

ACTS & FACTS

INSTITUTE FOR
CREATION RESEARCH

www.icr.org

SEPTEMBER 2015

VOL. 44 NO. 9



Go For It!

page 5

NOW IN ITS
2ND
EDITION!

UNLOCKING THE MYSTERIES OF GENESIS

Español

中文

한국어

This new edition of *Unlocking the Mysteries of Genesis* contains **English** closed captions and subtitles in **English, Spanish, Chinese, and Korean!**

Groundbreaking 12-DVD series
at this special price!

\$99.00 DUTMG01

Includes one viewer guide—additional viewer guides sold separately.



Unlocking the Mysteries of Genesis supports a biblical worldview with scientific evidence and answers the most controversial questions of faith and science.

Packed with cutting-edge research and dynamic visuals, each 22-minute episode takes viewers on a journey through topics ranging from the origins of life to evolution to the age of the universe and Noah's Flood.

This is a fantastic resource for small groups, Bible studies, or a church-wide series. Get equipped with powerful answers to defend your faith!

Please add shipping and handling to all orders.
To order, visit ICR.org/store or call **800.628.7640**.



Unlocking the Mysteries of Genesis Student Guide

Get the companion Student Guide for
only **\$14.99!** BUTMGSG

Buy two for \$22.00!

(regular price \$29.98) SBUTMGSG

Filled with dozens of educational activities and cool facts about creation, our Student Guide equips viewers with even more knowledge about every episode of *Unlocking the Mysteries of Genesis*.

Designed to provide exactly what you need to make creation science a part of your student's curriculum!



Look for ICR's new *Made in His Image* DVD series in November!
Visit ICR.org/MadeInHisImage for more details.

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

EXECUTIVE EDITOR
Jayme Durant

SENIOR EDITOR
Beth Mull

EDITORS
Michael Stamp
Truett Billups
Christy Hardy

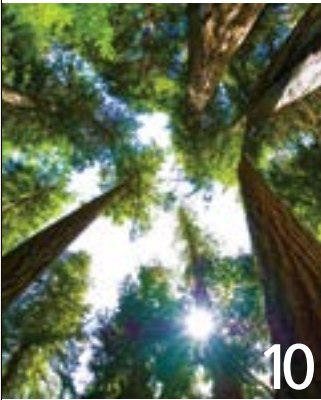
DESIGNER
Dennis Davidson

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

Copyright © 2015
Institute for Creation Research



5



10



16



20

FEATURE

5 Go For It!

HENRY M. MORRIS III, D. MIN.

RESEARCH

9 Reading African Strata

TIM CLAREY, PH. D.

IMPACT

10 Trees: An Engineering Wonder

FRANK SHERWIN, M. A.

BACK TO GENESIS

13 Two Creation Accounts?

JASON LISLE, PH. D.

14 The Mystery of Missing Talus

BRIAN THOMAS, M. S.

16 Moonlighting Proteins Befuddle Evolution

JEFFREY P. TOMKINS, PH. D.

17 Evolutionary Predictions Fail the Reality Test

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

CREATION Q & A

20 How Realistic Was *Jurassic World's* Science?

BRIAN THOMAS, M. S.

APOLOGETICS

21 The Moon Rules

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

STEWARDSHIP

22 Stewardship of ICR Publications

HENRY M. MORRIS IV



Reaching Others Beyond Our Lifetime

ICR has some big hopes for this next year. With God’s help and by His grace, we’ll begin building our long-anticipated museum and planetarium. For years, we’ve prayed, planned, and waited for God’s timing. We’ve developed books, provided events, produced DVDs, and offered a multitude of other tools to share the biblical creation account with others, and we will continue to do so. But the museum is a significant opportunity for us to stretch beyond our normal ministry operations and to provide believers with another avenue for creation ministry.

Our ICR board has given CEO Dr. Henry Morris III the go-ahead to start raising the funds and pulling together the formal plans. And as you see in Dr. Morris’ article, our wonderful Lord Jesus has already deposited the first big gift in the bank. We are praying the museum will help equip Christians to share the creation message in a compelling way, bringing truth to a world drowning in evolutionary philosophy. Many people live apart from God without meaning or purpose—oblivious to how we all got here—and we want to reach them.

And while we’re excited about the possibility of starting the building process, we’re aware that this museum and planetarium are only a small part of God’s big plan for all of us. In his article this month, Dr. Morris says, “God’s plans stretch out way beyond our lifetimes” (page 7).

Beyond our lifetimes.

If we could grasp the brevity of our lives, how would we live differently? How would we spend our time? Would we be more purposeful about reaching out to others? Would we become more confident about sharing our faith or more giving of our resources to meet others’ needs? *Life on Earth is short*—how does that fact change the way you live today?

We often encounter reminders that life is short. The penciled markings on the back of the door, demonstrating how our married children are no longer toddlers. Pictures of great-grandparents when they were young, solemnly standing beside their old model cars or even horse-drawn buggies, while we mentally fast-forward to images of frail shaky hands reaching for us from a nursing home bed. The thick grass growing over the cemetery plot that was once covered with a mound of loose dirt. We’re only on this earth a very short time—God tells us to redeem the time and make the most of every opportunity (Colossians 4:5; Ephesians 5:16).

In these troubled times, ICR attempts to make the most of every opportunity God provides. The Bible has been the foundation of our ministry for over 45 years. Throughout the years, many great

leaders have come and gone—some of them are now with our heavenly Father. We’re grateful for the impact they’ve had on this ministry and the lives they’ve touched through this ministry. But they are gone. The needs of a dying world continue. And the need for truth continues.

