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STAND *in the* WAYS

page 5

Time Travel

page 9

Dinosaurs Designed Cold-Blooded

page 15

Modern Archaeology and Genesis

page 16

Genesis and Climate Change

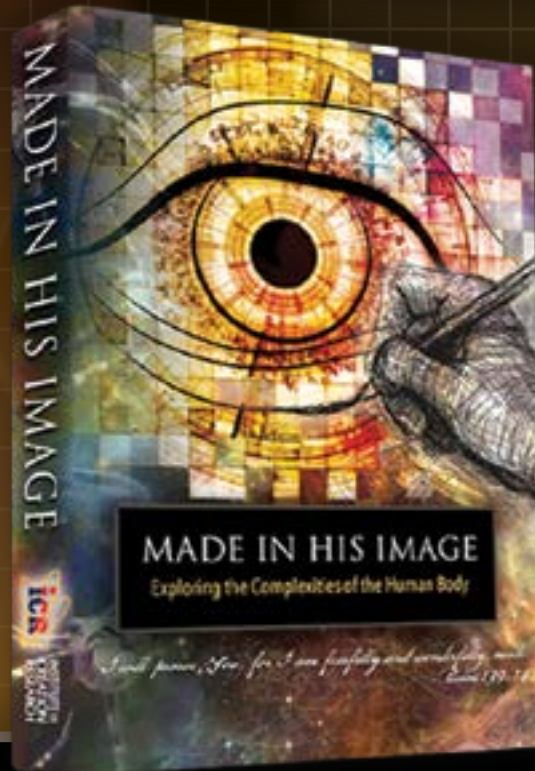
page 17

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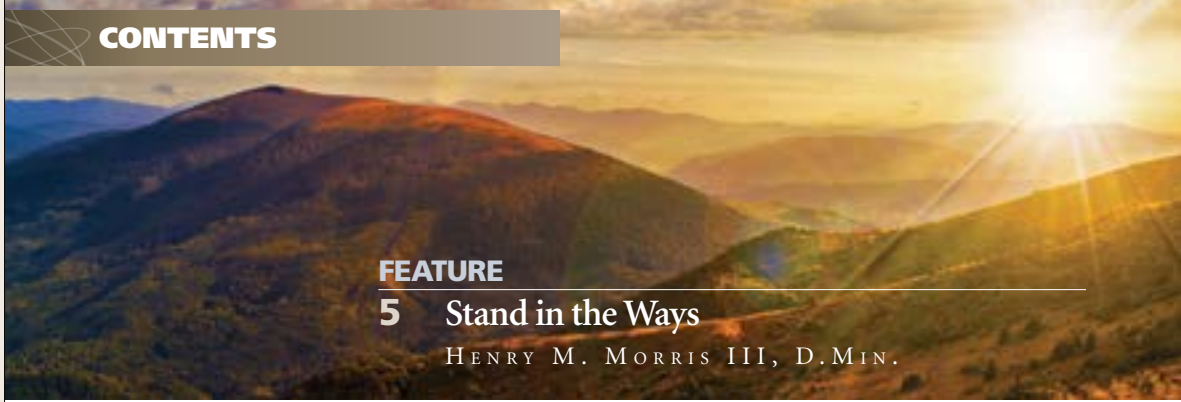
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FEATURE

5 Stand in the Ways

HENRY M. MORRIS III, D. MIN.

RESEARCH

8 Evolutionists Lay an Egg: Vitellogenin Pseudogene Debunked

JEFFREY P. TOMKINS, PH.D.

IMPACT

9 Time Travel

JASON LISLE, PH.D.

12 Survival of the Fittest, Eugenics, and Abortion

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

BACK TO GENESIS

15 Dinosaurs Designed Cold-Blooded

TIM CLAREY, PH.D.

16 Modern Archaeology and Genesis

BRIAN THOMAS, M.S.

17 Genesis and Climate Change

JAKE HEBERT, PH.D.

LEGACY

19 Back to Genesis

HENRY M. MORRIS, PH.D.

CREATION Q & A

20 What Was the Pre-Flood World Like?

BRIAN THOMAS, M.S.

APOLOGETICS

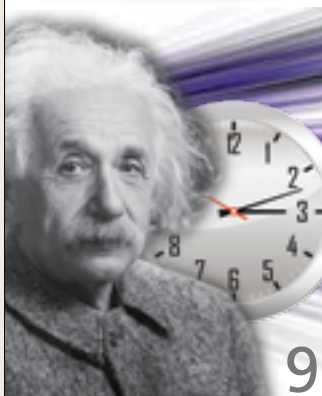
21 Even Fish Need to Know!

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

STEWARDSHIP

22 A Spiritual Line in the Sand

HENRY M. MORRIS IV



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Looking Behind, Looking Ahead



With tinsel packed away and the holidays behind us, take a moment before your schedule resumes a break-neck pace. Remember the past. Reflect on God's faithfulness throughout history. Think about your path with the Lord. Do you still

have the passion for ministry that He poured into your heart at salvation? Do you still celebrate His grace, goodness, and faithfulness? Do you anticipate your future with hope and wonder?

As we look forward to a new year, Dr. Henry M. Morris III reminds us to look back. He says, "The Bible tries to get us to look toward the past—toward the 'old paths' that focused on a more personal relationship with our righteous Lord" (page 5). Dr. Morris encourages us to remember the faithfulness of our Lord—what He's done for us, what He's provided, and the relationship that He so freely offers.

And Henry Morris IV calls us to think about the future. To anticipate the faithfulness of the Lord in the upcoming days and years. As Mr. Morris says, "Christ called us to use our abilities and opportunities to sow, water, and reap in fruitful service to Him" (page 22). So as you reflect on your past and your future, consider how you are using your abilities in service to our Lord. What changes can you make to realign your life with His clear direction?

As a responsible Christian ministry, ICR regularly evaluates its vision, resources, events, and means of reaching out to others. We are committed to producing top-notch resources that exalt our Creator, including our latest, the *Made in His Image* DVD series and *Guide to the Human Body*. Books published by ICR are also available electronically, providing the message of creation to readers outside our own country. *That's a Fact* videos have hit over 9.8 million views

worldwide! We continue to hear from many of you about how *Acts & Facts*, *Days of Praise*, and *Creation Science Updates* (ICR.org) touch your lives daily. Our radio ministry shares biblical creation messages in hundreds of outlets across the nation, and our social media efforts reach thousands of friends and followers around the globe. The School of Biblical Apologetics (ICR.edu) trains students to understand and share biblical truth. ICR speakers present their latest findings at churches, schools, conventions, and workshops to demonstrate how science confirms Scripture.

But we need to do more. We have a vision to share God's truth with even more people through a state-of-the-art museum that will provide a legacy for generations to come. We welcome you to partner with us in this ministry effort. Please pray for us. Tell others about the work of ICR. Consider how you can help in building the Dallas Museum of Science and Earth History (see page 18).

There's value in taking stock of where you've been and where you're going. Reflection on the past can help provide clear direction for the future. Where do you want to be this time next year? Better yet, where does *God* want you to be? Take the time to evaluate your direction, your goals, your path—take time to be still and search God's Word. Listen to His still, small voice during quiet moments alone.

Confidence in knowing the right path comes only from our Lord. As you reflect on the days behind you, spend time with Him to get guidance for your future. And celebrate His continual faithfulness as you focus with renewed wonder on the days ahead.

Jayme Durant

EXECUTIVE EDITOR



STAND *in the* WAYS

HENRY M. MORRIS III, D.MIN.

Thus says the LORD: “Stand in the ways and see, and ask for the old paths, where the good way is, and walk in it; then you will find rest for your souls.”

— *Jeremiah 6:16* —

Many of us take some time toward the end of the past year to look forward a bit toward the coming year. Some of us will resort to the tradition of New Year’s resolutions in an attempt to recognize the flaws in our behavior and express a desire to change for the better in the days to come. That has some value, of course, but it may be worth noting that the Bible tries to get us to look toward the past—toward the “old paths” that focused on a more personal relationship with our righteous Lord.

Jeremiah warned Judah of the imminent captivity of their nation as Nebuchadnezzar readied his armies to sack both Jerusalem and the temple of the Lord. God sent kings and prophets to lead and preach over the previous centuries—all to no avail. The northern 10 tribes were already enslaved by Assyria, and despite repeated warnings and the 10 tribes’ example, Judah would not listen. In fact, the precise passage that is quoted in the text above ends with: “But they said, ‘We will not walk in it.’”

The people of Judah, like Israel before them, were initially willing to embrace their identity as God's people but ended up living and worshiping however they pleased. Their lives became so intertwined with the rest of the nations around them that the difference between the godly and the pagan was scarcely discernable. The seeds of compromise and indifference toward godliness remained firmly embedded in the nation, and the few revivals the Lord sent did not last very long.

The Basic Requirements

After the young nation of Israel was supernaturally released from slavery in Egypt and the older generation was purged for their unbelief during the 40-year wandering in the Sinai, Moses reiterated the Lord's simple expectations for those who were privileged to be called His children.

