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JUNE 2017

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EXECUTIVE EDITOR
Jayme Durant

SENIOR EDITOR
Beth Mull

EDITORS
Michael Stamp
Truett Billups
Christy Hardy

DESIGNER
Dennis Davidson

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Breaking Ground, Sowing Seed, and Bearing Fruit

As you can probably tell by this issue of *Acts & Facts*, our recent web news, and our social media platforms, we are excited about beginning construction on the ICR Discovery Center for Science and Earth History. We've prayed for and anticipated this adventure for years, and it's finally happening!

The ICR Discovery Center will provide a memorable way to communicate the scientific evidence that confirms the Bible. It will introduce young children to the wonders of God's creation and allow students to access information that is withheld from most school curricula. We want to sow the seed of truth into the lives of all who visit so they can grow to bear lasting fruit for the Lord.

In the feature this month, Dr. Henry Morris III discusses the importance of preparing our own hearts so we can bear fruit—and breaking up the fallow ground

is part of the preparation required. He says, "Hosea was sent to challenge them to take advantage of who they were in the Lord, shake off the shackles of the ungodly, and turn the fallow (unused) ground to the purpose God had intended for it" ("Breaking Up Fallow Ground," page 5).

Dr. Morris sees the urgency to reach younger generations with what's really important in life: eternity. He reminds us that Jesus is our Creator and our Designer, stressing the "wonder and majesty of our Lord Jesus" (page 6). He challenges us to "break up the fallow ground"—to use our gifts to draw others to Christ, to see every opportunity He brings to us, and to be faithful ambassadors of His truth.

ICR's scientists, scholars, and staff sow seeds of truth when we bring you the latest scientific research and demonstrate how it fits with Scripture. We provide articles, books, DVDs, and other resources to

bring you up to date on the latest findings. And our most recent resource reaches out to the next generation—our first-of-its-kind children's book *Dinosaurs: God's Mysterious Creatures* (page 24).

But none of this would be possible without you! Without your prayers and support, we could not produce these resources. Without you, we could not build the discovery center. Without you, we could not continue sharing God's creation message from this platform. Henry Morris IV points out that the "true strength of ICR" is "the people of God" (page 22). As partners together, this ministry continues to bear fruit. We are grateful for you. Thank you for being part of this great adventure.

Jayme Durant
EXECUTIVE EDITOR





Sow for yourselves righteousness; reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground, for it is time to seek the LORD, till He comes and rains righteousness on you.

(Hosea 10:12)

Breaking Up Fallow Ground

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

Most major construction projects begin with a groundbreaking ceremony. I'm not sure where the idea for that came from; it's been around for a long time. However, the Bible does suggest a reason for godly groundbreaking when the Lord tells Israel to "break up your fallow ground." That old English farming term is used to translate a Hebrew term for "tillable" soil, ground that should be used to grow crops or to develop some resource that would increase the effectiveness of God's people or demonstrate the majesty of the God of Israel.

Israel had been languishing for some time, yielding to the lifestyle of the pagan natives surrounding them. Hosea was sent to challenge them to take advantage of who they were in the Lord, shake off the shackles of the ungodly, and turn the fallow (unused) ground to the purpose God had intended for it. God gives them the command to start working and states the promises that will come with their obedience and trust.

Groundbreaking

The Institute for Creation Research recently had the opportunity to break fallow ground on a project specially designed to uphold God's truth and reflect His glory. On April 21, 2017, ICR held an official groundbreaking ceremony at its headquarters in Dallas, Texas, to initiate the construction of the ICR Discovery Center for Science and Earth History.

ICR has long had a vision to reach younger generations who are leaving the Christian faith because of the myth that science disproves the Bible. The ICR Discovery Center will showcase the wealth of scientific evidence affirming the biblical account of origins and Earth history. ICR is in a unique position to initiate this venture because it employs the leading science research staff dedicated to the question of origins from a biblical perspective. ICR scientists have explored some of the most challenging questions of faith and science, and their research will be presented in innovative and engaging ways in state-of-the-art exhibits and a plan-

etarium featuring 3-D imagery.

Many of those who have been closest to the project were in attendance at the groundbreaking. Over 300 guests represented the many thousands of supporters who have poured their prayers and resources into bringing this vision to life. Dr. Richard Bliss, chairman of the ICR Board, spoke for the Board members who have diligently and prayerfully overseen the planning and vision of the center. Dr. Jason Lisle, the pre-eminent astrophysicist who serves as ICR's Director of Physical Sciences and who designed the center's planetarium, described the cutting-edge technology that will allow planetarium visitors to virtually explore the wonders of God's solar system. And ICR Director of Donor Relations Henry Morris IV related God's special provision through His people that has enabled the center's journey to this point.

ICR has also been blessed by the outside companies that have had a hand in the discovery center's development. The international architectural firm The Beck Group

has worked with ICR over the past few years to put together the construction plans. Beck Managing Director Kip Daniel shared with the groundbreaking guests how his life was impacted by *The Genesis Flood* by Dr. Henry Morris, and how special it was years later to have the opportunity to be involved in a project sharing the same message that science supports the Bible. Also present were Michael and Wendy Jenkins, whose talents have played an important role in developing the center's look and feel. Their company, the world-renowned firm Leisure and Recreation Concepts, Inc. (LARC), is designing the center's cutting-edge exhibits.

First Baptist Dallas Senior Pastor Dr. Robert Jeffress offered a dedicatory prayer and encouraged everyone there that creation ministry matters because "what you believe about creation determines ultimately what you believe about salvation." Then three groups ceremonially broke ground to launch the ICR Discovery Center for Science and Earth History—the outside contributors to the development of the Center's construction and exhibits, the ICR department directors who have worked tirelessly through the countless details involved in a project of this scale, and the ICR scientists who have poured their hearts and their expertise into the creation message the center will proclaim.

It was a special time to celebrate what God has done and will do through the work of ICR. As one longtime supporter at the ceremony said, "We've followed the ICR ministry for a number of years...and what's so exciting is to see [that] what God has revealed in nature is actually [affirming] of what the Scripture says God did. Just to see what is being built now—and the prospect for an even finer way of demonstrating this to people—is a tremendous joy." The breaking of this ground will allow many more people to "seek the LORD" and His creation truth.

Sow in Righteousness

In the Lord's instruction to Hosea re-

garding breaking fallow ground, there are two specific requirements included with the command, one of which is "Sow for yourselves righteousness." Maybe we could most directly apply this to ICR by making sure that everything we plan to do will be both godly in presentation and accurate in content. All our plans thus far have been focused on being careful we do not promote anything other than the biblical message, with all science used as a demonstration of the accuracy and authority of Scripture.

All of the exhibits will have a "Jesus is" theme. For instance, in the gallery that displays the universe, the theme will be "Jesus is the Creator." In the gallery that deals with the Garden of Eden and the wonder of life, the theme will be "Jesus is the Designer." Each of the galleries will have an overview theme that will stress something about the wonder and majesty of our Lord Jesus. The discovery center will demonstrate the scientific evidence throughout—and will be a constant source of learning and discovery for all who attend—but the central purpose is to "sow righteousness."

Reap in Mercy

It is important also that Hosea records God insisting the fallow ground should be designed so Israel could "reap in mercy." Several of the Levitical laws dealt with making sure that the entire population of Israel would be fed from the bounty of the land. You might remember that Ruth gleaned from the leftovers in the field of Boaz. Just so, we are trying to design the exhibits so that every level of visitor can learn and grow from the layers of information that will be available.

And, although we hope the discovery center can be self-supporting through entrance fees and book sales, we want to make sure it is not designed as a "profit center" but rather as a resource for all who might want to gain a confident knowledge that the Scriptures are both trustworthy and accurate in every detail.

Time to Seek the Lord

Finally, it is abundantly clear that the time is now. We have sought the Lord's direction for several years. We have submitted the prospect and concepts to you, and all the indicators have come together with sufficient funds and approvals from the many agencies involved in order for us to begin construction of the buildings.