The message remains the same. *God made everything in six days—the Bible says it, and science confirms it.* We recognize the strength of ICR doesn’t lie in the personalities or intellect of our teachers, staff, or scientists—our strength comes from God alone, and our message is firmly rooted in His Word.

Our museum will be another way for us to continue sharing the biblical creation message. Please partner with us as we boldly build. Pray for wisdom, resources, and changed lives. As Dr. Morris says, “God’s plans stretch out way beyond our lifetimes. The joy comes with the assurance that you and I will share in the changed lives of those not yet in the Kingdom—even those not yet born!”

Jayme Durant

EXECUTIVE EDITOR



Go For It!

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

Many Christian leaders have spoken publicly over the past few months about their concerns for the state of our nation—especially since the Supreme Court ruling on homosexual marriage. All of these leaders reaffirm each other regarding their sense that the world is nearing a great event of judgment, perhaps the event that will signal the very end of the “last days” themselves. Things are coming to a head, and the world is on a collision course with the Creator.

Since all appear to agree, how one reacts to this news is extremely important.

History’s perspective is not very encouraging. Almost every century seems to have a legacy of “perhaps today.” In one sense, we are always to be prepared for the Lord to wrap things up. Several of the warnings in the New Testament insist that we are to watch and prepare for God’s judgment “at an hour you do not expect” (Matthew 24:44). Thus, many of the responses to troubled times have been something on the order of “hang in there” rather than “do something

great in Christ’s Kingdom before He comes.”

During the early 1800s, the beginnings of a dispensational movement were led by John Nelson Darby, who greatly influenced Dr. C. I. Scofield of the Scofield Bible fame. During those years, William Miller began preaching that the return of Christ would take place “about 1843” and urged tens of thousands to embrace the millennialist movement. Many even sold their homes and properties and waited for the Lord’s return on October 22, 1844.¹ Although that movement was ultimately embarrassed, it spawned a series of “end of the world” movements, including the Shakers, the Perfectionists, and the Mormons.

The 20th century had its own spectacular adherents. Hal Lindsey’s *The Late Great Planet Earth* influenced millions to expect the end of the world as we knew it to take place no later than 1988.² *The New York Times* called it the “number one non-fiction bestseller of the decade.” If anything, that book launched a plethora of spin-off prophetic ministries that, for good or ill, taught the evangelical popu-



Entry Pavilion

(The Beck Group and Southwest Museum Services.)

lation to anticipate the nearness of the second coming of Christ and the “imminent” Rapture of the church. Those teachings inspired Harold Camping of Family Radio to forecast the Rapture on May 21, 2011. His media empire spent millions of dollars on more than 5,000 billboards, along with some 20 traveling RVs covered with signs of the imminent judgment day.

But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves...having a form of godliness but denying its power. (2 Timothy 3:1-2, 5)

The rapid capitulation of the moral and ethical focus of Western civilizations has stunned many. The atrocious behavior included by Paul in his warning to Timothy has been used to alert nearly every generation since it was written almost 2,000 years ago. Surely it is applicable to our day. Even more so, we should be reminded that we are most definitely in the “last days”!

No one would be more delighted than this author if the Lord would suddenly come for His bride while I am writing this article. But whenever He comes, I want Him to find me busily occupied with my five-year plan! We are instructed to watch, not simply wait. We are commanded to be on guard and to view the sudden coming judgment like a “thief in the night” (2 Peter 3:10). We are to view ourselves as the servants in the famous parable of the talents and the minas—servants who were given various levels of opportunity and value and commanded to be faithful and to occupy until the Lord returns (Matthew 25:14-30; Luke 19:12-27).

In both cases, the implication was that the owner would be gone for an unpredictable amount of time and that each of the servants could expect a reckoning when he returned. In the one case, he judged the servants on how well they used his money, evaluating them on their “own ability.” In the other case, each having received the same amount of money in the beginning, the owner evaluated each servant by the percentage of return gained in the time he had been gone.

In each case the reward was given in proportion to the effectiveness or efficiency of the servant’s use of the money. Remember, the money belonged to the owner. The servants were merely the stewards who were given free latitude on what and how they were to use the funds. But each was expected to *use* what he’d been given and to do something worthwhile with “his lord’s money.” And in each case, there was a “wicked and lazy servant” who did nothing with the money—because he was afraid that he might lose it and was afraid that he would be blamed for his incompetence.

Interestingly, the reaction of the owner was to take the money

that had been given to the wicked and lazy servant and turn it over to the servant who made the most money of all of them. Evidently, the Creator, the owner whose “money” we are now using, is very interested in how well we do with His resources!

What’s the point of reminding all of us of these important principles? Since we know that each of us will be evaluated by what we did with the resources placed at our disposal,

and since we are given some insight into how and why our Lord will evaluate us, we need to be thinking long term rather than short term. Yes, our Lord may return in the middle of our next breath, but for His own merciful reasons He has delayed His return for almost 2,000 years (check out 2 Peter 3:9). None of us has any idea

when He will come back, nor should we be hoping to skip town on our responsibilities! We are to watch and pray; we are to occupy—“do business”—until He comes (Luke 19:13).

During the darkest days of the nations of Israel and Judah, when prophet after prophet forecasted their captivity amid the apostasy of Israel and the on-again, off-again revivals of Judah, Isaiah had to remind them about God’s future plans for the nations—and exhorted them to think about *expanding* not *persevering*!

