

# ACTS & FACTS



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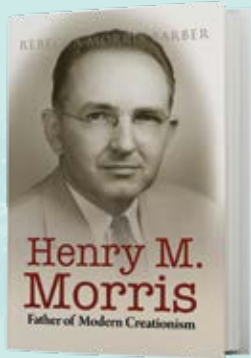
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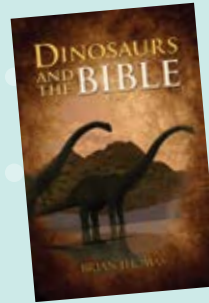


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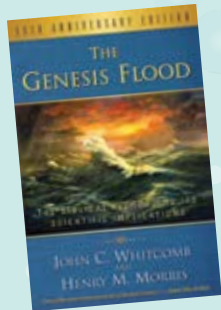
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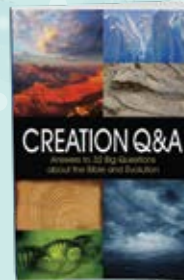


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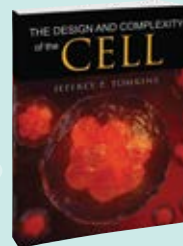
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# Stirring the Pot

**ICR** recently had the opportunity to place messages on billboards in the Dallas area. We prepared the artwork and crafted the wording to inform drivers about the ICR Discovery Center for Science & Earth History and the work of the Institute for Creation Research. One of our billboard designs prominently displayed a toothy *T. rex* image with our logo, website, and the question “Dinosaurs and the Bible?” But soon after we submitted the ad, we were surprised to get an email from the sales rep that said two of the billboard owners wouldn’t run it. The message was too “divisive.”

consider that what they’d been taught all those years in school might not be based on truth. We challenged local beliefs, and we were censored.

It’s hard to imagine that sharing the message of Genesis 1:1 is considered divisive to local citizens. This is a conservative area—the Bible Belt, even. And we can’t associate the word “Bible” with the word “dinosaurs”?

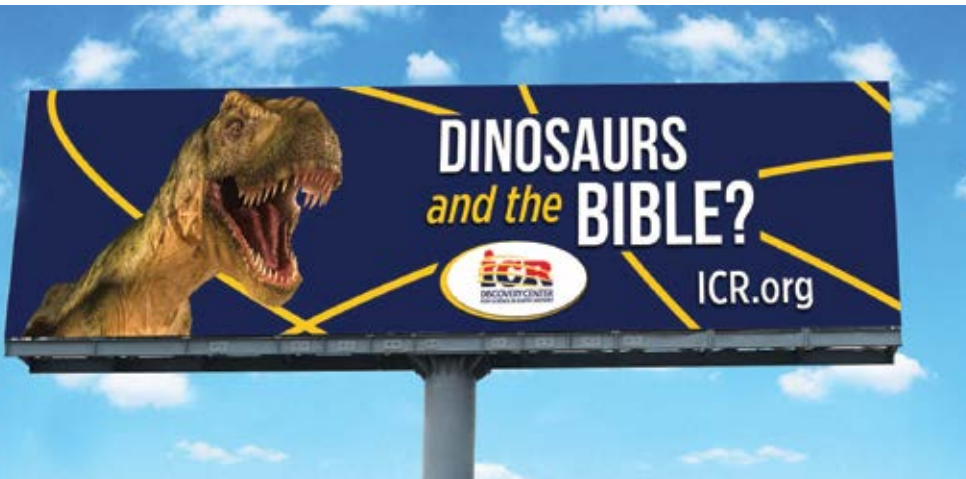
This censorship underscores how far our culture has moved from embracing the Bible’s teachings. And it even more emphasizes the need for ICR’s message—that a Creator created everything from nothing, and

that “instead of attempting to harmonize the inerrant Word of God with a flimsy scientific model, Christians would do far better to simply take God’s Word at face value.”

Dr. Brian Thomas confronts the popular claim that dinosaurs died out long before humans existed (“St. Davids Dragon—Fantasy or Reality?” pages 14-15). He describes a medieval dragon carving that looks a lot like a sauropod dinosaur with wings. He says, “The St. Davids sauropod may represent a real, though extinct, reptile with imaginary body parts added on purpose.” Dr. Thomas offers explanations for how the artist could have known intricate details about the creature.

In “Evolutionism Maligins Christian Edification” (pages 17-19), Dr. Randy Gullizza sheds light on how evolutionary beliefs impact the church. He says, “Possibly the most pointed confrontation of naturalistic evolutionism against edification is in the practice of prayer.”

With groundbreaking research and creation-based analysis, our scientists are changing the conversation. But it doesn’t take a Ph.D. to make a difference. When you consider that just four words were considered a challenge to cultural beliefs here in the Dallas area, think about what impact your words can have on a daily basis. How can you start a conversation with the people in your circle? How can you point them to the truth of God’s Word? You might be accused of stirring the pot. But that’s okay—your life is your billboard. And every day you can choose the message you display.



Which part did the billboard sales rep object to? You got it—the Bible. More specifically, the Bible being included in the same context with dinosaurs. Here’s the complete explanation we received: “It’s controversial to have a statement that may challenge local beliefs. Saying ‘Dinosaurs and the Bible?’ may stir the pot in that area and cause problems for the sign in that area.”

There you go. We stirred the pot with four simple words. We made people think about something that might be outside their paradigm. We encouraged them to

science backs it up. He completed His work in only six 24-hour days. Each creature was created after its own kind, and He made people for the world’s stewardship and His glory. Jesus was not only present at creation, He was the Creator, and He became our Savior. That’s the message the world needs to hear.

In this issue of *Acts & Facts*, what challenging ideas can you expect to find? How are ICR scientists stirring the pot? Dr. Jake Hebert points out problems with the Big Bang model (“Continuing Troubles for the Big Bang Model,” pages 10-13). He concludes

*Jayme Durant*

**Jayme Durant**  
EXECUTIVE EDITOR



# The Babblings and Contradictions of False Knowledge

## article highlights

- Today's biology textbooks deceptively depict evolution as a fact that virtually all scientists agree on.
- The assumptions that evolution is based on don't stand up to scientific scrutiny.
- The textbooks sidestep the fact that life can only come from life.
- ICR is dedicated to helping families train up their children in the truth of creation. Our Discovery Center, magazines, books, and DVDs do just that.

O Timothy! Guard what was committed to your trust, avoiding the profane and idle babblings and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge—by professing it some have strayed concerning the faith.

— • 1 Timothy 6:20-21 • —

There are many warnings in Scripture of the power that deception can have. The manipulation and misrepresentation of factual truth and biblical insight can undermine our faith and confidence in God's Word. The apostle Paul cautioned the church at Colossae: "Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ" (Colossians 2:8).

Paul challenged young Timothy to avoid the "falsely called knowledge" since it would cause some Christians to stray from their faith. We live in an age that could well be a candidate for the most deceptive age since the one before the great Flood of Noah's day. The twisting and distortion of facts by evolutionary naturalism are brazen in their falsehood but extremely shrewd in their presentation.

Recently, Dr. Neal Frey carefully analyzed a potential series of biology textbooks that are recommended for acquisition by Texas schools.<sup>1</sup> Because those recommendations affect the purchase of tens of thousands of textbooks, many other state schools across the nation are likely to acquire the same books. These textbooks will be required reading and the source for mandated instruction throughout public schools.

Christian parents must be prepared to cope with the sophisticated shaping of this “falsely called knowledge” foisted on their children and taught by gifted instructors and “expert” proponents of the open onslaught against the Bible’s message. The following insights, drawn from Dr. Frey’s analysis, will help you teach your children to become critical thinkers, enabling them to tell truth from error.

### Open Fraud and Tricks

Phylogenies, or evolutionary trees, are diagrams that illustrate how certain plants or animals supposedly evolved and branched out from common ancestors.<sup>2</sup> Evolutionary biology textbooks falsely imply that evolutionary phylogenies (tree diagrams) that are based on *biochemical* similarities usually agree with the trees that are based on *anatomical* similarities. Essentially, it’s taught that trees drawn from the similarity of chemical composition in living organisms align with trees that are based on the similarity of body features (anatomical structure). Therefore, evolutionists assert that these similarities demonstrate the evolutionary relationships between living creatures.

The textbooks never note that the trees based on biochemical similarities often contradict each other. Nor is it ever mentioned in these textbooks that no amount of deep time is sufficient to enable the evolutionary development of any branch of these trees, let alone an entire tree itself. This body of “falsely called knowledge” is simply presented as known and accepted fact among the expert scientists of our day.

