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The
REAL NATURE
of the
FOSSIL RECORD

Made in His Image

Examining the Complexities of the Human Body

by Randy J. Guliuzza, P.E., M.D.

“If it is living, it is complex.”

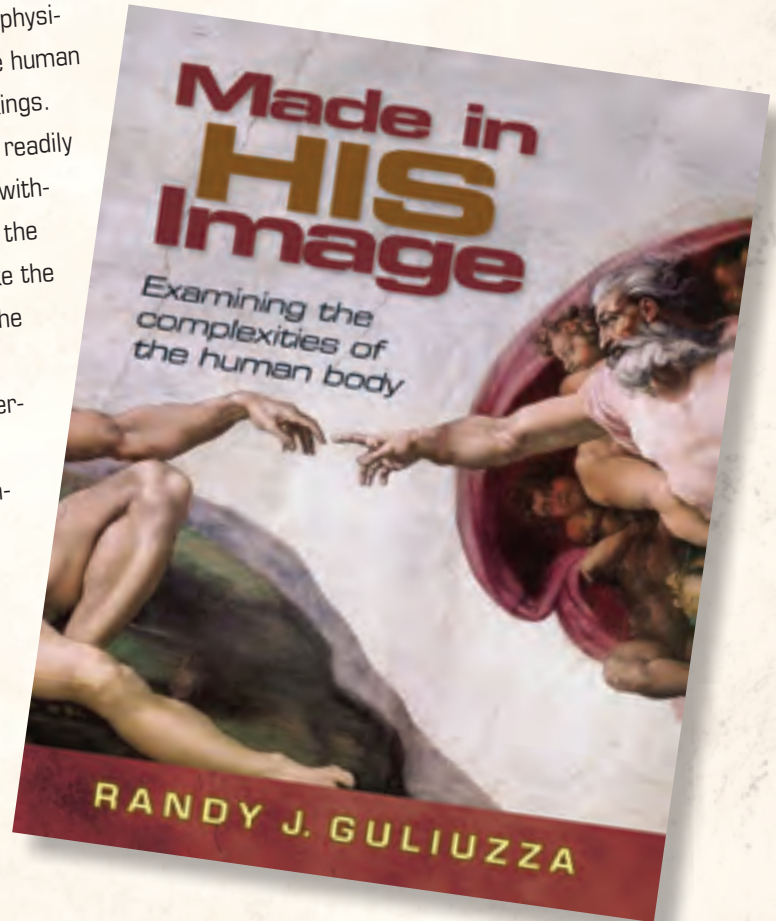
There is nothing simple in biological systems. Engineer and physician Dr. Randy Guliuzza brings his expertise to bear on the human body, exploring multiple aspects of its complex inner workings. Engineers strive to design structures that are safe, readily buildable, achieve maximum results with minimum resources, and withstand a reasonable amount of abuse without breaking. Systems of the human body show *all* of these features—at levels that should evoke the greatest respect, and indeed adoration, from every engineer for the finest Engineer of all, the Lord Jesus Christ.

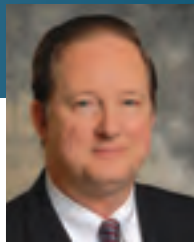
The human body is an amazing example of biological engineering, with myriad interconnecting systems that produce unique capabilities. Join Dr. Guliuzza as he explores the astounding complexities behind how the body works, from the growth of a baby to skin's built-in sun protection to how cells are supplied with energy and much more.

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Be Mine

As children, we used to receive Valentines from classmates, cards and candy that somehow always seemed to strike fear and trepidation in the boys each February. Our culture has turned this month into the “love” month, but unfortunately most who celebrate “love” during February are led only by giddy emotions, rather than by other, more important characteristics of love.

Of course, as Christians, we are familiar with a deeper kind of love—agape love—that remains rock solid despite our feelings at any given moment. It’s a mature love, a love that was ultimately and perfectly expressed by God, who gave His Son as a sacrifice for us.

The simple fact is that God loved us, and therefore chose us. And He loved us despite our sinfulness (Romans 5:8).

Deuteronomy 14:2 tells us that God has “chosen” the Jewish people from out of all the other peoples of the earth. Why? What was special about Abraham and his descendants? Were they a mighty people? A sophisticated people? A noble people? No.

Earlier, in Deuteronomy 4:37, God stated that it was because of His love that He chose to make Israel His own special possession (see also Deuteronomy 10:15). God said, in essence, “I know who you are, what you were, and what you will become, and still I love you, and I want you to be Mine.” And He’s still saying that today. Not with cards and candy, but with daily demonstrations of His unwavering love and commitment.

February ought really to be the month we count our blessings, for every good thing we receive from Him is an expression of His love for us.

Here at ICR we are also counting our blessings. God’s love for us is most often seen in your faithfulness to the work of ICR, now in its 40th year of ministry. Thank you for choosing to express your love for God through our continued work in creation science research and education. Communicating the wonders of creation is our labor of love, even in the midst of opposition from those who would seek to rid our culture of God. And yet we press on with this vital work in defense of the authority and authenticity of God’s Word.

In this issue of *Acts & Facts*, we’ve devoted considerable space to geology research, one of the hallmarks of ICR’s legacy since 1970. Drs. Steve Austin, John Morris, and Andrew Snelling have all contributed significantly to the understanding of Flood geology and fossils, evidence that supports the biblical young-earth timeline. This month, Dr. John Morris releases his new book, *The Fossil Record*. Co-authored with Senior Science Lecturer Frank Sherwin, this is a beautiful book with stunning images and insightful commentary on the whole subject of fossils and how to interpret them both from science and from Scripture.

Also, take note of our lineup of ICR speakers who go out each month around the country to churches, schools, conventions, and other venues to share biblical and scientific evidence for creation. Contact our Events Department (events@icr.org) for information on how to bring a speaker to your area.

And may you share God’s great love gift—Jesus Christ—this month as you consider His love for you.

Lawrence E. Ford
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

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Communicating the Message of the Creator

L A W R E N C E E . F O R D

By the time Dr. Henry Morris founded the Institute for Creation Research in 1970, he had already conducted an extensive speaking ministry on the topic of creation science around the country for over a decade. A gifted teacher, Dr. Morris spoke at churches and universities, scientific groups and public gatherings, all with the desire to communicate the authority and authenticity of the Word of God. While chairman of the engineering school at Virginia Tech, Dr. Morris helped plant a church in Blacksburg, Virginia.

With the founding of ICR, Dr. Morris continued to speak widely, adding Dr. Duane Gish to the team early on. The two men began to debate evolutionists frequently on university campuses, winning handily each time with their insistence on proper interpretation of the evidence.

Through the decades, Dr. Morris enlisted other men to join ICR's

professional science staff, and many of them became widely known for both their writing and speaking. And that emphasis of communication continues now in ICR's 40th year, with new faces and new voices heralding the same message: Jesus Christ is Creator and Lord.

In December, Assistant Editor Christine Dao presented the new science staff at ICR, giving you a peek inside the research department. This month she highlights those on the ICR speaking team. You can also find this information at our Events page on our website.

Our goal in presenting these speakers to you is twofold—for you to consider bringing a creation speaker to your church, school, or conference, and for you to add these individuals to your prayer list, asking God to bless their teaching each and every time they travel to communicate the message of the Creator.



Name: Dr. Henry Morris III
Title: Chief Executive Officer
Specialty: Bible, Apologetics, Worldview

Dr. Henry Morris III holds four earned degrees, including a D.Min. from Luther Rice Seminary and the Presidents and Key Executives MBA from Pepperdine University. A former college professor, administrator, business executive, and senior

pastor, Dr. Morris is an articulate and passionate speaker frequently invited to address church congregations, college assemblies, and national conferences. The eldest son of ICR's founder, Dr. Morris has served for many years in conference and writing ministry. His love for the Word of God and passion for Christian maturity, coupled with God's gift of teaching, has given Dr. Morris a broad and effective ministry over the years. He has authored numerous articles and books, including *The Big Three: Major Events that Changed History Forever*, *Exploring the Evidence for Creation*, and *5 Reasons to Believe in Recent Creation*.