Enlarge the place of your tent, and let them stretch out the curtains of your dwellings; do not spare; lengthen your cords, and strengthen your stakes. For you shall expand to the right and to the left, and your descendants will inherit the nations, and make the desolate cities inhabited. (Isaiah 54:2-3)

Look at those action verbs. We are to “enlarge” and to “stretch out.” We are not to “spare” but to “lengthen” and “strengthen” those pieces of our “tent” that secure our place of service. We may not live to see the result of our labor; we may struggle to lay the groundwork for

future lives that the Lord will bring into His Kingdom, but the charge is to plan for the future—not to merely hang in there until the Lord rescues us from some awful fate!

“I am the LORD your God,” the Lord admonished Israel. “Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it” (Psalm 81:10).

When the budding nation of Israel was still in slavery in Egypt, God challenged them to trust Him in spite of the circumstances. Surely you remember the trouble Moses had with Israel’s leaders, who were overwhelmed by the power of a new pharaoh “who did not know Joseph” (Exodus 1:8). It took the miracles of the ten plagues and “a strong hand, and with an outstretched arm” (Psalm 136:12) to convince them to leave Egypt and commit for the future promised to Abraham.

Again and again we see the vacillation of God’s people as the

Begin praying with us now that all of us will catch the “long sight” of a ministry that “lengthens” beyond the yield of the moment. God’s plans stretch out way beyond our lifetimes.

The last days are a troubled time for the world. But we are not of the world; we are told not to fear or cower. We will boldly build!

“God of all the earth” reiterated His plans for blessing as His people struggled with the darkness of momentary troubles. God’s plans stretch beyond our feeble lives, yet He has been pleased to offer the opportunity to participate in the rewards of eternity if we can but grasp the places that our “bit parts” will play in the tapestry of the future.

Isaiah had to remind his generation: “For the LORD of hosts has purposed, and who will annul it? His hand is stretched out, and who will turn it back?” (Isaiah 14:27). Many of the Lord’s people could only see the looming judgment that was coming on Judah. God Himself through Isaiah told Judah that the *land* would “see the glory of the LORD, the excellency of our God;” therefore, the people were to “strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees” (Isaiah 35:2-3).

That comparison was not a mysterious parable. The promise to Abraham, repeated in one form or another for centuries, always included a land—a designated place for the people of Israel to thrive. If the dirt could sense the faithfulness of God, how much more should the people of God trust the promises of the Creator and embrace those promises! Yet, even the faithful of the population could not see beyond the bad days and the deterioration of the nation. They endured troubles aplenty but lost the joy of the expectation of God’s blessing.

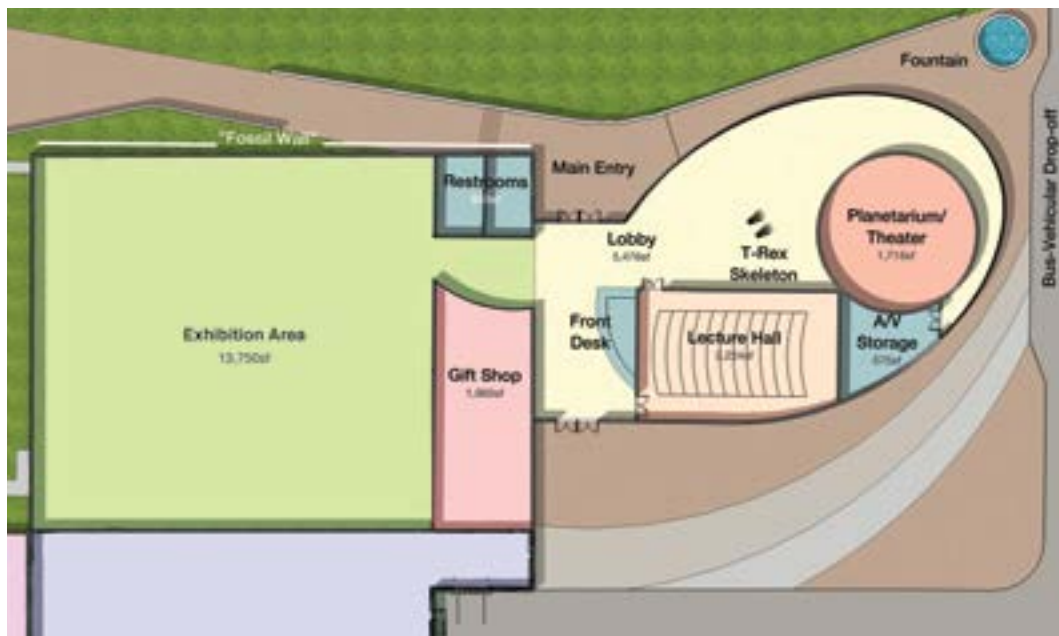
Contrast those folks with Jeremiah.

Jeremiah bought a piece of property in Jerusalem a century later when the city was just about to become deserted as the captivity under Babylon was being executed. As Jeremiah delivered his purchase deed to the recording secretary, he said, “Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and outstretched arm. There is nothing too hard for You” (Jeremiah 32:17).

Are we able to see with God’s eyes?

As I write this, our board has committed to continue producing more high-quality DVD series like *Unlocking the Mysteries of Genesis*. We are nearing the release of *Made in His Image* and are already looking forward to a third series for 2016. These are long-term investments for ICR. It is likely that we will never make a profit from the business side of the equation, but we are investing for a harvest of souls and a product life of decades. Yes, the Lord may snatch us out of the planet in the next few minutes, but a harvest of souls will come in the ensuing years.