**“Convergence is *not* an observable process but is rather ‘observed’ only in someone’s mind as imaginary visualization. Convergence is another evolutionary mystical, mental construct.”**

— Dr. Randy Guliuzza

The implied argument is that all scientists have accepted the inferred evidence from these dissimilar trees as sufficient evidence to know that evolutionary development has been the process that has driven the upward growth in complexity and diversity of life over the ages.

### Flagrant Gaming and Salesmanship

The massively discrepant facts openly declared as science in these evolutionary trees are carefully obscured by vaguely defining evolution as “descent with modification” or “change over time” without specifying descent *from what* with *which* modification(s) or exactly *which* changes from *what* over time. Evolutionary textbooks blur this huge problem by insisting that various life forms “converged” based on one characteristic that is often alleged to have diverged from another life form.

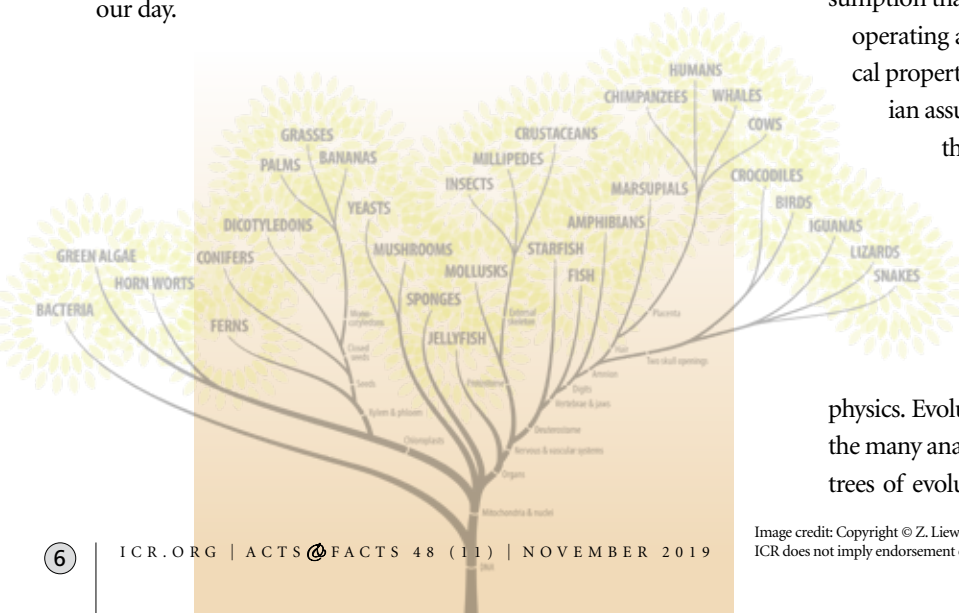
That is, somewhere in ages past, a living creature developed a divergent feature in its anatomical or biochemical composition that converged into another life form, bringing about a major change in evolutionary development. As ICR geneticist Dr. Jeffrey Tomkins stated: “Convergent evolution is the idea that the same trait, or set of traits, in completely different organisms were somehow produced through independent evolutionary processes.”<sup>3</sup>

This is a fascinating presentation of sheer fiction based on nothing more than purely subjective opinions. ICR’s Dr. Randy Guliuzza pointed out that “convergence is *not* an observable process but is rather ‘observed’ only in someone’s mind as imaginary visualization. Convergence is another evolutionary mystical, mental construct.”<sup>4</sup> No hint is given in these textbooks that such reasoning is not based on objective facts.

### Unscrupulous and Malicious Information

Often unstated and completely ignored is the evolutionary assumption that processes during the unobserved ages of the past were operating at the same rate and with the same chemical and physical properties as we observe and measure today. This uniformitarian assumption is usually expressed as “the present is the key to the past.” Thus, modern measured rates and processes are used to extrapolate the long ages of past evolutionary history—which itself is an assumptive dogma not demonstrated by empirical data.

Natural empirical science involves objective analysis and detached investigation, careful quantification and classification, as is done in chemistry and physics. Evolutionary textbooks ignore the condemning evidence of the many anatomical and biochemical contradictions exposed by the trees of evolutionary relationships. These rival and disruptive phy-





logenes discredit any notion of a uniformitarian evolutionary past, while at the same time aligning well with a non-uniformitarian understanding of the only available empirical data of the unobserved past—the fossil record.

Yet, in spite of the evolutionary story resting so firmly on a uniformitarian assumption of the unobserved past, the same evolutionary biology textbooks will insist on the openly opposite idea that life spontaneously generated from non-life, a non-uniformitarian principle that has absolutely no data to support it. Science—the observable, testable, repeatable study of present processes—insists that life only comes from pre-existing life. Everything that science knows about life verifies this simple principle that new life is never the result of non-life. To state otherwise is to consciously fabricate and willingly promote a fallacious error.

### Babblings and Contradictions

It is interesting to note that 2,000 years ago the apostle Paul was inspired to use the very terms that most aptly describe the evolutionary doctrine enshrined in the biology textbooks of the 21st century. The studies of biology and genetics have exposed a marvel of complexity and informational instructions that define the myriad details of living things. The facts shout the reality of a Creator who has brought life into existence by His own omnipotence and omniscience. The “babblings” of convergent evolution are nothing more than aggrandized terms for an effort to explain away the evidence of God’s presence and power.

The contradictions to evolution offered by the overwhelming evidence of the design of living things are the antithesis of evolutionary biology. It’s clear from the Scriptures that those who embrace these manufactured evolutionary stories—no matter how cleverly arranged and shrewdly couched—do so because they wish to have an intellectual basis for rejecting the Creator so clearly presented in the “things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse” (Romans 1:20).

Although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. (Romans 1:21-23)

### Biblical Responsibility

Most of ICR’s readers are familiar with the Bible passages that instruct Christian parents to make sure their children are brought up “in the training and admonition of the Lord” (Ephesians 6:4). It is certain that the Lord expects a father to “command his children and



his household after him, that they keep the way of the LORD, to do righteousness and justice” (Genesis 18:19).

Those basic principles were part of what motivated ICR to build the Discovery Center for Science & Earth History. Our culture is dominated by godless evolutionary naturalism and humanism. The academic world is steeped in those philosophies, and it is almost impossible to carve out a niche where our families can easily learn of the foundational doctrines of Jesus Christ as Creator, Redeemer, and coming King.

Our mission at ICR has not changed, but our platform has expanded. As ICR prepared to construct the Discovery Center, we all felt strongly that a passage from Psalm 78 encapsulated the commitment that would center our thinking and guide our decisions going forward with the center’s design and purpose.

We will not hide them from their children, telling to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and His strength and His wonderful works that He has done....He commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children; that the generation to come might know them, the children who would be born, that they may arise and declare them to their children, that they may set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments. (Psalm 78:4-7)

May the Lord help us all to be part of the solution to these eternal responsibilities. ✞

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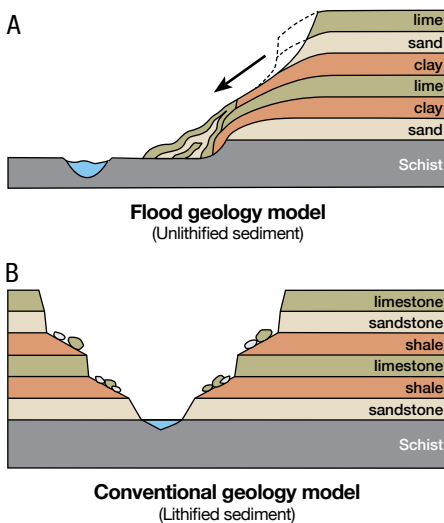
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# Observations Support Grand Canyon Flood Origin

Old-earth geologists claim that observations contradict the Flood model origin for Grand Canyon.<sup>1</sup> However, recently exposed sediments at Lake Mead refute their claims and instead fully support the Flood model.

These geologists argue that if the Flood rapidly carved Grand Canyon, the freshly deposited and un lithified (not yet stone) sediment layers should have collapsed, thinned, and slumped into the chasm (Figure 1). In effect, they predict “piles of mixed sediment at the base of the exposed embankments,” with no vertical cliffs.<sup>1</sup>



**Figure 1.** Helble and Hill’s prediction of the behavior of un lithified sediment in the Flood model (A) contrasted with the conventional model (B).

Image credit: Tim Helble and Carol Hill. Used in accordance with federal copyright (fair use doctrine) law. Usage by ICR does not imply endorsement of copyright holder.