Name: Dr. John Morris
Title: President
Specialty: Geology, Noah's Ark/Flood, Fossil Record, Age of the Earth, Mount St. Helens

Dr. John Morris, perhaps best known for leading expeditions to Mt. Ararat in search of Noah's Ark, served on the University of Oklahoma faculty before joining

the Institute for Creation Research in 1984. He received his Doctorate in Geological Engineering at the University of Oklahoma in 1980. Dr. Morris held the position of Professor of Geology before being appointed President in 1996. He travels widely around the world speaking at churches, conferences, schools, and scientific meetings. Dr. Morris has written numerous books and articles on the scientific evidence that supports the Bible. Dr. Morris is the author or co-author of such books as *The Young Earth*, *The Modern Creation Trilogy*, and the newly released *The Fossil Record: Unearthing Nature's History of Life*.



Name: Dr. Steve Austin
Title: Senior Research Scientist and Chair, Geology Department
Specialty: Geology, Mount St. Helens, Grand Canyon

Dr. Steve Austin received his Ph.D. from Pennsylvania State University in 1979. He has performed geologic research on six of the seven continents of the world and is

the author of three books, three videos, one computer software package, and more than forty technical geology papers. He recently led a team of scientists from the Geological Society of America on a field trip to Mount St. Helens to study the remarkable landforms that have formed within the landscape in just the last 30 years. His current research interests include studying the mass-kill event and rapid burial of nautiloid fossils in a limestone layer within the Grand Canyon, the mega-flood deposits within the Santa Cruz River valley of southern Argentina, and the frozen

spruce tree cones found buried deep in the peat layer on the shore of the Arctic Ocean in extreme northern Canada.

2000, eventually managing ICR's warehouse operations. Mr. Gunther is a former youth pastor and has a passion for conveying the truth of the gospel to young people. He currently serves as ICR's Special Events Coordinator and represents ICR at numerous conferences and seminars around the country each year



Name: Lawrence Ford
Title: Director of Communications
Specialty: Bible, Apologetics, Worldview

Lawrence Ford oversees the public side of ICR's ministry through the development of new publications, the production of radio, television, and conference programs, and other facets of the ministry that connect ICR to the world. He is the Executive

Editor of the monthly magazine *Acts & Facts*, the daily devotional *Days of Praise*, and other publications. After his study of mathematics at U.C. San Diego, Mr. Ford entered the ministry and received training at Columbia International University and Dallas Theological Seminary. An ordained Baptist minister and former pastor, he previously served as a missionary on three continents. Mr. Ford writes extensively for ICR's publications, and as ICR's spokesman fields media requests from outlets such as *The Boston Globe*, *The Austin American-Statesman*, *The Dallas Morning News*, Fox News, and others.



Name: Dr. Nathaniel Jeanson
Title: Research Associate
Specialty: Biology, Stem Cells

After receiving his Ph.D. in cell and developmental biology from Harvard Medical School in 2009, Dr. Nathaniel Jeanson joined ICR as a research associate. While at Harvard, he assisted in adult stem cell research, specifically on the role of Vitamin D in regulating blood stem cells. Dr. Jeanson also had the opportunity to be a stem cell panelist at the Massachusetts Citizens for Life convention and to submit testimony when the Massachusetts legislature tried to overturn laws prohibiting the use of human embryonic stem cells.



Name: Dr. Randy Guliuzza
Title: National Representative
Specialty: Human Body, Apologetics, Worldview

Dr. Randy Guliuzza is a captivating speaker who presents well-documented and often humorous scientific and biblical talks to audiences of all ages. He has represented ICR in several scientific debates

at secular universities and in other forums. Dr. Guliuzza has a B.S. in Engineering from the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, a B.A. in theology from Moody Bible Institute, an M.D. from the University of Minnesota, and a Masters in Public Health from Harvard University. Dr. Guliuzza served nine years in the Navy Civil Engineer Corps and is a registered Professional Engineer. In 2008, he retired as Lt. Col. from the U.S. Air Force, where he served as Flight Surgeon and Chief of Aerospace Medicine. He is the author of the recently released book *Made in His Image*.



Name: Dr. James J. S. Johnson
Title: Special Counsel, Associate Professor of Apologetics
Specialty: Education, History, Biblical Studies

Dr. James Johnson serves ICR's legal needs and oversees special projects in Christian education and apologetics. He has taught for three Christian colleges in Texas: LeTourneau University, Dallas Christian College, and Concordia University Texas. Beyond legal topics, he specializes in U.S. and world political history, ethics, ecology, and family history, and is credentialed by ACSI. He received his J.D. in 1984 from the University of North Carolina, which included studies at Duke University Law School, and in 1996 obtained his Th.D. His educational background includes earned degrees in religion and the natural sciences. For his scholarship in biblical languages and their cognates—mostly Hebrew, Aramaic, and Moabite—at Wake Forest University, Dr. Johnson was awarded the American Bible Society Award in 1982.



Name: Lalo Gunther
Title: Special Events Coordinator
Specialty: Youth Ministry

Before becoming a Christian in 1995, Lalo Gunther was a member of a gang in southern California. He was saved after a police officer witnessed to him about Christ, and he left his former lifestyle behind. He graduated from San Diego Christian College

(formerly Christian Heritage College, co-founded by ICR founder Dr. Henry Morris) and went to work in ICR's distribution warehouse in



Name: Dr. Charles McCombs
Title: Associate Professor of Chemistry, Assistant Director of NCSF
Specialty: Chemistry, Age of the Earth

Dr. Charles McCombs has been an active creation speaker since 1998, during which time he was also a teacher and administrator of a Christian school in Florida prior to joining ICR in 2008. Dr. McCombs is the author of two books: *Evolution Hopes You Don't Know Chemistry* and *Is Creation Really Important?* He holds a B.S. degree in Chemistry from California State University Long Beach, and a Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry from UCLA. He served as the Senior Research Chemist for Eastman Chemical Company for 21 years and holds 20 patents.



Name: Dr. Patricia Nason
Title: Professor and Chair,
 Science Education
Specialty: Education, Science Classroom
 Curriculum

Dr. Patricia Nason is Professor and Chair of the Department of Science Education for the Institute for Creation Science Graduate School. She is a graduate of Sam Houston State University (B.A., Education) and Texas A&M University (M.Ed. and Ph.D.). Dr. Nason's teaching experience includes lecturer and researcher in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction at Texas A&M University, and professor of science education at the University of North Carolina and Stephen F. Austin State University. She has taught full-time at ICR since 2004. Dr. Nason also taught middle school science and was grade-level department chairman for six years in Houston, Texas.



Name: Dr. Gary Parker
Title: Senior Science Lecturer, Professor
 of Biology
Specialty: Geology/Paleontology, Biology

Dr. Gary Parker graduated magna cum laude in biology/chemistry from Wabash College in 1962, where he was also elected to the National Scholastic Honorary Society, Phi Beta Kappa. His master's thesis was published in *Copeia* and presented at a major scientific conference. His doctoral work, supported by a competitive 15-month fellowship grant from the National Science Foundation, was completed as he emerged as a creationist, enabling him to add paleontology as an emphasis to his Ed.D. in Biology/Geology from Ball State University in 1973. Known for his warmth and casual style, Dr. Gary Parker is a creation science speaker and writer popular across the United States and around the world. He is also the author of numerous books, including *Creation: Facts of Life* and *Building Blocks in Science*.



Name: Frank Sherwin
Title: Senior Science Lecturer
Specialty: Zoology, Oceans, Noah's Flood,
 Microbiology, Dinosaurs

Frank Sherwin received his bachelors degree in biology from Western State College, Gunnison, Colorado, in 1978. After several years as an Emergency Medical Technician for a municipal fire department, he attended graduate school at the University of Northern Colorado, where he studied under one of the foremost parasitologists in America. In 1985, Mr. Sherwin obtained a masters degree in zoology and published his research in the *Journal of Parasitology*. From 1987 to 1996, Mr. Sherwin

taught a variety of biology, nursing, and premedical courses at Pensacola Christian College. He contributes his scientific expertise to a variety of ICR's publications on creation science. He is the author of *The Ocean Book* and co-author of *The Human Body: An Intelligent Design*, and is one of ICR's most sought-after speakers.



Name: Brian Thomas
Title: Science Writer
Specialty: Biology, Problems in Evolution,
 Origin of Life, Dinosaurs

Brian Thomas received his bachelors degree in biology from Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches, Texas, in 1993. After teaching at Angelina Christian School and beginning graduate studies in science education at the Institute for Creation Research Graduate School, he returned to Stephen F. Austin State, where he earned a masters degree in biotechnology in 1999. From 2000 to 2005, he taught 9th and 12th grade biology at Ovilla Christian School in Ovilla, Texas, as well as general biology and general chemistry as an adjunct professor at Navarro College, Waxahachie, Texas. He taught biology, chemistry, and anatomy as an assistant professor at Dallas Baptist University from 2005 until 2008, and co-founded the Center for Christian Apologetics in Houston. Mr. Thomas is the Science Writer at ICR, where he is responsible for contributing daily news, magazine articles, editing, and speaking.