We want our DVDs, books, and our future museum to outlive us. We seek to reach many generations in these last days. That’s why we ask for your investment with us.



Artist’s conception of the proposed museum floor plan
(The Beck Group and Southwest Museum Services.)

As Jeremiah bought property in Jerusalem, we are also investing; we are “buying” property in the eternal Jerusalem. As God allows, ICR is building for the future.

For several years, I’ve been hesitant to move forward with our hope to build a museum and planetarium in the Dallas/Fort Worth area—in spite of the desperate need—because the funding seemed out of reach. No longer. Just this week, out of the resources of the Lord’s people (unknown to us) came a two-million-dollar gift that provides the “go for it” signal to begin looking for the rest of the millions needed.

Many of you who read this article have given faithfully of your “talents” and “minas” to share with ICR as we try to “enlarge” the “tent.” ICR’s operational needs will only increase as the reality of the future museum and planetarium comes into existence. The funds to develop and produce the DVD episodes, construct the buildings, stage the exhibits, and continue to research must come from extra gifts. Begin praying with us now that all of us will catch the “long sight” of a ministry that “lengthens” beyond the yield of the moment.

God’s plans stretch out way beyond our lifetimes. The joy comes with the assurance that you and I will share in the changed lives of those not yet in the Kingdom—even those not yet born! With earthly treasure exchanged for eternal reward, the return on your investment is priceless.

The last days are a troubled time for the world. But we are not of the world; we are told not to fear or cower. We will boldly build! ●

References

1. Cairns, E. E. 1967. *Christianity Through the Centuries*, rev. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 459-460.
2. Lindsey, H. 1970. *The Late Great Planet Earth*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

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



SEPTEMBER 10	Dallas, TX ICR "Back to Genesis" Lecture Series (J. Johnson) 214.615.8322	SEPTEMBER 20	Dallas, TX – Discipleship University at First Baptist Church Dallas (H. Morris III) 214.969.0111
SEPTEMBER 12-13	Kalamazoo, MI 12th Street Baptist Church (T. Clarey) 269.353.8133	SEPTEMBER 26	Santee, CA – Creation and Earth History Museum Day 2015 (B. Thomas) 619.599.1104
SEPTEMBER 13	Dallas, TX – Discipleship University at First Baptist Church Dallas (H. Morris III) 214.969.0111	SEPTEMBER 27	Dallas, TX – Discipleship University at First Baptist Church Dallas (H. Morris III) 214.969.0111
SEPTEMBER 17	Dallas, TX ICR "Back to Genesis" Lecture Series (J. Johnson) 214.615.8322	SEPTEMBER 30	Plano, TX Prestonwood Baptist Church (B. Thomas) 972.820.5000
SEPTEMBER 20	Newbury Park, CA Newbury Park First Christian Church (F. Sherwin) 805.498.2129		

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

THE BOOK OF BEGINNINGS, VOLS. 1-3

\$19⁹⁹



Vol. 1: Creation, Fall, and the First Age
Vol. 2: Noah, the Flood, and the New World
Vol. 3: The Patriarchs, a Promised Nation, and the Dawning of the Second Age

DR. HENRY M. MORRIS III

STBOB **\$19⁹⁹** (reg. \$44⁹⁷)

Many pastors and teachers avoid Genesis for fear of controversy. The result is a growing number of Christians who are ignorant of God's revelation about our beginnings.

In his *Book of Beginnings* trilogy, Dr. Henry Morris III addresses the Genesis record in a straightforward, comprehensible manner, clearly demonstrating that Genesis can only be understood as God's inerrant record of actual human history.

Also available through Kindle, NOOK, and iBookstore.
 Please add shipping and handling to all orders.
 Prices good through September 30, 2015, while quantities last.



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

Reading African Strata

Recent *Acts & Facts* articles have discussed how ICR's scientists are reconstructing the Flood-sediment patterns across North America using megasequences within the geologic column.^{1,2} The megasequences essentially serve as "chapters" whereby we can read the record of the Flood from top to bottom. Our compilation of geologic columns and megasequences across North America is coming to a close, and we are now gathering similar data across Africa.

If the Flood were truly global, we should find its sediments on every continent showing simultaneous Flood levels. According to many creation geologists, the continents of Africa and North America were joined together as part of a supercontinent during portions of the Flood year. So, we should observe many similarities in the stratigraphic columns, the megasequences, and in the floodwater levels between the two continents.

What do the rocks show? Although we have only completed northern Africa, we do see some startling results. The two continents' strata match up; they independently record the same levels of the Flood at the same time and in many cases contain even the same type of sediments. The Sauk Megasequence, the first significant deposit of the advancing floodwaters, exhibits a basal sandstone unit that spreads across a large portion of North America (Figure 1). A similar lowermost Sauk sandstone layer also extends across most of North Africa (Figure 2). Finding the same type of broad, extensive deposit at the exact same time on two large continents is exceedingly strong evidence of a global flood!

Later megasequences across Africa record the relative height of floodwaters as the rising seas progressively inundated more and more land. Early megasequences, such as the Sauk and Tippecanoe (Cambrian through Silurian systems), show less flood-

ing extent compared to the later megasequences, matching the results found in North America.

