans 6:23) since violence, pain, and death would have had to reign in the world millions of years before sin made its first appearance. If that were the case, then God, not Adam, would be directly responsible for this cruel regime of endless suffering.

But Scripture is silent regarding the millions and billions of years demanded by the secular scientific community. The New Testament clearly states God was speaking through “the mouth of His holy prophets, who have been since the world began” (Luke 1:70; Acts 3:21). Earth, our solar system, and the universe were created along with God's first prophet during the six-day creation week just thousands of years ago. Adam, made on Day 6, recorded the first prophecy in Genesis 3.<sup>1</sup>

Creation scientists have shown we live on a young planet.<sup>2,3,4</sup> The field of biology reveals the youth of our Earth in dramatic fashion. Some of the oldest recovered biomolecules were found in crinoid (a class of sea animals having a long stalk) fossils in Iowa, Indiana, and Ohio.<sup>5</sup> Secular scientists have yet to figure out how these biomolecules could last for the supposed hundreds of millions of years since these crinoids were deposited. Living material simply decays too quickly to survive so long a time. The existence of still-intact, complicated chemicals of life makes better sense if they were buried in Noah's Flood only thousands of years ago.

Original biological material has been detected in a fossil leaf that is identical to modern leaves despite a supposed 50-million-year age assignment.<sup>6</sup> Clear evidence of unfossilized plant tissue has been reported in a kimberlite crater in Canada.<sup>7</sup> In a specimen supposedly “53 million years old,” scientists found exquisitely preserved *unfossilized* wood.

And *Nature* reported a new record for organic material in a dinosaur fossil—possible collagen (protein) in dinosaur eggs from the early Jurassic.

But it is not just the age of the fossils that is notable, the researchers say. Spectroscopic analysis of bone-tissue samples from the Chinese nesting site revealed the oldest organic material

ever seen in a terrestrial vertebrate. That was surprising because the fossilized femur bones were delicate and porous, which made them vulnerable to the corrosive effects of weathering and groundwater, says Reisz [lead author of the study].<sup>8</sup>

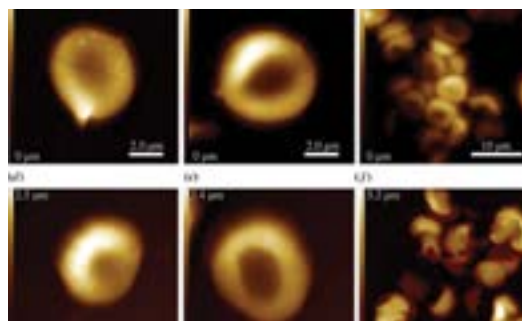
But this preserved organic material would *not* be surprising if Earth is as young as the Bible and significant amounts of scientific evidence indicate. The article went on to say, “Reisz thinks that the complex proteins his team detected in that organic material are preserved collagen.”<sup>8</sup> But collagen is a soft tissue, and studies show it can't last millions of years.<sup>9</sup>

Another amazing discovery reported in 2011 regarded wholly unexpected remains of organic material (polysaccharide and protein) called *chitin-protein* complex buried deep in the sedimentary layers.

Cody and his team studied fossil remains of a 310-million-year-old scorpion cuticle [composed of chitin and proteins] from northern Illinois and a 417-million-year-old eurypterid—an extinct scorpion-like arthropod, possibly related to horseshoe crabs—from Ontario, Canada.<sup>10</sup>

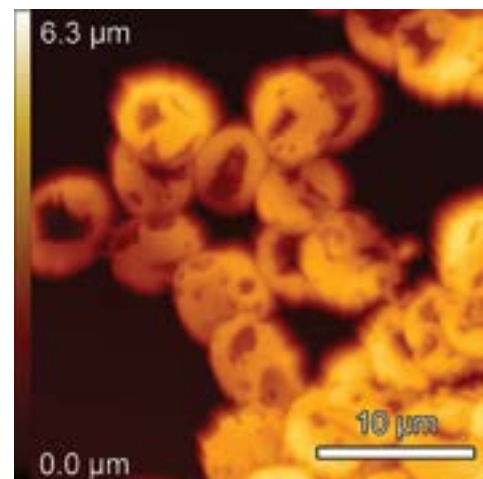
The article stated these findings “could have major implications for our understanding of the organic fossil record.”<sup>10</sup> Creation scientists heartily agree. They expect such discoveries based on a recent flood that laid these sediments down rapidly, preserving the organic material in cement-like sedimentary rock before the tissues decayed entirely—readying them to be discovered just thousands of years later.

How about delicate nucleic acids—can they be preserved for millions of years? “The story of life on Earth keeps getting stranger,”



**Figure 1. (above)** Images of the Iceman's preserved red blood cells believed to be 5,300 years old.

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**Figure 2. (right)** Using a pinhead-size sample of brain tissue from the Iceman, scientists were able to identify numerous brain proteins as well as proteins from blood cells.

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states a *LiveScience* article reporting on fungus found in supposedly 2.7-million-year-old mud. “This was an unexpected discovery,” said William Orsi, microbiologist at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in Massachusetts. “We’ve found diatoms [microscopic algae] and the nucleic acid [DNA] preserved in sediments for millions of years.”<sup>11</sup> This may be a strange, getting stranger, story to the evolutionist, but the evidence once again lines up precisely with the young-earth model.

More recently, red blood cells were extracted from the famous Iceman, a man preserved in an alpine glacier in Italy who was discovered in 1991.<sup>12</sup> Although his death was dated at about 5,300 years ago, researchers were successful in obtaining samples of his cells, making this the oldest known sampling of such tissue. This raises an interesting question for the evolutionist: Were there not possible red blood cells also found in dinosaur soft tissue that appear just as red and intact as the famous Iceman’s?<sup>13</sup> The problem is that evolutionary theory states dinosaurs supposedly lived many millions of years earlier than humans, but the physical, undecayed evidence brings them dangerously close together time-wise.