Name: Dr. Larry Vardiman
Title: Chair, Astro/Geophysics
 Department
Specialty: Atmospheric Studies, Climate
 Change, Ice Age, Age of the Earth's
 Atmosphere

While obtaining his Ph.D., Dr. Larry Vardiman served as a research assistant at Colorado State University's Department of Atmospheric Science (1970-74) and as a consulting meteorologist at Western Scientific Services (1973-74). After receiving his degree, he stayed in Colorado and served as a consultant to the Colorado Governor's Advisory Panel on Weather Modification and as meteorologist for the Bureau of Reclamation, Division of Atmospheric Resources Research in Denver, CO (1974-82). Dr. Vardiman also worked for the United States Air Force as an officer with the Air Weather Service in the Aerospace Modification Division at Scott Air Force Base. Before coming to ICR, he taught at Christian Heritage College as a Professor of Natural Sciences from 1982 to 1989, serving as Academic Vice President from 1987 to 1989. Dr. Vardiman was a major participant and director of ICR's Radioisotopes and the Age of the Earth (RATE) research project. Much of his scientific contributions have been in the areas of cloud seeding, ice crystal growth and evolution, the age of the earth's atmosphere, ice sheet formation during the Ice Age, and catastrophic hurricane formation. ●

Mr. Ford is Executive Editor.

ICR February Events

January 29–February 2

Jacksonville, FL – First Baptist Church
Jacksonville Pastors' Conference
888.827.1825

February 1-5

Chicago, IL – Moody Founder's Week
Conference
800.356.6639

February 3

Frisco, TX – First Baptist Church
(H. Morris III) 972.335.9830

February 4-5

Galveston, TX – Association of Christian
Schools International Conference
(Nason) 719.528.6906

February 10

Frisco, TX – First Baptist Church
(H. Morris III) 972.335.9830

February 11-12

Birmingham, AL – Association of Christian
Schools International Conference
(McCombs, Nason, Parker) 719.528.6906

February 21-26

Arcadia, FL – Creation Education Vacation
(Parker) 863.494.9558



For more information on these events or to schedule an event, please contact the ICR Events Department at **800.337.0375** or **events@icr.org**. For information on attending ACSI conventions, visit **www.acsi.org** or call **719.528.6906**.

For details regarding the Creation Education Vacation, contact Dr. Gary Parker at **863.494.9558**, write to **creation@strato.net**, or visit **CreationAdventuresMuseum.org**.

Jacksonville Pastors' Conference



Above & Left: Mac Brunson at the front of the First Baptist Jacksonville sanctuary.

Right: The Demand the Evidence banner featured at the Pastors' Conference.



For the third year in a row, the Institute for Creation Research has a significant presence at the Jacksonville Pastors' Conference, held each year at the First Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Florida. This year, ICR is a major sponsor of the conference, and we are pleased to have Dr. Mac Brunson, Senior Pastor of FBC Jacksonville, as our newest ICR board member.

The Pastors' Conference 2010 is scheduled for January 29 through February 2 and has as its theme "Navigating Ministry in Uncharted Waters." Pastors and church leaders will come from around the world to hear speakers such as Mac Brunson, Jerry Vines, David Allen, Tony Evans, and many more address the issues faced by those involved in modern ministry.

ICR continues to have as a major educational emphasis the equipping of pastors and church leaders with solid evidence for the biblical accounts of creation and the Flood. ICR is thrilled to partner with Dr. Brunson and FBC Jacksonville in this important ministry to train pastors and edify the church at large.

The Bible is often regarded as a book of stories based on a primitive people's understanding of the world around them.

STEVEN A. AUSTIN, P.H.D.

As such, many people—and even some Christians—believe that it is not a reliable source of history. But science continues to prove them wrong.

An Ancient Earthquake

The Kings of Israel and Judah ruled during the period of time designated as the Iron Age by archaeologists. Widely separated archaeological excavations in the countries of Israel and Jordan contain late Iron Age (Iron IIb) architecture bearing damage from a great earthquake.¹ Masonry walls best display the earthquake's effects, especially those with broken ashlars or displaced rows of stones, walls that are still standing but are leaning or bowed, and collapsed walls with large sections still lying course-on-course.

Earthquake evidence is seen prominently at Hazor, Israel's largest ancient city. In excavations beginning in 1955 by archaeologist Yigael Yadin, twenty-two successive cities were discovered to have been built on top of each other.² Excavations in Hazor's Stratum VI revealed tilted walls, inclined pillars, and collapsed houses. In the Iron Age building called "Ya'el's House" within Stratum VI, objects of daily use were found beneath the fallen ceiling. General southward collapse within Stratum VI argues that the earthquake waves were propagated from the north. After more than 50 years of excavations at Hazor, earthquake damage



Leaning wall at Hazor characteristic of Stratum VI.

continues to be revealed in even some of the strongest architecture.

The city of Gezer was also severely shaken. The outer wall of the city shows hewn stones weighing tons that have been cracked and displaced several inches off their foundation. The lower part of the wall was displaced outward (away from the city), whereas the upper part of the wall fell inward (toward the city) still lying course-on-course.³ This indicates that the wall collapsed suddenly.

A Magnitude 8 Event

Earthquake debris at six sites (Hazor, Deir 'Alla, Gezer, Lachish, Tell Judeideh, and 'En Haseva) is tightly confined stratigraphically to the middle of the eighth century B.C., with dating errors of ~30 years.⁴ So, the evidence points to a single large regional earthquake that occurred about 750 B.C. The accompanying map displays the site intensity (Modified Mercalli Intensity



Map showing the locations of damaged cities and the earthquake's probable epicenter.

The Scientific and Scriptural Impact of

Amos' Ed

from archaeology or literature) and lines of equal intensity of shaking (isoseismals).

The epicenter was clearly north of present-day Israel, as indicated by the southward decrease in degree of damage at archaeological sites in Israel and Jordan. The epicenter was likely in Lebanon on the plate boundary called the Dead Sea transform fault. A large area of the ancient kingdoms of Israel and Judah was shaken to inflict “general damage” to well-built structures (what is called Modified Mercalli Intensity 9 or higher). The distance from the epicenter (north of Israel) to the region of “significant damage” to well-built structures (what is called Modified Mercalli Intensity 8 that is south of Israel) was at least 175 kilometers, but could have been as much as 300 kilometers.

Using the pattern and the intensity of damage through the region of the earthquake, the earthquake’s magnitude can be estimated. Through a process known as scaling, the damage areas of smaller historic earthquakes of known magnitude are used to scale upward to estimate the area of damage and magnitude of the regional earthquake. Based on this method, the earthquake in question was at least magnitude 7.8, but more likely was 8.2.⁵ This magnitude 8 event of 750 B.C. appears to be the largest yet documented on the Dead Sea transform fault zone during the last four millennia. The Dead Sea transform fault likely ruptured along more than 400 kilometers as the ground shook violently for over 90 seconds! The urban panic created by this earthquake would have been legendary.

Scriptural References

In the mid-eighth century B.C., a shepherd-farmer named Amos of Tekoa delivered

an extraordinary speech at the Temple of the Golden Calf in the city of Bethel in the northern kingdom of Israel just “two years before the earthquake” (Amos 1:1). Uzziah was king of Judah and Jeroboam II was king of Israel. Amos spoke of the land being shaken (8:8), houses being smashed (6:11), altars being cracked (3:14), and even the Temple at Bethel being struck and collapsing (9:1). The prophet’s repeated contemporary references to the earthquake’s effects is why it bears his name.

Amos’ Earthquake impacted Hebrew literature immensely.⁶ After the gigantic earthquake, no Hebrew prophet could predict a divine visitation in judgment without alluding to an earthquake. Just a few years after the earthquake, Isaiah wrote about the “Day of the Lord” when everything lofty and exalted will be abased at the time when the Lord “arise to shake terribly the earth” (Isaiah 2:19, 21). Then, Isaiah saw the Lord in a temple shaken by an earthquake (Isaiah 6:4).

