

ACTS & FACTS

INSTITUTE FOR
CREATION RESEARCH

www.icr.org

OCTOBER 2014

VOL. 43 NO. 10

DOING THE LORD'S BUSINESS

page 5



Clocks in Rocks?
page 8

ICR: "R" Is for Research
page 14

How Consistent Are Old-Earth "Clocks"?
page 17

What's It Like to Dig for Dinosaur Bones?
page 18

UNLOCKING THE MYSTERIES OF GENESIS

Groundbreaking DVD series now at this special price!

\$99.00

Plus shipping and handling. For a limited time only. Includes one viewer guide—additional viewer guides sold separately.



NEW! STUDENT GUIDE!



Get a companion Student Guide for only **\$12.99!** (regular price \$14.99)

Plus shipping and handling. BUTMGSG

or buy two for **\$22.00!**
SBUTMGSG

Filled with dozens of educational activities and cool facts about creation, our new Student Guide equips viewers with even more knowledge about every episode of *Unlocking the Mysteries of Genesis*. Designed to provide exactly what you need to make creation science a part of your child's curriculum!

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

Introductory price for a limited time only.

Episode 1 Uniqueness of Earth

The universe holds many galaxies with countless stars, planets, and probably planets as well, but evidence shows that Earth is unique among them all.

"And God called the dry land Earth, and the gathering together of the waters He called Seas, And God saw that it was good."
— GENESIS 1:10

The Big Bang theory assumes there are no special places in the universe and that everything occurred as a result of a massive, random event on a planet in progress. As if life evolutionists and scientists have not "learned" that nearly all life would also have resulted elsewhere...right from the start. The Bible and science present a different picture that is supported by the scientific community.

Published by
INSTITUTE FOR CREATION RESEARCH
P. O. Box 59029
Dallas, TX 75229
214.615.8300
www.icr.org

EXECUTIVE EDITOR
Jayme Durant

SENIOR EDITOR
Beth Mull

EDITORS
Michael Stamp
Truett Billups

DESIGNER
Dennis Davidson

No articles may be reprinted in whole or in part without obtaining permission from ICR.

Copyright © 2014
Institute for Creation Research



5

FEATURE

5 **Doing the Lord's Business**

HENRY M. MORRIS III, D.MIN.

IMPACT

8 **Clocks in Rocks?**

VERNON R. CUPPS, PH.D.

BioORIGINS PROJECT UPDATE

13 **Purpose, Progress, and Promise**

NATHANIEL T. JEANSON, PH.D.

14 **ICR: "R" Is for Research**

JASON LISLE, PH.D.

BACK TO GENESIS

16 **From Shinto to Christian Pastor**

JOHN D. MORRIS, PH.D.

17 **How Consistent Are Old-Earth "Clocks"?**

JAKE HEBERT, PH.D.

CREATION Q & A

18 **What's It Like to Dig for Dinosaur Bones?**

BRIAN THOMAS, M.S.

APOLOGETICS

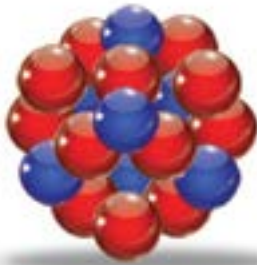
20 **How Do We Answer Fools?**

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

STEWARDSHIP

22 **The Proof of Your Love**

HENRY M. MORRIS IV



8



17



18



20



Make the Most of Every Opportunity

How many times have we heard someone say, “I wish I had taken more time to...”? You can fill in the blank. *Go to the park with my kids. Really listen. Save more money. Pray. Learn more about what I believe. Get to know my neighbor. Say something nice to the clerk at the store. Share my faith with a hurting friend.* The older we get, the more astute we become at recognizing lost opportunities.

You’ll find several references to clocks, time, and opportunities throughout this issue. Dr. Henry Morris III reminds us, “Our only opportunity to earn rewards during eternity is while we are alive” (“Doing the Lord’s Business,” page 7). We only have a few short years on Earth to make the most of every opportunity—to impact lives for generations to come!



In our Creation Q&A, ICR Science Writer Brian Thomas shares his experiences at a recent dinosaur dig in Montana (“What’s It Like to Dig for Dinosaur Bones?” on pages 18–19). Exciting, yes, but the dig was so much more than a fun way to spend a few summer days. Thomas sees an opportunity now to discover protein in the dinosaur bone fragment he uncovered. His research on the fossil has the potential to impact current beliefs about the age of dinosaurs.

Pastor Nobuji Horikoshi recently visited the ICR campus, crediting creation teaching as “being key to his ministry” at one of the largest churches in Japan. The eldest son of a former Shinto priest, Pastor Horikoshi has dedicated his life to sharing about our Creator in a land that worships many gods. He says that ICR founder Dr. Henry Morris was instrumental in his conversion. (See “From Shinto to Christian Pastor” by Dr. John Morris, page 16.)

While Henry Morris IV reminds us of our current opportunities to give to the cause of Christ with the gifts He has given us (page 22), some articles specifically focus on clocks in a scientific sense, underscoring the importance of time and how we view it. In “Clocks in Rocks?” nuclear physicist Dr. Vernon Cupps raises the question of how scientists determine the age of the earth through radioactive dating (pages 8-11). Dr. Jake Hebert discusses the circular reasoning often used in radioisotope dating methods in “How Consistent Are Old-Earth Clocks?” (page 17).

Dr. Henry Morris III, CEO of ICR, recently went on a family trip to the Northeast. While there, he spoke at a church in Wilmington, Delaware, about biblical creation. One conference-goer said, “We thought it was splendid; we enjoyed the Q&A as much as the presentations!” Dr. Morris recognized the needs in that location and made the most of his time during his family visit.

Do we always have the eyes to recognize opportunities to share our faith and to see how quickly the open door closes? As Dr. Morris says, “Sometimes the investment is little more than a cup of cold water given in His name” (page 7). The “great Creator-Owner of the universe” has entrusted us with His treasures, and each of us has something to offer to the world around us. Make the most of every opportunity.

Jayme Durant
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

DOING THE LORD'S BUSINESS

Do business till I come.

(LUKE 19:13)



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

The first command given to humanity was the broad responsibility to “subdue” and “have dominion” over Earth (Genesis 1:28; Psalm 8:4-8). Most of us understand that the core of that responsibility was, and is, to manage the resources of Earth as stewards on behalf of the Owner. Humanity has distorted and disobeyed that command from the very beginning.

The First Age after Creation

The great worldwide Flood of Noah’s day was a judg-

ment against the first age of humanity, which had slowly corrupted until God saw that “the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually” (Genesis 6:5). There were some people, however, who even during that awful time “did business” in the Lord’s name.

- By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain (Hebrews 11:4).
- By faith Enoch...had this testimony, that he pleased God (Hebrews 11:5).
- By faith Noah...prepared an ark for the saving of his household (Hebrews 11:7).

The Old Covenant and Israel

A few centuries after that horrible catastrophe, and with the Flood still fresh in their minds, the whole of humanity rebelled again at the Tower of Babel. God then “confused the language of all the earth; and from there the LORD scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth” (Genesis 11:9). It is likely that the dispersed family of Noah’s son Shem were the only people still attempting to maintain the message of God after that point.

Even Abraham required a personal visit from God to get him going in the right direction (Genesis 12:1-3). Several times during his life, Abraham had to be corrected, redirected, encouraged, and reaffirmed. Doing business for the Lord is not easy, popular, or necessarily completely understood during the process of getting it right!

Mankind does not have a good obedience record. Over the next 2,000 years, God initiated, developed, and preserved the nation of Israel. Out of love, He protected and rescued them time and again from a pattern of rebellion and revival, all the while promising the coming of the Messiah and the ultimate fulfillment of His plan and purpose for Earth and humanity. Many times over those centuries, God sent prophets to remind and remonstrate. It almost seems like God left the rest of the world to fend for itself, concentrating His thoughts and messages almost exclusively on Israel.

His chosen nation didn’t listen. But there were a few in every generation who tried to obey and serve—a “remnant,” they were called. Some of them were kings or priests or prophets. Some were ordinary folks with nothing more than a heart of love for their Creator and a desire to be a part, however small, of God’s great eternal plan. Scripture provides a detailed narrative of these key players, but the summary of the faithful in the book of Hebrews succinctly tells of those...

who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.

They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented—of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth.

And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us. (Hebrews 11:33-34, 37-40)

God has provided something better for us! We, the ultimate joint heirs of His kingdom, the twice-born, are enabled to see that command in the light of the New Testament last days.¹ Much had changed over the millennia since Israel was founded. Not only had Israel failed to capitalize on the role that God had—and still has—in

store for them, but when the Lord Jesus entered the world as the incarnate Messiah, He “came to His own, and His own did not receive Him” (John 1:11).

The New Covenant and the Last Days

Knowing He must sacrifice Himself for the sins of the whole world, take His life back from the grave, and return to His Father for a season, the Lord Jesus gave two parables during His earthly ministry that address the concept of “doing business” during the New Testament era and the last days before His return. Both of them stress the responsibility for the Lord’s servants to take care of His estate (the Kingdom) and His business while He is away on a long journey.

Each of us are to “seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness” (Matthew 6:33), with the promise that God will “supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:19). The promises of care and supply are part of the necessary resources that enable us to subdue and have dominion over the planet while we who are the Lord’s servants occupy until He returns to finalize and implement all that has been planned “before the foundation of the world” (Ephesians 1:4).