Soft tissue and organic (carbon-based) remains found deep in the layers of the geologic column do not bode well for evolutionists who insist they were laid down over the span of a half-billion years. Such a long time means innumerable biological processes as well as meteorological and geological events would affect every square inch of this planet’s surface several times over and deep underground. Does the evolutionist really believe fossils containing soft tissue can survive many millions of years of bacteria, worms, arthropods, volcanoes, tsunamis, weather’s constant drenching, drying, freezing and thawing, and even earthquakes? Periods of extended sunlight and pH variation must also be considered.

In 2008 scientists announced the creation of a “doomsday” vault containing the world’s seed collection.<sup>14</sup> If a world war or a natural

catastrophe happened, 4.5 million seed samples would be protected in this temperature-controlled, secure enclosure in a mountainside on an island between the North Pole and Norway. No expense was spared to use 21st-century technology to ensure the seeds last for 1,000 years. But how are we expected to believe that randomly buried animals that supposedly fossilized millions of years ago but still clearly contain soft tissue remained unspoiled without the benefit of any preservation technology whatsoever?

Clearly, science and the biblical record agree. A global flood just 4,500 years ago or so is the best explanation for why scientists are finding unfossilized plant and animal material—including red blood cells—throughout the geologic column all over the world. ●

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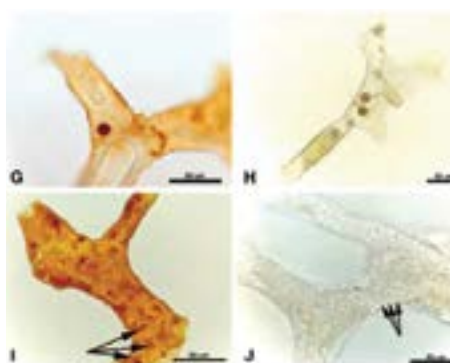
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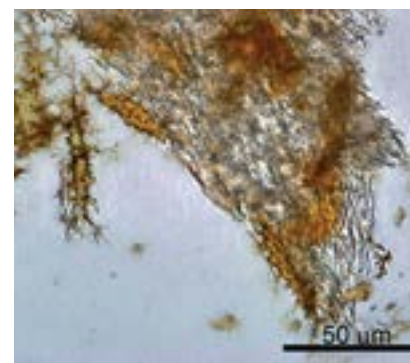
**Figure 3.** Gowned, gloved, and masked scientists inspect the Iceman. To limit decay, extreme caution is used each time researchers examine the Iceman. The body—assigned an age of only 5,300 years—is kept in a temperature-controlled environment at all times. What does this tell us about the speed of soft-tissue decay?

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**Figure 4.** Mary Schweitzer and her co-workers isolated a blood vessel fragment from a *T. rex* femur (G) that seems to retain its original microstructures. The *T. rex* vessel fragment (I) shows cell nuclei (arrows) in the vessel wall. The *T. rex* is supposedly 68 million years old.

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**Figure 5.** Red blood cells still intact from the femur of a duck-billed (*hadrosaur*) dinosaur supposedly 80 million years old.

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# Monuments of Catastrophe from Mount St. Helens



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This spring I was able to visit Mount St. Helens while speaking at a string of ICR events in the Washington state area. In and around the volcano I saw powerful monuments of the quick geologic work catastrophes can accomplish.

Long-time creation speaker and author Paul Taylor conducted a tour that included the blast zone of the May 18, 1980, eruption. He and his wife Geri now manage the Mount St. Helens Creation Center on highway 504, the main road leading to the volcano from the west. Mr. Taylor did a great job showing our group the results of all the steam, ash, pulverized rocks, flung-far-a-field forests, pyroclastic flows, and mudflows that overwhelmed the valleys north of Mount St. Helens in 1980 and in catastrophic events some years later.

The first monument I saw was the crater itself atop the mountain. Seen from miles away, it towers above the hilly landscape like a bright white pyramid. In the spring of 1980, molten material from deep beneath the earth pushed upward, creating a big bulge on the north side of the peak. Soon, the rock could bend no more, and it gave way in a giant landslide. This released an explosion of hot, pressurized fluid like a cork popping off a champagne bottle. In minutes, Mount St. Helens' peak became a huge crater.

The earth vomited steam and ash, which quickly produced a debris flow that filled the Toutle River valley with over 300 feet of sediment. Initially, debris flew at over 100 mph, but when its pace



*Mount St. Helens' volcano is white-topped in the background. The dark rocks near the peak expose the west faces of the crater, and the North Fork Toutle River meanders across mud flats deposited in a handful of catastrophes beginning with the largest initial blast on May 18, 1980.*



slowed enough, material suddenly dropped out of the sky. It landed in lumps, leaving hummocks that are several stories high. Now, over 30 years after the initial blast, alder trees in the small valleys stand over those hummocky tops, and beaver dams have generated ponds with lively insects, frogs, fish, and birds.

Just two years after the big blast, a sizable new lake had already accumulated near the base of the mountain. On March 19, 1982, a moderate explosion initiated an eruptive episode that melted snow and caused muddy water to overwhelm a natural dam, releasing a catastrophic mudflow that gouged dozens of feet through the two-year-old deposits.<sup>1</sup> It even scoured some 500-year-old solid rock beneath that. I marveled at the still-steep-sided walls that this 1982 mudflow carved in a single day.