Joel repeats the motto of Amos: “The Lord also will roar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem,” and adds the seismic theophany imagery “the heavens and the earth shall shake” (Joel 3:16; compare Amos 1:2). After describing a future earthquake and panic during the “Day of the Lord” at Messiah’s coming to the Mount of Olives, Zechariah says, “Yea, ye shall flee, like as ye fled from before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah” (Zechariah 14:5). The panic caused by Amos’



Displaced blocks within the excavation of the outer wall at Gezer.

Earthquake must have been the topic of legend in Jerusalem, because Zechariah asked his readers to recall that terrifying event 230 years later.

The author of Hebrews asks us to keep in mind the coming cosmic shakedown that will finally usher in the future “kingdom which cannot be moved” (Hebrews 12:28). In light of God’s marvelous promises to those who believe, “let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.” ●

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Dr. Austin is Senior Research Scientist and Chair of the Geology Department.



Earthquake

FIT & FUNCTION: Design in Nature

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

To help others understand that Christ is their Creator, use the approach the Bible says *always* provokes a living conscience: “For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made” (Romans 1:20). Simply using humanity’s natural tendency to deduce the fact that complex design requires a designer is more powerful in showing the handiwork of Christ than evidence from fossils or genetics—and it’s easier.

It’s no surprise that psychological research shows that creation-based thinking comes naturally, while evolutionary thinking is not natural. This is an integral trait of every human—and it is *never* going away. When believers see the underlying attributes of design, they can communicate that to others to help them understand that what they see in nature was, in fact, designed.

Discussing Design Naturally Connects with People

Begin by using the word *purpose*—which definitively captures the very essence of design—early and often. This word is also an ideal bridge

to human inquisitiveness. Given an object, people naturally reason *first* about how it works and its intended function. Research shows that humans are naturally compelled to seek explanations of purpose, with “pleasure” areas in the brain being rewarded when it is discovered, but are left feeling frustrated when explanations are elusive. The process of discovering purpose is captivating and emotionally stimulating, similar to the experience of unwrapping a present.



Also, people intuitively link purpose with intelligence. This predisposition is *not* culturally or religiously transmitted, but appears to be instinctive.¹ If asked where an animal came from, young children—in all cultures—naturally say, in essence, “God made it.”


The engineering and legal professions have formally recognized the concept that human insight sensibly links purpose and design in everyday life. According to the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology definition for design, “Engineering design is the process of devising a system, component, or process to meet desired needs.”² Societies rely on the legal consequences of purposeful intent to guarantee performance. Precise lan-

guage is commonly included in construction contracts—specifically, to obtain from contractors a final product that satisfies a purpose. This is so crucial that even if a contract lacks a precise statement of performance, courts during a dispute usually imply a purpose that legally deems a project complete when it functions “fit for its intended purpose.”

What is superior about nature is that people can be challenged to look around at leaves, grass, feathers, fur—indeed *anything*—and see whether it fulfills its purpose(s). It is like the Lord has given a humanly unparalleled performance guarantee that whatever He builds is *always* suitable for its purpose.

After establishing the basic concept of purpose, couple it to the word *fit*. People easily see when things match or complement each other. When things fit (a principle at the heart of design), a clear-cut mental impression is made: Humans perceive that when things are a perfect fit, they were meant to work together.

Fit can be pointed out everywhere. Creatures are superbly fit to their specific environments (such as fish in their water world), but their body parts also fit precisely, and even the structures of their molecules fit just right. Therefore, reinforce what studies already show: People resist, by nature and experience, explaining great fit—especially by random chance—with anything other than great design. Using the



words *purpose* and *fit* is like pushing the buttons corresponding to *design* in people's minds.

Be Confident That Everybody Comprehends Design in Nature

Some evolutionary psychoanalysts assert that people are naturally constrained with a “very specific cognitive glitch” when it comes to understanding their origins. They find this “puzzling”²¹ and some get “angry”²³ that more Americans believe in angels than in evolution. The real reason for this “glitch” is simple. Everywhere that people—even ardent evolutionists—look, nature teems with complex creatures that clearly appear to have been designed.

In 1859 in a section of his book *The Origin of Species* entitled “Organs of Extreme Perfection and Complication,” Charles Darwin recognized that nature appeared to have been designed. Little had changed by 1971, when French biologist and Nobel winner Jacques Monod commented on what alien beings (via a computer on earth) would observe by merely studying a colony of bees:

The extreme complexity of their structure...is reproduced with extraordinary fidelity from one individual bee to the next. Powerful evidence, is it not, that these creatures are the products of a deliberate, constructive, and highly sophisticated order of activity?⁴

Richard Lewontin, the Alexander Agassiz Research Professor at Harvard, once eloquently said:

Life forms are more than simply multiple and diverse, however. Organisms fit remarkably well into the external world in which they live. They have morphologies, physiologies and behaviors that appear to have been carefully and artfully designed to enable each organism to appropriate the world around it for its own life.⁵

Even today's most vocal evolutionist, Richard Dawkins, affirmed that “biology is the study of complicated things that have the appearance of having been designed for a purpose.”²⁶ It is vitally important to understand, however, that Lewontin and Dawkins

used the word “appear” quite literally to mean that things only *seem like* or *look as if* they are designed, giving the *illusion* of a real designer.

Suddenly, the real issue becomes crystal clear—namely, not whether design actually exists, but what the *best explanation* is for the *origin* of fit, function, and design. Either the design flows from a real designer and is genuine design—the naturally favored reason—or there is no designer and the “apparent” design everyone clearly sees is all a false impression, which is a tough sell for evolutionists.

Learning a Short Example

Consider making this point by using something like the three precisely shaped bones in the human middle ear.⁷ Suspended by thread-like ligaments, these span the space from the eardrum to the sound-sensing organ called the cochlea. They fit together seamlessly, connected with tiny lubricant-filled joint capsules that enable interactions sensitive enough to detect sound vibrations from 20 to 20,000 times per second.

Sound intensities can be heard from a pin drop to more than 10 million times as intense, in part because these bony interactions allow sound waves collected in the *air* by the eardrum to be amplified 20 times—which matches exactly with sound transmission properties of the *fluid* in the cochlea. Yet in response to loud noises, the bone's efficient vibratory interactions can be damped in a split second by two very small attached muscles that reflexively contract, thus protecting the bones and cochlea from damage.

Evolutionists claim that these bones' fit and function only *appear* to be the work of a real designer. They earnestly contend that during reptilian evolution, two bones involved with the hinge-jaw of certain reptiles migrated (while changing shape) from the jaw to the middle ear and connected to an existing bone, thus becoming the three inner ear bones of mammals.⁸ Creationists maintain that a real designer is a better explanation for the exquisite design of human middle ear bones.

Pulling It All Together

Elite scientific culture is *not* popular culture, so the mental process of most people, Christian and non-Christian, still functions normally in attributing design to a designer.¹ This is true in any society, particularly with young people. Conversations can be readily started, for example, by saying, “I read something about how the three tiny bones in your ear confer great capabilities for hearing.” Be sure to include enough details describing precise *fit* and *purpose* to highlight design and to keep the topic interesting. Most people will listen since: 1) once engaged, people have an almost irresistible urge to know how and why things work; and 2) there is an emotional thrill tied to “discovery”—particularly if the brain is tantalized as information unfolds bit-by-bit.


The main issue is the best explanation for the design apparent in nature. Be prepared to explain the standard evolutionary story if asked, but clearly state that after examining alternative explanations, you remain persuaded that the best reason for design is a real designer—a conclusion consistent with everything humans know intuitively and by experience.

Perhaps someone may be ready to know that Designer, the Lord Jesus Christ, and by knowing Him enter into eternal life (John 17:3). This is not exploiting a “cognitive glitch” of humans, but using the witness of design that the Lord has provided. The things the Lord has made are so astounding that He's made it easy for people to see Him as their Creator, and hard—to the point of suppressing what is obvious—to deny Him. ●

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Dr. Guliuzza is ICR's National Representative.



Psychological research shows that creation-based thinking comes naturally, while evolutionary thinking is not natural.

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The REAL NATURE of the FOSSIL RECORD

The fossil record leaves an inescapable impression on the honest observer. It certainly doesn't communicate the macroevolutionary picture. The record of the past written in stone contains no evidence that any particular animal ever morphed into a fundamentally different type of animal. No trend can be found of gradual, Darwinian alteration through mutation and natural selection. These processes occur, but they are not mechanisms for true evolution of basic body styles.