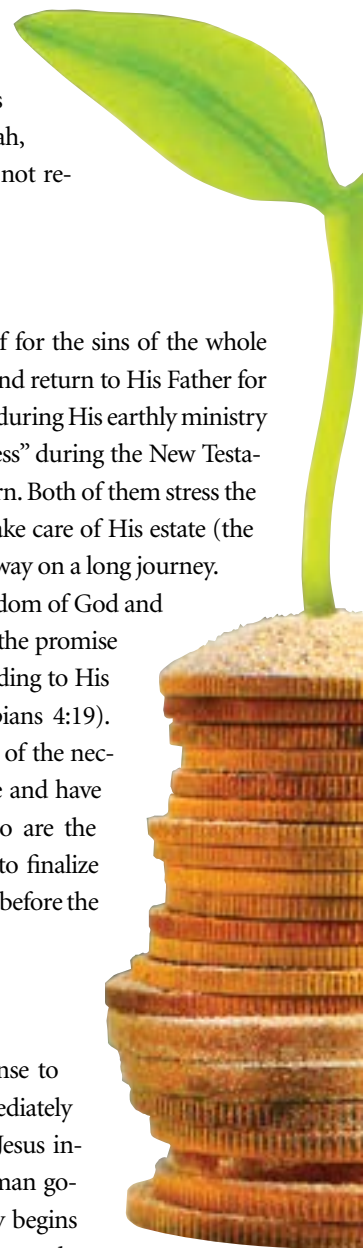
Business Effectiveness

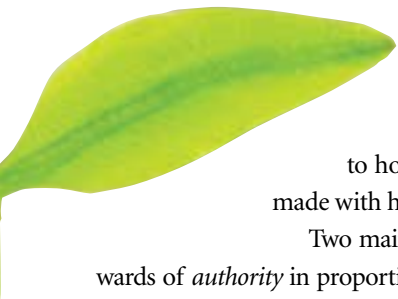
Luke 19:11-27 records Jesus’ response to those who were expecting Him to immediately establish God’s Kingdom on Earth. No, Jesus insisted, the process would be like a nobleman going away to receive a kingdom. The story begins with the nobleman instructing his servants to do business in his place until he returns. Before he left, he gave each servant a mina. (A Greek *mina* was equal to 100 Roman denarii. One denarius was given to each laborer for a day’s work. In another well-known story, two denarii were given to the innkeeper by the Good Samaritan.) Essentially, each of the nobleman’s servants was given an *equal opportunity* to accomplish business on behalf of the owner until he returned to resume his authority.

However, the citizens of the country hated the nobleman, no doubt making it quite difficult for the servants to conduct business on his behalf. Nonetheless, each servant was given the clear responsibility to do his best during the nobleman’s absence. The prominent focus is on individual initiative—the servant’s obedience.



Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord. (Matthew 25:21)





When the nobleman did return, he rewarded the servants according to how much investment return each had made with his money.

Two main points are made: The Lord gave rewards of *authority* in proportion to each servant's investment *effectiveness*, and the Lord essentially impoverished the fearful ineffective servant and gave his mina to the most effective servant. One clear principle in this world is that the return on investment is directly proportional to the degree of risk. If we are too fearful to risk our "mina," we may very well be impoverished in eternity. If we risk for the sake of the Lord's Kingdom, though, we will be well rewarded.

Business Opportunity

Matthew 25:14-30 provides a similar illustration with a markedly different emphasis. In this story, the servants are given different amounts of money, "talents," in recognition of their differing abilities. (One Greek talent was equal to 6,000 Roman denarii—nearly 20 years' wages!) In contrast to the story of the single mina left to each of the ten servants, the man in Matthew who leaves on a journey to a far country seems to divide all of his great wealth among the key servants "to each according to his own ability" (Matthew 25:15).

Two of the three servants "went and traded" with the funds provided, but the third "went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord's money." However one evaluates this story, the emphasis is on individual *opportunity* and the expectation that "to whom much is given, from him much will be required" (Luke 12:48).

At the heart of the story is the statement that the owner was gone a long time. There is no indication that the servants were to use this money for their personal needs, but instead it was evident that they were to invest it for the benefit of the owner. When the owner finally did return, the reward he issued was based on the use of the money, not the return. Since the initial amounts were granted on the basis of each servant's known ability, the reckoning was made based on how well the servant used the opportunity available to him. The one unprofitable servant who knew better, but still did not use the Lord's talent, was called wicked and lazy and was thrown into "outer darkness." Could a worse judgment befall any person?

The Judgment of the Saints

It is very clear in the Scriptures that earthly wealth is not the criterion for the saints when they are called to account (1 Corinthians 3:11-15). The "gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, [and] straw"

Those business opportunities are as wide and varied as the personalities and life positions of the millions of His chosen ones throughout all of Earth history.



mentioned in this passage are merely representative of the *quality* of deeds done—how they measure up to the eternal values of the Kingdom. The Creator already owns the "cattle on a thousand hills" (Psalm 50:10) and will make a "new heaven and a new earth" from the fiery destruction of the old (Revelation 21:1; 2 Peter 3:13). God certainly does not need our wealth.

But He has made it possible for us to invest with His resources and earn a return on His wealth, with a reward distributed to us based on how well we use the resources He gives us. Those business opportunities are as wide and varied as the personalities and life positions of the millions of His chosen ones throughout all of Earth history.

Sometimes the investment is little more than a cup of cold water given in His name (Matthew 10:42). But more often than not, the "things done in the body" (2 Corinthians 5:10) involve our human talent, time, and treasure. Most of us do not have the privilege of being employed in an organized ministry like a church or other Kingdom mission like ICR, but each of us have a mina and talents that have been provided by the great Creator-Owner of this universe.

We *must* use them. In obedience we *must* attempt to invest our God-given treasures for the honor and benefit of the Creator, or we will be judged an "unprofitable" and "lazy" servant only fit for "outer darkness." This command may have the feel of law to it, but it is surely grace; we have the privilege of freely serving our God as His redeemed remnant, preaching His gospel with all that we have to all who will hear. When we do use God's gifts for the Kingdom's benefit—both the spiritual gifts distributed among our churches and the earthly resources and opportunities made available in the Kingdom—then we will be granted eternal responsibilities and authorities in the "new heaven and the new earth."

Our only opportunity to earn rewards during eternity is while we are alive "down here." Perhaps it is time for us to consider how well our eternal "business" is doing. ●

References

1. It is a common misconception that the "last days" only apply to the Tribulation period. The last days began with the coming of the Messiah; Christ ushered these days in with the New Covenant.
 - Incarnation of Christ: "He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these *last times* for you" (1 Peter 1:20).
 - Day of Pentecost: "And it shall come to pass in the *last days*, says God, that I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams" (Acts 2:17).
 - Contempt for God in the last days: "Knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the *last days*, walking according to their own lusts" (2 Peter 3:3).
 - Opposition to the gospel in the last days: "Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the *last hour*" (1 John 2:18).

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

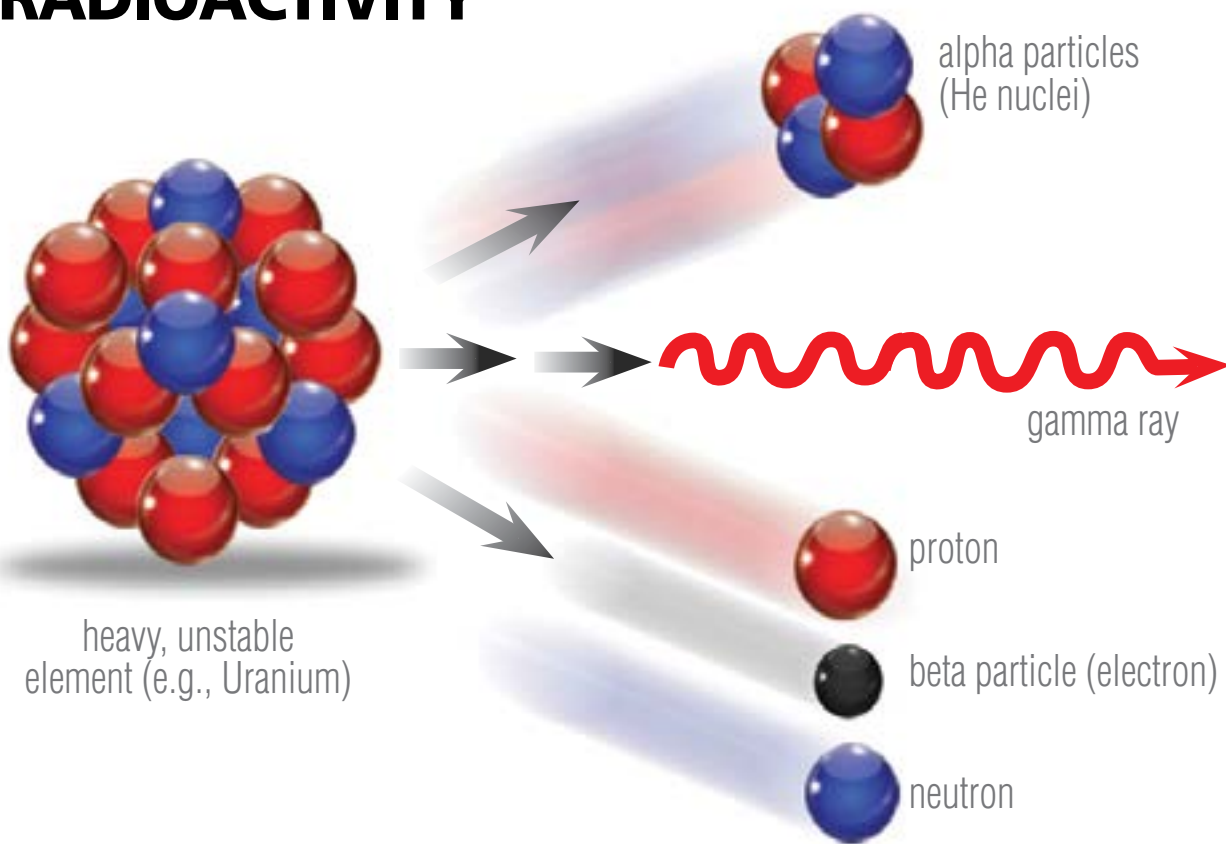


CLOCKS **IN** ROCKS?

RADIOACTIVE DATING PART 1

V E R N O N R . C U P P S , P H . D .