"And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments of the LORD and His statutes which I command you today for your good?" (Deuteronomy 10:12-13)

One could quickly argue that no human being is capable of keeping these requirements under their own power. But that is precisely the point. Once God has "created [us]...in true righteousness and holiness" (Ephesians 4:24), "His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness" (2 Peter 1:3) so that the "exceeding greatness of His power"

(Ephesians 1:19) enables Him to work in us and "do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think" (Ephesians 3:20).

The Basic Problem

I know that the natural mind does not and cannot respond to the supernaturally revealed Word of God (1 Corinthians 2:14), but once the Holy Spirit has brought about conviction and repentance in our hearts and the gift of faith in the work of the Lord Jesus has been granted, we are truly "born from above." That second birth makes all the difference! Prior to being twice-born, we cannot fear the Lord, or walk in His ways, or love Him, or serve Him. Our heart and soul are "dead" and totally unresponsive to godly things.

And even though we have been saved from the just punishment of our sins and God has given us "a new heart and a new spirit" (Ezekiel 18:31), the old man still "grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts" (Ephesians 4:22). If we do not consciously yield ourselves to godly behavior, the old man tends to assert his impact in our lives rather than the Lord being allowed to reign in us as He intended.

The Basic Results

Moses laid down the basic requirements. Israel failed to follow those standards and suffered constant on-again, off-again relationships with their Lord. By the time

Jeremiah was preaching to Judah centuries after Moses, the overwhelming majority of the citizenry had capitulated to a compromise lifestyle with the surrounding nations and became hardened and indifferent to the impending judgment. They still had the name Israel and still insisted that they were Abraham's children, but their lives and hearts had long since left. They were ripe for a terrible calamity.

Nebuchadnezzar attacked with his armies and took God's people away into a foreign land as captives and servants. He plundered the nation and sacked and spoiled its capital city. The best and brightest of Judah were taken into the service of a pagan nation whose culture they embraced while they were in Jerusalem. As captives they were now immersed in the full immorality and godless mores that they had merely worn earlier as cultural trappings. Instead of enjoying the "pleasures of sin for a season" (Hebrews 11:25, KJV), they were now forced

The Bible tries to get us to look toward the past—toward the "old paths" that focused on a more personal relationship with our righteous Lord.

to live with and clean up the dregs of Babylon for two generations—70 years.

It's worth noting: Our nation is not far from receiving the same fate as Israel.

The Basic Solution

It would be centuries before the Messiah came, but God began to assemble some of His faithful in Babylon. With the permis-

sion of a foreign king, Zerubbabel and Ezra brought back some 50,000 to Jerusalem to rebuild the worship of the Lord. They started out well. They restored the altar of burnt offerings and began to lay the foundations of the temple. But the Samaritans—Israelites who were left behind and had assimilated with the Assyrians—began to interfere, to subtly persuade and draw the people of God away from the basic requirements He clearly gave them.

Haggai had probably returned to Jerusalem with Zerubbabel and began to sense God's urgent calling to challenge the people who had become more interested in building their own houses than the house of God. This dear old prophet spoke to the city boldly.

“You have sown much, and bring in little; you eat, but do not have enough; you drink, but you are not filled with drink; you clothe yourselves, but no one is warm; and he who earns wages, earns wages to put into a bag with holes.” (Haggai 1:6)

Translation: Stop serving yourselves and get busy doing what God has called you to do. Haggai's short series of warnings and promises encouraged Zerubbabel to take his leadership role more seriously. The new impetus to finish the work brought so much zeal to all of the people that Haggai was told to promise the leaders:

“Consider now from this day forward, from the twenty-fourth day of the ninth month, from the day that the foundation of the LORD's temple was laid—consider it: Is the seed still in the barn? As yet the vine, the fig tree, the pomegranate, and the olive tree have not yielded fruit. But from this day I will bless you.” (Haggai 2:18-19)

Once the Holy Spirit has brought about conviction and repentance in our hearts and the gift of faith in the work of the Lord Jesus has been granted, we are truly “born from above.” That second birth makes all the difference!

Not only that, God instructed Haggai to tell Zerubbabel specifically that “I will overthrow the throne of kingdoms; I will destroy the strength of the Gentile kingdoms” (Haggai 2:22). That encouragement looked far beyond their time to a day when God would bring about an entirely new world.

Zechariah was there. God chose him to receive several key visions of the future that He would begin to implement now that the heart of the people had changed—now that God's people had begun to do what God had always wanted and expected them to do.

Thus says the LORD of hosts: “If you will walk in My ways, and if you will keep My command, then you shall also judge My house, and likewise have charge of My courts; I will give you places to walk among these who stand here.” (Zechariah 3:7)

Zechariah's words were very nearly a repeat of Jeremiah's message prior to the Babylonian captivity. The two prophets said almost the same thing that Moses said nearly a millennium before. Now that those who were known as the people of God were back in the place where they were supposed to be—and now that their belief and their actions were synced—God reiterated His promise to use them as He intended.

There is nothing special about the times of God's work. He delights in working through His people. Now that the Last Days are upon us, there is no new requirement. The same requests with the same potential and the same outcomes are still in place. God's blessing comes with obedience. God's judgment comes when His ways are ignored and flaunted.

This new year, instead of planning ahead and making resolutions that you will probably break before the new year even starts—why don't you “ask for the old paths, where the good way is, and walk in it; then you will find rest for your souls” (Jeremiah 6:16). ☞

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



Evolutionists Lay an Egg: Vitellogenin Pseudogene Debunked

The grand evolutionary story claims that egg-laying creatures share a common ancestry with placental mammals. Non-mammalian vertebrates, such as birds and reptiles, lay eggs with nutritional reserves in the egg yolk to nourish the growing embryo inside. In contrast, the embryos of placental mammals are nourished through the placenta, a specialized organ attached to the uterine wall of the mother. Placental mammals are born alive and do not hatch from eggs.

The supposed transition from an egg-laying reproductive system to a placenta-based system is notoriously difficult for evolutionists to explain. In egg-laying creatures, a class of proteins called *vitellogenins* (vtg) plays a key role in either transporting or providing the nutritional substrate for proteins, lipids, phosphorous, and calcium in relation to formation of the egg yolk.¹ It is believed that somehow during the course of evolution, the role of vtg proteins was replaced by the placental interface for nourishment during gestation and, after birth, by the mother's lactation. Based on this idea, some evolutionists believe that mammalian genomes contain DNA remnants of their ancient egg-laying past.

One study claimed to have found genetic evidence of an ancient vtg gene in the human genome.² Because the actual data for this discovery were questionable, the evolutionary community in general did not actively popularize the alleged finding. However, BioLogos, a religious group of evolutionary scientists

and liberal Christian theologians, has been promoting the so-called egg-laying pseudogene³ discovery as evidence of evolution.⁴⁻⁶ Because this type of propaganda is targeted to the Christian community,⁷ the claim should be more thoroughly investigated.

The main piece of evidence for the vtg pseudogene is the presence of a 150-base human DNA sequence that shares a low level of similarity (62%) to a tiny portion of the chicken vitellogenin (vtg1) gene.⁸ However, the chicken vtg1 gene is actually quite large at 42,637 bases long, so a 150-base fragment of 62% similarity represents less than 0.4% of the original gene if the evolutionary story were true! But this miniscule amount of questionable data isn't the only problem for the evolutionary egg-laying fable.

In a detailed research report recently published in a technical journal, I show that the alleged vtg fragment in humans is not a pseudogene remnant but rather a functional feature called an *enhancer element* toward the end (fifth intron) of a *genomic address messenger* (GAM) gene.⁸ This GAM gene produces long non-coding RNAs that have been experimentally shown to control the function of other genes, a majority of which have been implicated in a variety of human diseases. The RNA products from this GAM gene are also known to be expressed in a variety of human brain tissues

that span from infant to adult.⁸

As an enhancer element, the 150-base alleged vtg sequence contains a variety of highly specialized sequences that enable the binding of specific protein machinery that controls the activity and function of the GAM gene.⁸ These specialized sequences are also associated with a wide variety of epigenetic marks—chemical modifications in the DNA. The specific types of biochemical data associated with these marks also tells us that this DNA feature is not only active but important to the overall three-dimensional structure and function of the GAM gene in a process called *long-range chromatin interaction*.^{8,9}

Upon investigation, we see that this 150-base sequence is not an ancient egg-laying “fossil” in the human genome. It's a functional enhancer element in a GAM gene expressed in brain tissues. Once again, when we examine the genetic data more closely, the evolutionary scoreboard shows nothing but a big zero—a “goose egg,” as the saying goes. ❧

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2. Brawand, D., W. Wahli, and H. Kaessmann. 2008. Loss of egg yolk genes in mammals and the origin of lactation and placentation. *PLoS Biology*. 6 (3): e63.
3. A pseudogene is a functional gene rendered non-functional due to the accumulation of mutations.
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9. Long-range chromatin interactions refer to the three-dimensional looping of DNA associated with the proper function of a gene. They are mediated in part by enhancer elements.

Dr. Tomkins is Research Associate at the Institute for Creation Research and received his Ph.D. in genetics from Clemson University.