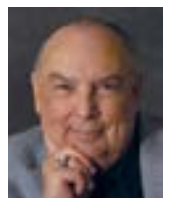
It looks like the major construction will be complete in May 2018, but the complex information within the many exhibits and displays inside the exhibit hall will probably take us another few months. We anticipate a grand opening sometime in the fall of 2018.

But in order to accomplish this, we need your continued help. Although enough funds have come in or been promised for us to begin the construction, we still have to fund the exhibits. There are two ironclad rules of construction: 1) It takes longer than you think it will, and 2) it costs more than you anticipate. We expect we will need around \$6,000,000 more to finish the construction and complete the exhibit halls.

There is still about \$1,300,000 left in the generous \$4,000,000 matching gift that was granted to us. So, if you can give something during the remainder of this calendar year, your gift would be doubled! You can find out more about supporting this project at ICR.org/discoverycenter. Please consider investing with us in this wonderful legacy in the Kingdom. If I heard it once at the groundbreaking ceremony, I heard it many times: "This is so needed, thank you for letting us know about your project."

Thanks for being part of this. Long after many of us have completed our assignments here on Earth, God will use this discovery center to change and challenge the lives of thousands over the decades ahead. ✂

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





Drone shot of the groundbreaking ceremony. The planetarium will be built where the canopy is located.



Left to right: Leisure and Recreation Concepts, Inc. President Michael Jenkins and Director of Development Wendy Jenkins, ICR Board member Walter Guillaume and wife Martha.



The balloon designer puts finishing touches on the custom DNA sculpture.



ICR President Emeritus Dr. John Morris and wife Dalta.



ICR Chairman of the Board Richard Bliss addresses the groundbreaking guests.



First Baptist Dallas Senior Pastor Dr. Robert Jeffress delivers the dedicatory prayer.



Beck Group Managing Director Kip Daniel.



Interstate Batteries Team: DeAnna Condos, Executive Assistant; Jill Scott, Contributions Coordinator; Henry Rogers, Corporate Chaplain; Norm Miller, Chairman.



Left to right: Michael Jenkins, Kip Daniel, Dr. Robert Jeffress, Norm Miller, and ICR Board members join Dr. Henry Morris III for the first shovel brigade.

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James J. S. Johnson, J.D., Th.D.



Jake Hebert, Ph.D.

Chicxulub Crater Theory Mostly Smoke

In secular literature and movies, the most popular explanation for the dinosaurs' extinction is an asteroid impact. The Chicxulub crater in Mexico is often referred to as the “smoking gun” for this idea. But do the data support an asteroid impact at Chicxulub? I recently reviewed the evidence and found some surprising results.¹

The Chicxulub crater isn't visible on the surface because it is covered by younger, relatively undeformed sediments. It was identified from a nearly circular gravity anomaly along the northwestern edge of the Yucatán Peninsula (Figure 1).^{2,3} There's disagreement on the

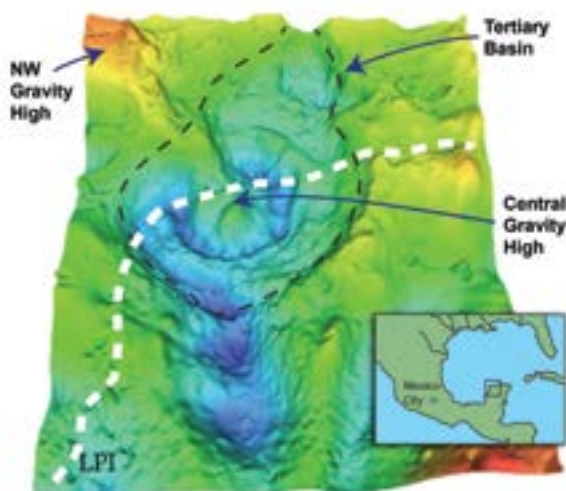


Figure 1. Bouguer gravity map of the Chicxulub area. High-gravity anomalies are shown in yellow and orange, low-gravity anomalies are in blue. The white dashed line is the approximate location of the land/sea boundary. The circular-shaped gravity anomaly can possibly be explained by the coincidence of the shallow Tertiary basin and the southern extension of the northwest gravity high.¹

Figure courtesy of Susan Windsor. Adapted for use in accordance with federal copyright (fair use doctrine) law. Usage by ICR does not imply endorsement of copyright holder.

crater's exact size, but its diameter is approximately 110 miles—large enough for a six-mile-wide asteroid or meteorite to have caused it.

Although some of the expected criteria for identifying a meteorite impact are present at the Chicxulub site—such as high-pressure and deformed minerals—not enough of these materials have been found to justify a large impact.¹ And even these minerals can be caused by other circumstances, including rapid crystallization⁴ and volcanic activity.⁵

The biggest problem is what is *missing*. Iridium, a chemical element more abundant in meteorites than on Earth, is a primary marker of an impact event. A few traces were identified in the cores of two drilled wells, but no significant amounts have been found in any of the ejecta material across the Chicxulub site.⁶ The presence of an iridium-rich layer is often used to identify the K-Pg (Cretaceous-Paleogene) boundary, yet ironically there is virtually no iridium in

the ejecta material at the very site claimed to be the “smoking gun”!

In addition, secular models suggest melt-rich layers resulting from the impact should have exceeded a mile or two in thickness beneath the central portion of the Chicxulub crater.⁷ However, the oil wells and cores drilled at the site don't support this. The thickest melt-rich layers encountered in the wells were between 330 and 990 feet—nowhere near the expected thicknesses of 5,000 to 10,000 feet—and several of the melt-rich layers were much thinner than 300 feet or were nonexistent.

Finally, the latest research even indicates that the tsunami waves claimed to have been generated by the impact across the Gulf of Mexico seem unlikely.⁸

The thinner-than-expected melt-rich layers, the lack of any substantial iridium anomaly, and the alternative explanations for the high-pressure and deformed minerals and the gravity anomaly¹ all raise concerns about the Chicxulub crater and ultimately the asteroid extinction theory itself. An impact may have occurred at Chicxulub during the Flood, but if so, it seems to have been much smaller than commonly claimed, creating a mere fraction of the postulated effects. And it's entirely possible there was never an impact at Chicxulub in the first place. All of the data can have non-impact explanations.¹

The Chicxulub impact has become the iconic tale most secular scientists use for the so-called major extinction event that wiped out the dinosaurs.⁹ They need such a story because they categorically reject Earth history as described in the Bible, including the global Flood. In order to explain the disappearance of the dinosaurs and other creatures, they uphold the Chicxulub impact as one of the principle factors in their tale—even though the evidence for the impact at the Chicxulub site is not nearly as strong as they claim.

After careful examination of the data, the smoking gun appears to be mostly smoke. ☹

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- A limited number of dinosaur bones have been found above the K-Pg boundary in several locations across the earth. However, most secular scientists think these bones were merely “reworked” by erosion from earlier bone deposits.

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





DNA Science Disproves Human Evolution

The Bible describes humans as being created in the image of God—the pinnacle of His creation. In contrast, those who embrace the presupposition of naturalistic origins have put much effort and even monkey business into a propaganda crusade to claim a bestial origin for man.

The idea that humans evolved from an ape-like creature was

first widely promoted by Jean-Baptiste Lamarck in the early 1800s and later by Charles Darwin in his 1871 book *The Descent of Man*—published 12 years after his acclaimed evolutionary treatise *On the Origin of Species*. Thomas Huxley, a friend of Darwin, also did much to popularize this idea. Since then, the secular scientific community has promulgated the still-hypothetical idea



themselves accurately sum up the current state of affairs regarding the fossil record and its wholesale lack of support for human evolution.