Mr. Taylor told us that he once overheard a park official giving a tour while overlooking this 33-year-old Toutle River canyon. One participant asked the official when the canyon formed, and he replied that decades of erosion must have carved it. His answer may reflect secular geological stories about slow, gradual, everyday processes, but certainly not actual history. The catastrophic mudflow that formed the steep-sided canyons at Mount St. Helens was not a slow, gradual, or everyday event. These monuments suggest that catastrophic events may explain geologic features elsewhere, too.<sup>2</sup>

The 1980 mudflows deposited sediments that hardened into clearly defined layers of sedimentary rock within two years. Could



*Catastrophic mudflows deposited sedimentary layers exposed in the blast zone.*

a larger overwhelming catastrophe have deposited the vast slabs of sedimentary rocks that rest on all the world's continents? At Mount St. Helens, a single 1982 mudflow carved out a whole new cliff-sided canyon in hours. Could other canyons and cliffs around the world that have the same appearance as Mount St. Helens' canyon represent catastrophic erosion events, only on an unimaginably greater scale?

A park sign at the hummocky trail illustrated the last monument to quick geologic work. It reads, "Finally, dacite formed the 'bulge' in the spring of 1980, and built the lava domes from 1980 to 1984." Dacite is a type of lava rock with high silica content, making it thicker and difficult to flow when molten. The lava flows did not totally stop in 1984, and another layer oozed out in 1986. Ten years later, ICR collected some of the 1986 dacite rock and sent three samples to a standard laboratory for K-Ar (potassium-argon) radioisotope dating. In 1996, geologist Steve Austin published the results, which showed "ages" from 340,000 to 2,800,000 years for this ten-year-old rock.<sup>3</sup> Thus, isotopically "old"-looking rocks can form in a single day, giving another good reason to doubt K-Ar "ages" of millions of years for rocks found anywhere in the world.

So, if you ever visit the beautiful state of Washington, be sure to consider the monuments of catastrophe—catastrophic sedimentation, catastrophic canyon carving, and instantly "old"-looking radioisotopes, all at Mount St. Helens. ●

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*Over 300 feet of new sediment filled this entire valley just north of Mount St. Helens.*

# TRACKING DOWN LEVIATHAN

What exactly was the leviathan described so vividly in Job 41? Was it a swimming reptile like a plesiosaur or a mosasaur, or something we have yet to unearth? We may never know the answer for certain, but the latest discovery of a large, semiaquatic dinosaur offers another possibility.<sup>1</sup>

Most specimens of the large theropod dinosaur *Spinosaurus*, made famous by the *Jurassic Park* movies as the dinosaur that defeated *T. rex*, are found in North Africa. Whether an encounter between the two would have had the same result in reality is highly unlikely. But, the latest estimate has this dinosaur a bit longer than *T. rex*, coming in at 50 feet from snout to tail.<sup>1</sup>

Spinosaurus were designed with a bony sail on their backs, up to seven feet high. Its exact purpose is unclear. Recent research indicates that spinosaurs spent a considerable part of their lives in water, eating fish and other aquatic prey.<sup>1,2</sup> They had long, narrow jaws with round, reptile-like teeth in the lower jaw and larger, more dinosaur-like teeth in their upper jaw. And unlike most theropod dinosaurs, they had solid limb bones for better buoyancy and shorter

hind legs—a feature common to semiaquatic vertebrates like crocodiles.<sup>1</sup> The flexible tail and the shape of the tail bones suggest they used their tail for swimming. Spinosaurus seem perfectly designed to live in aquatic settings like modern crocodiles, possibly possessing webbed, paddle-like hind feet and nostrils placed high on their skulls.<sup>1</sup>

Could the leviathan described in Job 41 be a description of a semiaquatic dinosaur like the *Spinosaurus*? “Who can open the doors of his face, with his terrible teeth all around?” (v. 14). “Darts are regarded as straw; he laughs at the threat of javelins. His undersides are like sharp potsherds; he spreads pointed marks in the mire” (vv. 29-30). “He leaves a shining wake behind him; one would think the deep had white hair. On earth there is nothing like him, which is made without fear” (vv. 32-33).



These descriptive words indicate a large, ferocious animal that crawled or walked on the bottom of a river or shallow body of water, similar to the suggested behavior of *Spinosaurus*.<sup>1</sup> The “wake [or path] behind him” may refer to the trail the bony sail left in the water as it swam.

It seems God pointed out two of the largest dinosaurs known to mankind in Job 40 and 41. One was a large plant-eater (behemoth), and the other was the “king over all the children of pride” (Job 41:34). Both of these animals could have been right there in or near the rivers where Job resided.

It is unlikely the leviathan in Job 41 was a mosasaur, as they didn’t have the anatomy necessary to crawl on land and leave “marks

in the mire,” or mud.<sup>3</sup> We can likewise discount the plesiosaur for similar reasons. And it is possible that the leviathan in Psalm 104:25-26 and Isaiah 27:1 was a different reptile altogether, one that lived in the wide, deep sea. These two other references to leviathan may have described a swimming reptile like a plesiosaur or a mosasaur. The word translated “leviathan” could refer to multiple large reptiles, similar to our words dragon, reptile, and dinosaur.

So what was the leviathan in Job 41? Whether a *Spinosaurus* or something similar, it was a real and awesome beast.<sup>4</sup> God chose to use this ferocious animal to showcase the might of His creative power. We can be certain that Job was familiar with leviathan and behemoth, and likely had seen them both with his own eyes in the time period shortly after the Flood. ●

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# Q: Were the Creation Days 24 Hours Long?

**A:** The creation days in Genesis 1 offer a test of belief. Could a lifeless, shapeless mass really turn into a fully formed and inhabited Earth in just six days? This record of perhaps the ultimate miracle confronts us with the power and personality of the miracle Maker.

A six-day creation certainly challenges the beliefs of someone unsure of who God is, but the challenge is even more acute for those who hold the secular understanding that the earth and universe evolved over billions of years. What are we to do with the days of Genesis? Four reasonable arguments reveal our answer.