RADIOACTIVITY



We don't know what we are talking about. Many of us believed that string theory was a very dramatic break with our previous notions of quantum theory. But now we learn that string theory, well, is not that much of a break. The state of physics today is like it was when we were mystified by radioactivity. They were missing something absolutely fundamental. We are missing perhaps something as profound as they were back then.

— David Gross at 23rd Solvay Conference in Dec. 2005

Radioactive dating is a key concept in determining the age of the earth. Many secular scientists use it to dismantle the faith of Christians and cause them to accept uniformitarian assumptions that, in addition to being scientifically erroneous, demand a figurative and distorted interpretation of Genesis. Being knowledgeable about such a widespread dating method is essential for Christians to address opposing arguments and critics. Is radioactive dating valid?

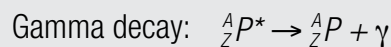
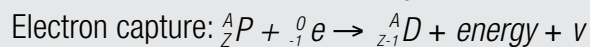
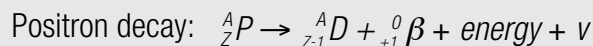
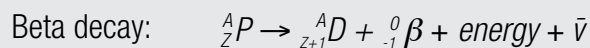
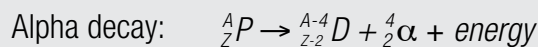
Natural radioactivity was discovered in 1896 by the French physicist Henri Becquerel. A decade later, American chemist Bertram Boltwood suggested that lead was a disintegration product of uranium and could be used as an internal clock for dating rocks. By the mid-1940s, Willard Libby realized that the decay of ^{14}C might provide a method of dating organic matter. He proposed that the carbon in living matter might include ^{14}C as well as non-radioactive carbon. For ^{14}C research—his life’s work—Libby was awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1960, and the age of radioactive dating was born.

Before we delve into radioactive decay and its use in dating rocks, let’s review some essential nuclear physics concepts.

Each atom is made up of protons and neutrons concentrated in the atom’s center—its nucleus—around which electrons orbit. The protons and neutrons form the nucleus of an atom with approximate diameters ranging from 1.75 fm for the hydrogen atom to 15 fm for the uranium atom.¹ This nucleus contains approximately 99.94 % of the atom’s total mass. The smallest electron orbitals range from approximately 1.06 Å for the hydrogen atom to 3.5 Å for the uranium atom.² Thus, the closest electrons orbit approximately 100,000 times farther from the center of the nucleus than the outermost nucleons.³ This means that the atom is mostly *empty space* as Ernest Rutherford aptly demonstrated with his alpha particle-gold foil scattering experiment in 1911.⁴

The chemical properties of each element are defined by the number of protons it contains in its nucleus and, consequently, the number of corresponding electrons that orbit it. However, elements beyond hydrogen’s single proton have varying numbers of neutrons that do not necessarily equal the amount of protons in the nucleus. This feature of nuclear construction produces *elemental families*, groups of elements with the same number of protons but differing numbers of neutrons. Because these families have the same number of protons in the nucleus, they also have the same number of electrons orbiting the nucleus and thus exhibit the same chemical behavior. It is the differing number of neutrons that give rise to stable and unstable isotopes (radioisotopes) within a given elemental family. As it turns out, nearly every element from Hydrogen ($Z=1$) to Bismuth ($Z=83$) has at least one stable isotope, with Technetium ($Z=43$) and Promethium ($Z=61$) as the exceptions. All elements above Bismuth in the Periodic Table are unstable, i.e., they are in a constant state of releasing energy, or *decaying*.

Standard nomenclature for common forms of radioactive decay is:



where: P ^{def} the parent nucleus of the elemental family P, e.g., H, C, K, Rb, Sm, Re, or U.

D ^{def} the daughter nucleus of the elemental family D, e.g., N, Ar, Sr, Nd, Os, or Pb.

A ^{def} the total number of nucleons.³

Z ^{def} the number of protons which defines the elemental family.

β ^{def} an electron or positron originating from a neutron or proton respectively in the parent nucleus.

P* ^{def} An excited or energetic state of the parent nucleus.

Note that all the decays are exothermic, i.e., they release energy. In fact, only the decay modes for which energy is released are possible in nature.

Alpha decay generally occurs only in the heavier radioactive nuclides, i.e., radionuclides, ($A \geq 146$) and can be thought of as an attempt to stabilize the nuclear charge to mass ratio.^{5,6} For alpha emission, the decay energy is manifest as the kinetic energy of the ejected alpha particle (α). It is this type of radioactive decay which produces radiohalos in rock-contained minerals.⁷ Each nucleus that alpha decays produces a unique set of alpha-particle energies. As these alpha particles travel through a mineral matrix, they deposit their energy in the mineral itself. This energy damages the crystalline structure of the mineral and leaves in its wake a signature in the form of a series of discolored concentric rings—radiohalos—characteristic of the radionuclide that produced the alpha particles. Interestingly, it is in these radiohalos we find the best indirect observational evidence, measured at today’s rates of decay, supporting millions of years of radioisotope decay. These radiohalos originate from tiny point-like inclusions of ^{238}U or some other naturally occurring radioisotope within the crystal.

Unfortunately for the secularist, there are radiohalos formed from what appears to be primordial Po (polonium), rather than Po in the form of daughter isotopes from U decay. Due to the extremely short half-lives of the Po isotopes, this would present a serious problem for those wanting to date the rocks at millions or billions of years old. Diffusion rates of the ^4He (helium)—produced by the associated decay chains out of the crystals and the buildup of ^4He in the atmosphere—suggest that only thousands of years of decay have occurred.⁸ Thus, the observed evidence in rocks extracted from the

earth's crust present several conundrums—problems that center on assumptions made in using radioisotope decay within a rock sample as a clock to date the origins of that sample. These issues will be detailed in subsequent articles.

In the processes of beta and positron decay, the energy is shared between the emitted beta or positron particles and an antineutrino or neutrino respectively. This makes energy spectroscopy for these decays more challenging than for alpha or gamma decays. If the parent nucleus decays to an excited state of the daughter nucleus for any of the above decays, then gamma rays can also accompany the emitted particles.

Less common modes of decay are direct emission of a neutron or proton, double-beta decay, and spontaneous fission. As with alpha decay, these modes are generally observed in the heavier radionuclides with a few exceptions such as ⁵³Co (proton emission), ¹³Be, and ⁵He (neutron emission).

The process of radioactive decay can be envisioned as an hourglass implanted in a rock suite. The parent radioisotope would be approximately represented by the sand in the upper chamber and the daughter radioisotope (what an element slowly turns into through decaying) by the sand that accumulates in the lower chamber. The throughput rate, the rate at which the sand accumulates in the bottom chamber, is characteristic of a specific decay sequence and can

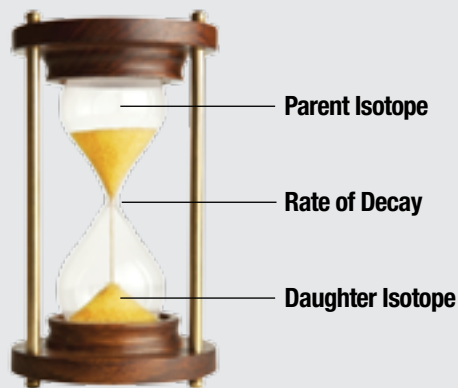
be viewed as roughly analogous to the neck of the hour-glass, which controls the rate at which the sand falls. (See Figure 1 below.)

Secularists believe that nuclear decay has been a part of the natural world since its formation some 13.8 billion years ago, and the nuclear decay rates for the various radioisotopes have been constant throughout that time. This perspective, generally termed the uniformitarian view of nature, constitutes a pillar of the secularist's worldview and is fundamental in generating the concept of deep time in the origins discussion. The Bible defines this view well in 2 Peter 3:3-4:

...knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation."

Unfortunately for the secularist, there are serious problems with the uniformitarian view as it is applied to radioactive dating. Recent experimental evidences verify that the decay rates of radioisotopes can vary significantly from the currently accepted values—by as much as 10⁹ times faster (that's 1 billion times faster) when exposed to certain environmental factors.^{9,10,11} It is particularly interesting that the alpha-decay rates of ²²⁸Th are increased by as much as 10⁴ (10,000 times) under conditions which give rise to high pressure

FIGURE 1



For this simple hourglass illustration, the rate at which the sand accumulates in the bottom chamber is generally linear and can be expressed mathematically as:

$$-\frac{dN}{dt} = \alpha_0$$

where: N ^{def} number of sand grains in the top chamber at a time t .
 α_0 ^{def} the rate at which the sand grains accumulate in the bottom chamber.
 N_0 ^{def} the initial number of sand grains in the top chamber at the start time t_0 .

A simple integration yields the linear equation for N at time t as:

$$N = N_0 - \alpha_0 t$$

If one knows N_0 and α_0 and measures N , then the hour-glass time (t) can be determined.