They further assert that only fully lithified, ancient rock layers would maintain Grand Canyon’s pattern of vertical cliffs and slopes. They report they have actually observed these processes in today’s world, postulating, “So, what is actually observed? None of the expected features for the flood geology model are observed. All of the expected features from the conventional geology model are observed.”<sup>1</sup>

It sounds convincing, until we look

## article highlights

- Many secular geologists believe the Flood couldn’t have carved Grand Canyon because they thought newly deposited soft-sediment layers wouldn’t support vertical cliff faces.
- We see just this type of erosion and vertical cliffs in un lithified Lake Mead sediments.
- Observational data match the Flood model for Grand Canyon’s origin.

deeper. Their explanation is a classic example of the straw man fallacy. We don’t actually observe the thinning and slumping they predicted. We only observe the mixed vertical cliffs and slopes of the modern canyon walls, and this clearly doesn’t disprove the Flood model.

Geologists agree Grand Canyon was formed by the removal of about 1,000 cubic miles of sediment and rock.<sup>1</sup> The canyon is 277 miles in length. It’s 4 to 18 miles in width and has a depth of over 6,000 feet in some locations.

In 1935, Lake Mead formed behind Hoover Dam, creating a trap for water and river sediment. Fluctuating snow pack and runoff levels caused the lake to drop from its high-water level of 1,225 feet above sea level in 1983 to about 1,080 feet today. A white-colored band—a bathtub ring—visible above the current lake level showcases this drop in water elevation.

As a consequence, the Colorado River has eroded through the former lake sediments at the eastern end of the lake, exposing sandy cliffs 20 to 40 feet high. These cliffs make a perfect test of the Flood model since the sediments consist of un lithified, packed sand and clay just like many of the Flood sediments at the time Grand Canyon was carved.

This past August, I rafted the last 100

miles of Grand Canyon. As I passed the freshly exposed sediments in Lake Mead, I observed firsthand the rapid erosion of un lithified sands and clays that had been deposited over the past 80-plus years.

Amazingly, the exposed lake sediments look like a miniature version of Grand Canyon (Figure 2). There was no mixing of the sediments or thinning of the layers. Instead, we observed vertical sandy cliffs, some sloping layers, and more vertical cliffs. In fact, the cliffs showed frequent cross-bedding and angular unconformities likely caused by lake currents and fluctuating lake levels. All these features match perfectly with what’s observed in Grand Canyon rocks.



**Figure 2.** Un lithified Lake Mead sediments standing vertically like a “little Grand Canyon.”

Image credit: Tim Clarey

The recent “little Grand Canyon” exposed by Lake Mead is exactly what Flood geologists have predicted. Packed, water-deposited sediment will stand vertically even if un lithified. Real observations made in the field, not mere assumptions based on an old-earth worldview, match perfectly with a late-Flood carving of Grand Canyon.<sup>2</sup>

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



# CONTINUING TROUBLES FOR THE BIG BANG MODEL

## article highlights

- The Big Bang model continues to face issues that expose its inadequacies as an explanation for the origin of the universe.
- The two methods secular scientists use to calculate the inferred expansion rate of the universe contradict each other.
- If the Big Bang were true, a great deal of exotic matter should exist, but efforts to find it have failed.
- Secular cosmologists change their theories to accommodate new discoveries, coming up with increasingly speculative explanations to keep the Big Bang theory afloat.
- Christians can accept the Bible's creation account at face value instead of trying to wedge the Big Bang into Genesis 1.

**C**osmology is the study of the origin and structure of the universe, and the Big Bang is the dominant secular cosmological model. Some Christians say God used the Big Bang to create the universe, but that model contradicts Scripture at multiple points.<sup>1</sup> There have been some recent developments involving the Big Bang model, nearly all of which are bad news for Big Bang proponents.

According to the Big Bang model, the universe was once very dense and hot. Supposedly, the universe began expanding rapidly about 14 billion years ago and is still expanding today. This expansion, inferred from clues within light from distant galaxies, is one of three main arguments for the model.<sup>2</sup> A second argument is that the Big Bang





*Orion Nebula as photographed by the Hubble Space telescope.*

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does a good job of accounting for the light chemical elements hydrogen and helium. A third is the existence of faint cosmic microwave background (CMB) radiation coming to us from all directions in space (Figure 1). Big Bang proponents interpret the CMB as an “afterglow” from a time about 400,000 years after the Big Bang occurred.

Despite these apparent successes, the Big Bang model has serious scientific problems. One enormous difficulty is that Big Bang proponents have concluded that about 95% of the “stuff” in the universe is composed of mysterious entities called *dark matter* and *dark energy*, but they don’t know what these things are. How can Big Bang theorists claim to understand the process that supposedly brought the universe into existence when, by their own admission, 95% of the universe’s contents are unknown?<sup>3</sup>

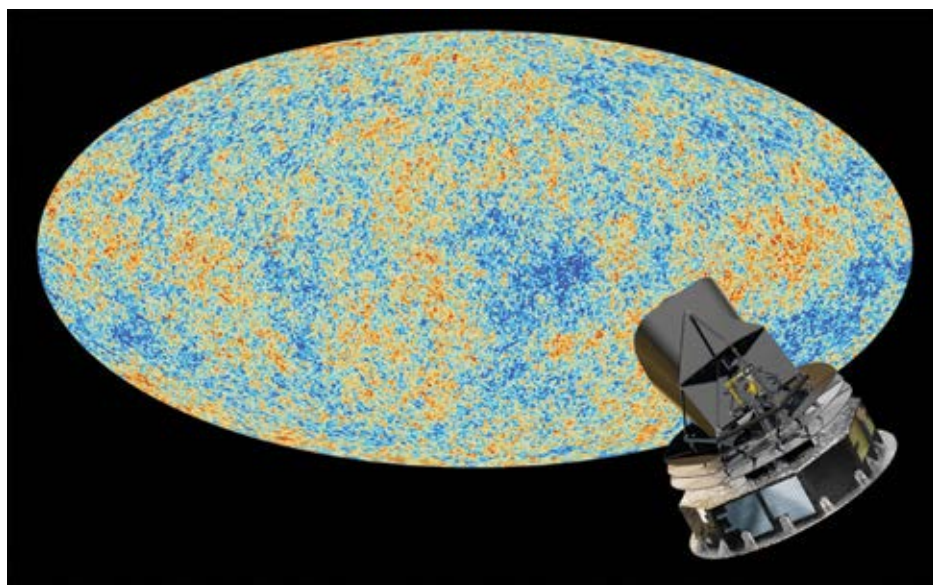
As a creation ministry, ICR wants people to be up-to-date on the current version of the Big Bang model, not one that was popular decades ago. For instance, Big Bang cosmologists used to say the universe went through an enormous “growth spurt” called

*inflation* shortly after the Big Bang. However, most theorists today claim that inflation happened first and *caused* the Big Bang.<sup>4</sup>

### Hubble Constant Contradiction Persists

Most astronomers think the universe is expanding, causing galaxies to move away from each other. Scientists use a number called the Hubble constant, denoted by the symbol  $H_0$ , to characterize this expansion. They use two different methods to calculate  $H_0$ . One way is to calculate the value directly, using estimated distances and speeds of distant galaxies. A second way is to infer this number by looking at details of the CMB radiation. The values calculated from these two methods conflict with each other, and a recent study hasn’t resolved the issue.<sup>5-7</sup>

When Big Bang proponents use the CMB to infer a value for  $H_0$ , they are assuming the Big Bang model is correct. Naturally, if the model is wrong, there’s no reason to expect this method to yield an accurate result. Creationists aren’t surprised these two different methods yield contradictory results. And even though the CMB is arguably the strongest argument for the Big Bang, there



*Figure 1. A sky map of the cosmic microwave background (CMB) radiation. Even though the existence of the CMB is arguably the strongest argument for the Big Bang, features of this radiation do not agree with Big Bang expectations. The data were obtained by the Planck satellite.*

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are details about this radiation that do *not* align with the Big Bang model.<sup>8</sup> For instance, Cambridge astrophysicist George Efstathiou commented on how the CMB doesn't match the expectations of inflation theory:

The theory of inflation predicts that today's universe should appear uniform at the largest scales in all directions.... That uniformity should also characterize the distribution of [temperature] fluctuations at the largest scales within the CMB. But these anomalies, which [the] Planck [satellite] confirmed, such as the cold spot, suggest that this isn't the case.... This is very strange.... And I think that if there really is anything to this, you have to question how that fits in with inflation.... It's really puzzling.<sup>9</sup>

**Missing Baryonic Matter Found?**

Heavy subatomic particles like protons and neutrons are called *baryons*. Because protons and neutrons comprise nearly all the mass of an atom, the normal atomic matter we interact with in our everyday experiences is called *baryonic matter*.