TIME TRAVEL

What an experience it would be to have a time machine! Just imagine traveling into the future, seeing technological marvels that have yet to be invented, and meeting our distant descendants. What will the world be like in 50 years? Or 100? Consider visiting the earth before the global Flood or encountering a living dinosaur. What would it be like to meet the apostle Paul, Moses, Noah, or Adam? And what Christian could pass up the opportunity to talk with Christ during His earthly ministry?

Science fiction abounds with time-travel stories. This perhaps reveals a fundamental aspect of human nature: We are fascinated with time. Animals live in the moment, but humans are made in God's image. We have a sense of eternity that God has placed in our hearts (Ecclesiastes 3:11), so it's not surprising that adventures through time captivate our imaginations. But is time travel really possible?

***He has put eternity in their hearts.
(Ecclesiastes 3:11)***

As is often the case, truth turns out to be stranger than fiction. Scientists have discovered that time travel is indeed possible. Furthermore, time travel has even been documented. But lest anyone have fanciful hopes of traveling through

time in a flying DeLorean, we must understand that *real* time travel is far more limited than the unrestrained freedom enjoyed by characters of science fiction.

First, it is limited in *direction*. It seems that time travel into the future is permitted, whereas time travel into the past is not. In principle, it's possible to send a person forward 100 years or more to see his distant descendants. However, he could not come back.

Second, time travel into the future is limited in *degree* by our current technological level. While it is theoretically possible to send a human into the distant future by traveling close to the speed of light, such speeds are far beyond the limits of our current technology. The velocity necessary for noticeable time travel requires energy that drastically exceeds what we can currently produce. For the moment, we can only accelerate subatomic particles through time in any noticeable way. So, how does this work?

It seems that time travel into the future is permitted, whereas time travel into the past is not. In principle, it's possible to send a person forward a hundred years or more to see his distant descendants. However, he could not come back.

THE PHYSICS OF EINSTEIN

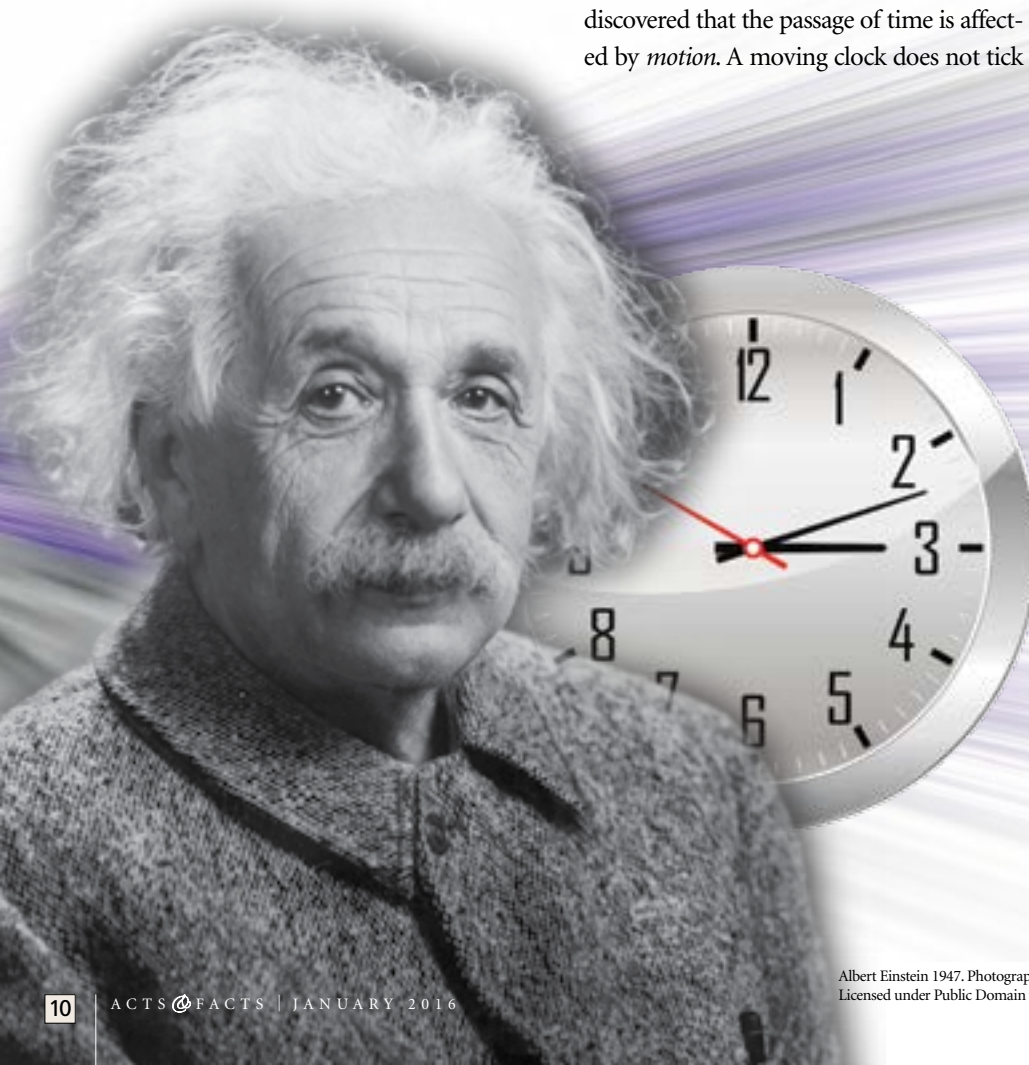
In a very real sense, all of us travel through time. Simply observing the ticks of a clock shows that we move from one second to the next. We cannot stop or reverse our passage. It would seem at first glance that we cannot accelerate our passage by any means. We might subjectively feel that time passes faster or slower, leading to the expression “time flies when you’re having fun,” but our watch confirms that the actual passage of time is utterly unaffected by our emotional state. Our intuition suggests that the forward progression of time is absolute and unaffected by anything we do. But our intuition is utterly wrong.

The famous physicist Albert Einstein discovered that the passage of time is affected by *motion*. A moving clock does not tick

at exactly the same rate as a stationary clock of identical construction. We don’t notice this effect in our everyday lives because the effect is miniscule at the velocities we ordinarily experience. But imagine an astronaut traveling through space at 99% the speed of light—over 660 million miles per hour. He would experience one year for every seven Earth years! That is, he would be moving through time seven times faster than observers on Earth. If he were to return in 70 (Earth) years, he would have perceived and aged only 10 years. This effect is called *time dilation*. It’s strange but true.

Einstein discovered this effect—but not by doing any physical experiments. He discovered it with logic and geometry. By his day, it was known that the round-trip average speed of light is the same for all observers, regardless of their motion. The only way to account for this counterintuitive phenomenon is to recognize that observers with different velocities have different measurements of time.¹ Their clocks tick at different rates.² Using logic and basic geometry, Einstein calculated how velocity affects these rates.

Physical experiments have confirmed his calculations. Moving clocks tick slower than stationary ones by exactly the rate that Einstein computed. The effect is miniscule at ordinary speeds but becomes noticeable when velocities approach the speed of light. Matter must accelerate to 14% the speed of light for a meager 1% time dilation. No wonder we don’t observe it in our everyday lives! Nonetheless, the effect has been measured by atomic clocks on airplanes.³ Furthermore, physicists have accelerated subatomic particles to nearly the speed of light, at which the effects of time dilation become quite pronounced and are easily observed.



Albert Einstein 1947. Photograph by Oren Jack Turner, Princeton, N.J. – The Library of Congress. Licensed under Public Domain via Wikimedia Commons

BACK IN TIME

If we could achieve a sufficiently high velocity, we could send a person into the distant future. However, three reasons cause us to think that time travel into the past is impossible. One is a physics reason, one is a logical reason, and one is a biblical reason.

Einstein's equations show that if a person traveled faster than the speed of light, then he could travel back in time. The problem is that it would take an infinite amount of energy to reach the speed of light. As a mass is accelerated, it becomes more massive ("heavier") and increasingly more difficult to accelerate. Since it takes an infinite

Imagine an astronaut traveling through space at 99% the speed of light—over 660 million miles per hour. He would experience one year for every seven Earth years!

amount of energy to accelerate a mass to the speed of light, a mass can obviously never go faster. Hence, anything with positive mass cannot go faster than light and therefore cannot go back in time.⁴

From logic, we expect that time travel into the past is impossible for any information-bearing system. The reason is that it could lead to contradictions—situations in which something must exist and not exist at the same time. An important rule of logic is this: Since contradictions cannot occur in reality, whatever leads to a contradiction must be false. The possibility of time travel into the past can lead to a contradiction, and thus we conclude that the possibility of time travel into the past must be false.

Several such examples have been conceived, such as the "grandfather paradox" or the "logically pernicious self-inhibitor."⁵ With the first, we imagine being able to send a person back to a time before his grandparents met. It would then be possible for him to prevent his grandparents from ever meeting each other, thereby preventing their

marriage and any subsequent descendants, including himself. But if he were never born, then how could he possibly travel back in time to prevent his own birth? In this situation, the man must both exist in the present (to travel back and prevent his grandparents from meeting) and not exist in the present (since his grandparents never met) at the same time and in the same way—a contradiction. And it will not solve the problem to have the man simply vanish when he prevents his grandparents from meeting. After all, if they never met, then the man could never have existed, in which case he could not have prevented them from meeting.