Offshore sediments began to accumulate along the west coast of Africa during the fourth megasequence (Absaroka, Pennsylvanian-Lower Jurassic systems), recording the opening of the northern Atlantic Ocean as catastrophic plate movement began to rapidly create a new seafloor.³ The timing of the subsequent split of South America from Africa is also observed in the sedimentary record. The first offshore sediments deposited off Africa's southwest shore (south of Liberia, Ghana, and Nigeria) appear in the Zuni Megasequence, indicating the initial division between these two continents.

The Zuni Megasequence (Jurassic and Cretaceous systems) also shows the maximum areal extent of sediments—the most extensive Flood coverage—possibly indicative of the highest water level. This fifth megasequence may have recorded the activity of Day 150 of the Flood, as described in Genesis 7:19-24, when all the "high hills under the whole heaven were covered."

Finally, both Africa and North America simultaneously record what appears to be the receding phase of the Flood event in the sixth and final megasequence (Tejas Megasequence, Cenozoic stratigraphic units). The sediments of this megasequence show a major shift in depositional pattern, reflecting more extensive offshore sedimentation as the floodwaters drained from the continents into the new ocean basins. This is when the "whopper sand" formed in the Gulf of Mexico as sheet-like flow poured off the continents.⁴

Comparison of the stratigraphic columns of Africa and North America show many similarities indicative of a global flood. Water levels seem to have risen and dropped simultaneously across both conti-

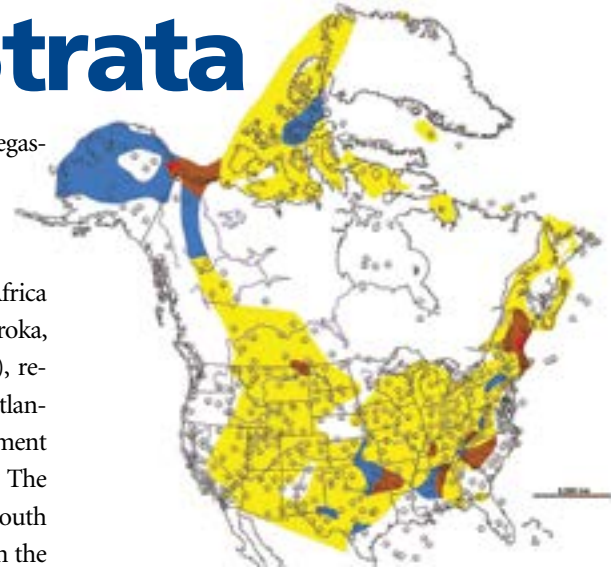


Figure 1. Map of the basal Sauk sandstone (yellow) across North America: yellow = sandstone, brown = shale, and blue = limestone. Courtesy of Davis J. Werner.

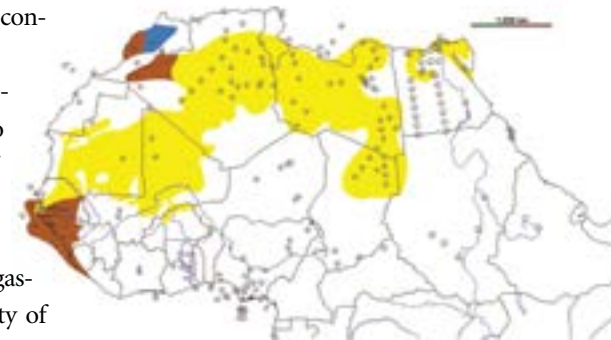


Figure 2. Map of the basal Sauk sandstone (yellow) across western Africa: yellow = sandstone, brown = shale, and blue = limestone. Courtesy of Davis J. Werner.

nents. The observed patterns reflect an undeniable consistency with a global phenomenon. Contrary to the unfounded claims of uniformitarian scientists, the global Flood, as recorded in Genesis, offers the best scientific explanation for the actual rock data. ●

References

1. Clarey, T. 2015. Dinosaur Fossils in Late-Flood Rocks. *Acts & Facts*. 44 (2): 16.
2. Clarey, T. 2015. Grappling with Megasequences. *Acts & Facts*. 44 (4): 18-19.
3. Austin, S. A., et al. 1994. Catastrophic Plate Tectonics: A Global Flood Model of Earth History. In *Proceedings of the Third International Conference on Creationism*. Walsh, R. E., ed. Pittsburgh, PA: Creation Science Fellowship, 609-621.
4. Clarey, T. 2015. The Whopper Sand. *Acts & Facts*. 44 (3): 14.

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



TREES: An Engineering Wonder



There are few things more beautiful and soothing than walking through a forest or grove of trees.¹ Scripture has much to say about these majestic woody perennials, from the “fruit tree that yields fruit according to its kind” (Genesis 1:11) to “the tree of life” that will be freely accessible to all believers (Revelation 22:2). A number of tree varieties are cited in the Bible, including cedar, oak, olive, and fig. Creationists maintain that trees have always been trees in all of their majestic beauty and design.

Evolutionists reject the biblical account of origins and must posit a strictly naturalistic origin of everything, from people to plants. Botanists estimate there are at least 60,000 identified tree species in the world, but what was their origin? In tracing the evolution of forest trees, evolutionist Elizabeth Stacy of the University of Hawaii Hilo says, “We know next to nothing about how they got here.”²

Secular scientists believe man’s unknown primal ancestors came down from the trees sometime in the distant past. How-

ever, “this story starts with a bang, if for no better reason than there are no fossils that document humankind’s initial and presumably painful descent from the trees.”³

Concerning the pre-Flood world of about 4,500–6,000 years ago, we have clear fossil evidence that dinosaurs wandered among some very familiar trees, including oak, willow, and magnolia. In fact, one evolutionary report says:

If you were to travel back in time 100 million years to look for your Christmas tree, you would find firs nearly



Figure 1. In 1994, the Wollemi pine was discovered in a remote canyon of the Blue Mountains of Australia. Before this discovery, the Wollemi pine was only known from fossils that supposedly date back over 150 million years.