The evolutionary events that led to the origin of the *Homo* lineage are an enduring puzzle in paleoanthropology, chiefly because the fossil record from between 3 million and 2 million years ago is frustratingly sparse, especially in eastern Africa.²

But with so little evidence to go on, the origin of our genus has remained as mysterious as ever.³

The origin of our own genus remains frustratingly unclear.⁴

The Evolution of Human-Chimp DNA Research

Although paleontological evidence has been lacking, in more recent times evidence supporting human evolution was thought to have been found in the DNA of living apes and humans. This article will evaluate the popular myth of human-chimpanzee DNA similarity along with recent research showing that a broad and unbridgeable chasm exists between the human and chimpanzee genomes.

DNA is a double-stranded molecule that under certain conditions can be denatured—i.e., “unzipped” to make it single-stranded—and then allowed to zip back up.

During the initial stages of DNA science in the early 1970s, very crude and indirect techniques were utilized to unzip mixtures of human and chimpanzee DNA, which were then monitored to see how fast they would zip back up compared to unmixed samples.⁵ Based on these studies, it was declared that human and chimpanzee DNA was 98.5% similar. But only the most similar protein-coding regions of the genome (called single-copy DNA) were compared, which is an extremely small portion—less than 3%—of the total genome. Also, it was later discovered by an evolutionary colleague that the authors of these studies had manipulated the data to make the chimpanzee DNA appear more similar to human than it really was.⁶ These initial studies not only established a fraudulent gold standard of 98.5% DNA similarity between humans and chimps but also the shady practice of cherry-picking only the most similar data. The idea of nearly identical human-chimp DNA similarity was born and used to bolster the myth of human evolution, something that the lack of fossil evidence was unable to accomplish.

As DNA sequencing became more advanced, scientists were able to compare the actual order of DNA bases (nucleotides) between DNA sequences from different creatures. This was done in a process in which similar DNA segments could be directly matched up or aligned. The differences were then calculated.

Little progress was made in comparing large regions of DNA between chimpanzees and humans until the genomics revolution in the 21st century with its emphasis on developing new technologies to sequence the human genome. Between 2002 and 2005, a variety

of human evolution as an established fact.¹

After the 150-plus years since Darwin’s famous publication, we still have no fossil evidence demonstrating human evolution. Darwin believed such fossils would eventually be found, but that has simply not been the case. The following quotes from evolutionists



So, what does 85% DNA similarity really mean? First of all, it's important to note that for human evolution to seem plausible, a DNA similarity of 99% is required. This is based on known current mutation rates in humans and an alleged splitting of humans from a common ancestor with chimpanzees about three to six million years ago.

of reports was published that on the surface seemed to support the 98.5% DNA similarity myth.

However, a careful analysis of these publications reported by this author showed that the researchers were only including data on the most highly aligning sequences and omitting gaps and regions that did not align.⁵ Once again, we had the same old problem of cherry-picking the data that support evolution while ignoring everything else. However, at least three of these papers described the amount of non-similar data that was thrown out. When those missing data were included in the original numbers, an overall DNA similarity between humans and chimpanzees was only about 81 to 87%, depending on the paper!

Determining DNA similarity between humans and chimpanzees isn't a trivial task. One of the main problems is that the current chimpanzee genome wasn't constructed based on its own merits. When DNA is sequenced, it's produced in millions of small pieces that must be "stitched" together with powerful computers.

In large mammalian genomes like the chimpanzee, this isn't easy, especially since very few genetic resources exist to aid the effort compared to those available for the human genome project. Because of this resource issue, a limited budget, and a healthy dose of evolutionary bias, the chimpanzee genome was put together using the human genome as a guide or scaffold onto which the little DNA sequence snippets were organized and stitched together.⁷ Therefore, the current chimpanzee genome appears much more human-like

than it really is. In fact, a recent study by this author showed that individual raw chimpanzee DNA sequences that had poor similarity to human sequences aligned very poorly (if at all) onto the chimpanzee genome that had been assembled using the human genome as a framework.⁸ This is a dramatic illustration that it is not an authentic representation of the actual chimpanzee genome.

Another serious problem with the chimpanzee genome is that it appears to contain significant levels of human DNA contamination. When DNA samples are prepared in the laboratory for sequencing, it's common to have DNA from human lab workers get into the samples. Several secular studies show that many non-primate DNA sequence databases contain significant levels of human DNA.^{9,10}

A recent study by this author shows that a little over half of the data sets used to construct the chimpanzee genome contain significantly higher levels of human DNA than the others.⁸ These data sets with apparent high levels of human DNA contamination were the ones utilized during the first phase of the project that led to the

DNA similarities between different creatures are evidence of common engineered design, and the fact that the differences in these DNA sequences are unexplainable by alleged evolutionary processes is also strong evidence of design.

famous 2005 chimpanzee genome publication.¹¹ The data sets produced *after* this were added on top of the ones in the initial assembly. So, not only was the chimpanzee genome assembled using the human genome as a scaffold, but research indicates that it was constructed with significant levels of contaminating human DNA. This would explain why raw unassembled chimpanzee DNA sequences are difficult to align onto the chimpanzee genome with high accuracy; it's because it's considerably more human-like than it should be.

So, how similar is chimpanzee DNA to human? My research indicates that raw chimpanzee DNA sequences from data sets with significantly lower levels of human DNA contamination are on average about 85% identical in their DNA sequence when aligned onto the human genome. Therefore, based on the most recent, unbiased, and comprehensive research, chimpanzee DNA is no more than 85% similar to human.

What Does 85% DNA Similarity Mean?

So, what does 85% DNA similarity really mean? First of all, it's important to note that for human evolution to seem plausible, a DNA similarity of 99% is required. This is based on known current mutation rates in humans and an alleged splitting of humans from a common ancestor with chimpanzees about three to six million years ago. This length of time is a mere second on the evolutionary timescale. Any level of similarity much less than 99% is evolutionarily impossible. This is why evolutionists rely on all sorts of monkey business when it comes to comparing human and chimpanzee DNA—they must achieve a figure close to 99% or their model collapses.

So, what if humans and chimpanzees are only about 85% similar in their DNA? Isn't this pretty close, too, even if it puts evolution out of the picture? In reality, this level of similarity is exactly what one would expect from a creation perspective because of certain basic similarities in overall body plans and cellular physiology between humans and chimpanzees. After all, DNA is not called *the* genetic code for nothing. Just as different software programs on a computer have similar sections of code because they perform similar functions, the same similarity exists between different creatures in certain sections of their genomes. This is not evidence that one evolved from another but rather that both creatures were engineered along similar basic principles. DNA similarities between different creatures are evidence

of common engineered design, and the fact that the differences in these DNA sequences are unexplainable by alleged evolutionary processes is also strong evidence of design.

The Bible says that every living thing was created according to its kind. This fits the clear, observable boundaries we see in nature between types of creatures, as well as the distinct boundaries researchers find in genomes as DNA sequencing science progresses.

In regard to humans, we are not only a distinctly different kind compared to chimpanzees and other apes, but we are also the one part of creation that stands out above all other living forms because the Bible states, "So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them" (Genesis 1:27).

Not only is evolution a false paradigm lacking scientific support, it also directly attacks one of the key paradigms of the Bible. Humanity's unique creation in God's image is foundational to why Jesus Christ came to redeem us. Man became corrupt through sin from his original created state—he did not evolve that way from an ape. ✂

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Dr. Tomkins is Director of Life Sciences at the Institute for Creation Research and earned his Ph.D. in genetics from Clemson University, where he worked as a research technician in a plant breeding/genetics program. After receiving his Ph.D., he worked at a genomics institute and became a faculty member in the Department of Genetics and Biochemistry at Clemson.



The Design and Complexity of the Cell

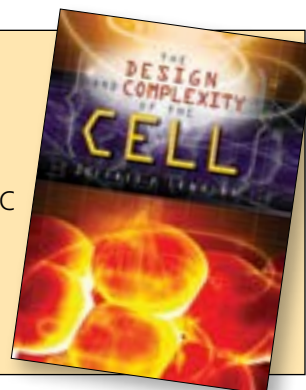
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Evolutionists seem to hold to the philosophy “if you can’t beat them, belittle them.” Recent events illustrate the manner in which they attempt to marginalize or dismiss creation research by labeling it “pseudoscience” or “junk science.”