As mentioned earlier, one of the three main arguments for the Big Bang is that it can account for the observed abundances of hydrogen and helium in the universe. However, this is because the model has an adjustable parameter, like a tuning dial on a radio.<sup>10</sup> Big Bang scientists choose a value for this parameter to ensure that the model matches the observed abundances of hydrogen and helium.<sup>11</sup>

So, contrary to popular perception,

the Big Bang does *not* successfully predict the abundances of hydrogen and helium. Rather, the model's proponents *choose* a value for this parameter to make sure the model gives the right answer.<sup>12-14</sup> Nevertheless, secular scientists consider the model's ability to match the observed abundances of hydrogen and helium to be a major success.

Once Big Bang scientists choose their value for this parameter, the model indicates how much baryonic matter should exist in the universe.<sup>15</sup> When one adds up the different forms of matter thought to exist, the amount of baryonic matter predicted by the Big Bang is only 20% of the total (Figure 2). Big Bang astronomers think the other 80% is an exotic form of invisible dark matter, discussed in the next section. Previous observations indicated that visible stars and gas could only account for half this predicted baryonic matter, and scientists couldn't account for the other half.

Last year, astronomers claimed to have solved this problem.<sup>16</sup> (Interestingly, another scientist claimed to have solved it one year before that.<sup>17</sup>) Theorists think the missing baryonic matter should reside in thin, hot strings of ionized hydrogen located between galaxies. Astronomers didn't detect the hydrogen per se but rather ionized oxygen that they think is associated with the hydrogen. Naturally, Big Bang proponents will see this as good news for their model. However, it's important to realize that the missing matter hasn't actually been found directly. Rather, oxygen was found that secular scientists

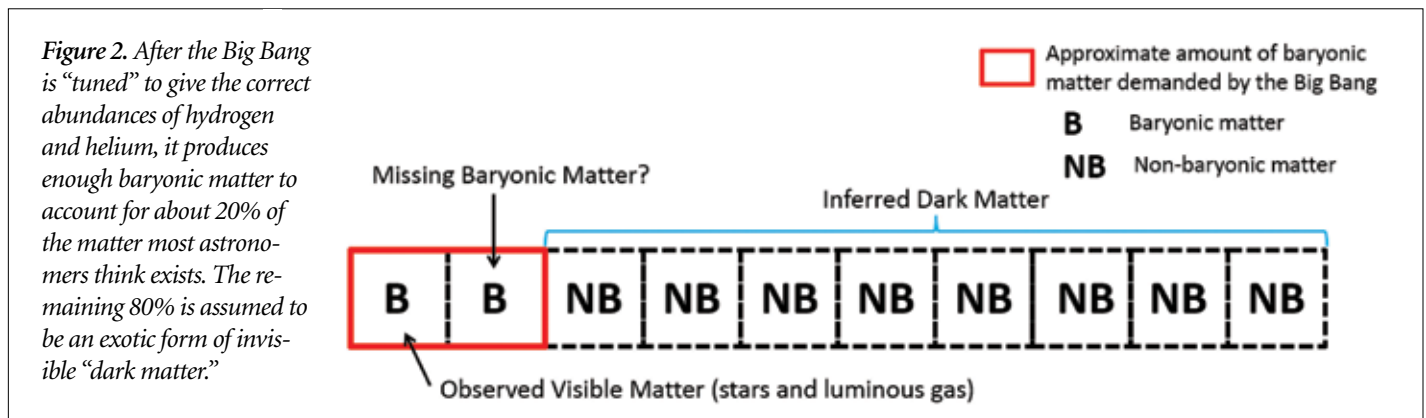


think, based on their models, should be associated with the missing hydrogen.

It's worth noting that the Wikipedia entry for "Missing baryon problem" has been flagged for possibly making too strong a claim about the problem being solved, despite the obvious anti-creation bias found in Wikipedia articles touching on the creation-evolution controversy.<sup>18</sup>

**Dark Matter Still Undetected**

As mentioned earlier, many astronomers think 80% of all the matter in the universe is invisible dark matter. Although astronomers deduced the existence of dark matter apart from the Big Bang model, this







substance has become very important to secular cosmologists. They recognize the enormous problems in their theories of star and galaxy formation. Many claim dark matter is the “missing ingredient” that can somehow enable their theories to work.<sup>19</sup> This is very convenient for theorists. Since no one knows what dark matter is—or even if it really exists—no one can demonstrate that their theories are wrong!<sup>20</sup>

Because the Big Bang model only allows for 20% of all matter to be baryonic (made of atoms), its proponents must assume that dark matter is something else. Other forms of matter (i.e., free electrons, neutrinos, etc.) do exist but have generally been ruled out as dark matter candidates. The scientists have no choice but to insist that dark matter is some exotic, never-before-observed substance.

So, how is the hunt for this exotic matter going? Not well. Repeated searches have come up empty,<sup>21</sup> and theorists are becoming increasingly nervous, if not desperate.

### Dark Matter Before the Big Bang?

How desperate? One theorist recently suggested that perhaps dark matter somehow

existed *before* the Big Bang.<sup>22,23</sup> How is that possible? Haven’t we been led to believe that the Big Bang was the origin of *everything*?

This theorist said dark matter came from something called a *scalar field* that supposedly was present before the Big Bang. A problem with this idea is that only one scalar field is known to exist, and that’s the field associated with the famous Higgs boson. All other scalar fields are hypothetical.

By the way, this should give pause to Christians who say God used the Big Bang to create the universe. If the supposed “bang” was God’s initial creative act, then according to this reasoning dark matter existed *before* Genesis 1:1. If 80% of all existing matter had an existence before then, did God actually create it prior to Genesis 1:1? If so, why doesn’t the Bible tell us? If not, is dark matter simply eternal? And if it’s eternal, what does that do to Christian theology?

### Time Before the Big Bang?

This raises another point. Big Bang scientists had long insisted that speaking of time before the Big Bang was as nonsensical as asking the question “What is north of the North Pole?” Well, apparently the question wasn’t as nonsensical as we were led to believe, because they now *routinely* talk about time “before” the Big Bang. In fact, inflation theorists now claim the inflation process that supposedly triggered the Big Bang could have been going on for eons by the time the Big Bang supposedly created our universe. This has led to the idea that our universe is only one of an infinite number of universes in a supposed “multiverse.”<sup>24</sup>

### Conclusion

This should demonstrate just how “squishy” Big Bang theories are. Secular scientists simply won’t allow data to falsify them, even if it means tacking on additional hypotheses or accepting concepts that they themselves dismissed as nonsense decades ago, such as time before the Big Bang.

Instead of attempting to harmonize the inerrant Word of God with a flimsy scientific model, Christians would do far better to simply take God’s Word at face value. The universe came into existence not through a Big Bang but by the omnipotent Word of God. ✠

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# St. Davids Dragon— Fantasy or Reality?

My early memories of dinosaur teachings reflected the doctrine of their extinction 65 million years ago and the evolution of mankind only several million years ago. If that really happened, then our ancestors who lived before the scientific study of fossils should have had no knowledge of dinosaurs or similar creatures like pterosaurs and ichthyosaurs.

Certain pieces of ancient artwork appear to show just the opposite. I grabbed an opportunity to examine one such piece—a carved wooden dragon—found in St. Davids Cathedral in Wales. The ICR Discovery Center for Science & Earth History in Dallas displays a picture of this intriguing dragon art.

My wife and I visited the cathedral situated in picturesque Pembrokeshire, a far western headland of Wales. Religious buildings have occupied the site for a millennium. The current cathedral had its last big refurbishment in the 1800s, about 400 years after a major late-medieval upgrade, when the dragon-art piece was crafted. We ascended the slope-floored main area to several smaller chapels in the back.

One chapel featured folding seats called *miserichords*. Each one is attached to a tall, straight-backed, dark, ornately carved wooden slot. They line three walls like a series of serene sentinels. Whereas

medieval artists represented ecclesiastical themes with reverence, they brought a measure of whimsy to scenes, faces, and animals carved on the underside of each solid oak seat. When the seats are folded up, each carving is visible.