The first argument concerns miracles themselves. Most of our cultural leaders reject the possibility of a supernatural creation. Of course, sheer refusal to believe in miracles is no substitute for examining evidence for or against a possible miracle. But since natural processes do not create stars, planets, or people, creation must have occurred through a supernatural process—a miracle.

A God who can make a universe can do anything at any pace, even creating and organizing all things in just six days. He should also be able to clearly communicate, as we read in Genesis. There, the Lord defined the first day as the span between evening and morning—our second argument. This “daylight” definition of day should sound familiar. For example, one might say, “I saw her during the day.” All one needs to define these ordinary days is an earth rotating near a fixed light source. God provided light for the first three days of the creation week and then created the sun to continue producing light from Day 4 until today.

A third reasonable argument about the length of creation-week days notes that saying “the second day” and “the third day” normally signifies 24-hour days. If God intended to convey millions or billions of years, then why didn’t He just say so? Instead, He defined a normal day in the unmistakable terms of one Earth rotation.

The last reasonable argument comes from the Fourth Commandment. It says that one day out of every seven days should be set aside to remember and honor the Lord instead of working. It relies entirely on and points directly to God’s six working days and one rest day during the creation week itself. Why were the Israelites told to take this day off? God explains it in no uncertain terms: “For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.”<sup>1</sup> Since our workweek days are solar days, then God’s creation week must also have been composed of normal days.

Evolutionary ideas generally exclude miracles and God, so it makes little sense to rely on them when trying to understand creation-week days. But God can do anything. He could transform a lifeless, shapeless mass into an inhabited earth in an instant, over billions of years, or in six literal days. By using “evening and morning,” by numbering each day, and by patterning our ordinary workweek after His first workweek, He told us that He did it in six ordinary days. ●

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1. Exodus 20:11.

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God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night.

So the evening and the morning were the first day. (Genesis 1:5)



## MADE IN HIS IMAGE:

# A CAMERA MADE FROM LIVING TISSUE!

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

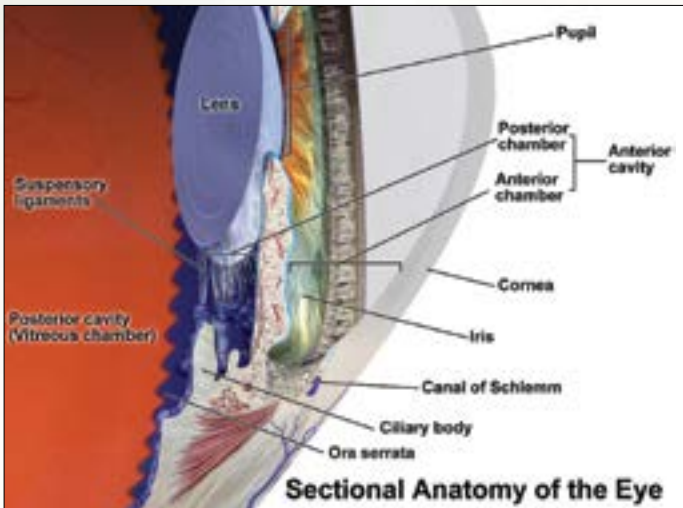
Great photographers have an intuitive sense, coupling interesting subjects with a mastery over the mechanics of picture-taking such as exposure, lighting, focus, and depth of field. They pair one select lens to a sophisticated camera and meticulously adjust it for shutter speed, aperture size, and so forth. Similarly, our eyes have highly engineered components analogous to the camera's. However, our eyes are more like today's user-friendly preprogrammed cameras in that our eyes self-adjust. This enables us to swiftly scan a group of friends posing in front of the Teton Mountains and appreciate both near and far details. What parts help make our eyes so versatile?

When we stare closely into someone's eyes, the clear bulging structure covering about two thirds of the visible eyeball is the cornea. Most people may be surprised to know that our cornea, rather

than our lens, is responsible for approximately 70% of light focus. A healthy cornea is similar to very fine, highly polished, optical-grade glass whose extreme smoothness and clarity enable distortion-free light to pass through it. We sense distortion when we look through the lesser-quality glass of a windshield or window and perceive, for example, bent or broken-appearing telephone poles.

The cornea's special material properties are formed by a combination of numerous smaller parts. The general protein fiber, called a *fibril*, that underlies a good portion of skin and bone is *collagen*. Collagen also makes up most of the human cornea. Throughout its composition, very specifically arranged fibrils allow the cornea's exceptional transparency. A cornea is only about as thick as six sheets of printer paper, but within that space are around 200 closely compacted layers of collagen fibrils with only the smallest amount of fluid





**Figure 1.** A cross-section through the anterior cavity of the human eye.

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between them. This dense, nearly dehydrated condition is made possible by a layer of cells on the inner side of the cornea. These cells actually possess pumps capable of transferring sodium ions out of the cornea. By pumping one ion out, a water molecule follows. This pumping action maintains the spacing of the fibrils at just the right distance so that light scattered by one fibril cancels out the scattered light of adjacent fibrils. Damage or disease to the critical inner cells causes fluid to accumulate between cornea fibrils, making the cornea blindingly opaque.

The outer layer of cornea cells are on the front line between the eye and a hostile world of dirt, sand, and even eyelashes. These contaminants could not only cut the cornea but could also abrade it so severely with blinking that blindness could result if the damage is left unattended. So, one smart way to make sure people don't ignore care for their eyes is to invest the outer layer of the cornea with so many sensory nerves that even small specks of dust are intensely painful. Corneas are likely the most pain-sensitive tissues in the body, with sensory innervation over 400 times greater than that of most skin and even dozens of times more sensitive than our teeth or fingertips.