In a very analogous way, an equation describing the radioactive decay of one isotope into another can be developed. Experimentation has established that the rate of decay of a given parent isotope is proportional to the number of atoms of that isotope present in a given material, i.e.:

$$-\frac{dN}{dt} = \lambda N$$

Note that this functional dependence of the rate at which the parent isotope decays into the daughter isotope is different than that which described the movement of sand grains through the hour-glass, i.e., it depends on the number of parent atoms present. Simple integration yields an equation describing the time progression of the parent isotope:

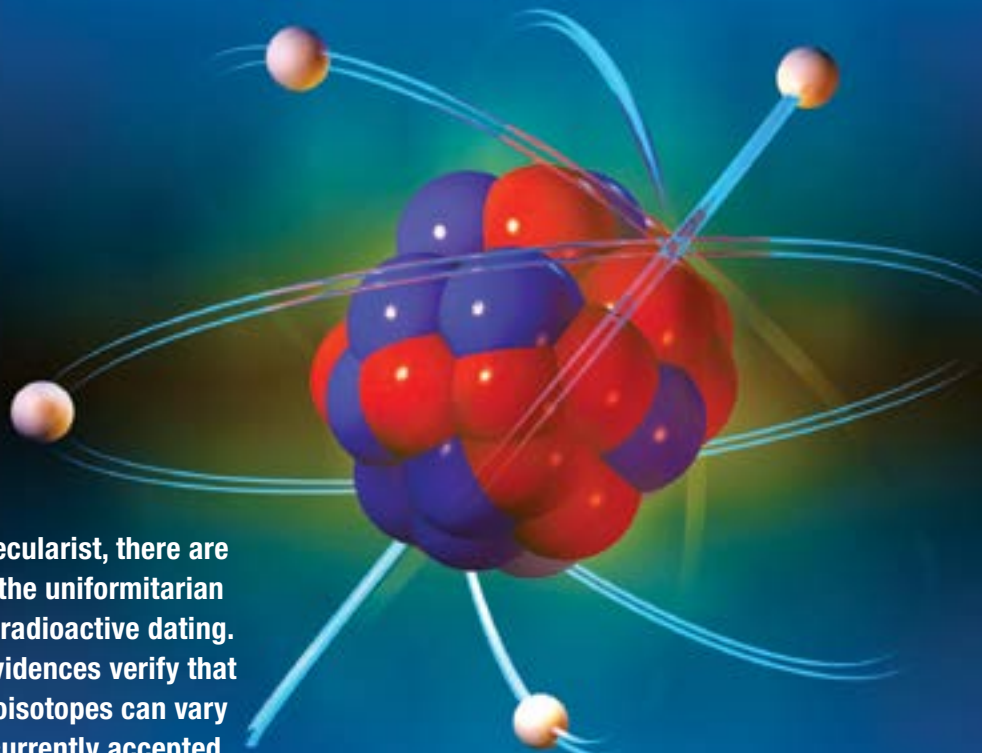
$$N(t_p) = N_0 e^{-\lambda(t_p-t_0)}$$

where: N_0 ^{def} initial number of parent nuclei at time of formation.
 $N(t_p)$ ^{def} number of parent nuclei at present time.
 λ ^{def} rate at which the parent nucleus decays into the daughter nucleus.
 t_p ^{def} present time.
 t_0 ^{def} time at which material containing the parent isotope formed. By convention this time is usually set equal to 0.

If N_0 and λ are known and $N(t_p)$ can be accurately measured, then the age ($t_a = t_p - t_0$) of a material containing the parent nucleus can be determined from the equation:

$$\frac{1}{\lambda} \ln \frac{N_0}{N_p} = t_a$$

This is the basic equation for determining the age of a material matrix, using radioisotope decay as the "clock." All other methods are variants of this fundamental equation (relationship).



Unfortunately for the secularist, there are serious problems with the uniformitarian view as it is applied to radioactive dating. Recent experimental evidences verify that the decay rates of radioisotopes can vary significantly from the currently accepted values—by as much as 10^9 times faster (that's 1 billion times faster) when exposed to certain environmental factors.

waves.¹⁰ These conditions could have easily existed during the Flood. One cannot help but wonder what this might say about nuclear decay processes inside stars or large exoplanets.

There are significant problems with the radioactive dating methodology currently employed by secularists. The closed-system assumption—so critical to all radioactive dating methods—strains credibility when applied over millions of years. Can any system remain unaffected by its environment over millions of years?

The Bible is clear that the earth is relatively young, little more than 6,000 years old. An excellent literary argument supporting that position is presented by Steven Boyd,¹² and indeed there have been many others throughout the centuries. When properly applied, science does not contradict this position. Passages such as Psalm 18:7-8, 11-16, Habakkuk 3:8-10, 15, and Deuteronomy 32:22 all seem to suggest that radioactive decay may not have been a part of God's original creation. Perhaps radioactivity first appeared as a response to the curse of man's sin, originally residing deep in the earth's interior during the antediluvian period and being moved up into the earth's crust through tectonic activity during the Flood.

In the refreshingly honest words of Dr. David Gross, perhaps we still don't know nearly as much about radioactivity as we think we do. ●

References

1. A Fermi (fm) is a unit of measure equal to 10^{-15} meters. It is usually used to express inter-nuclear distances.
2. An Angstrom (\AA) is a unit of measure equal to 10^{-10} meters. It is usually used to express inter-atomic distances.
3. Nucleon is a term used to collectively identify the two major constituents of the nucleus, i.e., the protons (Z) and neutrons (N). The number of nucleons in a given nucleus is designated by the letter A ($= Z + N$).
4. In 1911, Ernest Rutherford performed an experiment to test the Plum Pudding Model of the atom. He fired energetic α [He^{2+}] particles at a sheet of gold foil and measured the deflection of the particles as they came out the other side. From this, he deduced that the atom was mostly empty space because very few α particles experienced any measurable deflection from their initial path.
5. A radionuclide is any nucleus of a given elemental family which is radioactively unstable.
6. The charge to mass ratio ($\frac{q}{m}$) for any nucleus is the ratio of the number of protons (Z), which define the elemental family of that nucleus, to the number of protons plus the number of neutrons resident in that nucleus (A). Mathematically: $\frac{q}{m} = \frac{Z}{A}$.
7. Snelling, A. 2000. Radiohalos. In *Radioisotopes and the Age of the Earth, Volume I*, edited by L. Vardiman, A. Snelling, and E. Chaffin, Dallas, TX: Institute for Creation Research.
8. Humphreys, R. 2005. Young Helium Diffusion Age of Zircons Supports Accelerated Nuclear Decay. In *Radioisotopes and the Age of the Earth, Volume II*, edited by L. Vardiman, A. Snelling, and E. Chaffin. Dallas, TX: Institute for Creation Research.
9. Bosch, F. et al. 1996. Observation of Bound-State $\beta -$ Decay of Fully Ionized ^{187}Re : $^{187}\text{Re} - ^{187}\text{Os}$ Cosmochronometry. *Physical Review Letters*. 77 (26): 5190-5193.
10. Cardone, F. et al. 2009. Piezonuclear decay of thorium. *Physics Letters A*. 373 (3795): 1956-1958.
11. Jenkins, J. H., D. W. Mundy, and E. Fischbach. 2010. Analysis of environmental influences in nuclear half-life measurements exhibiting time-dependent decay rates. *Nuclear Instruments and Methods in Physics Research Section A: Accelerators, Spectrometers, Detectors and Associated Equipment*. 620 (2-3): 332-342.
12. Boyd, S. 2005. Statistical Determination of Genre in Biblical Hebrew: Evidence for an Historical Reading of Genesis 1:1-2:3. In *Radioisotopes and the Age of the Earth, Volume II*, edited by L. Vardiman, A. Snelling, and E. Chaffin. Dallas, TX: Institute for Creation Research.

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



- ▶ **OCTOBER 3-5**
Washington, MO
Immanuel Lutheran Church and School
(R. Guliuzza) 636.239.4705
- ▶ **OCTOBER 5**
Dallas, TX
New Life Bible Fellowship
(F. Sherwin) 214.331.5459
- ▶ **OCTOBER 9-11**
Indianapolis, IN
True Woman 2014 National Women's Conference
877.966.2608
- ▶ **OCTOBER 10-11**
Charlotte, NC
21st Annual National Conference on Christian Apologetics

(N. Jeanson, J. Tomkins)
800.778.7884

- ▶ **OCTOBER 10-11**
Dallas, TX
Language and Biological Information (LABI): Origins and Development Conference
(J. Tomkins) 972.708.7400
- ▶ **OCTOBER 10-12**
Sun Valley, CA
Unlocking the Mysteries of Genesis Conference
(H. Morris III, J. Lisle, R. Guliuzza, J. Hebert, B. Thomas) 800.337.0375
- ▶ **OCTOBER 12-19**
Matthews, NC
Southern Evangelical Seminary
(N. Jeanson) 800.778.7884

- ▶ **OCTOBER 19**
Dallas, TX
New Life Bible Fellowship
(B. Thomas) 214.331.5459
- ▶ **OCTOBER 23-24**
Orlando, FL
2014 FACCS Christian Educators' Convention
(R. Guliuzza) 954.517.9500
- ▶ **OCTOBER 26**
Dallas, TX
New Life Bible Fellowship
(J. Hebert) 214.331.5459

For more information on these events or to schedule an event, please contact the ICR Events Department at **800.337.0375**, visit www.icr.org/events, or email us at events@icr.org

UNLOCKING THE MYSTERIES OF GENESIS

Creation Apologetics Conference OCTOBER 10, 11 & 12



Dr. John MacArthur
Pastor-Teacher
Grace Community Church



Kirk Cameron
Special Guest
Actor and Producer



Dr. Henry Morris III
CEO, Institute for Creation Research



Dr. Voddie Baucham
Pastor of Preaching
Grace Family Baptist Church



Col. Jeffrey Williams
NASA Astronaut



Todd Starnes
Author and FOX News Host

Grace Community Church
13248 Roscoe Blvd.
Sun Valley, CA 91352

Registration:
www.masters.edu/icrconference

This event will be webcast!

Go to icr.org/webcast on October 10, 11 & 12 to view these presentations.



BioOrigins Project Update

Purpose, Progress, and Promise

Part 1



Readers of this column know that over the last four to five years the Institute for Creation Research has been heavily involved in life sciences research. In this article series, we will bring you up to date on the purpose, progress, and promise of this endeavor. This installment describes the purpose and strategy, which is best seen in light of the historical context of the creation/evolution debate—starting with Darwin.

In the West, before Darwin's rise, the view that God was Creator reigned over the sciences. Unfortunately, the precise scientific implications of this fact were not well understood. For example, in biology, the biblically unjustified and erroneous concept of *species fixity* prevailed.¹ Not surprisingly, Darwin found this to be an easy scientific target.