Nor do we see punctuated equilibrium transforming them rapidly. Without a doubt, we see sudden changes in dominant fossil shapes as we ascend the geologic column, but this is not macroevolution. The species changes touted by punctuated equilibrium that we do see are either common variation of individual offspring, or adaptation of a population to differing conditions. Punctuated equilibrium doesn't even address the larger changes needed for meaningful evolution.

Sudden Appearance of Basic Types

On the other hand, the fossil record does communicate sudden appearance of basic types, complete with all the features which characterize them. Lots of variety is on display, even at times enough to lead to a new species.

But variety is not evolution. Cats are cats and dogs are dogs and always have been so. There are similarities between them, but no hint of relatedness. Both appear to have been suddenly created to live in similar environ-



JOHN D. MORRIS, P.H.D.

ments, breathe the same air, eat the same foods, drink the same water, and survive through circulation of similar blood. We should expect similarities. But cats when they reproduce yield kittens, and reproducing dogs have puppies. They did not originate by mutations in a different type of common ancestor, nor did one come from the other. And this is what the fossils show.

Basic Types Show Stasis

Once a basic type appeared, it demonstrated stasis. Individuals varied in appearance and whole populations varied over the generations to accommodate changing conditions as they “multiplied and filled” earth’s varied environments, but always they were fundamentally the same as the parent group.

The fossil record features stasis as a dominant trend. It does not speak of major changes. Evolution, or the descent from a common ancestor model, demands that major changes visited every population. But this is the evolution “story,” not the conclusion drawn from the fossils.

Complexity at the Start

Each plant or animal alive today exhibits its amazing complexity at the start. Each of its body parts is precisely designed to perform its function, and all work together for the good of the whole. Indeed, there often is no use for a particular part without the others. Some may only be used at a limited period of life or in an unusual circumstance, at which time they must be present for survival. All must be present for any to accomplish any useful purpose.

From the very first time a fossil type appears (i.e., the lowest stratigraphic interval in which it’s found), it shows all the design features which make it special. Evolution necessitates the gradual accumulation of body parts through random mutation and amalgamation of previous parts with different functions into a new whole. The elegance of design, however,

argues *against* a patchwork origin and *for* an intelligent cause. Mutations only mar, but do not erase, evidence of exquisite design.

Extinction, Not Evolution

Extinction is well-documented in the fossil record, and while extinction is a necessary part of the evolutionary scenario, it is not evolution. It might better be considered as the opposite of evolution. Losing a type is not what is in question, but the gaining of new types—now, that would be interesting.

A case can be made by fossil “splitters” that new species can be found as one ascends the strata. However, speciation within basic kinds is different from the introduction of new kinds, and evolution requires a dizzying array of basic new kinds. The origination of a

THE FOSSIL RECORD COMMUNICATES SUDDEN APPEARANCE OF BASIC TYPES, COMPLETE WITH ALL THE FEATURES WHICH CHARACTERIZE THEM.

new form has never been documented in the modern world of scientific observation, while perhaps several species every day go extinct. The opposite of evolution occurs today, and fossils show that the opposite of evolution also occurred in the past.

No Ancestor/Descendant Relationships

Evolution necessarily implies the concept of “descent from a common ancestor or ancestors.” Yet no ancestor/descendant relationship can be advocated with certainty based on the fossils. Indeed, the differences are obvious and make classification between types possible.

The similarities between distinct types is not a sure footing on which to base an ancestral relationship, as proved by the many mutually exclusive cladograms advanced by evolutionists. Whose opinion, if any, is correct? The separateness of each type is witness to their separate creations.

Fossil Record Is Complete

The fossil record can be deemed essentially complete. Darwin was concerned about its lack of transitional forms, hypothetical creatures that demonstrate one type changing into another over time. He was hopeful they would be found one day.

But extensive exploration and fossil discovery in following years have not brought such in-between forms to light. The vast majority of taxonomic orders and families which live today are also found as fossils, yet without fossil transitions. We can be certain the record is substantially complete.

All Phyla Present at the Start

The “Cambrian explosion” constitutes a major episode in the history of life. If evolution were true, one would expect the record to start with one type of animal life, then increase to two, and so on. Yet fossil studies have shown that essentially all phyla were present at the start, each distinct from the others and each fully equipped to function and survive. Even vertebrate fish were present in the lower Cambrian.

Some phyla have gone extinct over subsequent years, but most have continued into the present. There is no evolutionary tree found in the fossils, as Darwin and his disciples have claimed. Rather, it is more like a lawn than a tree.

Many Fossils Found Throughout the Column

Stasis can be seen in the large, vertical, stratigraphic ranges of many fossil types. Index fossils are thought to exist only for a brief time span. True enough, some fossils are only found in a relatively few layers. But many other fossils, such as the brachiopod *Lingula*, can be found throughout the geologic column and into the present. This animal would seemingly make a good potential ancestor for others, but it never changed into anything nor arose from anything.

Various fossil types are found in many layers, with more fossil ranges being continually extended by new discoveries. Statistical treatments give reason to believe that essentially all types lived throughout a large portion of history.

Most Fossils Are Marine Invertebrates

At least 95 percent of all animal fossils are of marine invertebrates. They are found in great variety, but all are well-designed for life in the sea. Some lived in high-energy, near-shore environments, but others lived in the deep ocean, away from the pounding action of the waves.

Among the vertebrates, most fossils are fish, again mostly marine creatures. Of the terrestrial fossils, by far most are plants. Land-dwelling animals, such as mammals and dinosaurs, are poorly represented in the fossil record. The majority of animals depicted on evolutionary fossil charts in textbooks, however, are land vertebrates. It is thought that a possible case for evolution can be made from them, but this does not accurately portray the real fossil record.

Fossils Found in Catastrophic Deposits

These fossilized marine creatures are typically found in catastrophic deposits. Even marine creatures that live in high-energy zones cannot live in catastrophic conditions. Many died where they were fossilized. They were either buried alive, or their remains were transported by dynamic processes to their present resting places before they decayed or were scavenged.

The processes involved must have been highly destructive, yet rapidly acting. The major forces that sculpted earth's surface were not like the processes of today.

Indications of Violent Death

Often the fossil remains are found in a death pose. The famous *Archaeopteryx* fos-

sil lies with its neck and tail arched back as if it were dying a horrible, drowning death. Clams are found with both halves tightly shut, "clammed up" as a living clam does for protection from danger.

Dinosaur fossils, also in death poses, are found ripped apart but often not scavenged. Fossilized animals give every indication they were violently killed and/or transported to the places we now find them.

No Complete Ecosystems

The fossils are usually entombed in deposits with no complete ecosystems present that could have supported them in life. Often

THE ELEGANCE OF DESIGN ARGUES AGAINST A PATCH-
WORK ORIGIN AND FOR AN INTELLIGENT CAUSE.

evolutionists portray a fossil's tomb as a snapshot of life and tell stories about the creature's habits.

But these plants and animals are not necessarily found where they lived, or where they died. They are found where they were buried. It is not honest to presume patterns of life from transported remains of once-living things.

Animals from Mixed Habitats

Fossil graveyards often contain numerous animals from mixed habitats. Saltwater fish are sometimes found with upland dwellers. Crocodile fossils are found with deep sea denizens and desert and arctic mammals.

They could scarcely be lumped together in this way by the uniform processes of today. Some great cataclysm is needed.

Fossils Found Mostly on Continents

The catastrophic deposits in which the (mostly marine) fossils are found are almost all on the continents. A series of marine cataclysms inundated the land, destroying nearly

everything there and laying down a record plain enough for all to see. Those terrestrial fossils which were deposited primarily date from the Ice Age that followed the great Flood of Noah's day.

Summary

Combining all these major concepts, we see that the fossil record is a record quite different from that presented in support of evolution. Each basic plant and animal type appeared abruptly and fully functional, and then experienced stasis throughout its tenure. Each type was complex and distinct at the start, without having descended from some other ancestral type, particularly from a less complex type.

All basic types which have ever lived were present at the start, and while some have subsequently gone extinct, no new basic types have appeared since the beginning. We have reason to believe substantially all basic forms which ever lived have been found as fossils.

A general rule is that the fossils extend through a lengthy stratigraphic range with little or no change. Most of the fossils are remains of marine invertebrates, found in catastrophic deposits, often in death poses with an incomplete ecosystem present. These predominately marine fossils are almost all found on the continents, not in the ocean.