Behind the cornea, as pictured in Figure 1, is the intensely colored iris. Purposed just like a camera's aperture, it adjusts the amount of light entering the eye through its round central opening—our pupil. The iris is designed to be opaque to light transmission. Multiple layers of tissue are intensely infiltrated with the same light-blocking protein *melanin* used to color our skin. Our eye color results from the outer layer's varying amounts and mixtures of one melanin type that absorbs most light and looks brown and black, or another type that reflects reds and yellows. The inner layers have only brown and black melanin.

Corneas are likely the most pain-sensitive tissues in the body, with sensory innervation over 400 times greater than that of most skin and even dozens of times more sensitive than our teeth or fingertips.

The iris functions as a round curtain of tissue that dynamically opens and closes around a central hole. One elegant design secures that function by arranging two intrinsic muscles working in opposition to each other. A very small circular constrictor muscle is located just at the iris-pupillary margin. When its nerve becomes excited it constricts, resulting in a smaller circumference that closes the pupil. A series of muscles radiating away from the constrictor muscle—just like spokes on a bicycle wheel radiating away from the hub and toward the rim—serve to open, i.e., dilate, the pupil when they are excited. Both are under very elaborate neurological control to confer the rapid and exquisite manipulation of the pupillary opening. Because physicians can readily see pupillary responses to light, atypical responses may give clues as to the location of a vascular or neurological abnormality in the brain or head.

The lens is centered perfectly in line with the visual axis and suspended directly behind the pupil. The cornea and man-made lenses both have a fixed focus; however, the power of the eye's lens is adjustable in order to focus light exactly on the retina. Amazingly, the shape of the lens itself can be quickly changed from a large-diameter, disc-like shape for distance vision to a smaller-diameter, more powerful oval shape for near vision. A key component of the lens is a tough outer capsule that is filled with individual and precisely regimented proteins called *crystallins*. Crystallins align with each other by a flexible joint enabling them to conform to different shapes. A circular muscular element, part of the ciliary body, surrounds the lens. Hundreds of suspensory ligaments attach the lens to the capsule in a way very similar to how springs connect a circular trampoline fabric to its frame—except it is the muscle and not springs that changes shape. When we want to see something close, the muscle constricts and releases tension on the capsule so that it can bulge in the center. Just like an auto-focusing camera must have incredible programming—with sensors, feedback loops, and focus-adjustment actuators—our eye-brain combination fulfills the same function but in a much more elaborate and orchestrated way.

Remarkably, this is actually an extremely simplified description of these three components of our eye. The full anatomical and biochemical details are staggering in their complexity. Some human-engineered camera systems are technological marvels, but the ability of our eyes is exceedingly greater. That comparison helps us understand why the implied answer to God's rhetorical question in Isaiah 40:25—"To whom then will you liken Me, or to whom shall I be equal?"—is emphatically...no one. ●



Dr. Guliuzza is ICR's National Representative.



# Deep Seafloor Sediments and the Age of the Earth

Regular *Acts & Facts* readers are aware that I write quite a bit about the methods secular scientists use to date the long ice cores extracted from the Greenland and Antarctic ice sheets. These scientists claim that the ice from deep within the cores is hundreds of thousands of years old. Because some consider the deep ice cores to be an unanswerable argument for an old earth, I have devoted much of my research time at ICR to the study of these methods.

Theoretical age models are the most common method of dating ice cores.<sup>1</sup> These models implicitly assume millions of years; therefore, the vast ages assigned to the ice sheets are hardly surprising since millions of years are built in to the process.

Although biblical skeptics might concede this point, they would probably argue that the vast ages assigned to deep ice cores from Greenland were obtained by simple counting of (presumed) annual layers, a process seemingly independent of any assumptions about the age of the earth. However, a closer analysis of the methods used to date the central Greenland cores shows that old-earth assumptions *did* influence the dates assigned to these cores in both subtle and more obvious ways. Creation scientists can plausibly account for the vast ages assigned to even the deep cores from central Greenland.

For interested readers, two sections of ICR's website are devoted to the subjects of the Ice Age and the dating of the deep ice cores ([icr.org/ice-age](http://icr.org/ice-age) and [icr.org/ice-cores](http://icr.org/ice-cores)). I've also published a three-part series of Impact articles on this subject titled "Ice Cores, Seafloor Sediments, and the Age of the Earth,"<sup>2,3,4</sup> and popular-level resources are available on our online store, including a DVD and booklet.<sup>5</sup>

One might wonder why I discuss ice cores and seafloor sediments in the same articles. Aren't they unrelated? Actually, the deep seafloor sediments play a major role in the secular dating of the ice cores. Secular scientists believe that chemical clues within the seafloor

sediments tell a story of prehistoric climate change, a story that is dictated by subtle changes in summer sunlight within the northern high latitudes. These changes in sunlight are themselves thought to be the result of Milankovitch cycles—slow, periodic changes in Earth's orbital and rotational motions as it goes around the sun. The Milankovitch hypothesis assumes that these cycles "pace" the many ice ages said to have occurred within the last 2.5 million years or so.

Secular scientists generally assume the Milankovitch hypothesis to be correct and use it to assign ages to the deep seafloor sediment cores. The seafloor sediment cores are then used to assign ages to additional sediment cores, as well as the ice cores. Ice cores are then used to date other sediment cores! The process is really a gigantic exercise in circular reasoning. For those who wish to study this topic in more depth, I have a number of published technical articles on the subject, the first of which listed below is available online.<sup>6,7</sup>

I am in the process of continuing this research. While I am not ready to publish my full results, I can say I am making some *very* interesting discoveries that I hope will eventually prove to be of great interest and encouragement to Bible-believing Christians as they proclaim the full authority and accuracy of God's Word. ●

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# Cherry Picking Data Is the Pits

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

**P**icking cherries sounds like good, clean fun, but it isn't always a good thing. In origins science the practice of "cherry picking" refers to an analytical fallacy—using a few selected illustrations to demonstrate a point, as if those examples fairly exemplify a generalized trend when they actually don't.