To scientifically dismantle species fixity, Darwin corralled observations from many fields. For example, in the discipline of biogeography (the study of the geographic distributions of native plants and animals), Darwin noted that both the Old World (Asia, Europe, Africa, and Australia) and the New World (North and South America) shared a number of climates, yet their indigenous fauna were distinct. To Darwin, these facts argued *against* the special creation of each species in its current geographic location and

for the 1) descent of these species from a common ancestor and 2) their subsequent migration from an ancestral location to their current homes. Together with arguments from areas like geology, paleontology, and anatomy, Darwin made a persuasive-sounding case for his universal common ancestry hypothesis.

Since Darwin's time, evolutionists have mustered arguments from disciplines beyond anything that Darwin could have imagined. Radiometric dating, plate tectonics, and DNA comparisons have been added to the arsenal of evolutionary arguments. Today, evolutionists boast of their ability, not only to explain the past, but to make testable predictions about the present.

The fact that evolution gathers together so many lines of scientific arguments has made toppling evolution all the more difficult. Though young-earth creationists have moved beyond species fixity to a more biblically faithful model of species' origins from created *kinds*,¹ the many facets of the scientific case for evolution have blocked creation from reclaiming the scientific throne. When creationists have exposed the scientific shortcomings of the evolutionary case in a specific, powerful, and sometimes lethal way, evolutionists have typically responded by pointing out other evolutionary ar-

guments that creationist rebuttals have yet to address. Conversely, in many instances, the evolutionists have used their multi-faceted case to attack creation rather than vice-versa. Hence, the biblical view of origins is still in need of a full-fledged counteroffensive strategy.

ICR's BioOrigins program is designed to launch this counterattack and to restore creation to its rightful place as king in the sciences. To take back the throne from Darwinism, creationists must not only weaken the evolutionary arguments from science, they must replace them. To displace Darwin, creationists must discover a comprehensive answer to each of the scientific questions that evolutionists claim to have solved. Furthermore, the creationists' answers must be superior to Darwin's—the creationist view should make both accurate retrodictions and predictions about the natural world.

What scientific questions must be answered? We'll explain more of the scope of this ambitious goal in the next installment of this series. ●

Reference

1. Jeanson, N. 2013. Is Evolution an Observable Fact? *Acts & Facts*. 42 (1): 20.

Dr. Jeanson is Deputy Director for Life Sciences Research and received his Ph.D. in Cell and Developmental Biology from Harvard University.



ICR: “R” Is for Research

J A S O N L I S L E , P H . D .

We do many things here at the Institute for Creation Research, but the core of our ministry is original scientific research that relates to the topic of origins. We study the universe for the glory of God. We love to share our results with others and see their delight as they realize how science powerfully confirms the Bible. To that end, we publish our research in peer-reviewed science journals so that our work may be scrutinized by other scholars and any remaining problems or oversights can be exposed and removed. If none are found, we then summarize our research in lay-level literature such as *Acts & Facts* magazine or the various books we publish.

Contrary to what is sometimes reported, we do not “try to prove the Bible using science.” We recognize that the Bible is the inspired Word of God and is thus inerrant in all its affirmations. The Bible is actually the foundation for all scientific inquiry because it delineates the necessary conditions that must exist in the universe for science to

be possible and logically justified. In other words, science is possible because God upholds the universe in a consistent and rational way that the human mind can at least partially understand. We do research to honor God, expecting to learn something about the way in which He rules over creation. As Christians who love science, we are happy to join with others who share our passion such as the Creation Research Society (CRS).

The CRS is a non-profit society of professional scientists who share an interest in biblical origins.¹ Founded in 1963 to promote peer-reviewed research from a biblical perspective, the society began publishing the *Creation Research Society Quarterly* (CRSQ) in 1964. CRSQ is a peer-reviewed journal dedicated to research that confirms Genesis and challenges evolution. The CRS also hosts quasi-annual meetings in which its members present and critique preliminary results of their research. The ICR science team participated in the August 2014 meeting and was responsible for a third of all the presentations.

Dr. Jeff Tomkins presented some of his original research on the alleged Chromosome 2 Fusion site in Human DNA. Since apes have 24 pairs of chromosomes and humans have only 23 pairs, most evolutionists have maintained that two chromosomes must have somehow merged in one of our ape-like ancestors. But Dr. Tomkins showed that the alleged fusion site is actually a regulatory element in the middle of a functional gene.² This strongly challenges the evolutionists’ claim.

Dr. Nathaniel Jeanson presented some unexpected preliminary results involving his research on speciation and extinction. Creationists have long known that God did not need to bring every species of air-breathing land animal on board the Ark. Only the basic created *kinds* were needed (Genesis 6:19-20; 7:14-15). A *kind* is a group of biologically related organisms and often—though not always—corresponds to the family level of our modern taxonomic system. A *species* is a group of organisms that normally interbreeds and produces



Dr. Lisle presenting at the 2014 Creation Research Society meeting in the Cincinnati area

Image credit: Danny Faulkner

fertile offspring. Over the course of time it is possible for one kind to split into multiple species. This is not evolution in a Darwinian sense because the animals always remain the same basic kind.

We know from breeding experiments that cats, for example, are all part of the same created kind. In other words, there were only two cats on Noah's Ark from which all modern cats are descended. But there are many species of cats today. Lions and tigers are classified as two different species since they do not normally interbreed (though they can), but they are still cats. By studying vast amounts of genetic data, Dr. Jeanson has begun to unravel clues about the rate of speciation of organisms after the Flood. This will begin to answer questions such as, "Approximately when did lions and tigers become distinct species?"

Dr. Tim Clarey presented his preliminary findings on the analysis of stratigraphic columns and the mapping of megasequences—large-scale sedimentary packages that cover the continent in succession. The thicknesses of the various layers and the fossils found within them provide clues about the dramatic happenings on the North American continent during various stages of the Flood. For example, why do we find dinosaur fossils mainly in the western states and only in later Flood sediments? Why do we find mostly marine fossils only in the earliest Flood sediments? His results are starting to provide answers to some of these questions and further our understanding of Flood dynamics.

Dr. Jake Hebert and I presented some preliminary findings on our analysis of Sloan Digital Sky Survey (SDSS) data. The SDSS is a massive research project to map the positions of galaxies in our universe. Maps produced using SDSS data seem to show a series of giant spherical shells of galaxies that are centered roughly on our galaxy. It's as if galaxies primarily exist at preferred distances from ours with fewer galaxies between these spherical shells. If true, this would be devastating evidence against the Big Bang model,

which is predicated on the assumption that our position in space is not unique. Could this bull's eye effect be real, or is it a *selection effect*?

A selection effect is a bias in scientific analysis that is caused by the limitations of the data set. For example, bright galaxies are easier to detect than faint galaxies. Therefore, bright galaxies tend to be overrepresented in maps of the universe, simply because such maps inevitably miss many of the faint galaxies. There are several different ways to mathematically deal with this bias, and we demonstrated two of them at the CRS meeting. We are now using our bias-corrected results to see if galaxy motions through space can cause the appearance of these spherical shells. So is our galaxy really in the middle of giant spheres of galaxies? We'll keep you posted with further results.

In Romans 1:20, Paul explains that the evidence of God from creation is so clearly seen that those who deny it have no excuse.

Besides the ICR presentations, I was particularly impressed with a new study done by Keith Davies, showing that Supernova Remnants confirm a young universe. When stars explode, they leave an expanding shell of hot hydrogen gas—a supernova remnant. Since we know the approximate rate at which supernovae happen, the number of supernova remnants in any given galaxy should be proportional to the galaxy's age. And current estimates are very consistent with 6,000 years but wildly inconsistent with millions or billions.

That claim has been made before, but Davies showed that recent data strongly bolster the claim, since the new observations are of much higher quality than those from decades past. His latest results are still preliminary and unpublished, so we should be cautious at this point. Nonetheless, based on the data presented, I suspect that the evolutionists and other old-earthers will have a very difficult time trying to explain

ICR's Frank Sherwin



Image credit: Danny Faulkner

away this new evidence.

Several other fascinating lines of research were presented at the CRS meeting, from reports of soft tissue in dinosaur remains to the extinction of the Spanish Flu. Space in this article does not permit a summary of them all. Suffice it to say that scientific research continues to confirm biblical creation. It is a very exciting time to be a biblical creationist. Conversely, it appears to be a very bad time to be an evolutionist or old-earth creationist.

In Romans 1:20, Paul explains that the evidence of God from creation is so clearly seen that those who deny it have no excuse. Those who profess to repudiate creation are suppressing what they know to be true (Romans 1:18). How much more inexcusable is such rebellion today in light of new scientific research! Consider, at the time the book of Romans was written, people did not know about DNA or chromosomes. They didn't know about mutations, the extent of megasequences, the organization of galaxies, or supernova remnants—all lines of evidence that confirm creation. If there were no excuse for denying God then, how much more so today in light of modern scientific discoveries! ●

References

1. Persons without a post-graduate degree in science may join the CRS as a sustaining, but non-voting, member.
2. Tomkins, J. P. Alleged Human Chromosome 2 "Fusion Site" Encodes an Active DNA Binding Domain Inside a Complex and Highly Expressed Gene—Negating Fusion. *Answers Research Journal*. 6 (2013): 367-375.

Dr. Lisle is Director of Research at the Institute for Creation Research and received his Ph.D. in astrophysics from the University of Colorado.