Image Credit: Copyright © 2009 J. Plaza RGB Sydney. Adapted for use in accordance with federal copyright (fair use doctrine) law. Usage by ICR does not imply endorsement of copyright holder.

of their having been created (Romans 1:20). Who hasn't enjoyed throwing winged seeds (samaras) into the air and watching them twirl in their one-winged flight (Figure 2)? Sadly, evolutionists say any apparent design originated not from the Creator but in this case somehow from the tree itself.

The whirling, winged seeds of today's conifers are an engineering wonder and, as UC Berkeley, scientists show, a



Figure 2. *Revolutions of a twirling maple samara*

Image Credit: Copyright © 2009 D. Lentink. Adapted for use in accordance with federal copyright (fair use doctrine) law. Usage by ICR does not imply endorsement of copyright holder.

result of about 270 million years of evolution by trees experimenting with the best way to disperse their seeds.⁶

Trees experimenting—do trees possess intelligence and volition? That is not a logical or a scientific explanation. Doesn't an “engineering wonder” require a brilliant engineer?

Not only are the varieties of seed dispersal evidence of design, but the construction of basic tree structure that enables them to reach hundreds of feet into the air reflects God's creative hand. Trees are without an internal or external skeleton to provide their rigidity and support. However, each plant cell has a robust cell wall composed of cellulose (the most abundant biomolecule on Earth) that we appreciate every time we bite into a celery stalk. Together, these trillions of cell walls make up the wood (secondary xylem) of the tree. Where did wood come from? Evidently evolutionists don't know, as one study stated, “The first steps of wood evolution are unknown.”⁷

Enzymes are proteins that are intimately involved in virtually all biochemical reactions. Researchers discovered an amazing molecule called *cellulose synthase* (CESA) bound to the plant cell plasma membrane. It's a complex enzyme—or more properly, a ring-shaped molecular

identical to the ones sold today. New research shows that the genome of conifers—a division that includes spruces, pines and firs—has hardly changed since the days of the dinosaurs.⁴

Non-evolutionists agree, conifers have always been conifers. This is also true for a “dinosaur age” tree called the Wollemi pine (Figure 1) discovered alive and well in Australia in 1994.⁵ This tree displayed no evolution for 200 million years, according to evolutionists.

The design of trees is a clear indication

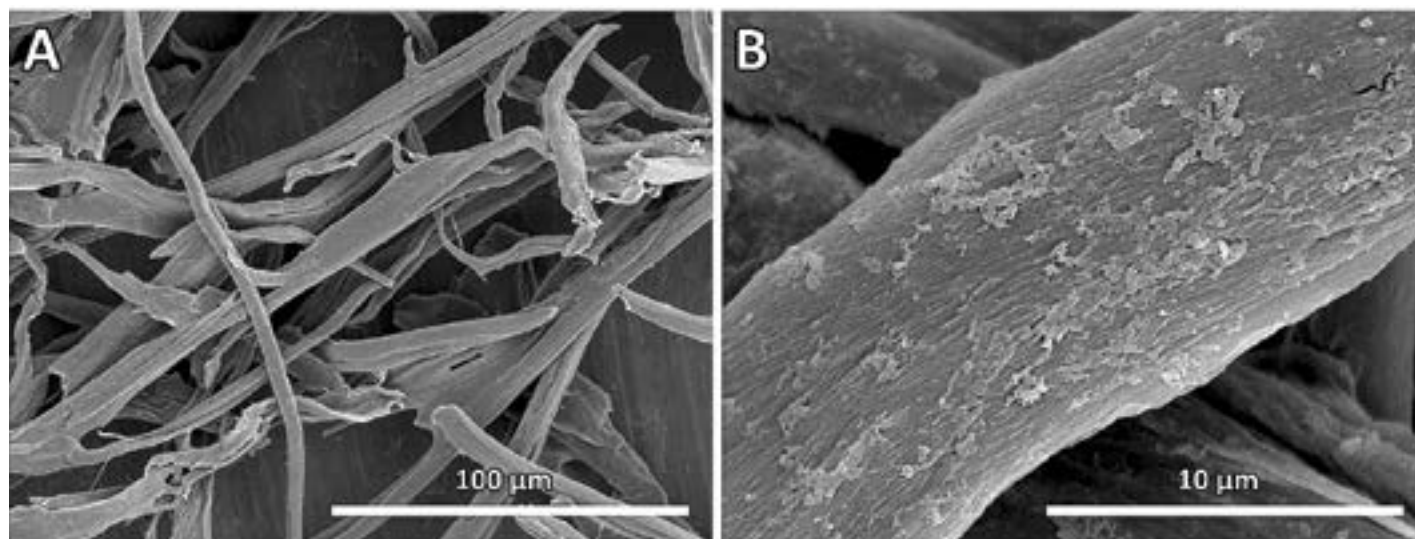
machine that aids in putting together stacks of tiny units called *microfibrils* (sheaths of glycoprotein complexes) by literally braiding them!⁸ By removing sugar molecules as it climbs microtubules (tiny hollow protein tubes), CESA contributes at the molecular level to the sturdy structure of wood. To say this enzyme is intricate is an understatement. Four decades of experimental effort have gone into trying to put together the 3-dimensional atomistic model of this enzyme’s 506 amino acids without success.⁹

Most of us remember being taught the amazing process of photosynthesis that takes *light* energy and makes *life* energy for people and animals. In the 21st century, what do we know about this amazing biochemical process of oxygen production by trees and other plants? As one recent report admitted, “We know little about the mechanics of how plants create oxygen during photosynthesis.”¹⁰ If the brightest scientific minds today know so little regarding this critical segment of photosynthesis, how can evolutionists be so sure it arose spontaneously many millions of years ago?