An assistant professor at Merrimack College published an online list of “fake news” websites that were supposedly “False, Misleading, Clickbait-y, and/or Satirical ‘News’ Sources.”¹ The Institute for Creation Research was included on this list. Originally, the reason given for ICR’s inclusion was simply listed as “unknown,” but it was later amended to “junksci” (junk science).²

North Carolina State University researchers recently published a study showing that teaching students critical thinking skills reduces belief in pseudoscience.³ Pseudoscience, like junk science, could be defined as “a collection of beliefs or practices mistakenly regarded as being based on scientific method.”⁴ It would include a subject like astrology. Of course, we are pleased to see people abandon a belief in astrology, a practice that is both unscientific and clearly condemned in Scripture (Deuteronomy 4:19). But the researchers also categorized statements affirming biblical creation as pseudoscience!

The irony here is that most of these academics regard evolution as genuine science. Yet, evolution is the *epitome* of a pseudoscientific belief since it is widely but mistakenly believed to be based upon actual scientific evidence. If evolution were true, one would expect thousands of examples of fossil transitional forms documenting the transformation of one basic kind of organism into another. However, evolutionists can only claim a small number of supposed transitional forms, only a handful of which are accepted even by most evolutionists.⁵ Moreover, they have no idea how a primordial chemical soup could somehow spontaneously produce the first life.⁶

For over 40 years, ICR and other creation ministries have been exposing the “junk science” claims of evolutionary dogma.

- Evolutionists long claimed, based on fraudulent evidence, that developing embryos in the womb recapitulate evolutionary history as they grow. Versions of this tattered claim are still found in high school biology textbooks today.⁷

- Evolutionists have also long claimed that dozens of our internal organs are useless evolutionary “vestigial leftovers,” along with the non-coding parts of our DNA. Both claims have been thoroughly refuted by modern research.^{8,9}

- ICR’s Dr. Jeffrey Tomkins has demolished the claim that human

DNA and chimpanzee DNA are 98 to 99% similar, and a prominent evolutionist has also acknowledged the falsity of this common claim. The genomes are actually only about 85% similar at best.^{10,11}

So, why are ICR scientists denigrated as pseudoscientists while the real purveyors of junk science are seldom called to account?

Although evolutionists are quick to fling the “pseudoscience” label at creation research, it is telling

that they fight tooth-and-nail against efforts to teach students to critically evaluate and test evolutionary claims. Given that students *routinely* test the validity of other scientific claims in the classroom via laboratory experiments, this reluctance to test evolution seems rather odd. Granted, evolution, even if it were true, would not be directly observable within just one or two high school or college semesters. But students could at least be encouraged to critically evaluate its merits and weaknesses.

So, if most evolutionists are unwilling to allow critical evaluation of evolution, is it really science—or is it pseudoscience? ❧

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



Will the Real Pseudoscientists Please Stand Up?



Cancer Research Confirms the Curse

Cancer's devastation directly or indirectly touches almost everybody on Earth, and a great deal of research focuses on finding the cause and cure. A new study's results showed that the number of cell divisions in body tissues is a more significant cancer contributor than any other factor. A separate study revealed that the bodies of older people produce declining amounts of a cancer-minimizing molecule called NAD+. Although cancer currently lies beyond the reach of any person to cure, Scripture offers a long-term solution available to anyone.

Cancer occurs when pockets of cells proliferate out of control, a growth that DNA copying errors sometimes trigger. Living cells copy their DNA just before they divide. Human DNA strands have millions of specific chemicals, like letters in an encyclopedia, that record information for core life processes. Precision protein machines copy DNA "letters" at jet-engine speeds, yet perform so efficiently that only about one wrong letter arises among a billion.¹ But even these few mutations can garble DNA's information enough to lead to cancer, especially in tissues that undergo many cell divisions within a human lifetime.

A study published in the March 24 issue of the journal *Science* showed mutations within a person's lifetime cause a stunning 66% of cancers.² The report's analysis of various kinds of cancer in people from many countries revealed that inherited mutations lead to only 5% of cancers. Outside factors like ultraviolet radiation and cigarette smoke that damage DNA cause the remaining cases. Thus, even if a person avoided all cancer-causing exposures, they cannot avoid the threat of cancer altogether. In theory, the disease will eventually strike anyone who lives long enough since living requires constant cell divisions.

The study showing that the cancer-suppressing molecule NAD+ diminishes with age appeared in the same *Science* issue.³



Harvard Medical School News summarized the findings. As NAD+ lessens, "DNA breaks go unrepaired and, as these breaks accumulate over time, precipitate cell damage, cell mutations, cell death and loss of organ function."⁴ It seems the only way to cure cancer would be to somehow reach into and constantly correct every cell's mutations.

This gloomy reality, however, is not necessarily the end of the line for those who believe the biblical promises. Long ago, Job said, "And after my skin is destroyed, this I know, that in my flesh I shall see God."⁵ The New Testament promises the new body that Job hoped for: "For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."⁶ Cancer will not affect our new bodies, since each will be "a building from God."

The curse God placed on all of creation because of Adam's disobedience led to disease and death.⁷ The two *Science* studies confirm this by linking the now-cursed processes of growth and aging to cancer. However, the same Bible that describes the curse tells us it will one day end! Paul explained,

"For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse."⁸ But because "Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us,"⁹ now "whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."¹⁰

Whoever demonstrates "repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ"¹¹ will enjoy eternal life with Jesus—death, the curse, and cancer forever gone.¹² ✞

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





Engineering Principles Point to God's Workmanship

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

When you observe nature, especially living things, does what you see look purposeful or messy? In other words, do living things have body parts that look like they have a proper fit and function, or do they seem as though they were cobbled together through some kind of tinkering process?

In college, I was taught that evolution produced life's great diversity. What some call "survival of the fittest" was said to be the process nature used to "tinker" with life.¹ Living creatures looked messy to my teach-

ers since to them life had evolved through chaotic, deadly struggles.

But their "biology is messy" claim left me less than persuaded. Why? Before attending medical school, I worked as an engineer for a decade. What I saw in anatomy and physiology courses looked like designed systems made to fulfill specific purposes. What's more, they reflected designs that biomedical engineers would envy because of their extraordinary sophistication.

I have found that scientific methodology and understanding benefit when engi-

neering principles are applied to how living things function.

Engineering Principles May Explain How Creatures Self-Adjust

Many man-made devices are designed to adapt to changing environments. The engineering principles underlying these designs are also the most accurate way to explain how organisms self-adjust to change. If biology isn't messy but is structured enough for engineering principles to reasonably ex-

plain its various functions, then there should be supporting evidence.

For some, this verification comes from published studies on biological systems that have been reverse-engineered—i.e., methodically disassembled piece by piece to discover how they operate. But for others, the verification may simply be their own strong intuition that organisms are amazing products of ingenious craftsmanship.

People have a powerful predisposition to link organisms' features with engineering design.² They see the characteristics involved in the fabrication of man-made problem-solving products (i.e., engineering design), and they recognize those same characteristics in the problem-solving traits of living things. This cross-cultural intuition is a striking confirmation that engineering principles can explain how living things function.

A more important affirmation linking design principles to living things is found in the Bible. The reason people from any culture at any time can sense God's glory is that human experience enables them to correlate the properties of human craftsmanship with the features of living things. The Bible says that these detectible distinctives of designing agency facilitate a universal conclusion that creatures are intelligently designed.

Scripture also explains, sadly, why many people try to suppress that inner truth.

The Revelation of God in Nature

Psalm 19:1-6 and Romans 1:18-25 are key passages stating that some of God's attributes are revealed in nature. Both texts emphasize three important points.