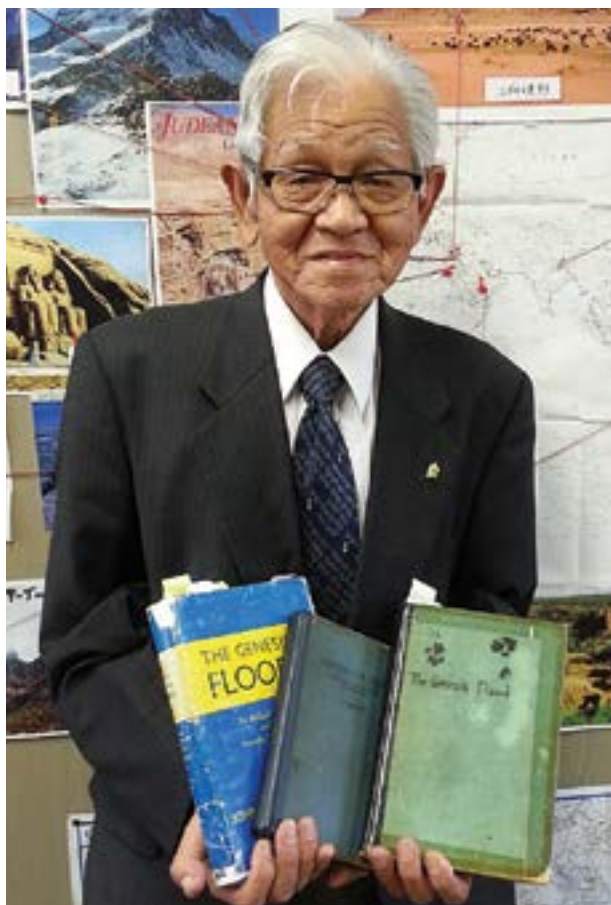
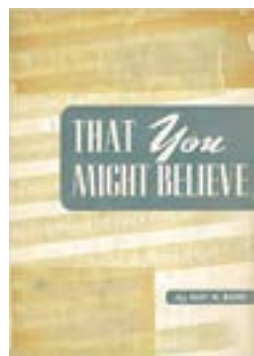


The Institute for Creation Research recently hosted a delightful guest: Pastor Nobuji Horikoshi. (He tells people to remember his last name by noting it sounds somewhat like “Holy Ghost.”) He pastors one of the largest churches in Japan, the growing Souai Church in Mie Prefecture in south-central Japan and heads up an effective “creation voice” in Japan. He even installed an extensive creation museum on the church grounds. Recently, he visited ICR with his lovely wife of many years and his youth pastor, Satoshi Miyazaki.

I had met Pastor Horikoshi during a speaking trip to Korea sponsored by the large Korea Association for Creation Research (KACR). He worked with them as his fledgling creation ministry in Japan was getting off the ground and accompanied them on a speaking trip to Hong Kong, which eventually resulted in the building of a full-scale Noah’s Ark on Ma Wan Island. He had also twice visited ICR headquarters when it was located in California. I consider him a valuable friend and faithful colleague in creation evangelism.

His testimony is profound and encouraging. He grew up as the eldest son of a Shinto priest who was in charge of a Shinto temple. Nobuji was expected to take over the priestly position and duties of his father. But as he grew, the big questions of life began to plague him. Where did we come from? What happens after we die? How can we please God? There are so many gods, how can we know which one is the true God? There were no answers, even from his priest father. This drove him deep into the search for the truth, and in the early post-war years the questions led him to Christianity.

One of the most important steps in his journey was the discovery of a book on creation titled *That You Might Believe* written by my father, the late Dr. Henry Morris, and published in 1946. It presented convincing evidence for creation science and biblical accuracy, leading to a



From Shinto to Christian Pastor

true God created all things, including the wood and rock materials out of which people fashioned their other “gods.” As in Acts 17:23-24, Pastor Horikoshi proclaims the one true God, refuting false concepts of the “Unknown God.” He has produced other teaching and Christian growth materials based on creation thinking, and God has blessed his efforts.

His dear wife, as well as the youth pastor, have written to me since their trip with the news that Nobuji suffered a heart attack after returning to Japan and is expecting to be in the hospital for at least the next month. They are building a new facility and expect us to attend its dedication.

“This was the Lord’s doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes” (Mark 12:11). We count it a real blessing to know this godly man and participate in his ministry in Japan. ●

Dr. Morris is President of the Institute for Creation Research and received his Ph.D. in Geological Engineering from the University of Oklahoma.



clear gospel message. It transformed Nobuji, and soon he was the pastor of a small church.

Armed with new information, including the case for creation, he went to tell his father. When he found out that his son was now a Christian, Nobuji’s father refused to see him. Eventually the father agreed to see him as the pastor of a church in town, but not as his son, and for years they met together for an hour each day, discussing deep issues such as those that drove Nobuji to Christ.

Eventually his father accepted Christ’s free gift of salvation. He renounced his position as a Shinto priest, tore down the temple, and donated the land to the church. The church building, school, and museum now sit on land once dedicated to pagan worship!

Pastor Horikoshi credits creation teaching as being key to his ministry. He has written several books, based on ICR’s publications, for the Japanese audience. He has also printed a more readable translation of the Bible in which he uses the name “Creator” for God. In Japan there are many gods, but the Creator God is not merely one of them. The

How Consistent Are Old-Earth “Clocks”?

Secular scientists have numerous ways of estimating the age of Earth’s geological features, including radioisotope dating. Old-earth advocates assert that the consistency among different dating methods is a powerful argument that Earth is much older than the Bible’s ~6,000-year timescale. Indeed, if independent dating methods really do tell a millions-of-years story, then this is a powerful argument for an ancient Earth. But how consistent are they?

There appears to be a general consistency among the dating methods, but this is largely a result of circular reasoning. For instance, secular scientists assume that ice ages are caused by changes in the amount of summer sunlight falling on the northern high latitudes, according to the astronomical theory. The many serious problems surrounding this theory—which implicitly denies the Bible and the Genesis Flood—are generally ignored by secular scientists, who use it to assign ages to deep-seafloor sediment cores. But then they also use those cores to assign ages to other sediment cores and to deep-ice cores in Greenland and Antarctica.¹ Then they use those ice cores dated by sedimentary records to date other deep-seafloor sediment cores—around and around we go!²

Secular scientists have even used the astronomical theory to adjust dates assigned by radioisotope dating methods.³ The

argon-argon method requires the use of a rock whose age is already known in order to assign a date to a rock of unknown age. But secular scientists now use the astronomical theory to assign ages to these rock-dating standards.⁴

Given this, it is not surprising that there appears to be a general agreement among dating methods. However, there are many contradictions between these methods, contradictions of which the general public—and even many *scientists*—are unaware. The more obvious examples include detectable amounts of short-lived carbon-14 and original tissue still present in fossil specimens that are assumed to be many millions of years old. These old ages are largely the result of radioisotope ages assigned to rocks that contain the specimens.⁵

In addition, there are many subtle contradictions. For instance, secular scientists had originally assigned an age of about 85,000 years to ice at a depth of 2,800 meters within the GISP2 Greenland ice core. But this result disagreed with another chronology that was tied to another ice core that previously assigned an age of 110,000 years to the ice at this depth. So they re-counted the layering in the deep part of the ice at a much higher resolution, enabling them to find the “missing” 25,000 years needed to bring their layer counts into agreement. Yet, even with this manipulation, there was still a potential problem: The scientists noted

that the amount of layer-thinning implied by their new chronology did not agree with expectations based on previous theoretical models, although they noted that ice disturbances deep within the ice might be able to account for this discrepancy.⁶ Many similar examples could be cited.

The circular reasoning used by secular scientists to reconcile the results of different dating methods should, in principle, make it much easier for them to construct a consistent story of Earth history. Yet, despite the enormous advantage such circular reasoning gives them, contradictions still persist. This should be a clue that secular scientists need to reconsider their starting assumptions. If they simply went “back to Genesis,” they would find that the history recorded there actually provides a much more satisfying scientific framework for interpreting the clues about Earth’s past. ●

References

1. Hebert, J. 2014. Ice Cores, Seafloor Sediments, and the Age of the Earth: Part 1. *Acts & Facts*. 43 (6): 12-14.
2. Hebert, J. 2014. *The Ice Age and the Flood: Does Science Really Show Millions of Years?* Dallas, TX: Institute for Creation Research.
3. Herbert, T. D. 2010. Paleoclimatology: Orbitally Tuned Timescales. In *Climates and Oceans*. J. H. Steele, ed. Amsterdam: Academic Press, 370-377.
4. “K/Ar and ⁴⁰Ar/³⁹Ar Methods: The ⁴⁰Ar/³⁹Ar Dating technique,” New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources. Posted on geoinfo.nmt.edu, accessed May 7, 2014.
5. Thomas, B. 2014. Still Soft after Half a Billion Years? *Creation Science Update*. Posted on icr.org May 5, 2014, accessed July 30, 2014.
6. Meese, D. A. et al. 1997. The Greenland Ice Sheet Project 2 Depth-age Scale: Methods and results. *Journal of Geophysical Research*. 102 (C12): 26411-26423.

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



Q: What's It Like to Dig for Dinosaur Bones?

BRIAN THOMAS, M.S.

A: This summer, Institute for Creation Research IT expert Daryl Robbins and I participated in a dinosaur dig near Glendive, Montana. Volunteers from the Glendive Dinosaur and Fossil Museum helped the effort on a stretch of private Badlands property, and for three days we worked with about a dozen other creation advocates, including Harry Nibourg, Vance Nelson, and Gary and Mary Parker.¹ During our adventure, we photographed and sometimes even handled rocks and fossils that confirmed the reality of Noah's Flood. As we drove home, Daryl and I discussed our time in the field, agreeing on which aspects of the experience we did and did not expect.

One thing we expected was the heat—well over ninety degrees each day. Even though we live in North Texas where summer temperatures soar into the triple digits, we spend most of our time inside air-conditioned places. So, for the dig, we equipped ourselves with plenty of water.

We had hoped to discover dinosaur bones buried in rock layers, and the Lord blessed us with that and more. Daryl excavated a tail vertebra from a yet-unidentified dinosaur. To identify the dinosaur kind that matches his bone, Daryl will begin by com-

paring it to various ceratopsian backbones since we were digging in the Hell Creek Formation known to hold many *Triceratops* remains.

The same rock formation holds worldwide fame for dinosaur remains that contain original blood vessels and cells. For this reason, I am far more interested in discovering whether or not the dinosaur bone fragment I collected still holds dinosaur proteins than I am in identifying which dinosaur kind unwittingly donated its body part to my research. Experiments clearly demonstrate that even the most resilient original-bone tissue should not last a million years. If we discover proteins in my bone—as secular scientists have already described finding in their specimens from this same formation—I will verify the accuracy of their observations and again confirm that these fossils and rocks appear thousands, *not millions*, of years old.