In recent years, scientists have found

Figure 3. Cellulose extracted from Panda Metasequoia. A. Cellulose fibers at low magnification. B. The same fibers at higher magnification showing surface texture.

Image Credit: Copyright © 2012 Wolfe et al. *PLoS ONE*. Adapted for use in accordance with federal copyright (fair use doctrine) law. Usage by ICR does not imply endorsement of copyright holder.



unfossilized wood deep in sedimentary layers that defy evolution’s long ages (Figure 3). Although a kimberlite crater in Canada is said to be “53 million years old,” it yielded exquisitely preserved unfossilized wood. The study reporting it stated, “The wood yields genuine cellulose” and “wood from the Panda kimberlite has pristine preservation.”¹¹ Like soft dinosaur tissue,¹² this discovery is hardly surprising considering their common catastrophic burial just thousands of years ago.

Some evolutionists will look to the science of dendrochronology—dating by tree rings—to cast doubt on traditional biblical ages. Up in the mountains of Nevada and California grows the hearty and strange bristlecone pine tree (*Pinus longaeva*). Said to be the oldest living thing on Earth, some specimens in the White Mountains in California are estimated to be about 5,000 years old. Scientists expand this tree-ring chronology further back by cross-dating core samples, one to another, to give a supposed “master chronology” of over 8,000 years. How reliable is this tree-ring dating? In 2009, creation scientist John Woodmorappe wrote an article addressing this issue and stated, “The Bristlecone Pine long chronology, comprised of hundreds of live and dead trees, is claimed to be over 8,000 years long. But is there more to the story?” He goes on to say, “Much more must be learned about this

phenomenon before this hypothesis can be developed further.”¹³

Trees producing fruit, and the wood of which they are composed, are a testament to God’s creation: “Out of the ground the LORD God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food” (Genesis 2:9). ●

References

1. Thomas, B. Do People Live Longer among Trees? *Creation Science Update*. Posted on icr.org January 28, 2013, accessed July 2, 2015.
2. Cimons, M. Tracing the evolution of forest trees. National Science Foundation. Posted on nsf.gov on November 7, 2014, accessed July 2, 2015.
3. Tattersall, I. 1995. *The Fossil Trail: How we know what we think we know about human evolution*. New York: Oxford University Press, Inc. 233.
4. Christmas Tree’s Genes Date to Dinosaur Age. *LiveScience*. Posted on livescience.com December 13, 2012, accessed July 2, 2015.
5. Snelling, A. 2006. *Wollemia nobilis*: A Living Fossil and Evolutionary Enigma. *Acts & Facts*. 35 (4).
6. Sanders, R. Conifers’ helioperating seeds are result of long evolutionary experiment. UC Berkley News. Posted on berkeley.edu March 17, 2015, accessed July 2, 2015.
7. Gerrienne, P. et al. 2011. A Simple Type of Wood in Two Early Devonian Plants. *Science*. 333 (6044): 837.
8. Hildebrand, D. BCH/PPA/PLS 609, Plant Biochemistry (Lecture Eighteen Carbohydrate Metabolism - Cell Wall Polysaccharides, Fiber, Gums). University of Kentucky. Posted on uky.edu on January 23, 2015, accessed July 2, 2015.
9. Sethaphong, L. et al. 2013. Tertiary model of a plant cellulose synthase. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. 110 (18): 7512-7517.
10. Scientists’ new analysis of plant proteins advances our understanding of photosynthesis. *PhysOrg*. Posted on phys.org on October 27, 2014, accessed July 10, 2015.
11. Wolfe, A. P. et al. 2012. Pristine Early Eocene Wood Buried Deeply in Kimberlite from Northern Canada. *PLoS ONE*. 7 (9): e45537.
12. Thomas, B. Best Creation News of 2013: Tissue Fossils. *Creation Science Update*. Posted on icr.org December 27, 2013, accessed July 2, 2015.
13. Woodmorappe, J. Biblical Chronology and the 8,000-Year-Long Bristlecone Pine Tree-Ring Chronology. *Answers in Depth*. Posted on answersingenesis.org January 28, 2009, accessed July 12, 2015.

Mr. Sherwin is Research Associate, Senior Lecturer, and Science Writer at the Institute for Creation Research.



Critics of the Bible sometimes claim the first and second chapters of Genesis represent two different creation accounts and that these two accounts are clearly contradictory. They allege the order of events is different. Genesis 1 teaches that plants and birds were created before people. But some critics claim Genesis 2 teaches the opposite. Genesis 2 teaches that Adam was created before Eve. But doesn't Genesis 1 indicate they were created at the same time?

As is often the case, the critics just haven't read the text carefully. Genesis 1:1-2:4 records an overview of the cosmic events of the creation week.¹ It gives the order of events and a broad summary of what happened on each day.