1. Workmanship: Nature displays features that are unique to the designing agency ascribed to the workmanship of artists or engineers. But nature's craftsmanship cannot be of human origin, so it's reasonable to infer causality to God's handiwork.
2. Wonder: The workmanship reflects such superb levels of intelligence, wisdom, power, and skill that it stimulates acknowledging and attribut-

ing immense glory to God—not merely signifying His existence.

3. Worldwide: People in every culture use manufacturing principles and know that things don't make themselves. This truth doesn't require a translator. The revelation of God in nature spans all ages and locations.

Expounding on the text from Romans serves as an illustration.

Exposition of Romans 1:18-25

English translations of Romans 1:18-25 are generally accurate and profitable for instruction. But since translations must be concise, some valuable information found in the original Greek pertaining to word usage or emphasis, timing, and so on isn't always translated. Expounding this text will be helpful to uncover the deeper meaning.

1:18—God's wrath is revealed from heaven against a lack of respect for God's position and an irreverent disregard of Him, as well as against the sinful behavior of humans who suppress the truth—an evil act in itself. (One question pertains to exactly how God's wrath from heaven is revealed, since no human-made sensor can detect it. Is it God's abandonment, self-revenging physical illnesses, afflictions understood via a guilty conscience, or all of these?)

1:19—Because the thing capable of being known about God is plainly recognizable by its appearance, for God has made it undeniably evident to people.

1:20—For the unseen things of God are knowable from His agency that has caused the totality of the natural realm (what we call nature) to exist. In contemplating His workmanship of things, humans clearly see what allows them to make deductions about God's unseen attributes, namely His unending inherent abilities and divine nature. (Psalm 92:5 and Psalm 104:24 comment on some things that are deducible about God—explicitly, His purposeful wisdom as reflected in nature.) So, mankind is without excuse.

1:21—Because when they gained this

insight through experience, they actively did not acknowledge or credit³ the (true) God as God (in His status as Creator) or give thanks. Conversely, humans' reasoning (about cause and effect) drifted into foolishness, and their insensible mental life lost its ability to perceive clearly.

1:22—Claiming that they are the product of scholarship, they revealed that they had in fact slid into foolishness.

1:23—And exchanged the credit due to the immaterial Creator God for substitute material representations (of nature) resembling man, birds, four-footed animals, and reptiles.

1:24—Therefore, they were delivered over by God to (act out their) thoughts produced by their burning desires to continually let their bodies be degraded by one another.

1:25—Who exchanged the truth about God for a lie (or “the true God for the false god”⁴), not only falling into adoration of but also reverentially serving the created material realm of nature, contrary to the Creator, who is praised (by His handiwork in creation) endlessly. Amen.

Recognizing Workmanship Is Fundamental

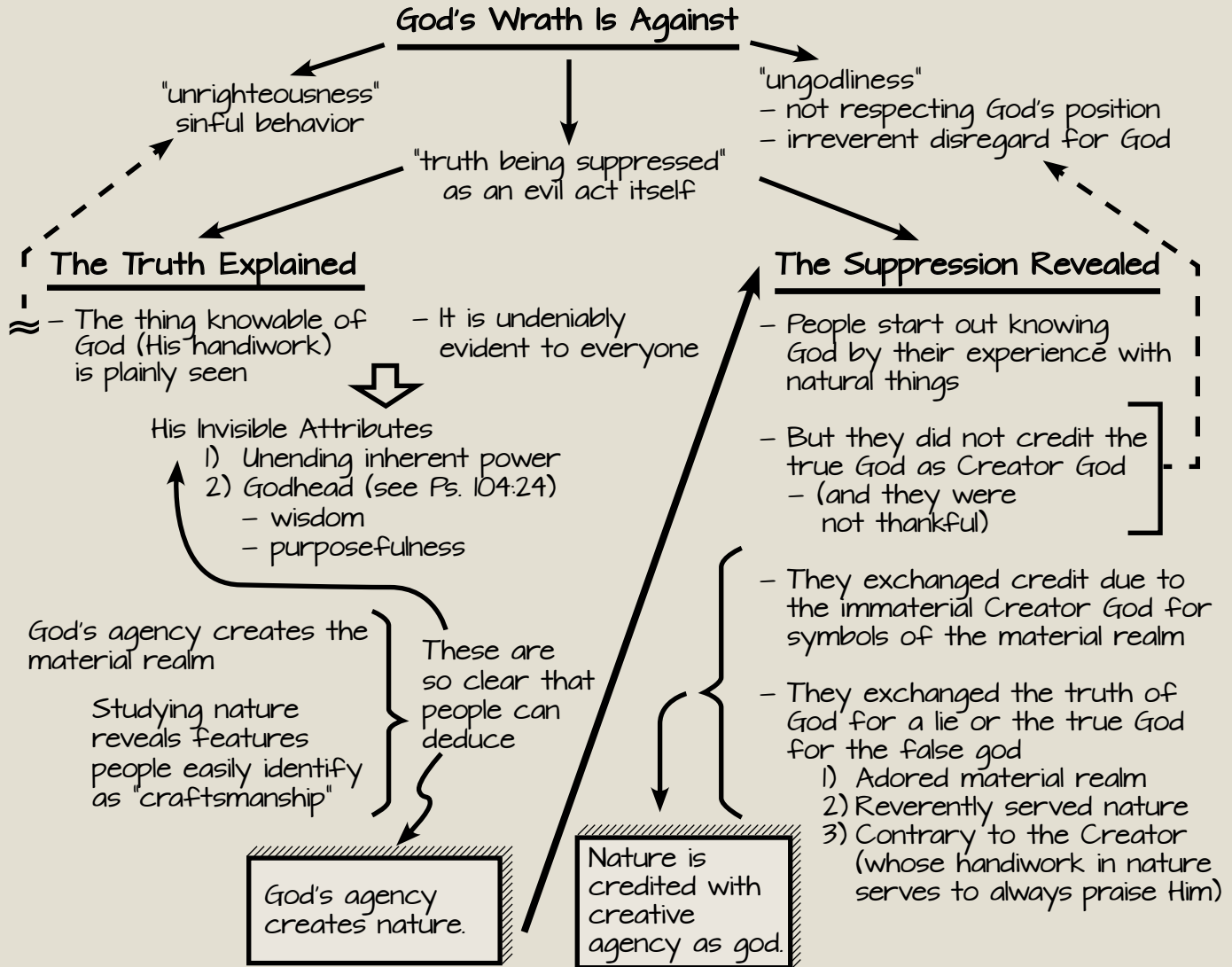
If people could not recognize workmanship in living things, or if the things' functioning abilities fell outside human experience, how could we tell if they were designed? This text's central point is that all people—scientists included—*can* recognize the features of workmanship when they see them. Engineering principles pervade human workmanship and explain why it works. It's people's experience with this that leaves them without excuse for not crediting God's agency as the cause of the features of handiwork they can also clearly see in nature. Everyone should credit God for the craftsmanship revealed in living things.

God's Agency or Chance and Necessity

The Bible isn't setting up a false dichotomy when it contrasts humans giving credit for nature's origins to the Creator's agency



Development of Romans 1:18-25 expressing connotations of word emphasis and usage, mode of action, and sentence construction of the original language.*



- Condition of Mankind**
- 1) Without excuse, 2) drifted into foolishness, 3) mental life unable to perceive clearly, 4) deluded about wisdom and foolishness, 5) given over to lust-driven degrading behaviors

Intelligent Agency Summarized:
 People correlate purpose, precise fit, specificity, and complexity with craftsmanship.
 Not crediting God's agency results in crediting nature with an agency to create itself.