One miserichord shows a dinosaur look-alike. Its overall anatomy resembles the sauropod dinosaurs known from fossils, with longer hind legs than front legs. These long-necked, extinct reptiles typify Jurassic rock layers. This one's neck is not nearly as long in proportion

to its main body as the more familiar sauropods like *Diplodocus*. Lest someone say its neck looks too short for the carving to represent any real sauropod, its neck length closely matches that of a dinosaur fossil found in Argentina in 2005 named *Brachytrachelopan mesai*.<sup>1</sup>

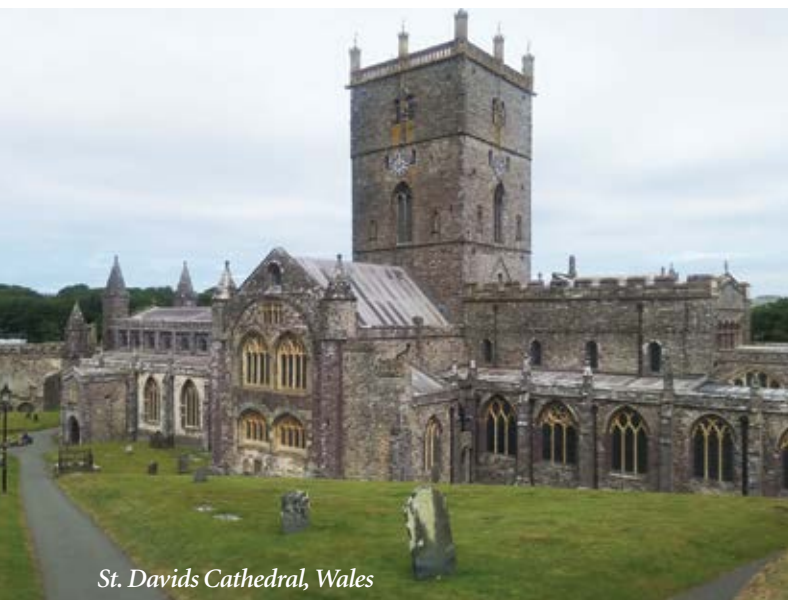
Two of the carving's body details—small wings and ears—don't match what fossils suggest.<sup>2</sup>

Like some modern cartoon dragons, these wings make no biological sense. The creature's body would be far too massive for such tiny wings to support it in flight. Do these misfit features disqualify the piece from representing a real animal? It depends.

We first must ask if the unknown artist could have imagined by chance this particular animal form. The pure imagination hypothesis would explain the wacky wings, but it wouldn't explain the long

## article highlights

- A cathedral in Wales has a medieval dragon carving.
- Did the artist carve a mythological animal, or did he have knowledge of a real creature?
- Other than the creature's small wings, it bears a striking resemblance to *Brachytrachelopan*.
- The tiny wings might identify the creature as a dragon if the dragons sighted in medieval England were most often flying creatures.



St. Davids Cathedral, Wales

Image credit: Brian Thomas



Image credit: Brian Thomas



neck, long tail, legs positioned beneath a barrel-shaped body instead of straddle-legged like modern lizards, small head with sauropod-shaped mouth, and reptilian frills along its spine.



Brachytrachelopan

When placed on a biology balance, the weight of creature features favors the idea that the artist somehow knew what sauropods looked like. If so, then he or she knew this centuries before scientists began to describe them from fossils.

This eyewitness hypothesis would benefit from an explanation of the ears and especially the wings. Until someone uncovers an ancient artist's notebook that explains particular stylistic choices, we must reason it out. Medieval dragon depictions across Europe very often include wings. Perhaps artists placed wings on their large reptilian forms to identify them as dragons. In medieval Europe, the word dragon referred to reptiles. The St. Davids sauropod may represent a real, though extinct, reptile with imaginary body parts added on purpose. How could this happen?

If flying dragons were more widely known than fen-dwelling (wetland) dragons, then the artist could have added the flying serpent's familiar wings to a lesser-known land dragon body just to make sure the viewer knew the creature was a reptile. Evidence that ancient inhabitants of the United Kingdom were familiar with flying dragons that we know today as pterosaurs would bolster this supposition. One sober 18th-century Scottish account reads:

In the end of November and beginning of December last, many of the country people observed...dragons...appearing in the north and flying rapidly towards the east, from which they concluded, and their conjectures were right, that...boisterous weather would follow.<sup>3</sup>

And according to an approximately 19th-century Welsh an-

ecdote, "the woods around Penllyne Castle, Glamorgan, had the reputation of being frequented by winged serpents, and these were the ter-

ror of old and young alike."<sup>4</sup> If flying dragons hadn't yet been eradicated from the UK by the 1700s, then the animals must have been around to terrorize old and young long before then—for example, in medieval times when the St. Davids carvers lived.

Whoever would reject the wings-equal-dragon hypothesis still needs to explain the wealth of short-necked sauropod-specific anatomy on the St. Davids miserichord. The larger weight of evidence lies on the side of artists who had some measure of eyewitness knowledge of their subject matter. This remarkable art forces a rethink of secular dinosaur doctrines but happens to fit perfectly with a biblical view of dinosaurs.<sup>5</sup> ✂

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5. God created dinosaurs when He "made the beast of the earth according to its kind" (Genesis 1:25). Noah's Flood fossilized many of them, when "all flesh died that moved on the earth: birds and cattle and beasts and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth" (Genesis 7:21). Some dinosaurs presumably survived the Flood on board Noah's Ark, where "they went into the ark to Noah, two by two, of all flesh in which is the breath of life" (Genesis 7:15). Centuries later, God told Job, "Look now at the behemoth....He moves his tail like a cedar," probably indicating a sauropod living near where "the Jordan [River] gushes" (Job 40:15-23). These and many other historical records challenge evolutionary beliefs about dinosaur extinction.

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## Ancient and Fossil Bone Collagen Remnants | Brian Thomas, Ph.D.

For the serious science reader



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Do creation scientists do actual laboratory science, or do they just propagate religious talking points? *Ancient and Fossil Bone Collagen Remnants*, based on Dr. Brian Thomas' Ph.D. dissertation, answers this question. It reveals results from research projects designed to address questions about the presence or absence, geographic and stratigraphic extent, and decay rate of collagen in ancient bones.

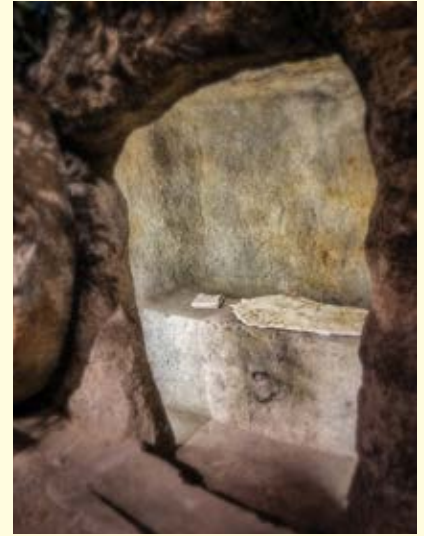
The experiments and descriptions found in this volume show that yes, creation scientists do real science. And they aren't afraid to ask research questions that challenge evolution's talking points, including millions of years. How does science resolve the dilemma of having short-lived collagen in supposedly very old dinosaur bones? *Ancient and Fossil Bone Collagen Remnants* provides the solid technical background needed to address this key question.



*The DNA fountain sculpture is stunning at night.*

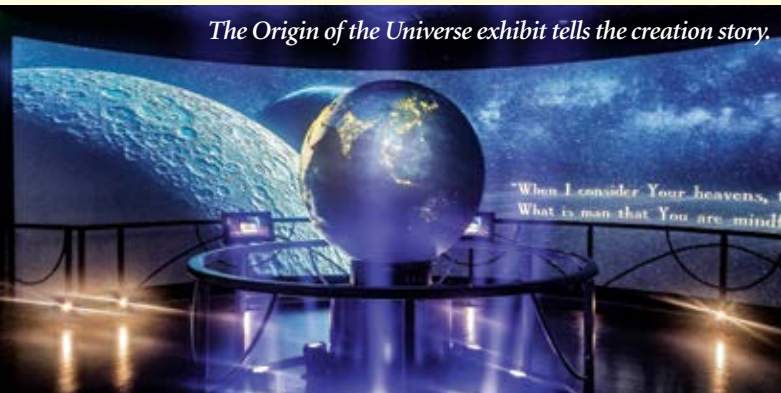


*Eight people and numerous animals were saved on the Ark.*



*Christ's empty tomb shows that He defeated sin and death on the cross.*

## *"I Liked That God Was There."*



*The Origin of the Universe exhibit tells the creation story.*



A recent young visitor to the ICR Discovery Center for Science & Earth History made this comment about her tour: "I liked that God was there." Yes, the message is all about God. He was there in the beginning as Creator, and He became flesh and dwelt with humans as humanity's Redeemer. The ICR Discovery Center is focused on Christ Jesus because everything in history and creation centers on Him. We see His hand in everything around us, from the smallest subatomic particle to the farthest star.

Visitors' reactions to the ICR Discovery Center for Science & Earth History are overwhelmingly positive, and the letters we've received are too numerous to print. The one on this page and the one on the Letters to the Editor page are typical of people's responses.

Our family was at ICR's Discovery Center for the Grand Opening on Monday [September 2, 2019]. We loved it. I appreciated the technology, animatronics, and solid science presentation that confirms what God's Word clearly states.