Illustrations can't prove universals. So, are all illustrations misleading? No. Illustrative examples by themselves are not misleading—unless and until those examples are suggested as representing "all" or "most" or "generally" when those qualifiers don't fit the facts.

Two illustrations follow that exemplify this fallacy. One quotes a federal court decision, the other involves comparing the genomes of humans and chimpanzees.

## Rejecting Courtroom Testimony

A trial judge should reject an expert witness' testimony if it demonstrates untrustworthy cherry picking.<sup>1</sup> In a lawsuit involving discrimination-in-employment allegations, a government witness named Kevin Murphy presented a statistical analysis of a dataset to portray alleged trends in personnel hiring practices. But Murphy's data summaries painted a distorted picture because inconvenient data were ignored—a classic case of cherry picking.

Murphy cherry-picked the data that he included from outside the time period covered by the Excel spreadsheets....Murphy deliberately ignored the data that was available from the relevant time period in favor of data from outside the time period.<sup>2</sup>

The federal judge noticed that the relevant database included 58,892 total examples, yet Murphy selected only about 2,000 examples for his trend analysis. "In an egregious example of scientific dishonesty, Murphy cherry-picked certain individuals...in an attempt to pump up the number of 'fails' in his database...conveniently increas[ing] the fail percentage by over twenty percent, rendering it a meaningless, skewed statistic."<sup>2</sup>

Was Murphy's testimony accepted at trial? No. Murphy's report was rejected as incompetent and thus unreliable.

The judge concluded, "The story of the present [litigation] has been that of a theory in search of facts to support it."<sup>3</sup>

But fighting the facts appears out of court, too. It also happens in the arena of origins science because Darwin's natural selection theory is likewise "a theory in search of facts to support it." (See Romans 1:18, 28.)



## Rejecting Genome Comparisons

Do you remember hearing or reading that supposedly 98% of the human genome matches that of chimpanzees, due to humans and chimpanzees allegedly sharing common ancestors?

Those cherry-picked genome comparison reports suppressed huge categories of contrary evidence. As ICR's Dr. Jeffrey Tomkins has reported, "All analyzed cases of reported high human-chimp DNA sequence similarity are based on biased data selection and exclusion techniques."<sup>4</sup> Using "highly selective data-discarding techniques,"<sup>4</sup> such "statistical" results failed to account for major disparities between the respective genomes.

For the primary chimp chromosomes (autosomes), the amount of optimally aligned DNA sequence provided similarities between 66 and 76 percent, depending on the chromosome. In general, the smaller and more gene-dense chromosomes showed higher DNA sequence similarity—although there were several notable exceptions. Only 69 percent of the chimpanzee X chromosome (female sex chromosome) and only 43 percent of the Y chromosome was similar to human DNA. Genome-wide, only 70 percent of the chimpanzee genome assembly was similar to human DNA under the most optimal sequence-slice conditions.<sup>5</sup>

Not even close to the evolutionists' trumpeted 98%! That's because cherry-picked analyses are unreliable misrepresentations of the true facts—in this case, the real truth is that man was uniquely created in God's image and is not just a chimpanzee's cousin. ●

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# Signs of a Worthy Ministry

From the very beginning, God established humans as stewards over all His created work. First authorized in the Garden of Eden and reconfirmed after the Flood (Genesis 1:28; 9:1-7), stewardship is an integral part of everyone's life whether they recognize it or not. The entire world and its bounty belong to God (Psalm 50:10-12), and as stewards we've been tasked with the responsibility to manage the earth's resources for the optimum benefit of mankind for God's glory—including our individual possessions. God temporarily entrusts these into our care to further His work, and He will rightfully expect an accounting one day (1 Corinthians 3:13).

Such a biblical mandate should be a source of great motivation for all Christians. This is best accomplished through faithful support of the church to impact the world for Christ. But we are also expected to support Christian ministries as God provides the "opportunity" to "do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith" (Galatians 6:10).

How can believers validate which organizations are worthy of support? Shouldn't Christian ministries be accountable to the same principles of biblical stewardship as individual believers? The answer is a most emphatic "yes"! To ensure the Lord is pleased with your personal stewardship, here are signs to look for as you consider which ministries are worthy of your support.

**Review the Mission.** What is the ministry's main purpose, and do their programs effectively match the mission? Do their efforts genuinely advance the cause of Christ and the work of the Kingdom?

ICR's mission is to equip believers with evidence of the Bible's accuracy and authority through scientific research, educational programs, and media presentations—all conducted within a biblical framework. Our scientific and educational focus is unique, designed to support the church and equip believers by combating the deception of evolutionary thought and verifying the accuracy of Scripture.

**Look for Drift.** Has the ministry stayed on task, or have they become involved in issues that distract them from their primary mission? Do

they exhibit a steadfast commitment to Scripture that is clearly seen in everything they do?

We've been proclaiming biblical creation for 45 years, and ICR remains unabashedly committed to the truth by thoroughly vetting our programs against Scripture. And unless the Lord's hand is unmistakably apparent, ICR will not pursue or maintain any venture that would distract us from our mission.

**Evaluate the Credentials.** Is the ministry a legally organized and recognized nonprofit? Is it a member of Christian financial accreditation and charitable auditing groups? Does it exude a positive and honest image above reproach for Jesus Christ?