* Bauer, W., W. F. Arndt, F. W. Gingrich. 1979. *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Christian Literature*, 2nd ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 261, 511, 891.
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versus giving it to the created realm itself. The contemporary and exclusively non-supernatural worldview—broadly defined as “materialism” by the online *Merriam-Webster Dictionary*⁵—believes that nature should be credited with self-creation, as depicted in Romans 1:21, 23, and 25. Materialism contends that matter and nature’s material properties (or “the cosmos” and “the environment”) are the ultimate cause of everything. Explanations constrained to these material causes and effects are called *naturalistic*.

How do materialists credit nature with self-creation? For the material universe, theoretical physicist Stephen Hawking claims, “Because there is a law such as gravity, the Universe can and will create itself from nothing....Spontaneous creation is the reason there is something rather than nothing, why the Universe exists, why we exist.”⁶ To the materialist, life itself is also due to the natural outworking of chance and natural law.⁷ Edward O. Wilson of Harvard contends that “if humankind evolved by Darwinian natural selection, genetic chance and environmental necessity, not God, made the species.”⁸

Evolutionists credit nature with law-like creative powers based on their belief that it somehow selects for traits just like human breeders might breed dogs or horses. God’s true agency is exchanged for false projections of agency, such as volition, onto un-

conscious nature. Intelligent Design theoretician William Dembski aptly sums up:

Thus according to Darwin, nature itself constitutes the supreme animal breeder that shapes the path of life. In particular, necessity, in the form of natural selection, and chance, in the form of random variation, are said to account for all biological complexity and diversity.⁹

Engineering Principles Describe God’s Workmanship

In Genesis 1:21, the Lord created, as it’s translated, “life” (Hebrew *nephesh*), a characteristic of animated things that has eluded being scientifically reduced to basic biology or explained by engineering principles. Entities with life have an attribute distinct from machines. However, the Lord Jesus’ handiwork in forming biomolecular, physiological, and anatomical functions that are commonly shared by humans and animals, is not mysterious. His handiwork is “clearly seen” *because* people see and correlate it to the problem-solving handiwork produced by human agency. Thus, using the engineering principles that underlie how human-designed things adapt to changing environments to explain how organisms also self-adjust to these changes may not be just a helpful adjunct to research but a necessity to ensure accurate explanations.

The next article in this series will dis-

cuss the importance of recognizing the telltale design elements of workmanship in man-made things and applying those principles to explain the function of creatures. That same correlation also has implications for biological research. ☞

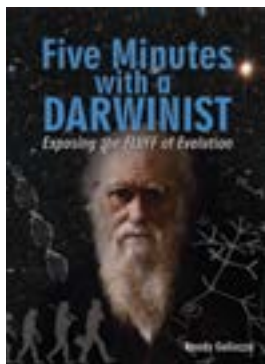
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Dr. Guliuzza is ICR’s National Representative. He earned his M.D. from the University of Minnesota, his Master of Public Health from Harvard University, and served in the U.S. Air Force as 28th Bomb Wing Flight Surgeon and Chief of Aerospace Medicine.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



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Q: Is the Earth Round?

A: Some readers might think the answer to this question is so obvious that maybe we're offering it as a kind of joke—but it's no joke. A growing number of people seem to actually believe the earth is flat, a view that a few NBA stars recently voiced.^{1,2} Do we know the earth is round, and does it matter?

The question matters because if the Bible and science both describe a spherical earth, then those who depart from these sources of knowledge stray from reality. Fortunately, both sources offer clear descriptions of the real, round earth.

Isaiah 40:22 cites “the circle of the earth,” and Proverbs 8:27 also references the earth's circularity. These match a ball-shaped earth.

One flat-Earth proponent tried to persuade me that Psalm 104:5, which says Earth's foundations “should not be moved,” means that Earth cannot spin like a classroom globe because spinning is a type of movement. The Hebrew verb here for “moved” is *môt*, meaning to be shaken, moved, or overthrown. A bicycle frame holds its wheels so they will not shake back and forth, move from their mounts, or get thrown from the frame—yet the wheels spin. This verse does not teach an utterly *rigid* earth. If it did, then we would have to deny earthquakes, hundreds of parallax measurements, and Scriptures like Job 9:6!³ Instead, it simply describes a *stable* earth. Earth's gyroscopic motion gives it the very stability that Psalm 104:5 teaches.⁴

I asked another flat-Earth apologist what he thought of the millions of pictures and videos of Earth's rounded surface taken from space since the 1960s, with dozens posted almost daily from the International Space Station. He asserted that NASA uses secret studios to concoct these photographs and that men never really

reached the moon. But this would mean that all the astronauts and cosmonauts have lied about their experiences, as well as the thousands of men and women who've assisted them. How could they all manage to conceal the same lies for decades? It would mean billions of dollars spent on developing and manufacturing spacecraft, satellites, and spacesuits, all merely to fabricate and mask an ongoing lie.

What are the odds of that?

Observations from God's world match descriptions in God's Word about Earth's sphericity.⁵ First, Earth as a giant ball explains why the tops of distant mountains or tall buildings come into view first as one approaches them. A rotating earth explains prevailing winds, too. For example, the prevailing westerlies lengthen airplane flight times when flying westward across the U.S.

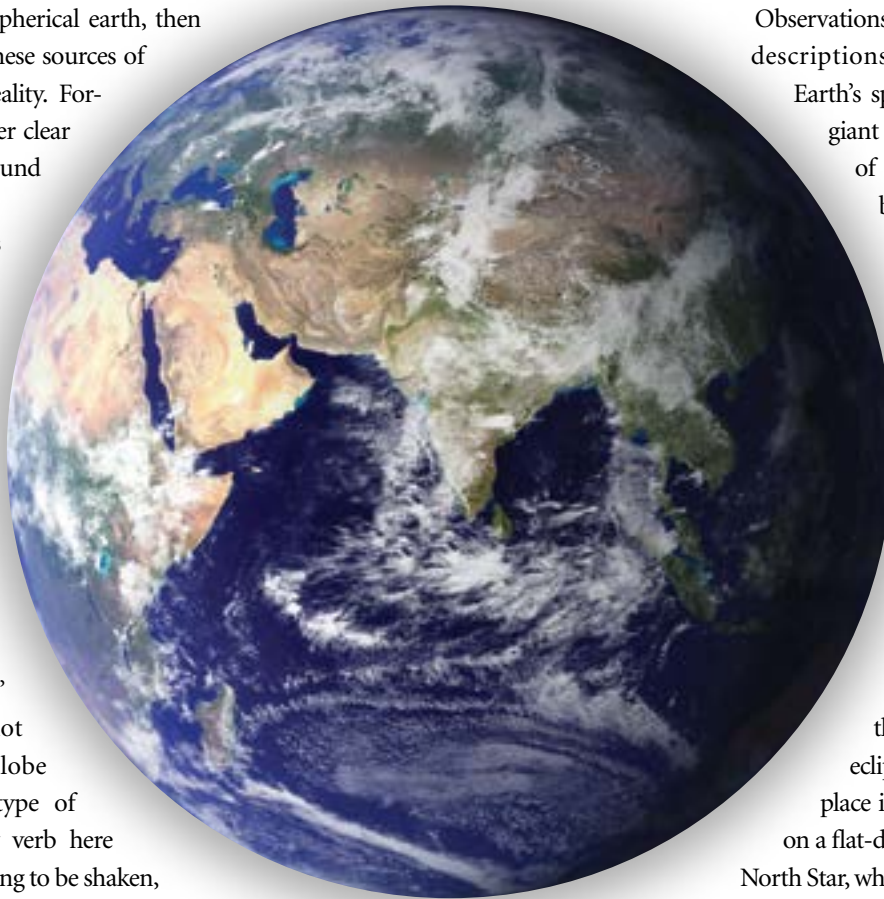
Also, a spherical earth explains the curved shape of Earth's shadow as it crawls across the moon during a lunar eclipse—no matter the moon's place in the sky. Fourth, no place on a flat-disk earth would conceal the North Star, which in actuality becomes invisible from the Southern Hemisphere. For that matter, one notices a shift in star positions when traveling north or south, which also confirms a spherical earth.⁶