But I wanted to share with you what my nine-year-old told me was her favorite part. She said, "I liked that the museum was all about God. I liked that God was there."

Our kids have either been homeschooled or have attended Christian schools. We go to church and Sunday school as a family each week. We pray before and after meals and before we go to bed. But my little ones still must live in the world, and though she is still young, she already knows how secular much of the world appears. But my daughter also recognized the most precious gift to the world that you provide at your new center: the gift of providing a witness outside the walls of church and the safety of the Christian home. Your center is a beacon, and I pray the message of truth is far-reaching to those in the DFW metroplex and beyond.

God's blessings,

E. M.





# Evolutionism Maligns Christian Edification

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

## article highlights

- Edification is the building up of believers toward the mind and likeness of Christ.
- Our appreciation of Christ is inseparable from our understanding of the church.
- Selectionism discounts the church as an ordinary human-derived institution.
- The church's edification tools flow from Christ's supernatural interventions, which are challenged by naturalistic evolution.

**C**an an evolutionary theory be reconciled with the church's basic functions of worship, evangelism, and the edification (building up) of believers? Last month we saw how evolutionism has a profoundly negative effect on evangelism.<sup>1</sup> How does it affect a believer's growth in the Lord?

Consider the challenges any church may face, as illustrated by a certain Bible church after it received "that letter." Even though the church is only five years old, membership has already surpassed 1,400. The new building in a modern suburb was just completed. The church also operates a Christian school, has annual evangelistic meetings, and an impressive missions budget.

But in the January leaders' meeting, the pastor read a letter from the local ministerial association. It requested several representatives from the church to help draft a biblical statement regarding the issues of sexuality and abortion. Unfortunately, discussion became intense about whether the Bible speaks clearly on these topics.

Debate centered on whether an embryo is fully human and whether a person's gender is determined at birth. Some leaders thought the Genesis account of Adam and Eve's creation in the image of God was instructive. Others asserted that the Bible doesn't provide guidance in this area since it wasn't written as a science textbook. All recognized that the crux of the issue boiled down to how Christians should interpret the Bible. The deacons deadlocked. The pastor was

silent. They decided to let the congregation appoint a committee to develop Bible interpretation rules.

The congregational meeting didn't go any better. Discussions exceeded two hours on how to interpret Genesis. Some participants split hairs on what the words "morning and evening" meant or what type of "light" God created. Some believed it was naïve to exclude human evolution. Others felt that biblical authority was being weakened. Most were upset about why Bible interpretation even needed to be discussed and thought that the church was squabbling over a minor issue. The committee was not appointed.

After that, Bible interpretation was the hot topic for months. Members formed groups based on whether they thought the Bible was inspired to be clear enough that believers could understand it for themselves or whether Genesis must be interpreted in the light of modern science. Without a unified biblical base, the discussions on biblical inspiration, clarity, the uniqueness of the church, or meaningful social issues ended. The pastor preached messages on unity but could not point to a common foundation on which to build agreement. In a conversation with a former seminary professor, he said that he better appreciates how principles of Bible interpretation undergird the development of doctrine. But he also wonders if "that letter" caused the church's discord or simply exposed an unrecognized existing lack of unity of thinking.

Suppose you ran into the pastor at a café and invited him to join you for lunch. What might you say to him?

### Edification Defined and Accomplished

Edify means to "build up." It connotes the building of an edifice, which is a solid structure. Several New Testament passages define the methods and results of this activity.

Edification is the building of the community of believers set apart through the truth (John 17:19) in the life of faith, hope, and love (1 Thessalonians 1:3; Ephesians 4:16; Jude 1:20; 1 Corinthians 14:26), with the goal that each member might move progressively toward the mind and likeness of Christ in all things (Romans 8:29; John 17:22; Ephesians 4:13, 16; 2 Peter 3:18). This is accomplished through the Holy Spirit, first through the education and holy example of leaders (1 Corinthians 14:3; Ephesians 4:11-12; 1 Thessalonians 1:6), but in some manner by believers one to another (Ephesians 4:12, 16; 1 Thessalonians 5:11), so that the church is a light to the world (Matthew 5:14; Galatians 6:10).

In Ephesians 4:11-15, the apostle Paul identifies the church *not* as a man-made organization but uniquely and spiritually as Christ's "body." Speaking to the building up of a body, Paul states:

And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure

of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ.

The church's tools for building may seem to be familiar behaviors, but they are not "carnal" and always contain a spiritual element. They include Bible study for doctrine and guidance; prayer for power and guidance; self-examination to progress in sanctification; ordinances for instruction and reminder; fellowship for encouragement, spiritual assistance, and accountability; and the family for the growth of parents and training a godly heritage.

### Evolutionism Maligns the Church and Its Tools of Edification

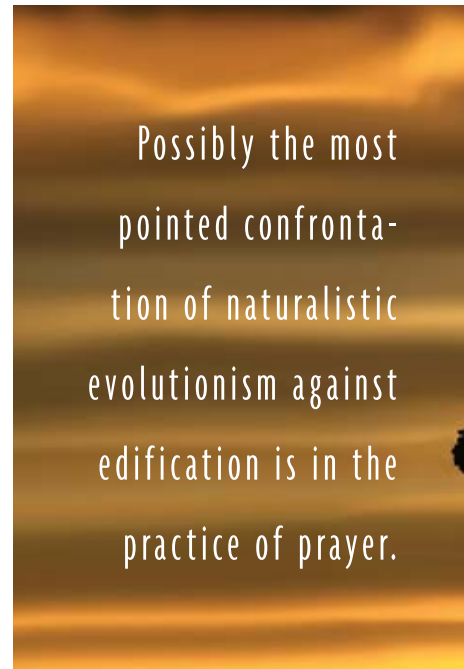
Clearly, the building of believers is strongly tied to the work of a church. What is believed about the church as a unique institution is extremely important. Evolutionism disparages the Bible's truths about the church in two respects. As we saw in the article on worship,<sup>2</sup> naturalistic evolutionism doesn't regard the Lord Jesus as God *and* man. Rather, His exalted standing is denigrated as merely human.

Our appreciation of Christ is inseparable from our understanding of the church. The truth that the church is the living body of the supernatural Lord Jesus and has a distinctively spiritual characteristic is also fully discounted by evolutionism. Within that worldview, the church deserves no special distinction since it

is merely one among many human-derived institutions doing good deeds similar to, say, the Elks, Lions, or Rotary clubs. Regarding certain tools of edification, no recognition is accorded to the *supernatural* aspects of Bible study such as the Holy Spirit enlightening a believer's mind or a God who listens to—and has the power to answer—prayer.

Next, the value of Christian sanctification is demeaned by evolutionism. Shortly before his death, the eminent historian and humanist philosopher Will Durant explained, "By offering evolution in place of God as a cause of history, Darwin removed the theological basis of the moral code of Christendom. And the moral code that has no fear of God is very shaky."<sup>3</sup>

Edward O. Wilson, Harvard's renowned father of sociobiology,





and evolutionary philosopher Michael Ruse framed the relationship between biology and religion within evolutionary selectionism:

Morality, or more strictly our belief in morality, is merely an adaptation put in place to further our reproductive ends....In an important sense, ethics as we understand it is an illusion fobbed off on us by our genes to get us to cooperate....Ethical codes work because they drive us to go against our selfish day-to-day impulses in favour of long-term group survival and harmony. . . . Furthermore, the way our biology forces its ends is by making us think that there is an objective higher code, to which we are all subject....Ethics is seen to have a solid foundation, not in divine guidance or pure moral imperatives, but in the shared qualities of human nature and the desperate need for reciprocity.<sup>4</sup>

Of course, it takes a good deal of imagination by Ruse and Wilson to believe, without a shred of evidence, that their personification of biology as a clever trickster is *truly causal* for duping the vast majority of humans to believe they have a Creator when there supposedly isn't one. Selectionism is how Darwin reintroduced veneration of nature back into science.<sup>5</sup> Atheistic or theistic selectionism is the view that environments can exercise agency in molding the diversity of life. Their proponents' belief is fed by their projection of volitional selective capacity onto nature to "favor," "select for/against," or "act on" organisms. Thus, selectionism is wielded as a pseudoscientific alternative to the supernaturalism that undergirds biblical edification.

The church's function of edification is not at all like a 10-step self-improvement program. It is rooted in supernatural events, beginning with a miraculous second birth. A very direct expression of the implications of evolutionism for Christianity is found in the American Humanist Association's Humanist Manifestos, which have a "basic foundation and rationale in an evolutionary atheistic world-view."<sup>6</sup> Many of the manifestos' tenets appear to be widely embraced.