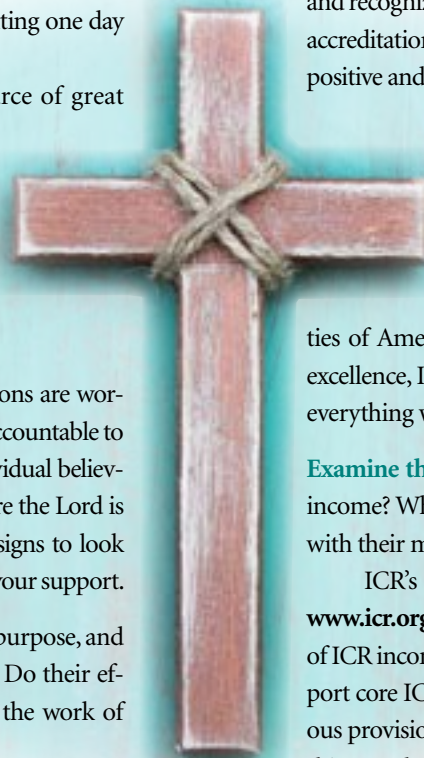
ICR has been a federally recognized 501(c)(3) nonprofit ministry since 1980, a good-standing member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability since 1986, and has held the "Best in America" seal of excellence from the Independent Charities of America since 2008. With an attitude of understated excellence, ICR is committed to exalting Christ the Creator in everything we do.

**Examine the Financials.** What are the ministry's sources of income? What are their expenditures, and are they consistent with their mission? Above all, how much debt do they carry?

ICR's latest financials are available for your review at [www.icr.org/give](http://www.icr.org/give). Individual donors provide more than 80% of ICR income, and over 85% of our expenditures directly support core ICR programs. And as a testament to God's marvelous provision through His people, tempered by wise stewardship, ICR has never been in debt in our entire 45-year history.

It should be every Christian's sincere desire to be pleasing to the Lord, and how we use and share our God-given resources is one of the most important tasks of all (Hebrews 13:16). The same certainly applies to the ministry of ICR, and we strive to please our Creator in all that we do. Won't you partner with us in serving our marvelous Creator? ●

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



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JAKE HEBERT, P.H.D.

I joined the science team at ICR in the fall of 2011 as a Research Associate after receiving my Ph.D. in physics. Most of my ICR research focuses on deep-ice cores and seafloor sediments, as well as cosmological and general apologetics research.

My journey to taking part in a creation research ministry started early in life. I became a born-again Christian at the age of seven, but in middle school I started having intellectual doubts about the validity of the Christian faith. Although my doubts were more of a general nature and did not center exclusively on the creation-evolution issue, it's striking that surveys show nearly 40% of young people who no longer completely trust the Bible's account of history had their first doubts in middle school, likely due to their first systematic exposure to evolution-ary and old-earth doctrine.<sup>1</sup>

By the Lord's providence, a close family friend loaned me the book *Scientific Creationism*, written by ICR's founder Dr. Henry M. Morris. This book answered many of my questions and ignited a lifelong passion for Christian apologetics, inspiring a dream to one day enter creation ministry. I

**“I have the best job in the world, and I am profoundly grateful for the opportunity to show people that God's Word can be completely trusted in all matters, including science and history.”**

have since learned that this book also greatly influenced a number of my ICR colleagues.

Because I enjoy science, I decided to major in physics in college. I received my B.S. in physics from Lamar University and then entered the graduate program at Texas A&M University. I intended to get my Ph.D. there, but I struggled and had to settle for my master's degree in 1999. At the time, I was very disappointed and asked the

# My Creation

## Journey



Dr. Hebert explains the Morpho butterfly.

Lord why He had not granted me success in this endeavor when He knew I wanted to use my education for His glory. I even tried switching majors in a desperate attempt to kick open the door the Lord had closed—not a good idea! In retrospect, I think one reason the Lord denied me success at that time was I'd made an idol out of a Ph.D., seeing in it a source of identity and self-worth, a common trap for many academics, even Christians.

Even while teaching (college level and some high school), I was still unwilling to let it go and often found myself scheming to somehow get back into graduate school. But I finally gave up and told the Lord I could accept it if obtaining a Ph.D. were not His will for my life. Interestingly, once I did this, I started receiving hints and suggestions that I *should* go back to school!

After entering the physics graduate

program at the University of Texas at Dallas in 2007, I chose to work with a professor doing cutting-edge research on a possible connection between fair-weather atmospheric electricity, cosmic rays, and weather and climate. Because I had long been interested in climates before and after the Flood, this was a good way to get experience in climate-related subjects.

Not long after graduation, ICR hired me. I can personally testify to the truthfulness of Psalm 37:4: “Delight yourself also in the LORD, and He shall give you the desires of your heart.” I feel that I have the best job in the world, and I am profoundly grateful for the opportunity to show people that God's Word can be completely trusted in all matters, including science and history.

But this opportunity required a great deal of work. I would urge young people not to settle for less than God's best for their lives—His best may require much effort and sacrifice, but it is definitely worth it. ●

#### Reference

1. Ham, K. et al. 2009. *Already Gone: Why Your Kids Will Quit Church and What You Can Do to Stop It*. Green Forest, AR: Master Books, 32.

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

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The recent series of radiometric dating articles by Dr. [Vernon] Cupps is a most welcome source of important information. I have encountered difficulty in explaining the gross assumptions in these dating methods for the simple reason that the vast majority of people are overwhelmed by the mathematics. If one attempts a simplified explanation, it is rejected because science implies that you are too ignorant to understand the complicated methodology.

Before retirement I worked at the atomic testing site in Nevada, Boeing Scientific Research Laboratory, and held an M.S. and college teaching credentials. In the late '60s I wrote a simplified article refuting potassium/argon dating methods that failed because it didn't contain essential mathematical rigor in the article body. Dr. Cupps' use of sidebars and illustration is a very effective means of approaching this complex issue.

—J.L.