Thinking about dinosaur-bone proteins reminds me of something that neither Daryl nor I expected. We came prepared to dig through hard, dry, rocky material. Instead, every time we speared the Hell Creek material with a screwdriver, sand sloughed off with relative ease. Years ago, I extracted a fossil from hard Texas limestone with exceeding

difficulty. However, in Montana fossils can be exposed with little more effort than it takes to dig a sandcastle moat at the beach.

This ease was due to another surprising aspect of our dig, which was the wetness of the material surrounding our fossils—even six feet below the surface. Sagebrush grew above our digging and brushing area, sending its roots all the way down to the fossil-rich zone. The roots extract water from such depths, as well as vital nutrients supplied by decaying fossil bones and wood. How many millennia of plant root penetration would it take to completely remove all trace of these fossils from their damp sedimentary surroundings?

The museum officially owns all dig finds, but unless someone extracts a very remarkable fossil, the museum's kind managers let diggers keep their discoveries. So we placed our newfound fossils inside plastic bags. When exposed to sunlight, water immediately condensed inside the bags, showing that the fossils held some water. How on Earth could original tissues have lasted for 67 million years while in these wet conditions?

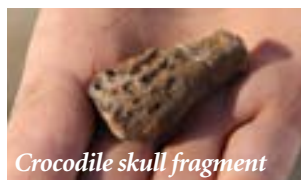
Finally, the list of different kinds of fossils amazed us. Daryl carefully removed a large softshell turtle shell fragment. Another digger extracted a hardshell turtle leg bone. Here are some of the interesting fossil frag-



Fig



Turtle bone



Crocodile skull fragment



Seed pod



Horsetail rush stem



Dig site



Badlands near Glendive, Montana

ments the team found:

- Crocodile skull fragment
- Gar fish scale
- Shark tooth
- Redwood tree cone
- Horsetail rush stem segment
- Fig
- Seed pod

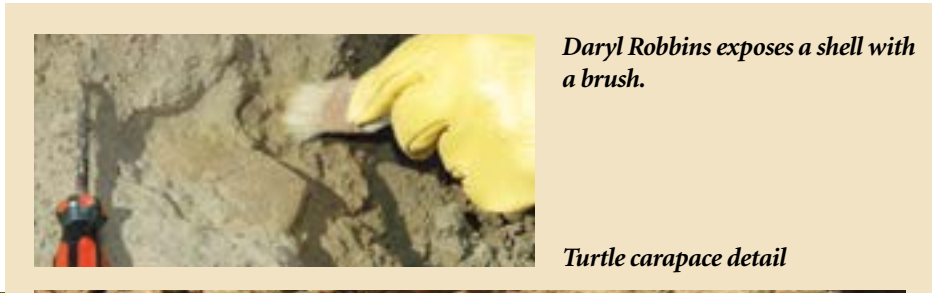
Of all the specimens we uncovered, only the dinosaurs have gone extinct. Why didn't tens of millions of years of evolution make any significant transformations to so many easily recognizable organisms? Daryl and I saw evidence of creation according to kinds, with no evolutionary advances or retreats (except for the unhelpful extinctions) in life forms. We also saw no evidence for deep time in these fragile fossils but rather evidence for recent widespread flooding. What a joy it was to dig dinosaur and other fossils with people who apply God's Word not only to their personal lives, but also to the rocks—rocks that speak to us today. ●

Reference

1. Harry Nibourg built and owns Big Valley Creation Science Museum in Alberta, Canada. Vance Nelson is the Director of Creation Truth Ministries in Alberta. Gary and Mary Parker are co-founders of the Creation Adventures Museum in Arcadia, Florida.



Mr. Thomas is Science Writer at the Institute for Creation Research.



Daryl Robbins exposes a shell with a brush.

Turtle carapace detail



Unearthing a Dinosaur bone



Brian Thomas holds a dinosaur fragment.

Image credit: Vance Nelson & Brian Thomas.

How Do We Answer Fools?

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

“A house divided against itself will not stand” is an easily understood truth.¹ The same concept applies to logic used in debates and arguments. If an argument is self-contradictory, it is clearly wrong. Some accuse Proverbs 26:4-5 of self-contradiction. This is because they fail to comprehend that those

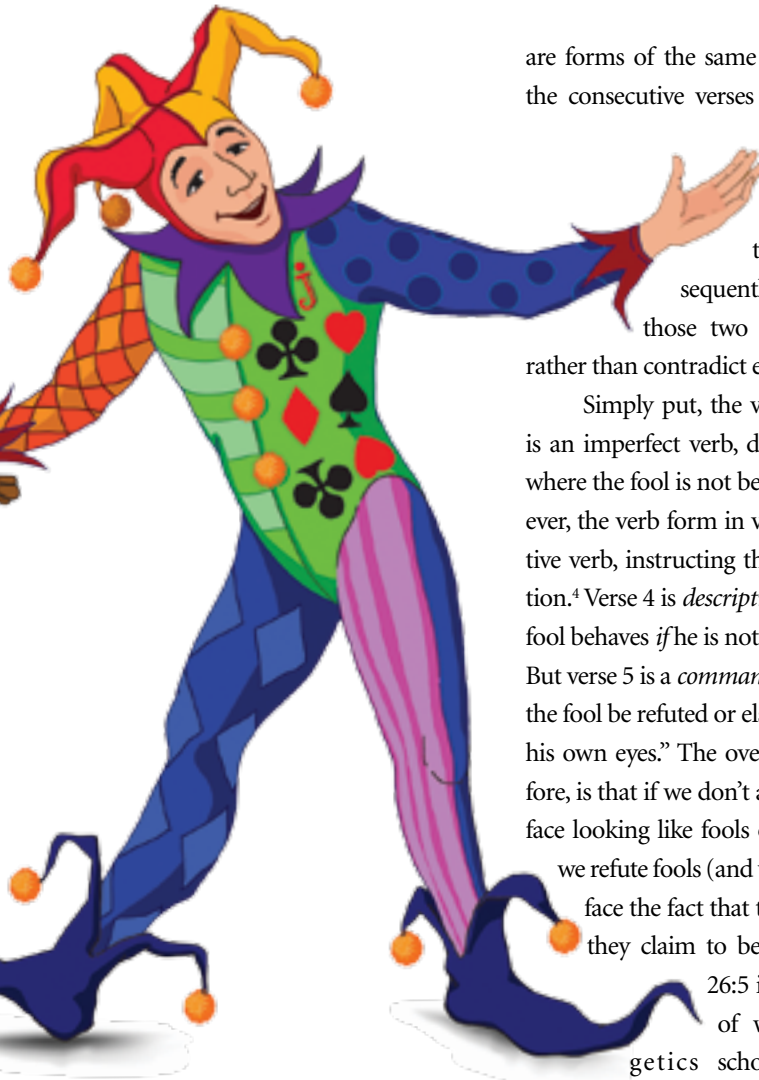
twin verses teach related, but not identical, truths about arguing with fools. And arguing with fools is a frequent scenario in origins debates.

Do not answer a fool according to his folly, lest you also be like him. Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he be wise in his own eyes. (Proverbs 26:4-5)

Unlike Genesis, Proverbs is a book of Hebrew poetry that communicates truths through the use of parallelisms.² It can compare similar things, opposites, a part of something with the whole, etc.² Because parallelisms are used in combination to convey truth, both verses in Proverbs 26:4-5 must be compared with each other in order to understand the composite truth that God gives us. This composite truth is very practical, because most of us interact with overconfident fools on a frequent basis.

Applying Proverbs 26:4-5, Dr. Jason Lisle has cautioned that one needs to avoid accepting foolish assumptions whenever discussing a controversy with a fool:

In verse 4 we learn that we should not embrace the folly of the unbeliever lest we be like him. But in



verse 5 we are instructed to show where his folly would lead if it were true. We make it clear that we do not actually accept his standard (Prov. 26:4), but if we hypothetically did, it would lead to an absurd conclusion; thus the fool cannot be wise in his own eyes (Prov. 26:5).³

But some would argue that the two verbs used for “answer” are the same word, so the twin verses are nevertheless countering each other. However, that is not the case. It only appears that way because we are reading an English translation of the original Hebrew text. Although both verbs

are forms of the same Hebrew verb *anah*, the consecutive verses employ two different forms of that verb. That makes quite a difference in the meanings. Consequently, as God intended, those two verses complement rather than contradict each other.

Simply put, the verb form in verse 4 is an imperfect verb, describing a scenario where the fool is not being answered. However, the verb form in verse 5 is an imperative verb, instructing the reader to take action.⁴ Verse 4 is *descriptive*—it tells us how a fool behaves if he is not rebuffed in his folly. But verse 5 is a *command*—it mandates that the fool be refuted or else he will be “wise in his own eyes.” The overall meaning, therefore, is that if we don’t answer fools, we will face looking like fools ourselves. But when we refute fools (and we should), they will face the fact that they aren’t as wise as they claim to be. Obeying Proverbs 26:5 is an important part of what ICR’s apologetics school is all about.⁵ ●

References

1. Matthew 12:25.
2. See Johnson, J. J. S. 2011. Genesis Is History, Not Poetry: Exposing Hidden Assumptions about What Hebrew Poetry Is and Is Not. *Acts & Facts*. 40 (6): 8-9.
3. Lisle, J. 2009. *The Ultimate Proof of Creation*. Green Forest, AR: Master Books. 71, 74.
4. The verb *ta'an* translated “answer” in Proverbs 26:4 is a second person masculine singular qal imperfect describing an unfinished action. However, the verb *eneh*, translated “answer” in Proverbs 26:5, is a second person masculine singular qal imperative, commanding the reader to take action.
5. No need to be redundant or wasteful, of course. If a fool is refuted properly once but does not respond, it’s usually time to move on to someone more teachable (Mark 6:11; 2 Timothy 2:2; Jude 1:3). For more information, go to ICR.edu

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



I read the article [Scott Farwell, Dallas researchers out to scientifically prove biblical version of creation, *The Dallas Morning News*, August 15, 2014] and the comments. A lot of folks left some negative stuff there. Just wanted to say that I am cheering for you guys. Don't let the negative comments pull you guys down. I, myself a chemist, have been very blessed by your work.