The Bible also seems to indicate that time travel into the past is not possible for human beings. God alone is beyond time, and hence He alone knows the future. In Isaiah 46:9-10 the Lord says, "I am God, and there is none like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done." Only God can say at a given time what will certainly happen at a later time. Humans can only make educated guesses. But if time travel into the past were possible, then we could simply jump back to 1970 and know with certainty what will happen over the next four-and-a-half decades. This contradicts God's claim that He alone can declare those things that have not yet happened.

Also, in regard to His coming, Jesus said, "But of that day and hour no one knows...but My Father only."⁶ But if we could travel through time, we could jump ahead to the moment of His return and then come back to the present. Then we too could know the day and hour. Of course, God is beyond time and could move a person forward or backward through time in a self-consistent way without any paradoxes. He has full knowledge of the past, present, and future. But our human ability to time travel is quite limited.

THE WORD

Although we cannot travel back in time, God knew that we would be curious

about the past, how the universe came to be, and where it is headed. So He graciously gave us His written Word, providing us the most important details of history and glimpses of the future as well. In this respect, the Bible is much like a time machine. When we read God's Word we are virtually transported to another time. We experience history in light of God's plan of redemption. And the Bible even gives us a taste of the wondrous eternal state to come. We see how all of time—past, present, and future—is under God's sovereign control. ☞

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1. Einstein realized that they also have different measurements of length. Moving rulers are shorter in the direction of motion than stationary ones of identical construction. This effect is called *length contraction*.
2. Some people have suggested that only clocks are slowed by motion, not time itself. But this seems to be a distinction without a difference. After all, what do clocks measure but the passage of time?
3. Time dilation was confirmed by the Hafele-Keating experiment in 1971. Atomic clocks were placed on aircraft and flown around the world in opposite directions. When compared with each other and atomic clocks on the ground, the difference in time matched the predictions of Einstein's theory of relativity.
4. Although mass cannot be accelerated to the speed of light, Einsteinian physics theoretically allows for particles to be "born" that are already moving faster than light. These hypothetical particles, called *tachyons*, would have an "imaginary" rest mass—the square root of a negative number. (The rest mass of a particle refers to the mass it would have if it were stationary.) This explains the particle's seemingly strange behavior. Ordinary matter speeds up when we add kinetic energy, but tachyons would slow down. As ordinary matter would require infinite energy to be accelerated up to the speed of light, tachyons would require infinite energy to be slowed down to the speed of light. Thus, tachyons must travel faster than light, just as ordinary matter must travel slower. Although they may be theoretically permitted by Einstein, no tachyons have been discovered, and other branches of physics give us reasons to think they do not exist. An imaginary rest mass poses no problem because tachyons are never at rest. Like time, mass is affected by motion. The faster-than-light motion of tachyons causes their total mass to always be a real number. Physics predicts that particles with a positive rest mass must travel *slower* than light, particles with imaginary rest mass must travel *faster* than light, and particles with zero rest mass must travel *at* the speed of light. In addition to tachyons, physics has a few other faster-than-light "loopholes." Phase waves in plasma can move faster than light. And there is a strange phenomenon called *quantum entanglement* that involves an instantaneous effect over large distances. However, in all cases these superluminal phenomena cannot be used to transmit useful information. Apparently, the laws of nature are such that anything bearing information cannot move faster than light. Thus, information cannot travel back in time. This prevents causal paradoxes.
5. While time travel into the past wouldn't necessarily invoke a change that causes a contradiction, it seems at least *possible* to cause a contradiction. That is, a time traveler wouldn't necessarily prevent his grandparents from meeting, but the fact that he could would imply that contradictions would be possible if time travel into the past were possible. Since contradictions are not possible, the premise—time travel into the past—is falsified.
6. Matthew 24:36.

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





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and Abortion

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

Western society's eugenics disaster of the early 20th century sought to weed out the “unfit”—people seen as genetically dragging the human race down. It flowed from a survival-of-the-fittest mentality.¹ The U.S. Supreme Court punctuated this blunder with the *Buck v. Bell* decision (1927) that effectively legalized eugenics practices. Though eugenics became widely stigmatized by the 1970s, a captivating fitness-survival-death mindset has endured. These death-fueled practices haven't missed a step following the Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* (1973) decision that legalized abortion, the *new* eugenics.

The Eugenics-Abortion Link

Early eugenicists won a scientific con-

sensus by using a few strategies. They established peer review to secure credibility, abused peer review to monopolize control, crowned “experts” to project authority, and marginalized dissenters to enforce compliance.¹ Though the public found forced sterilization distasteful, recent research by social scientists Deborah Barrett and Charles Kurzman reveal how eugenicists perpetuated their practices right under society's nose. They document how eugenics-driven peer review continued by merely renaming the existing periodicals. The *Annals of Eugenics* transitioned to the *Annals of Human Genetics*, *The Eugenics Review* conveniently became *The Journal of Biosocial Science*, and *The Eugenic News/Eugenic Quarterly* morphed into *Social Biology*.²

Noting that eugenics-based ambitions

were purposely channeled into abortion-rights activities, they added,

In keeping with the subterranean strategy, some eugenicists continued their work under the cover of non-eugenic disciplines and organizations, such as the birth-control and population-control movements. For example, the first administrator of the Population Council, a former president of the American Eugenics Society, recalled in 1974 that the post-war birth-control and abortion-rights movements were great eugenic causes, but “[if] they had been advanced for eugenic reasons it would have retarded or stopped their acceptance.”¹⁰⁵ Eugenic ideals such as racism, paternalism, scientific authority, and genetic manipulation did not disappear from the world, and were arguably institutionalized in certain wings of the reproductive sciences.³

Like cancer, eugenics spread into another death-driven method of population control: abortion. The old eugenics regrew into a *new* eugenics. With its atrocious history, how could this happen?

The Root Cause of Eugenics

While eugenics qualifies as a spectacular evolutionary blunder by all accounts, Professor Randolph Nesse accurately does *not* point the finger at evolution in general but specifically at Darwinian natural selection. Nesse says “most applications were ‘medical Darwinism’ that focused on the welfare of the species. In connection with eugenics, this led to moral and social disaster.”⁴

Darwinism is predicated on death eliminating “unfit” members from populations of creatures as they struggle to survive. That Darwinian *selection* is the root concept nurturing eugenics was unmistakably affirmed by a leading proponent during its heyday in 1927.

In my own mind and in a growing number of other minds...[civilization will end] unless civilisation can find a method of doing for itself what Natural Selection did for man during his ascent—insuring that he shall breed only from his best. The study of how it is possible forms the subject matter of what we now term the Science of Eugenics. We have to replace the ruthless action of Natural Selection by reasoned conduct in civilised man.⁵

That ruthless understanding of Darwinism continues unabated today even in diverse realms. Notably, a recent article critical of the Amazon Corporation quoted a former human resources director claiming that the company implemented “purposeful Darwinism.” This referred to some employees as winners and others as losers who leave or are fired in annual staff cullings.⁶

Unfortunately, those opposing eugenics, abortion, and euthanasia today often point at evolution as fostering these behaviors, but that blame may not be fully on target. Death-driven behaviors are tenaciously

rooted in the fitness-survival-death mindsets that encompass selectionist thinking. But those who embrace these ideas may not even realize this connection. By default, evolutionists must champion natural selection, but various non-evolutionists profess to be big fans also. Indeed, even some Christians claim in language akin to eugenicists that natural selection, though fueled by death, helps the population by getting rid of genetic defects and thus preserves the viability of a population by removing those members with severely harmful or lethal characteristics. They believe this process somehow exhibits God’s care for His creation in a post-Fall world.

Given the broad support for natural selection and that survival-of-the-fittest has not been targeted as a cause for today’s death-culture mentality, it isn’t surprising that eugenics is resurging within the pretext of “evolution.”

Though eugenics became widely stigmatized by the 1970s, a captivating fitness-survival-death mindset has endured. These death-fueled practices haven’t missed a step following the Supreme Court’s *Roe v. Wade* (1973) decision that legalized abortion, the *new* eugenics.

Eugenics Is Resurging Today

A 2014 headline in a popular newspaper read “Let’s (Cautiously) Celebrate the ‘New Eugenics,’” written by a senior research fellow at the University of California-Davis. He describes a new form of eugenics applied through pre-birth genetic screening by medical experts. Genetics tests before or after conception may determine if an unborn child might have a serious disorder.