Flat-Earth arguments fall flat in the face of forceful biblical and scientific evidence for Earth's roundness. ☒

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



Dinosaur DNA Trumps Mammoth Expert

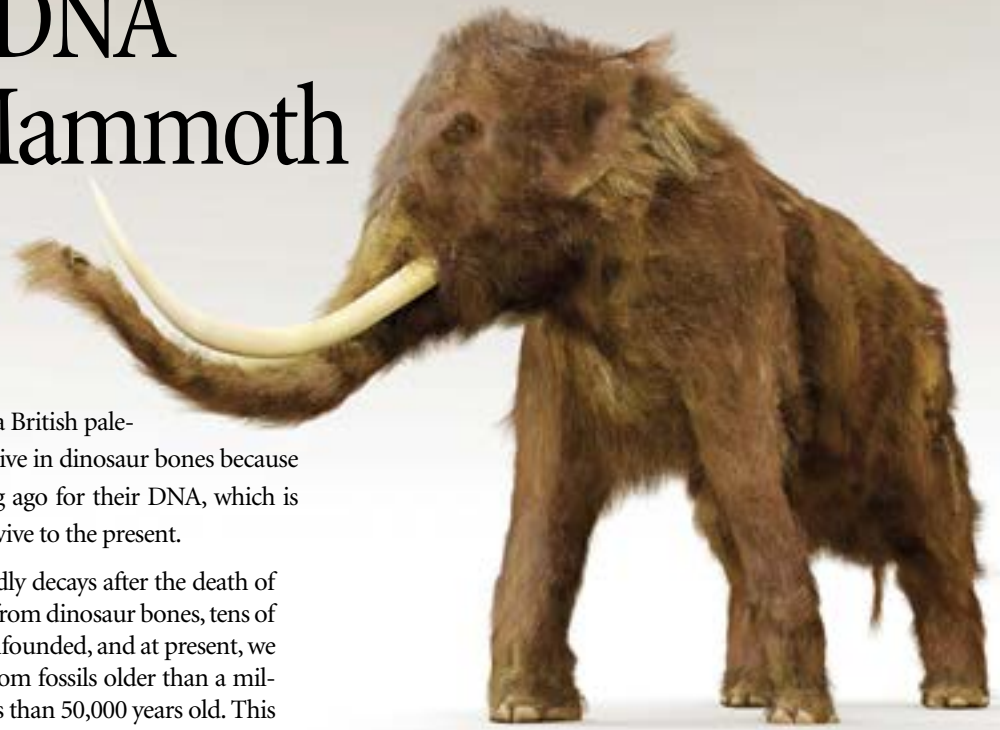
According to Dr. Adrian Lister, a British paleobiologist, DNA cannot survive in dinosaur bones because dinosaurs lived far too long ago for their DNA, which is inherently unstable, to survive to the present.

DNA is a fragile molecule, and rapidly decays after the death of an organism. Early reports of DNA from dinosaur bones, tens of millions of years old [*sic*], proved unfounded, and at present, we do not have any confirmed DNA from fossils older than a million years, with the vast majority less than 50,000 years old. This restricts serious study [of ancient DNA] to remains from the Ice Age, but still encompasses many extinct species. The enemies of DNA preservation are warmth, moisture and oxygen, so remains locked in arctic permafrost have proved to be particularly valuable sources of ancient DNA.¹

Dr. Lister is no stranger to Ice Age remains, having a particular expertise in Ice Age elephants, what we call woolly mammoths and mastodons. Lister's book on these creatures identifies him as "a Merit Researcher in the Earth Sciences Department at the Natural History Museum in London," specializing in Ice Age mammoth and mastodon fossils, as well as "saber-toothed cat, giant sloth, cave bear and dire wolf." So, Dr. Lister knows how difficult it is to study DNA fragments from the Ice Age.¹ That professional experience convinced him that DNA cannot last for millions of years, much less for 50 or 60 million years—the reachback time that evolutionists assume for the "age of dinosaurs."^{1,2}

Creationists would agree with Dr. Lister in assuming that dinosaur DNA biomolecules cannot survive, biochemically speaking, for scores of millions of years.^{2,3} However, Lister's overarching mistake is his evolutionist assumption that dinosaurs lived "millions of years" ago.⁴ Consequently, his theory clashes with the embarrassing discovery of biochemical evidence *inside dinosaur bone cells* that is not readily explainable as anything but dinosaur DNA.

Dinosaur soft tissue fossil experts observed that microstructures that look just like bone cells called osteocytes might contain original DNA....Now, some of the same researchers are revealing the results of further dinosaur cell exploration [including] the vertebrate-specific proteins actin and PHEX, as well as DNA in the dinosaur cells.²



But how can someone identify actual DNA inside *Tyrannosaurus rex* bone?

[Dr. Mary Schweitzer et al.] applied two different DNA-sensitive stains to the osteocyte structures. The stains showed faint but visible DNA in a tight central location inside the long-dead cell remnant....[This finding was corroborated by applying] an antibody that only binds to a DNA-packing protein called histone H4. It, too, bound to its target in the same central region within the dinosaur bone cell as the DNA showed. The stains and antibody did not bind other parts of the cell, nor the mineral matrix that originally surrounded the fossil.²

There you have it, for those with eyes to see: Smoke coming from something that looks suspiciously like a gun!

As Dr. Lister admits, biochemical entropy (i.e., degradation, decay) realities prevent DNA from lasting millions of years.^{1,3} Therefore, if recognizable DNA fragments can be discovered in dinosaur bones—and can survive political suppression⁴—it's "game over" for the evolutionist paleontology "dating game." 🐘

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



The Strength of ICR

It's remarkable that construction on the ICR Discovery Center for Science and Earth History is now underway—less than 18 months after we started raising funds. Moreover, this major initiative began with no lead gift, which is unusual for a facility of this size and quality. But this is typical for ICR. We receive very few substantial gifts, and those often arrive as complete surprises in the afternoon mail! Rather, ICR's ministry is upheld by thousands of faithful supporters who understand the importance of our ministry and are committed to our mission.

This is perhaps the most convincing evidence of the Lord's blessing, not only on ICR's ministry as a whole but on our discovery center in particular. We hoped this dynamic "teaching museum"—uniquely focused on showcasing the abundant scientific evidence that confirms the Bible—would generate excitement within the Kingdom. This was, by far, the largest project we've ever attempted and would cost many times our usual operating budget. The timing seemed right, and we believed God was leading us to begin (James 4:15).

In many respects, the lessons learned during the Great Recession of 2008 not only