— W.G.

The Dallas Morning News

A linguistic expert needs to be given the full-time job of inventing



new words to describe the impact of your new series *Unlocking the Mysteries of Genesis!* With joy and tears, I can wholeheartedly say thank you so much for the work and the dedication of everyone there...it is an amazing presentation on the truth. I only wish it were longer and that this package would have been available to every public school back in the fifties....We would be in a different place in our nation and world today.

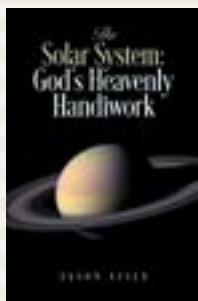
— R.B.

That's a Fact [video] segments ROCK! They are informative, interesting, and well done! The BEST! Keep it up!

— C.H.



We truly had a pleasant surprise when we opened our mail to receive the beautiful book on the solar system [*The Solar System: God's Heavenly Handiwork*] written by Dr. Jason Lisle. The Lord in heaven is so gracious—it flows down. We owe you thanks for your many years of supplying daily truth to us and to the world. The book was especially fitting for our family, since our granddaughter, in her Christian school, had just completed a study of the solar system and had eagerly told us all about it. The pictures in the book are breathtaking and are visual reminders of God's beauty. May the Lord continue to bless your ministry.



— E.M.

I would like to thank you so much for the time and effort that you extended to us during our visit to your distinguished institute. I was so impressed by the work you all are doing and hope I get the chance to help in this special mission in revealing God in His beautiful

I was so impressed by the work you all are doing and hope I get the chance to help in this special mission in revealing God in His beautiful creation.

creation. Please extend my thanks to Mr. [Frank] Sherwin and Mr. [Brian] Thomas, who were very generous in giving us their time and knowledge.

— A.K., Ph.D., Egypt

I have to tell you, the article on the “evolution” of the whale [John Morris, 2014. *On Making a Whale. Acts & Facts*. 43 (7): 15] had



me laughing from about the second paragraph! There are—what—five or six claimed ancestors, including one the size of a raccoon, and almost none of whom are related to each other? A 60-foot creature with a 6-inch “leg” is supposed proof that whales walked. And as always, only bits and pieces are ever found of any of these creatures, from

which they deduce whole animals, their environment, their habits, etc. Now believing THAT takes faith!

— M.M.

Almost a year after I was saved, I was convinced as an adult by Dr. John Morris' presentation on the Mount St. Helens eruption. It blew me away, and I immediately believed in creation and a young earth. Now Genesis makes much more sense to me since believing in a young earth.



— J.H.

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

Note: Unfortunately, ICR is not able to respond to all correspondence.

THE PROOF OF YOUR LOVE

Giving is a major theme in Scripture, with words like “give,” “gift,” and “gave” appearing more than 2,000 times. But by far, the strongest “giving” passage is Paul’s expectation of support from the church at Corinth. 2 Corinthians 8 begins with Paul’s praise for the sacrificial giving by the Macedonian churches and continues by urging the Christians at Corinth to follow their example (2 Corinthians 8:1-7). Noting that Christ’s sacrifice set the ultimate pattern for our instruction (vv. 8-9), Paul then gives practical and encouraging advice that ends with a direct charge to the Corinthians to show “the proof of your love” that he has boasted about (v. 24). That’s quite a strong appeal to support the cause of Christ.

If ICR’s work has been a blessing to you, please know we offer a wide variety of

ways to show “the proof of your love” for our ministry. Several are listed below, and like the apostle Paul, we encourage you to consider how you can help the work of the Kingdom through ICR’s ministry this fall.

For Federal and Military Employees:

U.S. federal government workers and military personnel can support ICR’s research and educational programs via automatic payroll deduction through the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). Our CFC identification number is 23095, or look for ICR in the National/International section of your campaign brochure when making your pledge this fall. (For more information, see the facing page.)

For State Employees in CA and TX:

Like the CFC program, state employees in California and Texas can give directly to ICR through their state employee workplace campaigns. Please consider designating the *Institute for Creation Research* on your pledge form this season.

For Stock Donors: With the stock market at historic highs, this may be the best time to consider gifts of stocks, bonds, or mutual fund shares. Shares held for at least one year can be gifted directly to ICR, providing you with a tax deduction at their full current value while avoiding tax on any gain. Talk about a double bounty! Contact ICR and let us help you facilitate your gift, or visit www.icr.org/donate_stocks to find ICR’s brokerage account information.

For Matching Gift Donors: Many companies match gifts made by their employees and retirees for donations given to qualifying organizations, and ICR’s graduate education programs and research projects usually qualify. With matches typically made dollar for dollar, this is a great opportunity to “sow bountifully” (2 Corinthians 9:6) by doubling the value of your gift! Check with

your HR department today to get started.

For Senior Donors: For donors over 65, Charitable Gift Annuities provide the best guaranteed returns in the market today—typically 4.5 to 9%, depending on age. For as little as \$10,000, you can create an ICR gift annuity that provides guaranteed income for life, a present tax deduction, and a tax-free portion on future payments—benefits other secure investments cannot match. If you want to support ICR’s work but still need ongoing income, this option may be right for you. Not all states qualify, so contact us for a customized proposal, or use the Planned Giving link at www.icr.org/donate to create your own.

A Note for Our IRA Donors: As of this writing, Congress has not yet extended the popular IRA Charitable Rollover for 2014, but experts believe it will likely pass later this year. This special provision allows traditional or Roth IRA owners 70½ years or older to authorize charitable gifts up to \$100,000 directly to ICR without declaring it as income, providing the twofold advantage of giving completely tax-free while also satisfying required minimum distributions. If this seems right for you, be prepared to contact your IRA administrator, providing this excellent program is approved.

As always, ICR remains deeply grateful for those of you who serve alongside us with your financial support, and we truly “thank... God upon every remembrance of you” (Philippians 1:3). But we only proceed as the Lord provides through you, so please prayerfully consider these special advantages in support of our ministry. We welcome the opportunity to serve you—contact us at 800-337-0375 or stewardship@icr.org. ●

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



Prayerfully Consider Supporting ICR

(GALATIANS 6:9-10)

Through

- Online Donations
- Stocks and Securities
- Matching Gift Programs
- CFC (Federal/Military Workers)
- Gift Planning
 - Charitable Gift Annuities
 - Wills
 - Trusts

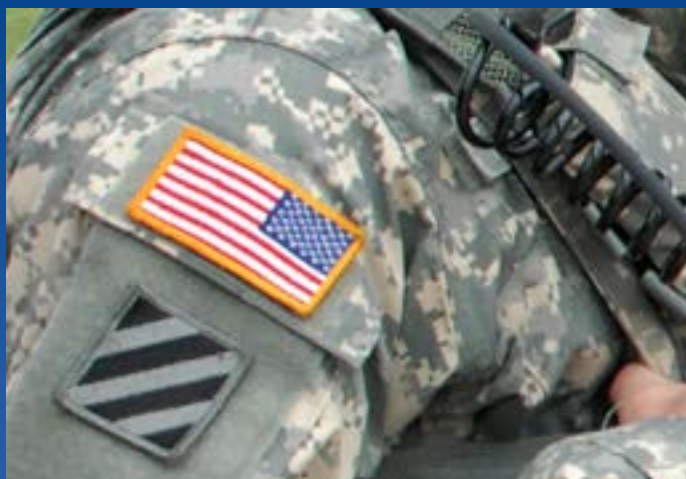
Visit icr.org/give and explore how you can support the vital work of ICR ministries. Or contact us at stewardship@icr.org or 800.337.0375 for personal assistance.

ICR is a recognized 501(c)(3) nonprofit ministry, and all gifts are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

PARTNER WITH ICR THROUGH THE COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN

United States federal and military employees can uphold the authority and accuracy of Scripture by supporting the Institute for Creation Research through this year's **Combined Federal Campaign** (CFC). Our CFC identification number is **23095**, and our charity classification is National/International.

For questions regarding CFC donations, please contact ICR at stewardship@icr.org or **800.337.0375**.



The Independent Charities Seal of Excellence has been awarded to ICR. The Independent Charities of America and Local Independent Charities of America have certified that ICR meets the highest standards of public accountability, program effectiveness, and cost effectiveness. These standards include those required by the U.S. Government for inclusion in the Combined Federal Campaign, probably the most exclusive fund drive in the world.



Of the 1,000,000 charities operating in the United States today, it is estimated that fewer than 50,000, or 5 percent, meet or exceed these standards, and of those fewer than 2,000 have been awarded this seal.



The Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA) provides accreditation to leading Christian nonprofit organizations that faithfully demonstrate compliance with established standards for financial accountability, fundraising, and board governance.



Don't Forget!
State employees of Texas and California can also support ICR through state charitable campaigns.



Your Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) donation to ICR is tax-deductible!

UNLOCKING THE MYSTERIES OF GENESIS

EPISODE 10 HIGHLIGHT

Origin of the Universe

What happened in the past is not something we can test scientifically.

We have to take what we know and work backward...



to the birth of
the universe...



at the instant
of creation...



in the beginning.



P. O. Box 59029, Dallas, TX 75229
www.icr.org



“How did our universe come into being?
And just how long has it been here?”

New discoveries in physics provoke fascinating and often fanciful theories about how the universe began. By applying the laws of empirical science to the question of origins, scientists discover that the biblical account of creation appears to be startlingly accurate.

— Host Markus Lloyd



For a limited time only



UnlockingtheMysteriesofGenesis.org