Thus, evolutionism takes direct aim at the supernatural-oriented tools for edification, targeting them as an impediment to human progress. Regarding biblical supernaturalism vis-à-vis selectionism, Humanist Manifesto II affirms:

We find insufficient evidence for belief in the existence of a supernatural; it is either meaningless or irrelevant to the question

of survival and fulfillment of the human race. As nontheists, we begin with humans not God, nature not deity....[Religions] inhibit humans from helping themselves or experiencing their full potentialities....We can discover no divine purpose or providence for the human species....Humans are responsible for what we are or will become. No deity will save us; we must save ourselves.<sup>7</sup>

Consider also that church attendees are exhorted to practice honest self-examination to see if they have believed on the Lord Jesus (2 Corinthians 13:5), are growing in His grace (2 Peter 3:18), and are becoming less conformed to ungodly thinking through a renewed mind (Romans 12:2). This tool of edification is challenged by evolutionary humanistic education, which asserts that "promises of immortal salvation or fear of eternal damnation are both illusory and harmful. They distract humans from present concerns, from self-actualization, and from rectifying social injustices."<sup>8</sup> A Christian could reasonably ask what scientific experiment these evolutionists did to support their definitive claim that heaven or hell is only an illusion. How would they even perform such an experiment? We should be attuned to religious statements by evolutionists that masquerade as science.

Possibly the most pointed confrontation of naturalistic evolutionism against edification is in the practice of prayer.

As in 1933, humanists still believe that traditional theism, especially faith in the prayer-hearing God, assumed to love and care for persons, to hear and understand their prayers, and to be able to do something about them, is an unproved and outmoded faith. Salvationism, based on mere affirmation, still appears as harmful, diverting people with false hopes of heaven hereafter. Reasonable minds look to other means for survival.<sup>9</sup>

Evolutionary humanism promotes the belief that in order for humanity to advance free from encumbrances, the supernatural core of Christian edification needs to be discarded like excess baggage. Humanism and selectionism are rooted in evolutionary theory. These worldviews are at war with biblical Christianity. They poison the church's function of worship, make its evangelistic work meaningless, and malign the meaning of the church and its work of edification. Evolutionism is undeniably a stronghold and an argument "that exalts itself against the knowledge of God" (2 Corinthians 10:5). ☞

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# Q: What Is the Image of God?

**A** Genesis 1:26 says, “Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness.’” What does it mean for humans to bear the lofty image of God?

First, we look up key words. *Image* can refer to a *molded idol*. For example, God told Moses to instruct Israel to “drive out all the [wicked] inhabitants of the land from before you, ... [and] destroy all their molded images” (Numbers 33:52). *Image* can also mean *shadow*. Since molded idols look like the gods they represent, and your shadow takes your shape, the phrase “in Our image” suggests that the human form mirrors the form of God. But if “God is spirit” (John 4:24), how can He have a form?

Next, we explore more context for insight. When the Lord Jesus told the woman at the well that “God is spirit,” He was referring to His Father.<sup>1</sup> God the Father is Spirit, but God the Son was standing right in front of her as “the image of the invisible God” (Colossians 1:15). Jesus, “being in the form of God,” came “in the likeness of men” (Philippians 2:6-7). The *Henry Morris Study Bible* notes that our bodies help us fellowship with God. We have “erect posture, upward-gazing countenance, facial expressions varying with emotional feelings, brain and tongue designed for articulate symbolic speech—none of which are shared by the animals.”<sup>2</sup> So, God made men and women to share the same basic form as God the Son.

But the image of God must mean much more. After all, “as a consequence of the divine image, man was to exercise dominion over all creatures.”<sup>3</sup> Having dominion means having a mind keen enough to grasp the complicated interactions of plants, animals, and our world. It also means having the will or self-determination to act on that knowledge.



## article highlights

- Humans are created in the image of God—made in His likeness, made to have dominion over creation, and made to know God in a deeply personal way.
- But we are completely stained by sin, and sin is a death sentence.
- When Christ Jesus redeems us, our sins are removed, we’re given eternal life, and God begins to restore His image in us.

Genesis 1:2 refers to the Spirit of God. Since God made humans “according to Our likeness,” then we must also have spirits. Further, since God made humans to have dominion over the animals, this human spirit differs from animal souls. Unlike animals, we continue to exist even after our bodies die. “It is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment” (Hebrews 9:27). However, “he who believes in the Son has everlasting life” (John 3:36).

God and humans share yet another aspect. Whereas God said, “Let the waters abound” with sea creatures, and “Let the earth bring forth” land creatures (Genesis 1:20, 24), He said, “Let us make man” (v. 26). This time it was personal. He made us with the need to love and be loved.<sup>4</sup> He made us to know Him. Since man “belongs to the same order of being as God Himself,” he is “therefore capable of communion with his Maker.”<sup>5</sup>

One problem: we need perfect righteousness to fellowship with a perfect God. Adam and Eve’s original image of God possessed that, when “God saw everything that

He had made, and indeed it was very good” (Genesis 1:31). They soon lost that righteousness when they fell into sin.

Human sin damages, but does not erase, the image of God. Even rebellious people “have been made in the similitude of God” (James 3:9). We start life with everlasting spirits, keen minds, God-like emotions, and strong wills. When we repent of sin and trust Christ, God applies His Son’s perfect righteousness to our account. He restores the fellowship for which we were made. He even repairs our broken images as we “put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him” (Colossians 3:10). ✂

### References

1. John 4:23-24 says, “But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”
2. Note for Genesis 1:26. Morris, H. M. 2012. *The Henry Morris Study Bible*. Green Forest, AR: Master Books, 13
3. Vos, H. F. 1982. *Everyman’s Bible Commentary: Genesis*. Chicago: Moody Press, 22.
4. “The Father loves the Son” (John 3:35).
5. Hodge, C. 2003. *Systematic Theology, Vol. II*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 97.

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**M**aking sense of biological senses is a losing battle for evolutionary theories, and explaining complex creature communication is even worse. Why? Because evolutionists have no real explanation for why communication occurs. Chance processes couldn't have assembled the key ingredients needed for the elaborate messaging we witness in the animal kingdom.

Higher (i.e., *nephesh*-possessing) animals routinely send forms of purposeful signals to influence the behaviors of other animals or even humans.<sup>1</sup> To appreciate this, we must distinguish between animals using environmental cues and those employing communicative signals.<sup>2</sup>

Cues are environmental or creature features that, when detected, are useful in acquiring information relevant to future activities.<sup>2,3</sup> When bloodthirsty mosquitos seek “fast food,” they often fly upwind if their chemoreceptors sense carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), because continually exhaled CO<sub>2</sub> reveals that a warm-blooded mammal is nearby. But the CO<sub>2</sub> is not a message that's purposely sent. It's a cue to mosquitos indicating “mammal blood available here,” but there's no mammalian intent to transmit that information to parasitic pests.<sup>2</sup>

Contrast that with a domesticated dog barking to alert humans “I'm hungry! Feed me!” That barking is a communicative signal—a consciously prepared message sent from one intelligent creature to another for the purpose of prompting a behavioral response that will benefit the “speaking” animal.<sup>2,4</sup> Although simple, this is true communication. There's a message sender, a receiver, and a transmitted message in the form of understandable coded information, and the sender's intention is to influence a responsive action by the receiver.

For there to be a purpose in message sending, senders must have a motive. They must think, decide, and communicatively act. Senders must possess some type of personal (or person-like) internal “software”



## God Crafted Creatures to Communicate

### article highlights

- Communication requires four ingredients: a sender who wants to influence a receiver's behavior, a message that's prepared and sent, a receiver equipped to interpret the message, and a language or code understood by both parties.
- The sender and receiver must have some measure of volition and understanding.
- God created creatures to communicate, demonstrating His design for meaningful messaging—something chance processes can't accomplish.

enabling motivation, thinking, and decision-making, as well as physiological “hardware” sufficient for preparing and transmitting signaling actions.<sup>4,5</sup>

Such an action isn't a true signal unless its purpose is to elicit a response from a signal-comprehending recipient.<sup>2</sup> If signals are incomprehensible to the intended receiver, they fail to be meaningful messages. Message recipients must be able to understand (decode, decipher) the message enough to facilitate a timely and relevant adjustment

of the receiver's behavior in response to the message.<sup>4</sup>

No real communication occurs without these ingredients: a sender preparing and sending the message, a receiver capable of a response-relevant understanding of the message, and a language or comparable information code known to both sender and receiver. When creature communication does occur—as it does worldwide, every day, in many contexts—it powerfully demonstrates God's providential bioengineering design for meaningful and purposeful messaging.