The fossil record is thus quite incompatible with evolution and uniformitarianism, but remarkably consistent with the biblical record: Creation of all things in perfect form and function, the curse on all things due to man's rebellion, and the Great Flood of Noah's day which first destroyed and then renovated the entire planet.

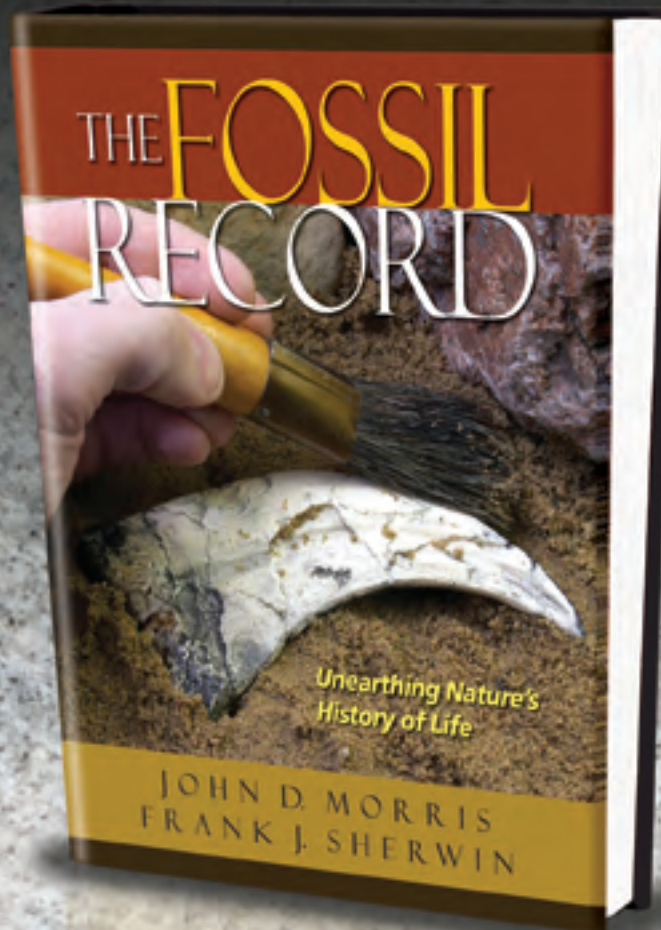
Creation thinking predicts the evidence, while evolution must distort and flex the evidence and its position to accommodate it. ●

Dr. Morris is President of the Institute for Creation Research.

THE FOSSIL RECORD:

Unearthing Nature's History of Life

JOHN D. MORRIS, PH.D. AND FRANK SHERWIN, M.A.



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Evolutionists rely on the fossil record for support of their theory, but what does that record really reveal? Fossils have for too long been Darwinists' favorite weapon in the creation/evolution battle, with far too many casualties. The church has lost enough of its young people to wrong thinking.

The claim that fossils document evolution is simply not true. The fossil record records a very different message, one supportive of the creation worldview. ICR geologist Dr. John Morris and zoologist Frank Sherwin unearth the evidence of

earth's history and conclude that the fossil record is incompatible with evolution, but remarkably consistent with the biblical account of creation and the great Flood of Noah's day.

An evolutionary overprint laid over the fossils holds power only if the alternative is censored. But censorship is not truth; there is a better way to think. Adopting evolutionary naturalism as one's faith and guideline for life makes no sense if there is a God who has spoken. *The Fossil Record* can help you choose your faith and discover the Creator of all things.

To order, call **800.628.7640** or visit **www.icr.org/store**

An Amazing Anomalous FOSSIL

JOHN D. MORRIS, P.H.D.

Fossils are normally found loosely in the order predicted by the geologic column, which maps the earth's strata. This chart, which can be found in all treatments of the subject, is presented as a column of fossils, with the earliest at the bottom and the most recent at the top. But in reality it is only a column of proposed evolutionary development.

The fossil order, such as it is, could just as well (or better) fit the progression of encroaching Flood waters. In the lowest levels are found marine invertebrates. Increasing heights (not more recent time periods) bring fossils that lived along the shore, followed by more terrestrial sediments and fossils. The ordering trend is not due to evolutionary development, but to global Flood inundation.

There are, of course, many fossils that could fit in any/all time periods. For instance, clams, in great variety, are found in virtually every layer containing multi-celled fossils, and they are alive today. Clams may vary according to their environment, but they are still clams. Remember—variety is not evolution. There are some fossils, however, that cannot be made to fit the evolutionary timeline at all. Such fossils, called anomalous fossils, are found in layers totally out of kilter with evolution.

The most startling such evidence is human artifacts, such as the bronze bell shown here. It was encased in a large piece of coal. Standard dating of the bituminous coal seam from which it was taken dates it from the Carboniferous Period, approximately 300 million years old. Certainly no human artifact could reside in such “ancient” strata. This “fossil” is anomalous indeed.

The boy who found it in the 1940s



Bell found in coal from West Virginia that was dated at around 300 million years.

discovered it while shoveling coal into his home's furnace. One chunk, about 15 inches by 20 inches in area and 6 inches thick, was too large, and when he broke it a metal object protruded. Diligence completely removed all coal from the bell, which had a two-inch stem between the bell and a “human-like” figure on top—a man in a kneeling position, with arms and wings. Records show the coal had been excavated from a shallow mine near his

home in Buckhannon, West Virginia.

The discoverer attended an ICR seminar in the mid 1970s with his amazing find. I asked if ICR could perform some tests on it. It migrated with me to Oklahoma University in 1975, where I remained on the faculty until 1984 and had access to numerous analytical devices and experts in several fields to help analyze the bell.

Nuclear Activation Analysis determined it to be primarily of bronze with a curious admixture of zinc. A micro probe showed no residual traces of coal. Historians compared the bell to artifacts from “all” cultures, and concluded the most similar artifact was from ancient Babel, with the figurine representing a pagan god. Both have a “horn” (broken on the bell) and wings. The face on both is eerily similar. A convention of bell experts did not know its place of origin, although some felt there was a similarity to semi-ancient bells made in India. Their suggestion was that some early American dropped a foreign bell down a well, to be incorporated into the coal.

But what about the Flood? While processes operating during the Flood would have destroyed most artifacts, there is a possibility metallic objects could have survived, and people before the Flood did work with metal. Coal comes from land plants, and it would be conceivable that a metallic, human artifact could survive. There have been several artifacts like this one found, but all are poorly documented and therefore unusable. I would never use questionable evidence for creation and the Flood without a disclaimer. I present this one here because the possibility is so intriguing. ●

Dr. Morris is President of the Institute for Creation Research.

A key element of the scientific method is the ability to test whether a hypothesis is true or false. A theory that can neither be confirmed nor falsified cannot be considered “scientific,” and there’s just no falsifying Darwin’s strange idea that all creatures originated through descent with modification (macroevolution). Like measurements taken with a rubber ruler, the theory is automatically stretched to fit any and all scientific evidence. As Darwinian critic Phil Johnson stated:

thrive.” The same article stated, “Researchers at the University of California, Berkeley, are challenging long-held beliefs that human beings are wired to be selfish.”⁴

Evolutionists have thus decided that—surprise—evolution makes “weaker” or more compassionate behavior part of its processes as well.

Doesn’t man’s supposed journey from a single-celled ancestor clearly imply an upward progression from one kind to another? Not

A 2007 *New Scientist* article suggested that, over evolutionary time, things have gotten simpler, not more complex.

Since they began delving into DNA, biologists have been finding that organisms with features that look alike are often not as closely related as they had thought. These are turbulent times in the world of phylogeny, yet there has been one rule that evolutionary biologists felt they could cling to: the amount of complexity in the living world has always been on the increase. Now even that is in doubt.⁶

DARWINISM’S RUBBER RULER



FRANK SHERWIN, M.A.

If new forms appear, the credit goes to creative natural selection; if old forms fail to change, the conservative force is called stabilizing selection; and if some species survived mass extinctions while others perished, it is because the survivors were more resistant to extinction.¹

Darwinism’s plasticity is also seen in Stephen Gould’s punctuated equilibrium, which was invented to “explain” the lack of credible transitional links in the fossil record. He proposed that species are stable for eons, then transmutate from one body plan to another so fast that the changes are not captured in the rock record.² In this case, no ruler is even needed, since there’s essentially nothing to measure.