Preventing genetic diseases is one end of a continuum that leads to dreams of genetically enhancing humans at the

other end. Predictably, evolutionist Richard Dawkins dared ask the eugenics-reviving question “Why [is it] acceptable to train fast runners and high jumpers but not to breed them?” He adds, “But hasn’t the time come when we should stop being frightened even to put the question?”⁸

Today’s eugenicists, as explained in “The Eugenic Impulse,” still think that crafting humanity using evolutionary methods is noble. The agenda appears in books like *Redesigning Humans*, *Radical Evolution*, *Enhancing Evolution*, *More Than Human*, and *The Price of Perfection*. A 2012 essay in *The Chronicle of Higher Education* details the evolutionary root that is responsible for society’s interest in eugenics. The author, a Johns Hopkins medical historian, highlights why eugenicists “cannot resist the allure of taking control of our own evolution, of engineering our future” and specifically links past-to-present reasons:

“Eugenics is the self-direction of human evolution,” proclaimed the poster for the 1921 International Eugenics Congress. It is this sense of eugenics that Maynard Olson, Matt Ridley, and others are invoking. For example, in *Enhancing Evolution*, John Harris proposes “both the wisdom and the necessity of intervening in what has been called the natural lottery of life, to improve things by taking control of evolution and our future development to the point, and indeed beyond the point, where we humans will have changed, perhaps into a new and certainly into a better species altogether.”⁹

Genetic information is medically valuable. Yet, genetic “engineering” of society—via elimination of those “unfavored” by nature’s lottery—threatens us with another colossal evolutionary blunder implemented by reckless experts. Just like 120 years ago, they still come armed only with the medical knowledge of the day, channeled through agendas crafted by human wisdom that is further disadvantaged by fitness-survival-death beliefs.

Answering two questions is vital: 1) How do today's citizens get informed on genetics-based eugenics, and 2) what outcome is expected when they are equipped with that information? Today's answers foreshadow a repeat of government or expert coercion that leads to deadly outcomes.

Before the formalization of government-coerced eugenics programs, eugenics was promoted in 1912 by coercing prospective parents via a twisted version of the doctor-patient relationship. Britain's leading eugenicist implored doctors to swap unbiased presentations of information for subtle pressure on patients during counseling. He writes,

But great as is the influence of medical opinion on public action, it is more than equalled [sic] by the weight which the individual medical man can exert in his private relationship either as a consultant or as a family doctor. He is the confidential friend of many men and women, and as such in a quiet and unobtrusive way he can do much to encourage the fit to parentage and discourage the unfit.¹⁰

That tactic inspires today's eugenicists. A 1998 worldwide survey of over 2,900 genetics professionals found a strong association between eugenics-based thinking and the goals of genetics in medicine.¹¹ Furthermore, this research revealed that "directive-ness" in counseling, based on pessimistically biased information of persons with genetic disabilities, influences parental decisions after prenatal diagnosis. Information delivered by genetics professionals underlies "patient education and consent"—the first step in healthcare provision. Only voluntary consent is truly valid. Consent that is given under persuasion is manipulation. Voluntary decisions mature from deliberations of accurate information and not misinformation that stigmatizes certain disabilities.

Depending on circumstances and how information is presented, when counselors tell patients the current "standard of care," or "weigh the impact on the family,"



Prevent? Screening doesn't "prevent" people with these conditions from entering society—abortion does.

or even consider "the needs of financially strained healthcare systems," patients could be coerced.

Certainly, the government has enormous financial interests in prenatal screening. A comprehensive report on the cost effectiveness of California's prenatal screening program in 1999 estimated lifetime medical costs of \$450,000 for a person with Down Syndrome.¹² These researchers disclose how the government intends to avoid paying that money:

For evaluation purposes and to assess the benefits of the Program, NTD [neural tube defect], AWD [abdominal wall defect], and Down Syndrome were selected as the major birth defects that the Program was designed to detect and prevent.¹²

Prevent? Screening doesn't "prevent" people with these conditions from entering society—abortion does. Further, the report labels events for the government as "missed opportunities" when citizens are informed that their child will have Down syndrome and still choose life over abortion.

Death-driven behaviors follow in a society so steeped in survival-of-the-fittest thinking that scholars recently set a perverse tone for explanations of how *beautiful* creatures emerged over time, all starting with, "In a cut-throat world where only the fittest survive...."¹³ When fitness-survival-death notions are even used to teach children why dog hair lengths vary in different niches, then death can be invoked as an avenue toward good for everything.

Today's eugenics-abortion link is stronger than ever. One President of the American Board of Medical Genetics plainly affirmed,

I come now to the final question regarding prenatal diagnosis and eugenics—does prenatal diagnosis involve deprivation of life? The answer, in real terms, is certainly yes. Whatever the theory might be with regard to prenatal diagnosis as merely providing information, prenatal diagnosis and abortion are inextricably linked.¹⁴

After 63 million abortions in the United States since 1973, including the selling of aborted babies' body parts, isn't it time to adopt origins explanations that condemn death-driven methods and promote a culture of life?

"For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works" (Psalm 139:13-14). ✍

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Dinosaurs Designed Cold-Blooded



Evolutionary scientists are trying to find evidence that dinosaurs were warm-blooded creatures in order to place them closer to birds on their evolutionary diagrams.¹ According to Dr. Tom Holtz, “Birds are dinosaurs! And because birds live today, dinosaurs never did become extinct.”² Does science back this story? Most of the evidence for dinosaurs possessing a bird-like metabolism is misrepresented.^{3,4}

If dinosaurs were birds, they should’ve been *endothermic* (warm-blooded) like birds today. Endothermic simply means that an animal generates its own internal body heat using its metabolism, independent of its surroundings. *Ectothermic* (cold-blooded) means that an animal needs an external source of heat, like sunlight, to warm its body, like snakes and lizards do.

Unfortunately, determining whether or not an extinct animal is endothermic or ectothermic is difficult and requires a study of soft-tissue anatomy. Because only small amounts of soft tissue are preserved in dinosaur fossils, we still don’t know for sure if dinosaurs were warm or cold-blooded.

Many scientists have noticed that dinosaur bone is highly vascularized, with lots of blood vessel openings, similar to mammals. They claim this demonstrates that dinosaurs were warm-blooded. However, the presence of vascularized bone cannot be

used as proof of an animal’s metabolic rate. A study by Tomasz Owerkowicz showed that the possession of highly vascularized bone merely means the animal was active and not necessarily warm-blooded.⁵

Studies of nasal passage size may make a far better test. Ninety-nine percent of all warm-blooded animals have *turbinates*, coils of membrane-covered cartilage or bone in their nasal passages that reduce water and heat loss during breathing.

Dr. John Ruben performed CT scans on four different dinosaur skulls, including two predatory dinosaurs. All scans revealed narrow nasal cavities similar to those of modern cold-blooded animals like crocodiles rather than to those of birds.⁶

Scientists also found some soft-tissue and skeletal evidence to support cold-bloodedness—just the opposite of what dino-to-bird proponents hoped. A study of the abdominal cavity of the meat-eating dinosaur *Scipionyx*—a small dinosaur some paleontologists claim to be the precursor of today’s birds—revealed the presence of a lung ventilation system similar to that of modern crocodiles.^{7,8} The attachment style of the intestines also indicated that the flow-through air sac lung system typically found in birds was not present in *Scipionyx*.

Recently, it was suggested that some dinosaurs were *mesotherms*, similar to tuna and the leatherback turtle.⁹ Mesotherms can raise their body temperatures by their activity level but are unable to internally maintain the temperature like true endotherms. In this regard, the dinosaurs were still closer to cold-blooded ectotherms than

warm-blooded endotherms.

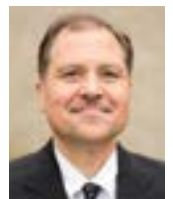
In conclusion, there is no compelling scientific reason to claim dinosaurs were warm-blooded animals. The evidence instead backs the case that dinosaurs were created as cold-blooded reptiles, and their cold-blooded nature may have played a big part in their post-Flood extinction.¹⁰

The metabolism debate actually reflects a deeper issue: a war of worldviews. Mainstream secular scientists claim that dinosaurs were warm-blooded because they need them to be the evolutionary ancestors of birds to fit their model. For this reason, evolutionary scientists have a compelling incentive to push an unfounded and unproven scientific viewpoint out to the public. It is difficult to make the case for a warm-blooded descendant from a cold-blooded ancestor.^{4,10} ✎

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Modern Archaeology and Genesis

With so many loud voices in our culture asserting that Genesis is a myth, one would think archaeologists have uncovered clear evidence that refutes it. On the contrary, some incredible archaeological finds confirm key events in Genesis.

In the 1970s, archaeologists discovered tablets made before 2000 B.C. at Ebla in northern Syria. Among them were found creation tablets¹ that say, “Lord of heaven and earth: / The earth was not, you created it; / The light of day was not, you created it.”²

Cylinder seals are tiny stone rollers with carved three-dimensional reverse images that the ancients would roll across wet clay to impress picture patterns onto the clay before baking it in a kiln. One of the oldest seals shows a seated woman reaching for one of two fruits hanging from a tree. A man also reaches for fruit opposite her, and behind her a serpent slithers. It has every key element from the Fall of man found in Genesis 3.³

Another spectacular tablet from Nippur of Babylonia narrates Noah’s Flood. It was probably written before other Flood tales that added myths about angry gods. Hermann Hilprecht excavated tablet CBM 13532 in the 1890s from a library that the Elamites had destroyed before 2100 B.C.—not many centuries after the Flood event itself. The tablet’s broken lines of text say,

It shall sweep away all men together... before the deluge coming forth... Build a great ship... it shall be a house-boat carrying what has been saved... [br]ing the beasts of the field, the birds of heaven.⁴

Secular sources support creation beginnings, the garden corruption, and the Flood catastrophe. What about the language confusion at Babel or God’s covenant with Abraham? Ancient Romans carefully protected the *Sibylline Books* as part of Apollo worship. Which Genesis event does this Sibylline remnant call to mind?