Don't expect an impersonal Big Bang, eons ago, to have invented any of that! God designed and equipped humans and higher animals to intentionally communicate purposefully coded signals, to intended recipients, for prompting expected responses.<sup>4,5</sup> God chose to give communication traits to higher animals when He gave them soul-life (*nephesh*).<sup>5</sup> Thus, the Bible makes sense of animal communication, but evolutionary stories don't. You might try telling that to your evolutionist friends who enjoy communicating with their pets. 🐾

### References

1. Animals have *nephesh*, the Hebrew word for soul. See Genesis 1:20-21. To illustrate dog-to-human communication in the stranger-than-fiction adventures of Antis (the RAF aviator-dog who had lots of *nephesh*), see Johnson, J. J. S. 2016. High-Altitude Flying Is for the Birds. *Acts & Facts*. 45 (3): 20-21.
2. Davies, N. B. et al. 2012. *An Introduction to Behavioural Ecology*, 4th ed. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 394-423, especially page 395 contrasting “cues” and “signals.” All signals are sent as cues, but not all environmental cues are intentional signals.
3. Guliuzza, R. J. and P. B. Gaskill. 2018. Continuous Environmental Tracking: An Engineering Framework to Understand Adaptation and Diversification. In *Proceedings of the Eighth International Conference on Creationism*. J. H. Whitmore, ed. Pittsburgh, PA: Creation Science Fellowship, 158-184. Also Guliuzza, R. J. 2019. Engineered Adaptability: Continuous Environmental Tracking Wrap-Up. *Acts & Facts*. 48 (8): 17-19.
4. As 1 Corinthians 14:8 reminds us, sounds only make sense if the sender and receiver are agreed on the “code” for interpreting the messages sent. In human terms, it takes a common language (or code) for humans to send and receive meaningful messages. Thus, those not knowing the conventional code, or language, of signals sent won't recognize the intended message meanings.
5. Morris III, H. M. 2012. It's Alive! *Acts & Facts*. 41 (8): 4-5; Johnson, J. J. S. 2017. Clever Creatures: “Wise from Receiving Wisdom.” *Acts & Facts*. 46 (3): 21.

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# Sowing with ICR

The Bible often uses examples from agriculture to highlight the work needed to bring people to Christ and disciple them to maturity. Farmers can't expect a good crop unless the seed is first sown and then watered and fed. Similarly, believers must first sow the seed of the gospel and then labor in the hearts of people before they can expect God to give "the increase" of spiritual fruit (1 Corinthians 3:5-10). Since spiritual sowing and laboring can take various forms over time and in different stages, Christians should always look for opportunities to "sow bountifully," knowing that God's abounding grace will provide "abundance for every good work" (2 Corinthians 9:6-8).

As we enter the end of the year, this is an excellent time to think about the giving opportunities available to you. If ICR's ministry has blessed you and you'd like to "sow" with us, please consider the following ways to support our work as we proclaim the truth of creation and our Creator, the Lord Jesus Christ.

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- **Stock Owners.** The stock market continues to hover near all-time highs, so there may be no better time to give appreciated stocks or mutual fund shares to ICR. Shares held for at least one year can be

## article highlights

- Those who sow bountifully will reap bountifully.
- There are many ways to sow with ICR.
- The new ICR Discovery Center is qualified as a cultural/educational museum.
- Prayerfully consider taking one of our sowing opportunities—and see what grows.

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- **Corporate Matching Gifts.** Many companies match gifts by employees and retirees to tax-exempt organizations like ICR—especially now that the ICR Discovery Center is open and qualifies as a cultural/educational museum. Matches are typically made dollar for dollar, providing a superb opportunity to double the gifts you are already making. Check

with your HR department to get started, or visit [ICR.org/matching-gifts](http://ICR.org/matching-gifts) for more information.

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- **Workplace Campaigns.** Many large companies and government organizations offer the convenience of automatic payroll deduction to give to charities of the employee's choosing. For federal government and military personnel, ICR is approved by the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC #23095) and by all corporate giving programs as a write-in designation.

ICR is deeply grateful for those who partner with us, and we "give thanks to the LORD for His goodness" through you (Psalm 107:8). From all of us at ICR, have a most blessed Thanksgiving reflecting on the One to whom all praise is due. ✨

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



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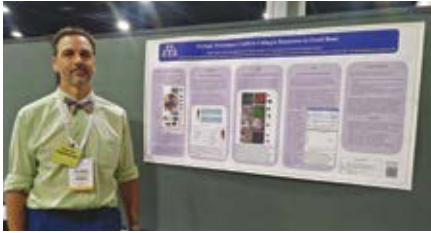
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I'd like to congratulate you [Dr. Brian Thomas] on the completion of your Ph.D. degree in paleobiochemistry. Many of us subscribers of *Acts & Facts* have noticed your "promotion" and celebrate with you. Also, I read with interest your article describing the secular conference at which you presented your research pertaining to collagen in fossil bones ["Research Presented at a Secular Conference," September 2019 *Acts & Facts*]. Along with the sheer interest the scientists would have in your work, I so appreciate your (and your colleague's) willingness to present your findings at a secular scientific conference. You understood there was a high likelihood you might face hostile opposition to your research but forged ahead anyway....**ICR is having a significant impact on the eroding confidence of naturalism as the explanation for God's incredible creation.** My wife and I have supported ICR's mission for several years now. Your commitment to God's work motivates us to continue.

— T. L.

**Editor's note:** Dr. Thomas' dissertation is now available in book form. See page 15 for details.



Wow. Between the article about the complex radar system of the bat and the amazing bird singing syrinx organ ["Complex Creature Engineering Requires a Creator" and "The Syrinx Song," August 2019 *Acts & Facts*], how can scientists



believe in natural selection? I was watching a bee working on a cherry tree. It would go to one of a dozen or so blossoms in a cluster, [pollenate] it, then fly off, and then come back to the tree and land on another bloom which wasn't always in the same cluster. **That way, if all the blossoms did not get [pollenated], the ones that did would be spread evenly over the tree.** Another time I needed to drill a few holes in a wooden play structure to mount a bracket. I had just finished the second hole when a yellow jacket bee came looking for the fresh wood it had sensed. It only took a few more minutes for a couple more bees to show up. God's creatures are amazing, and chance had nothing to do with their design.

— J. M.



I thank your organization for the advancement of a better understanding of geological and biblical importance to our

planet. I've been around for a while, and it seems that Christian apologists back when I was first learning arguments for [a] young earth shied away from directly confronting much of the false geological narrative that hides the real truth.

— S. W.



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I would urge everyone interested in the true history of origins to visit the [ICR] Discovery Center for Science & Earth History....It's a high-quality set of exhibits and holographic presentations comprehensively covering the origins of life, the universe, the solar system, and Earth. The animatronics are the highest quality I've ever seen, including a life-size *T. rex*. It has an Ice Age exhibit, a Grand Canyon exhibit, and many others. **The most fascinating exhibit to me was the planetarium. It had great NASA photos of each of the planets, some comets, and some of the planets' moons. The presentation carefully, and rapidly, went through critical data from each planet, with photos of the specific satellites that collected the data. The voluminous scientific data sharply conflict with the presumed natural origin of our Earth and solar system.**

— B. M.



ICR is a continual source of deeper understanding and amazement over how God made this world. You seldom get into the tedious polarized arguments that are common among Americans. For that I'm thankful. Keep it up, and let the Kingdom of God spread into the corridors of science.

— T. G.

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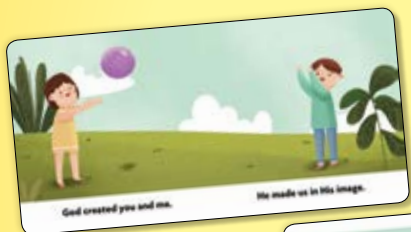
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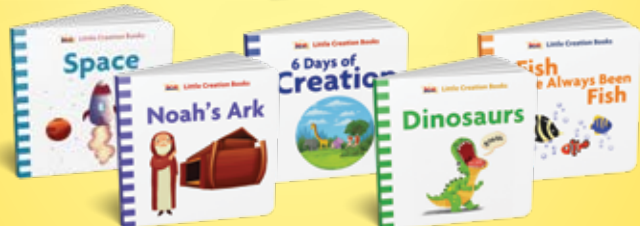
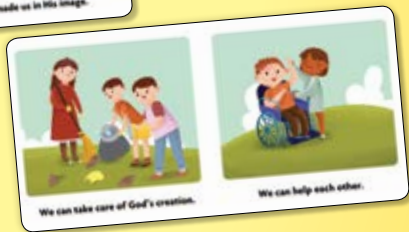
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