Love Dr. Cupps' most recent article ["Heavy Metal Clocks, U-Pb and Th-Pb Dating Models"]. I loved the way he addressed the "iron problem" that stellar evolution produces; namely, that elements heavier than iron don't form unless huge amounts of energy are provided! This is a roadblock that the evolutionists refuse to acknowledge and proof that the stars were created, not evolved! It is great that you have three good physicists on your staff—love all of their writings!

—L.I.



I receive *Acts & Facts* and love the information presented within it and have applied it to our homeschooling agenda from time to time. But, this opportunity was even better. After reading the information [in Dr. James Johnson's article "Genesis in Chinese Pictographs"] regarding various Genesis accounts found within the pictographs of ancient Chinese writings, I wanted to share it with an exchange student from China who attends my church. The great thing is that her mother and father are both in the U.S. currently,

and tonight my family and theirs finally sat down.

It was amazing to see the astonishment on their faces as we simply walked through the information and then read about it in various Scriptures from the student's Chinese/English Bible. The father was extremely interested and wanted as much info as I could give. As a Buddhist and member of the communist party, it was amazing to see God begin to open his heart to the truth! The daughter was also amazed and actually said she wishes I could come back to China to teach everyone this information about their heritage and language.

It was wonderful to see God working through all of our barriers and allowing His Words to shine. I truly know and will pray that the seed planted tonight, even if it is just one of curiosity currently, will flourish into changed lives and families. Thank you for your ministry and how God is using it to touch lives that will soon be on the other side of the world!

—J. H.

Let me use this opportunity to thank you and praise the Lord for the blessing *Acts & Facts* is to two teenagers here in Hong Kong. Sixteen-year-old M.D. stands strong for Christ and is a young evangelist. Each time he comes to my home, three times a week, he grabs *Acts & Facts* and the English/Chinese dictionary. He comes early and stays late to do this as he is so thankful for the biblical science that confronts evolutionary teachings at his mainline Christian school. The testimony of Jeffrey Tomkins [in "Evolution of a Creation Scientist"] in the March issue was an encouragement, and he said with a smile "and it's because of his roommate."



Seventeen-year-old T. is Buddhist, a proud young man steeped in Hong Kong's evolutionary education. He has a thirst for knowledge and very much enjoys the Moody Science films online for English listening exercises. Jason Lisle's wonderful presentation of the moon as uniquely designed to aid life on Earth and Earth uniquely designed for life sharply interrupted his neatly packaged philosophy of life. May God Himself use it to turn his thinking in a new direction that will bring T. to Himself!

—M.O.

Have a comment? Email us at [editor@icr.org](mailto:editor@icr.org) or write to Editor, P. O. Box 59029, Dallas, Texas 75229.

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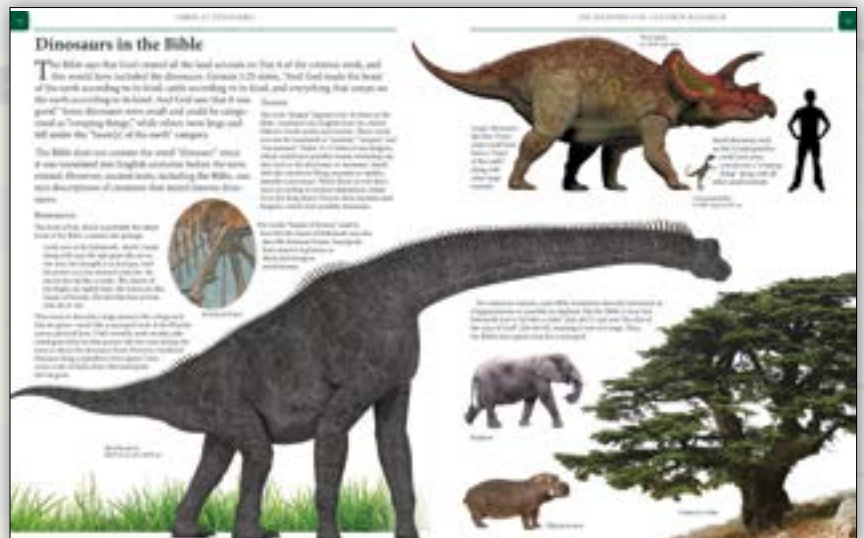
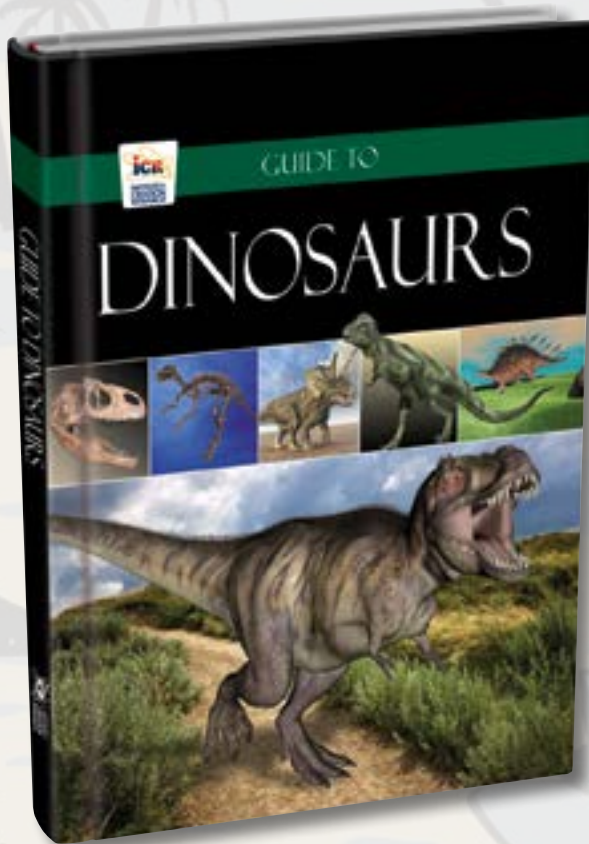
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