And all mankind one language only knew... And now all intercourse, By some occult and overruling power, Ceased among men. By utterance they strove, Perplexed and anxious, to disclose their mind, But their lip failed them; and in lieu of words Produced a painful babbling sound: the place Was thence called Babel.⁵

Also, the famous Tower of Babel stele shows Nebuchadnezzar II, who destroyed Jerusalem in 586 B.C., and his plans to finish building the infamous tower that had been abandoned hundreds of years earlier.⁶

Secular sources also confirm kings and cities mentioned in Genesis 14. The first verse says,

“And it came to pass in the days of Amraphel king of Shinar, Arioch king of Ellasar, Chedorlaomer king of Elam, and Tidal king of nations.” In 1895, assyriologist Theophilus Pinches found cuneiform tablet Sp. III. 2 archived at the British Museum. He presented his translation to the Victoria Institute in 1897, showing what the Hebrew of Genesis calls Arioch as Eri-aku, Chedorlaomer as Kudurlagmal, Tidal as Tudhula, and possibly Amraphel as Hammurabi, though the text breaks off after “Hammu.”⁷

Genesis 14:2 refers to Sodom, Gomorrah, and three other “cities of the plain.”⁸ Excavations at Bab edh-Dhra southeast of the Dead Sea starting in the 1960s revealed many clues that match the Sodom account.⁹ For example, the city and even its nearby cemetery were burned from the top down and, in places, lie beneath several feet of ash even today.

All these artifacts and more—including a 2,000-year-old stone commemorative building over the cave at Machpelah called the Tomb of the Patriarchs—bury the idea that Genesis was a myth. Archaeology clearly confirms Genesis. 📖

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Detail of the Tower of Babel Stele showing a seven-level temple and the figure of Nebuchadnezzar II.

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Because carbon dioxide is a greenhouse gas, many are concerned that higher amounts of atmospheric carbon dioxide will result in catastrophic global warming—including an increasing number of evangelical Christians.¹

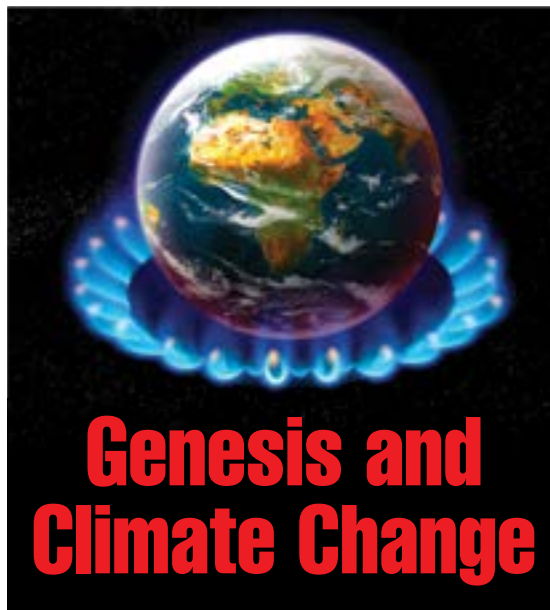
Higher amounts of atmospheric carbon dioxide *would* result in a warmer planet, but other factors can enhance or diminish such warming. Computer models attempt to take these other factors into account and estimate the amount of warming that would occur. Much of the belief in impending climate catastrophe is based on these computer-model predictions.

Little, if any, actual warming has occurred since 1998 despite the fact that the amount of atmospheric carbon dioxide has continued to increase (see figure 1). Hence, climate models are likely over-predicting the amount of warming.² While it is true that a recent paper used adjusted temperature measurements to claim that the 18-year warming “pause” was not real, this paper has come under heavy criticism from other climate scientists for possible retroactive manipulation of the temperature data.^{3–6}

Bible-believing Christians should be cautious about jumping on this global-warming bandwagon for at least three reasons.

First, it appears environmental activists are changing their story. They used to warn against “global warming,” but now increasingly warn against “climate change.” The fact that “climate change” is a rather vague description that could refer to either a warming or a cooling climate makes it harder to hold scientists accountable for failed predictions.

Second, past arguments for catastrophic global warming—



such as the well-known “hockey stick” chart of climatologist Michael Mann—may be seriously flawed, as suggested by the work of Stephen McIntyre and Ross McKittrick.⁷

Third, greater amounts of atmospheric carbon dioxide could actually be beneficial. Scientific evidence shows that atmospheric carbon dioxide levels are increasing the number of trees, even in arid regions.⁸

Climate and environmental alarmism has prompted some disturbing proposals. For instance, New York University bioethicist S. Matthew Liao suggested that we engineer humans to fight climate change. His ideas include altering genes

to make people shorter, giving us drugs to take away our taste for meat, and giving us cat-like eyes so that we can see in the dark to reduce our nighttime energy use and carbon footprint.⁹ He wasn’t joking.

Unsurprisingly, climate panic is often tied to an unbiblical worldview. Secular scientists deny the Genesis Flood, which is the greatest climate change event in history and the only convincing explanation for an Ice Age. Moreover, God promised us a relatively stable climate in the post-Flood world (Genesis 8:22).

But those who see climate change as a dire threat generally deny biblical history. In fact, elements of full-blown paganism sometimes pop up in the environmental movement. For instance, a United Nations official opened the 2010 Cancun Climate Summit by invoking a Mayan jaguar goddess!¹⁰

The Lord Jesus told us that good trees produce good fruit and bad trees produce bad fruit (Matthew 7:17). The hysteria surrounding climate change is a good example of the harm produced by an unbiblical worldview that denies the Scriptures, starting with Genesis. ❧

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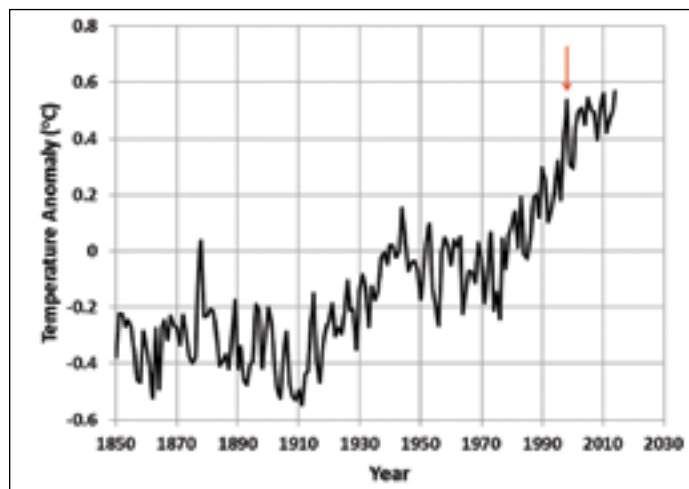


Figure 1. Yearly global surface temperature departures (in degrees Celsius) from the 1961–1990 global average. Note that the warming trend has slowed or “leveled off” since 1998 (red arrow).¹¹



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Dallas Museum of Science and Earth History



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Statistics and quotes from: Six Reasons Young Christians Leave Church. Barna Group. Posted on barna.org September 27, 2011.

BACK TO GENESIS

The greatest Bible teacher of all time was the Lord Jesus Christ, and when He wanted to teach His friends about Himself and His great plan for the world, He began by teaching them the book of Genesis. That is one reason why we at the Institute for Creation Research have placed so much emphasis on this particular book, especially its early chapters with their record of creation, the Fall, and the Flood.

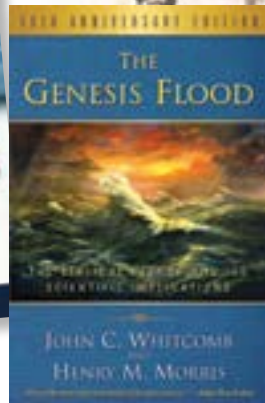
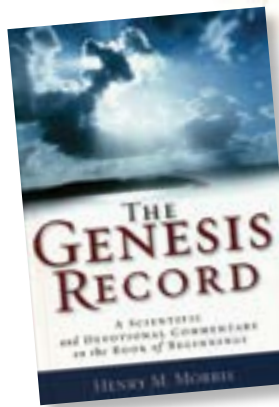
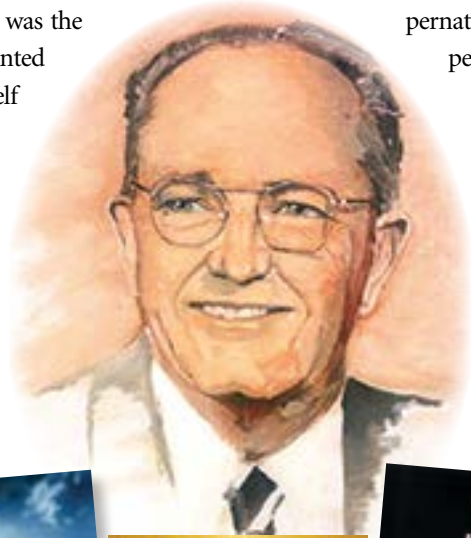
A section of our monthly *Acts & Facts* is appropriately called Back to Genesis.