Broad-scale evolution is commonly associated with natural selection, or survival of the fittest. But evolutionary theory has recently been expanded to accommodate “survival of the weakest.”³ An article last December pointed to “a growing body of evidence [showing] we are evolving to become more compassionate and collaborative in our quest to survive and

necessarily—now some scientists have surmised that evolution goes backward. Diapsids are considered “primitive reptiles,” from which crocodiles and dinosaurs supposedly evolved. They are also seen as the ancestors of synapsids, some of which are believed to have evolved backward to become birds and dinosaurs. But others are thought to have maintained their synapsid anatomical features and evolved into people. The ruler must look like a Mobius strip if it can accommodate these possibilities.

Indeed, it’s thought that even human evolution may have gone backward. Science writer J. N. Wilford reported, “*Australopithecus africanus*, which lived in southern Africa, had more archaic, apelike arms and legs than the earlier *A. afarensis*.” Wilford quoted evolutionists Drs. Henry McHenry and Lee Berger as saying, “For Lucy and her kind to evolve into descendants with more apelike limbs...evolution would have to go backward, which rarely happens.”⁵

Macroevolution is too malleable to be scientific. Conflicting data can always be made to fit by flexing its rubber ruler. As ICR founder Dr. Henry Morris concluded long ago:

Evolution is, therefore, neither fact, theory, nor hypothesis. It is a belief—and nothing more.⁷ ●

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Fresh Tissues *from* Solid Rock

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Fresh tissues continue to be found in supposedly millions-of-years-old fossils. These un-replaced, un-mineralized, still-soft tissues come from animals or plants that were preserved by some catastrophic event.¹ Each specimen looks young, and a direct inference is that its host rock must also be dated as thousands, not millions, of years old. And the fresher the meat, the more ridiculous are the evolution-inspired claims of great antiquity for the rock in which it was discovered.

These tissue finds are typically accompanied, in either the technical literature or science news, by the phrase “remarkable preservation.” If one is to believe in the great ages assigned to these artifacts, then the quality of preservation is beyond “remarkable”—it is not scientifically possible in such a context. This is, of course, why authorities increasingly offer assurances that soft tissues, despite what is known about their decay rates, can somehow be preserved for millions of years.

For example, Melanie Mormile of Missouri University recently told *Discovery News* that when other researchers recovered intact DNA from bacteria trapped in “419 million-year-old” salt deposits, this showed “that these organisms can somehow survive for these amazing amounts of time.”² A similar assertion came in a recent airing of CBS News’ *60 Minutes*. Reporter Leslie Stahl interviewed Dr. Mary Schweitzer, who proved beyond any reasonable doubt in early 2009 that soft tissues, including several different proteins like collagen, had been extracted from a hadrosaur.³ At one point, Schweitzer showed Stahl soft tissue from a *Tyrannosaurus*. Stahl then commented, “It looked like the soft tissue she would have expected to find if it had been modern bone. This was impossible. This bone was 68 million years old.”⁴ Stahl’s statement that it is “impossible” makes more sense than the implied assurance from Schweitzer that these dis-

coveries are somehow indeed possible in the context of “80 million years.”

A more recent finding was claimed to be the “highest quality soft tissue preservation ever documented in the fossil record.”⁵ Paleontologists found intact, mostly desiccated muscle—complete with blood-filled vessels—in a fossilized salamander that had been removed from the Ribesalbes Lagerstätte deposit near Castellon in northeast Spain. This geologic formation probably resulted from a local, explosive event.

Reporting in the journal *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*, the researchers made it quite clear that “the detail revealed by TEM [transmission electron microscopy] imaging unequivocally identifies the organic remains as fossilized musculature from the salamander itself.”⁶ They did not comment on the trouble these tissues bring to evolution’s assumption of deep time, but their silence regarding the “elephant in the room” question of how a “fresh” fossilized salamander could exist after millions of years does not diminish the question’s relevance.

When it comes to evidence that earth’s igneous rocks are young, ICR-sponsored research found it in spades in the form of an abundance of trapped helium in granites and still-ticking carbon-14 clocks in diamonds.⁷ Now, when it comes to scientific evidence that sedimentary rocks are much younger than evolutionary scientists claim, there is perhaps no clearer message than that provided by fresh tissues in fossils. ●

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THE INTELLIGENT DESIGNER MOVEMENT

JAMES J. S. JOHNSON, J.D.

At a conference last year, a Christian school-teacher asked an ICR speaker if he was part of the Intelligent Design Movement. “No,” he stated. “I belong to the Intelligent Designer Movement.”

The teacher asked, “What’s the difference?”

“Jesus!” the ICR speaker replied. “We know who the Intelligent Designer is, and we know about Him through His book.”

Of course, anyone with an open Bible knows who the Intelligent Designer is, because the Bible states clearly that it was God the Son who created everything: “He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not” (John 1:10).

Obviously the “He” whom John writes about is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ, God the Son incarnate, Jesus. He is rightly acknowledged by Christians as the Savior who resolved the sin crisis for all who rightly believe in Him. However, if He hadn’t created each of us in the first place, we would have no life at all, in time or in eternity. So Christ solved our initial greatest need: to be created in the first place!

The person of Jesus Christ is the pivotal difference between the Intelligent Design Movement (IDM) and biblical creationism. IDM analyzes and describes the natural creation in a way that implies credit to an anonymous “someone.” But a biblical creationist is quick to actually identify nature’s Designer as the God of the Bible. When He came to earth as a baby, His own creation, for the most part, refused to welcome Him—there was no room for Him in the inn.

Today, although some individual adherents acknowledge Him, there is little room for Jesus in the Intelligent Design Movement as a whole, and there is certainly no room for His absolutely true and inspired book, the Holy Bible. Yet that same Bible is mankind’s *only* absolutely authoritative source of information about God, about ourselves, about creation, Adam and Eve, the promise of redemption, the Flood, God’s

laws for living, heaven, and hell.

What difference does all this make to doing scientific research and providing scientific education? If our scientific study of creation (or our teaching about that creation) only focuses on creation’s “intelligent design,” without identifying who designed it, we are guilty of appreciating and glorifying the creation itself *more than* the Creator, which Paul rightly faults in Romans 1:25. Surely it is wrong to fail to give credit where credit is due.

Over the centuries, many have been quick to fault the Jews for failing to recognize and acclaim Christ as their Messiah, whom God promised repeatedly throughout the ages before Christ. But consider what the apostle John wrote about the welcome Jesus did *not* receive: “He came unto his own, and his own received him not” (John 1:11).

Obviously John’s indictment applies to the Jews of the first century AD, yet John’s indictment also generally applies to the theistic (and non-theistic) evolutionists of today, because an intellectual failure to own up to Christ the Lord *as our personal Creator* is also a moral failure to accept and endorse Him for who He really is. This is not just an “academic issue,” it is a truth issue that involves moral rightness (or moral failure).

If we truly believe that Christ is the Creator (the “Intelligent Designer”) that the Holy Bible says He is, what excuse is there for not proudly proclaiming His creatorship to others? Are we ashamed to profess Him before men? Are we less confident of Genesis’ accuracy than Jesus was?¹ Are we ingrates, unwilling to publicly own Him as our Maker? Or are we like the few who heartily received Him for who He really was and is—Christ the Intelligent Designer and Redeemer, who came to earth so that those who believe in Him can have life eternal.² ●

References

1. For example, see Matthew 19:4-6, where Jesus relies on Genesis 1:27 and 2:24.
2. John 1:12; John 3:16.

Dr. Johnson is Special Counsel at the Institute for Creation Research.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I just read the January issue. It was a tremendous blessing to me. I thank God for the life and legacy of Dr. Henry Morris. My prayer is that God will continue to use your efforts to strengthen the faith of God's people through the sound teaching of God's Word.

— T.S.

I was born in a Hindu upper "caste" family. I accepted Lord Jesus Christ...by the persuasion of a very gentle Brethren pastor. I am a science graduate and so had accepted evolution as the true proven science. But after reading *Acts & Facts* and *Days of Praise* for more than 10 years, all my misconceptions have vanished and I have also passed its messages to my family, neighbors, colleagues, and assembly members. I have a great regard for Bro. Henry Morris and his family and all of you at ICR. I pray for you on a daily basis.

— R.V.

It has been a joy to support ICR virtually since its inception. (I have all of the monthly mailings going back to the beginning, way before the lovely new glossy *Acts & Facts*.) You have been a great blessing to my husband and me and we look forward to every month's mailing.

— M.F.