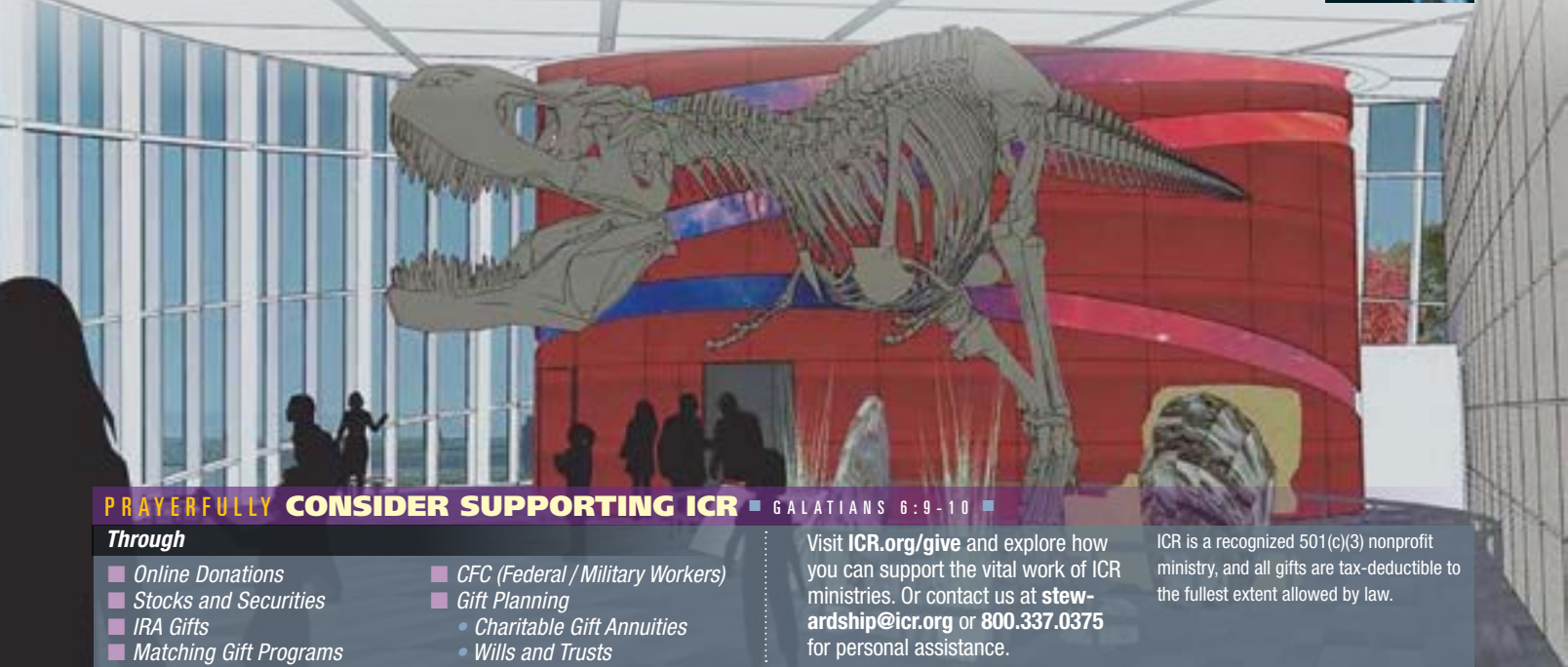
taught us to rely on God's supply but also prepared us for larger projects to follow. That was a time of great economic hardship on a national scale, and many were hurting. ICR certainly felt the financial pinch, but not nearly as deeply as other, much larger and more well-known ministries. Why? In hindsight, God revealed His provision through many long-time, faithful supporters who gave what they could when they could. Through His people, God supplied just what we needed at just the right time—just as He promised (Philippians 4:19). Not only did ICR survive those trying times, but today we are thriving as never before. All glory to Him!

As 2016 began and our fundraising focus turned almost exclusively to the discovery center, we were concerned about maintaining our normal operational budget. ICR's budget has been quite stable over the years, and we wondered if our core research and ministry programs might suffer if giving was diverted to this major project. But believing that God was leading us, we submitted the matter to prayer and stepped out in faith. And God provided as only He could! Thousands of supporters responded to our call, and as 2016 came to a close, not only were our normal operational needs met

in full, but God *doubled* the funds received for the year—the rest going to the discovery center. Truly, "this was the LORD's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes" (Psalm 118:23)!

It's clear from the encouraging notes we've received that many people are excited about what ICR is doing and are giving sacrificially to our work. One recent note was especially poignant. A couple rather apologetically wrote that they couldn't accept our invitation to attend the ICR Discovery Center groundbreaking ceremony this past April. Instead, they included an extra gift in lieu of the money they would've spent on travel expenses. It wasn't a particularly large gift, and I didn't give it much thought at the time. I later discovered this couple has faithfully supported ICR since the mid-1980s and over the past decade has given every single month! And their extra gift was the single largest gift they had ever made. This story of faithfulness and sacrifice is representative of so many others and demonstrates the true strength of ICR—the people of God. ✍️

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



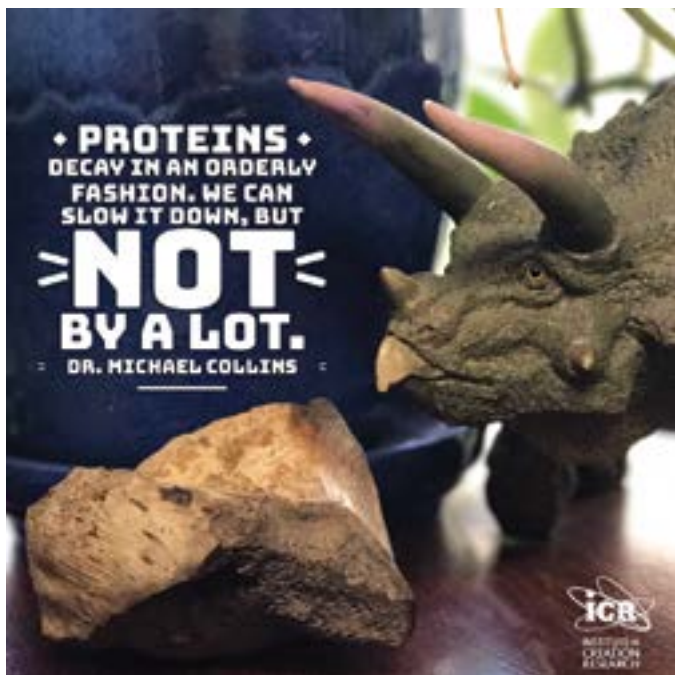
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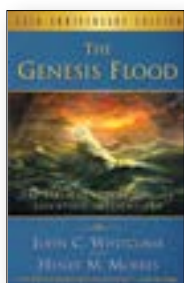


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“Many years ago, when I was in college...as I was taking geology I could not correlate the creation beginnings as stated in the Bible with the evolutionary teachings I was being taught. My faith was at a low [point] until someone recommended I read *The Genesis Flood* by Henry Morris. **This gave me assurance**

that I could accept genuine science as proof of God’s literal creation account as found in Genesis. I’m sure that this was a major factor in leading my wife and me to become missionaries 50 years ago. Blessings.”

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“I was saddened to see ICR listed as a “Fake News” site by the elitists at Harvard. It seems when they are threatened, their only defense is to respond like a wolf pack rather than survive on their own merits. **We’ll continue to pray for ICR—that the truth will get out.** As a “climate denier” with 30+ years in atmospheric modeling, I know what you’re going through. Stay strong!”

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“This may encourage you...after being raised in a minister’s home, he [our son] claimed he was an atheist, and then agnostic. He recently told me he now believes there is a Creator...because of the order in the universe and the eye. I recall you did an issue on the eye. **I really credit your magazine as an instrument for God for rebuilding his faith.** Thank you!”

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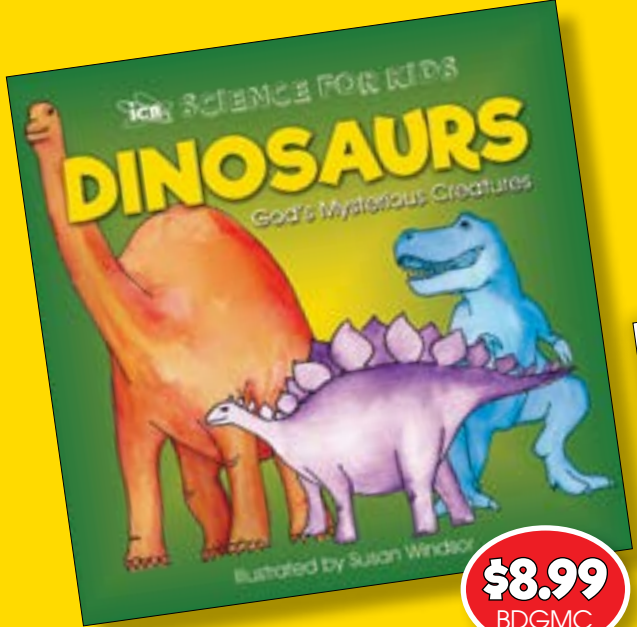
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