We have urged people to get back to Genesis as the foundation of their Christian faith and life ever since we started ICR way back in 1970. In fact, long before that! My first book stressed the wonderful truth of creation and the harmful fallacy of evolution in much the same way that ICR speakers and writers are doing today. This is a timeless message, needed increasingly as time goes on.

In that first book, I said that “evolution is not so much a science as it is a philosophy or an attitude of mind—and since no one was present to watch the supposed great evolutionary changes of the past, it is manifestly impossible to prove scientifically that they actually did take place.”¹ Then, with respect to the Genesis record of creation, I stressed that “the account in Genesis can by no stretch of the imagination be made to agree with the supposed development of life as presented to us by evolutionary geologists.”² I pointed out that “the Bible says that death entered the world as a result of the sin of the first man and woman.” By the evolutionary-age scenario, however, “the bones of dead millions of God’s creatures were in the ground long before man was even on the scene.”³

I was not the first writer to point out these truths, for they have long been self-evident to anyone who really believed the Bible to be God’s infallible and clearly understandable Word. Many others before me also have noted the grave dangers to family life, church integrity, and national survival if the evolutionary system should ever truly prevail in the hearts and minds of most people.

ICR’s publications show that the literal Genesis record of su-



pernatural creation is the foundation of the true gospel, the true doctrine of Christ, true evangelism, genuine saving faith, and of all the key aspects of biblical Christianity. True science, true education, the true institution of marriage and family—and even our original American government—also were based on Genesis creationism.

All truth in every area of life finds its beginning in the Genesis record of creation and the other events of primeval history. That is why God placed it first in the Bible.

One vital goal here at ICR has always been to urge Christians—and then others—to get back to Genesis as the foundation of foundations, to be inaugurated, as God proposed, in every realm of our lives.

But that is not all. Genesis is the foundation, but the foundation is not the complete structure. The Lord

Jesus Christ is our Creator, but He has also become our Redeemer and will one day be acknowledged by the entire world as King of kings and Lord of lords. That must be our ultimate goal—to win the world and all its systems back to God, in Christ. We must diligently try not only to win the lost to Christ but also to bring the world itself back to God. We must try not only to win individual scientists and educators to Christ, but also to win science itself, and education itself, to Christ.

No single organization could accomplish such a task, and it will never be really completed until Christ Himself returns. However, we should at least be intelligently and fervently working toward this end with this great challenge as our goal, doing what we can.

God has greatly blessed this message in the lives of multiplied thousands and in many nations. We trust that our faithful readers, who have supported it all by their prayers and gifts, will continue to pray, and give as they are able, to keep it going until Christ returns. ✞

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Adapted from Dr. Morris’ article “Beginning at Genesis” in the February 1994 edition of *Acts & Facts*.

Dr. Morris (1918–2006) was Founder of the Institute for Creation Research.



Q: What Was the Pre-Flood World Like?

A: Many who study Genesis show intense curiosity about the pre-Flood world. But “the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water,” so little physical evidence remains.¹ Reconstructing the pre-Flood world is like building a puzzle after all its pieces were run through a blender. However, Genesis gives us a good start.

Genesis 2:10 seems to indicate that a river flowed out of Eden and then branched into four separate rivers. If so, this might indicate divinely crafted waterways, since today’s natural drainage rivers don’t branch downstream but instead merge into larger rivers. Water presumably flowed to the Pre-Flood ocean, so something must have pumped water back to Eden. Genesis also says “a mist went up from the earth and watered the whole face of the ground.”² Perhaps heat from deep underground elevated water into ancient land-misting and river systems, now all utterly destroyed by the Flood.

This idea of a pre-Flood hot-water pumping system might also help solve some geologic mysteries. Banded iron formations extend throughout many of the lowermost sedimentary rocks. These don’t form today but hint at extensive hot water flows in the past. Also, many stromatolites occur in deep sedimentary rocks possibly deposited before the Flood. Stromatolites

have sedimentary layers stacked in blob-like shapes. Though rare today, special algae form them in shallow and salty or mineral-rich waters.

Next, though Genesis 1:10 says that God organized these waters into separate seas, these may have fit into vast gulfs and bays in a single pre-Flood continent. Later, God told Noah regarding animals, “Two of every kind will come to you to keep them alive.”³ If He placed the first walking animal kinds onto a single pre-Flood continent, then they would not have to cross oceans on their way to the Ark. Scripture is not dogmatic about this, and maybe God placed copies of each kind onto separate original continents. But since the text could accommodate a single land mass, it fits with powerful geological evidence showing that today’s continents ruptured violently,⁴ separated rapidly,⁵ at times collided violently, and then slowed abruptly, all during and shortly after the Flood year.⁶

Animals coming to Noah also imply they encountered no impassable mountainous barriers, such as today’s Flood-formed Himalayas.⁷ But we know smaller mountains existed, since the Flood “waters prevailed exceedingly on the earth, and all the high hills [in the pre-Flood world] under the whole heaven were covered.”⁸

Earth’s rocks contain so many shallow marine fossils that we should imagine ex-

tensive shallow seas back then, unlike most of today’s deep oceans. Plus, judging by the numbers and kinds of swamp plants and animals buried with dinosaurs, the early earth must have had large swamp-like regions.⁹ However, at least some high ground had soil, since “Cain was a tiller of the ground.”¹⁰ Genesis 4 indicates land suitable for livestock, probably grassy, and other areas that supplied precious metals and minerals.

Over the years, creation thinkers have evaluated many pre-Flood possibilities. For example, the old ICR model of a vapor canopy capping Earth’s atmosphere has not performed well under rigorous modeling tests. Until new information arrives, we should not insist on detailed reconstructions of the pre-Flood world, but we can continue to investigate that intriguing time with a little science and a lot of Genesis. ☞

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All these references are available for free online.

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

EVEN FISH NEED TO KNOW!

A person who sees a trout swimming in a stream may casually think the fish needs only water, food, and a mate with which to reproduce. Yet even fish have more than these physical needs. Similarly, because evolutionists are bent on materialistic thinking, whether studying fish or man, they often simply misdiagnose what a creature's real needs are.

What Are Basic Needs for Fish?

Freshwater fish ecologist Mark Everard displays overly simplistic analysis when he summarizes the essential habitat needs of freshwater fish as being food, flight, and fertility.¹ Without question, fish need food. Likewise, fish need to reproduce successfully at some population level to survive from generation to generation. The ability to flee from predators is also a critical need for survival. But are these obvious physical needs all there is to life, even for a humble fish?

For starters, fish need high-quality water to survive. Fish habitat waters must contain adequate dissolved oxygen, and the water pollutants must be at a tolerable minimum.^{1,2} But there's more.

Fish need to know what is happening around them and how to relate to it. Like us, fish need accurate data about the world around them—constantly provided by light sensors, chemoreceptors, temperature detectors, etc.—so they can react to threats and opportunities.^{1,2,3} Fish constantly interact with living and nonliving entities: aquatic animals and plants, microbes and toxins,

predators, parasites, and poisons.^{3,4} These encounters involve sensor and immune systems that blend as an integrated interface-management system for symbiotic activities that include preprogrammed responses that can be offensive, defensive, or mutualistic.^{2,3,4}

In other words, fish need accurate information, and a robust set of abilities to act on it, in order to thrive—that means fish must possess traits and abilities specifically installed by their Creator. But materialists' simplistic thinking tends to ignore or discount the fascinating information programmed within a fish's biological makeup.

What Are Basic Needs for People?

Unsurprisingly, thriving as a human requires more than food, shelter, and the biogenetic aspects of family life. But for humans the need beyond the physical is at an entirely different level from animals because we are made in God's image—the crown of His creation (Psalm 8:4-5).

Because we bear His image and have souls and spirits, materialistic thinking fails miserably to provide us with an accurate analysis of the human condition. Our need for God is desperate. Christ Himself said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"⁵

Certainly, we need food, water, air, shelter, and reproduction. But we need far more. We need God-provided information. We need God's very revelation to rightly re-

late with Him and our fellow man and the world He has placed around us. That need for truth from God's mouth applies to our critical here-and-now needs and more importantly to our needs hereafter, because the truth is that we are sinners in need of salvation. A simplistic materialistic-only perspective misses the boat because we desperately need eternal truth—valuable truth that God alone can give us.⁵

Yes, our physical bodies' immune systems require accurate information about *physical* microbes and toxins.^{4,6} Yet even more so, our souls and spirits need reliable *spiritual* truth about God, creation, life, death, sin, right-versus-wrong, true-versus-false, salvation, and how to best live this earthly life. We need revelation from God... every word that proceeds from His mouth.⁵ ✉

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



A Spiritual Line in the Sand

Each new year provides an opportunity to take stock of where we've been and where we wish to go. This applies not only to individuals but also to all believers who are called by Jesus to be salt and light in a darkened world (Matthew 5:13-16). Even so, recent national and world events have only increased my longing for the return of the King. A year ago legal homosexual "marriage" did not exist nationwide, the secret practices of Planned Parenthood were an unknown horror, and agreements with hostile nations were unthinkable. And though Christ's Second Coming is assured, it is far too easy to grow weary, even despondent, while we wait for His glorious appearing to bring sweet relief from the evils and persecutions of this fallen world.