I continue to enjoy and benefit from receiving the *Days of Praise* online.... Ordinarily, I prefer reading material in print rather than online. However, I've been surprised at how much more convenient and beneficial the online option for *Days of Praise* has been. It provides a welcome break during the day. Perhaps my experience is similar to others, and ICR could encourage more online subscribers.

— R.C.

Keep the good articles coming in *Acts & Facts*. Please redesign [the] form to fit in envelope.

— S.T.

Editor's Note: Thank you for your kind words about our articles. The size of the form is based on the paper used for it and the attached envelope. It would be cost-prohibitive to print the form with separate sizes for each section. I'm sorry for the inconvenience of having to fold the form, but I'm sure you understand our desire to be good stewards of the resources the Lord has provided.

Have a comment? Email us at editor@icr.org. Or write to Editor, P. O. Box 59029, Dallas, Texas 75229.

RADIO LOG

This month on "Science, Scripture, & Salvation"

WEEKEND OF FEBRUARY 6

Critters of the Underground

They're never told by their mothers to stop playing in the dirt. Dirty claws don't seem to bother them. As a matter of fact, living *in* the dirt is the way of life for fossorial animals! What are they? Dig in this week as we uncover fascinating facts about some popular fossorial animals.

WEEKEND OF FEBRUARY 13

Heart to Heart

Around Valentine's Day, hearts are abundant. From sweethearts to paper hearts, chocolate hearts, and even broken hearts, they're all around us! Of course, the most important heart beats within us and was marvelously designed by our Creator. President Ronald Reagan's surgeon Dr. Ben Aaron is our special guest on this broadcast.

WEEKEND OF FEBRUARY 20

Chemical Warfare

We may think that small animals which lack sharp teeth and claws are defenseless. However, some of God's little creatures use chemical warfare to quickly put their enemies to flight! What are some of these fascinating creatures and how do they use their chemical weapons? Be on guard this week as we talk about some unusual creatures that engage in "Chemical Warfare."

WEEKEND OF FEBRUARY 27

Oh, Deer!

There are many different types of deer. These beautiful and graceful creatures can quietly roam through the forest, or run like thunder across the tundra. Does this wide variety of deer give credence to evolutionary assumptions? Join us as we discuss the deer family and the variety that exists within their created kind.

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Matters of True Substance

HENRY M. MORRIS IV

During my college days, case studies of real-life events were often used to teach practical applications of specific business concepts. We studied stories of wild successes and tales of dramatic failures, all in the hope of achieving a measure of success and avoiding the pitfalls in business.

And as a student during the “go-go” ’80s, there was no lack of cases to examine. We studied such success stories as Chrysler’s turnaround during the ’80s under Lee Iacocca, and the meteoric rise of Microsoft after IBM accepted its fledgling DOS program in 1981. And we examined the spectacular collapse of the savings and loan industry, and the reasons that led to the “Black Monday” stock market crash of 1987.

But the one case study I particularly remember was the notable advertising campaign commissioned by Wendy’s hamburger chain in 1984. Those of my generation will recall the group of three elderly ladies who were served an enormous hamburger bun topped with a minuscule patty. While two of the women poked at it, exchanging bemused comments, they were interrupted by their nonsensical companion, who, after searching in vain for customer assistance, loudly demanded, “Where’s the beef?” The slogan caught on,

to say the least, and became an iconic cultural catchphrase to question the true substance of a matter.

Matters of true substance and value are covered extensively in Scripture. In particular, the word “substance,” as rendered by the King James translators, occurs 50 times throughout the Bible and, with few exceptions, specifically refers to one’s possessions, assets, and wealth. Interestingly, it is used most often by King Solomon—nine times, to be exact: eight times in the book of Proverbs and once in his “Song of Songs.” And as case studies go pertaining to godly business practices, serious Christians will certainly find no better model to study than the extraordinary success granted to Solomon by the Lord (2 Chronicles 1:11-12).

Remarkably, Solomon used the word most often in a negative sense, warning of the pending loss of assets for following ways of unrighteousness. In the few passages that refer to a person’s substance in a positive light, only one contains a promise from the Lord:

Honour the Lord with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine. (Proverbs 3:9-10)

The Lord expects and deserves the best and first of all that we have—not the leftovers. We honor God when we give the “firstfruits” (literally, the first, best, and choicest parts) from “all [our] increase.” And though we should never give for the purpose of gaining

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(Galatians 6:9-10)

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more, none who honor God with their substance will be impoverished by doing so. On the contrary, He will provide more than we need if we will just trust in Him.

ICR seeks to honor the Lord in all that we do, but we need your help to support our ministry. Please consider sharing a portion of your substance with ICR in this regard. Together, we will honor the Lord in mighty ways. ●

Mr. Morris is Director of Donor Relations.



THE BIBLE AND SCIENCE

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

Technological and scientific knowledge have exploded in the past decades. Many can remember the first handheld calculators and the clunky, slow desktop personal computers. My, how knowledge has increased! Chemistry, ecology, engineering, medicine, pharmacology, the Internet—all have produced enormous benefits (and revealed great problems) for the world.

But if the recent raging debates over economic and political issues, healthcare and social calamities give any insight, the “best and brightest” cannot agree on *how to use* the knowledge gained.

The disagreements center on apparently opposite sets of tensions:

- The poor want more without conditions, while the rich want more without convictions.
- The conservatives want to maintain the status quo, even as the progressives want to control the future.
- The weak want protection and provision without obligations, and the strong want dominance and self-serving freedom without responsibilities.
- The liberal left wants inclusive love without moral restrictions, while the moralistic right wants exclusive law without love’s patience and tolerance.

These opposing demands are inextricably

tied to the common themes of evolutionary humanism and scientific naturalism. Following are the main presumptive beliefs and the obvious applications of those assumptions:

- God does not exist or is detached and disinterested in the affairs of men. (I and my associates are, therefore, the best qualified to lead.)
- The “fittest” must and will survive. (I and my associates are, obviously, the “fittest.”)
- Change is inevitable and can now be directed through better knowledge. (I and my associates are, clearly, the best educated and most experienced.)
- The ability to direct evolutionary change requires “lifting” the downtrodden. (I and my associates are the most “needy” and, therefore, must be “lifted.”)

These debates illustrate the classic war of worldviews that has raged since the rebellion in the Garden of Eden. Although each evolutionary-driven assumption has been debated and defused, it may be helpful in this short article to review some of the foundational principles of Scripture that underlie the biblical worldview.

The Creator’s Mandate for Human Stewardship of Earth

Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl

of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth. (Genesis 1:28)

The Creator’s Promise to Preserve Earth

The LORD said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man’s sake; . . . neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done. While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease. (Genesis 8:21-22)

The Creator’s Promise That His Word Is Sufficient for Life and Godliness

According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. (2 Peter 1:3-4)

God has delegated tasks and set boundaries for mankind, as well as provided His promise of preservation and instructions for life. Obviously, the whole of Scripture is “profitable” (2 Timothy 3:16), yet even these three fundamental passages, if truly believed and acted upon, will make a “worldview” of difference—whether in the search for scientific knowledge or in the basic pursuits of life. ●

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

Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. (2 Timothy 3:7)

O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased. (Daniel 12:4)

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in matters of science and
history, or is it just a source
of “spiritual” truth?*

EARTH'S CATASTROPHIC PAST

GEOLOGY, CREATION & THE FLOOD

DR. ANDREW A. SNELLING

The Institute for Creation Research presents the long-awaited update to *The Genesis Flood*. Written by researcher Andrew Snelling—one of the world's leading geologists in the creation science movement—*Earth's Catastrophic Past* provides up-to-date geological evidence that demonstrates the authority and accuracy of the biblical account of creation and the Flood.

An alarming number of Christian leaders and teachers believe that God “created” through evolutionary processes over millions of years, that Adam and Eve descended from a hominid population, and that there has never been a global flood.

Step by step, Dr. Snelling examines evolutionary interpretations of the geologic record and deconstructs the misplaced assumptions and conclusions on which those interpretations are based. With in-depth scholarly research and insight, he constructs a biblical geologic model for earth history and concludes that the central claims of Genesis 1–11 are true:

- God created everything in six 24-hour days.
- Adam and Eve were real people.
- God cursed a perfect world as a judgment for sin.
- Noah constructed an Ark by which two of every kind of air-breathing, land-dwelling animal were saved along with Noah's family from a global flood.
- The confusion of languages at the Tower of Babel produced the language groups that are found around the world today.

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