In times like these, we should remind ourselves that God's truth never changes—no matter how humanity distorts it. Rampant perversion of God's natural law was prevalent in the days of Abraham and Paul (Genesis 18:23–19:25; Romans 1:26-27), so open rebellion against God in this once-Christian nation should come as no surprise. But we must also remember Christ's command to "do business till I come" (Luke 19:13). Rather than hunkering down and waiting idly for His return like the believers in Thessalonica (2 Thessalonians 3:6-15),

Christ called us to use our abilities and opportunities to sow, water, and reap in fruitful service for Him.

Sometimes Christians must take a stand. It is imperative—now more than ever—that biblical truth rise above the din, and ICR is committed to doing our part as long as the Lord enables our ministry. If you follow us, you know our ministry is blessed with a tremendous science staff with degrees from world-class universities. Most impor-

It is time to draw a spiritual line in the sand and boldly proclaim our Creator through the very science that skeptics use to deny Him.

tantly, they all possess a great love for Scripture and a passion to proclaim its truths. Their research uncovers a wealth of new evidence that affirms the Bible. Yet only those within our circle of supporters are aware of it. It is time we change that.

ICR is now focused on building a state-of-the-art science museum and planetarium on our Dallas campus to reach hundreds of thousands of people each year. That said, anything high-quality takes time, skill, and—yes—money to produce. We've never

faced a funding challenge as large as this, yet we know from Scripture that if we don't ask, we won't receive. God has enabled ICR to operate debt-free for the entire 45 years of our ministry (all glory to Him!), and we aim to keep it that way.

With the recent turn in world affairs, it is time to draw a spiritual line in the sand and boldly proclaim our Creator through the very science that skeptics use to deny Him. ICR has the intellectual prowess, the scientific muscle, and the biblical commitment to build a magnificent testament that glorifies Him in a way that no one on Earth can do. If we don't do it, it won't be done. It's time we get after it.

Please prayerfully consider joining with ICR to build this robust museum of science. It is high time we showcase the remarkable evidence that affirms the Bible, and the scientists and staff of the Institute for Creation Research are just the team to do it! For more information and a preview of this major initiative, please visit **ICR.org/museum**. Your generous tax-deductible gift will make a bigger difference than you might imagine and will impact many "generation[s] to come" for our Creator, the Lord Jesus Christ (Psalm 78:4). ✨

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



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I was astonished to find the article “The Eugenics Disaster” by Dr. Randy J. Guliuzza in the November 2015 issue of *Acts & Facts* since I had only in the past few weeks read the ebook *Eugenics and Other Evils* published in 1922 by G. K. Chesterton. One can hardly find a more thoroughly critical analysis of the eugenics system of thought, and Chesterton’s conclusion in his final chapter regrettably is the same, though in different words, as that of Dr. Guliuzza: “Eugenics will no doubt return.”

— D.E.M.



I am a devoted Christian and believer in all that ICR holds dear. In reading Dr. Guliuzza’s article “The Eugenics Disaster” (November 2015 *Acts & Facts*) I could not help but notice the similarity between the eugenics “logic” of today and that of the Third Reich. Under pressure of SS-sponsored ideology, doctors began euthanizing the mentally ill and “retarded,” and others considered “unworthy of life.” Those same doctors were later recruited into the mass killing centers like Auschwitz and Treblinka, where millions were put to death. Thank you, Dr. Guliuzza, for your candor and courage.

— J.C.

A note of thanks for a great weekend, 10/23–10/25 [Jefferson, Oregon], and the opportunity to hear from exceptional speakers. Their presentations were informative and with just the right amount of humor to keep us on our toes. The entire ICR staff is to be commended.

— E.B.

I want to thank you for your ministry to the Christian community. I am currently studying to get my Master of Curriculum and Instruction with an emphasis in science at Pensacola Christian College. I have found your website and *Acts & Facts* to be invaluable tools not only for science research but also for education. I especially enjoy the fact that many of your articles present a traditional Christian view of science education and a biblical view of origins. The devil is working hard in this world to lead many astray when it comes to science. The Lord has used your ministry as a strong light in this world and has used it to interest me in Christian education and science....[It] has helped me build a biblical creationist worldview.

— C.H.

ACTS & FACTS

I want to make you aware of how much you have influenced my life. I was a vain and “successful” high school student who considered herself a Christian, but in reality I was spiritually poor and blind. By God’s grace, I encountered someone in my early college years who introduced your ministry to me.

I was a biology major in the field of education, and I pored over these publications. When it was time to do my student teaching, I asked my supervising teacher if she would allow me to present a unit of study on creation science rather than the assigned unit on botany. (This was a large public high school.) She considered herself to be a theistic evolutionist and graciously agreed.

I threw myself into preparation, but I was a totally inexperienced teacher and was not able to create a quality unit to present. I had to go to the supervising teacher and humbly tell her that I wasn’t capable. Her response was something like “I knew you wouldn’t be able to find enough factual science to do that. Just teach the unit on botany.”

I felt very defeated. It caused me to be determined to not fail like this again. I kept studying your material, and by God’s grace was able to then teach the creation science viewpoint in my own classroom (public school) for the next nine years.

I left the public school system. My husband and I homeschooled our children, and during that time I taught creation science at the homeschool co-op. ICR has always been my favorite ministry. Be very encouraged as you continue to fight the good fight.

— L.A.C.



I just wanted to let you know that our family recently finished watching the *Unlocking the Mysteries of Genesis* series. Our family has seen quite a few creation science videos—this was the best produced and organized series we have seen. Congratulations on the excellent work! We will be passing on our copy to friends and family.

— 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.

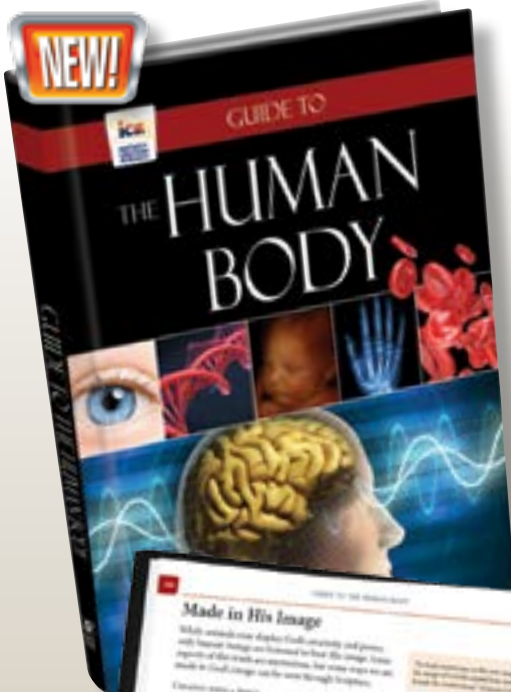
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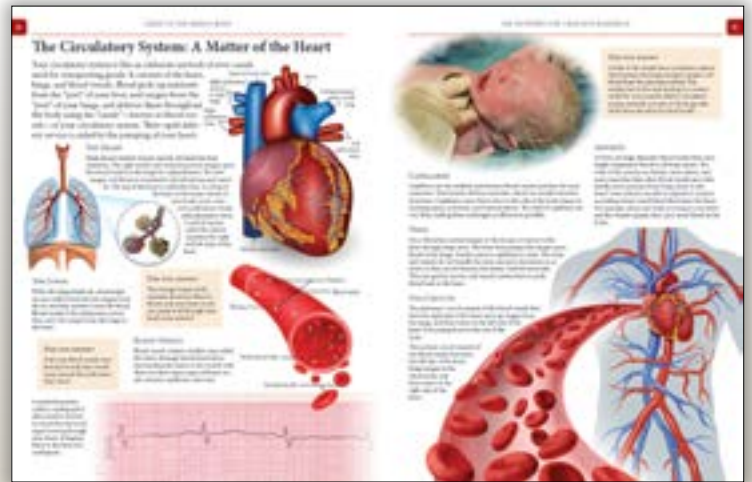
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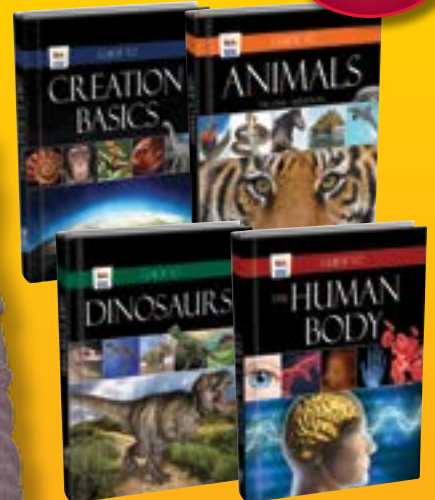


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