Genesis 2:5-25 is not a second or different

1:23-30, land animals were made on Day Six—the same day as man and apparently just before the creation of man. Birds were made on the fifth day and therefore before man. But Genesis 2:18-20 mentions the creation of birds and land animals *after* describing the creation of Adam. But notice that Genesis 2 doesn't actually state the animals were made after man—it only *mentions* their creation after it mentions the creation of man. The order in which events are mentioned here does not claim to be (and so it need not reflect) the order in which they happened. Moreover, Hebrew verbs focus on completeness of action, not past/present/future temporality.

So, they do not have "tense" like English verbs. Instead, the past/present/future temporality of an action verb is determined by context. Thus, in context

Two Creation Accounts?

account of creation; rather, it's a more detailed report of the Adam-and-Eve-focused events of Day Six.² This should be clear, because this chapter describes in greater detail the creation of Adam and Eve—events that Genesis 1:26-30 indicate happened on the sixth day.

But what about the alleged differences? Genesis 1 indicates plants were created on Day Three and people were created on Day Six. So, plants already existed when man was created. But regarding the early events of Day Six, Genesis 2:4-5 discusses a time "before any plant of the field was in the earth and before any herb of the field had grown. For the LORD God had not caused it to rain on the earth, and there was no man to till the ground."

Is this contradictory? Not at all. Notice that Genesis 2:5 does *not* teach that there were no plants on Day Six. Rather, it states there was no plant *of the field* and that no herb *of the field* had grown. The phrase "of the field" is translated from the Hebrew word *sōdeh*, which in this context refers to *cultivated* plants—those that were planted by man in ground tilled by man. So there were plants on Day Six, just no *cultivated* plants. And the rest of the verse gives the reason—because "there was no man to till the ground."

And what of the creation of animals? According to Genesis

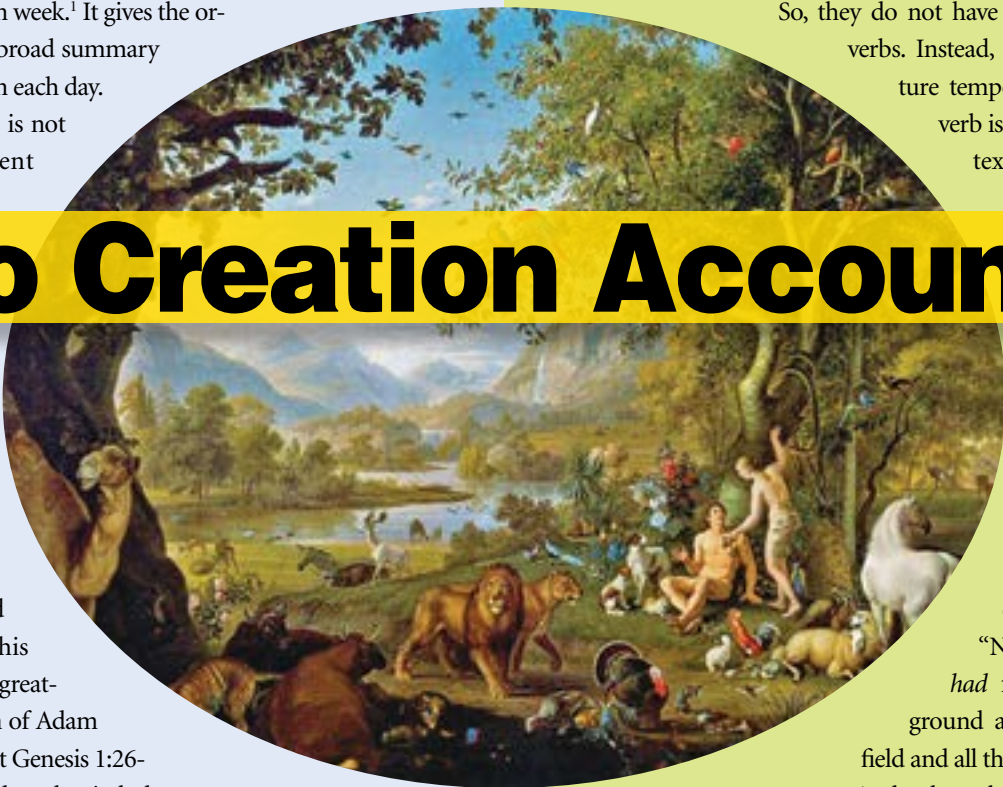
with Genesis 1, Genesis 2:19, which uses a verb that denotes completion of actions, can be translated as "Now the LORD God *had* formed out of the ground all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air."³

And what about the claim that Genesis 1:27 teaches that Adam and Eve were made at the same time? The text only states that God created both the man and the woman on Day Six. It says nothing at all about the precise timing. It is only by reading the details in Genesis 2 that we learn that some time elapsed, perhaps several hours, between the creation of Adam and the creation of Eve on the sixth day. As with most alleged Bible errors, the resolution is found by simply reading the text carefully and thinking logically. ●

References

1. Note that Genesis 2:4 states, "This is the history of the *heavens and the earth* when they were created," confirming that Genesis 1:1-2:4 is about the creation of the entire universe.
2. This detailed report of Adam and Eve continues into Genesis 5:1, which states, "This is the book of the genealogy of Adam," confirming that the focus of this section is on the creation, and subsequent fall, of man.
3. The 1984 New International Version translates Genesis 2:19 in just this way.

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



White-colored limestone indicates recently exposed cliff face, and freshly fallen boulders form a talus slope in Grand Canyon.

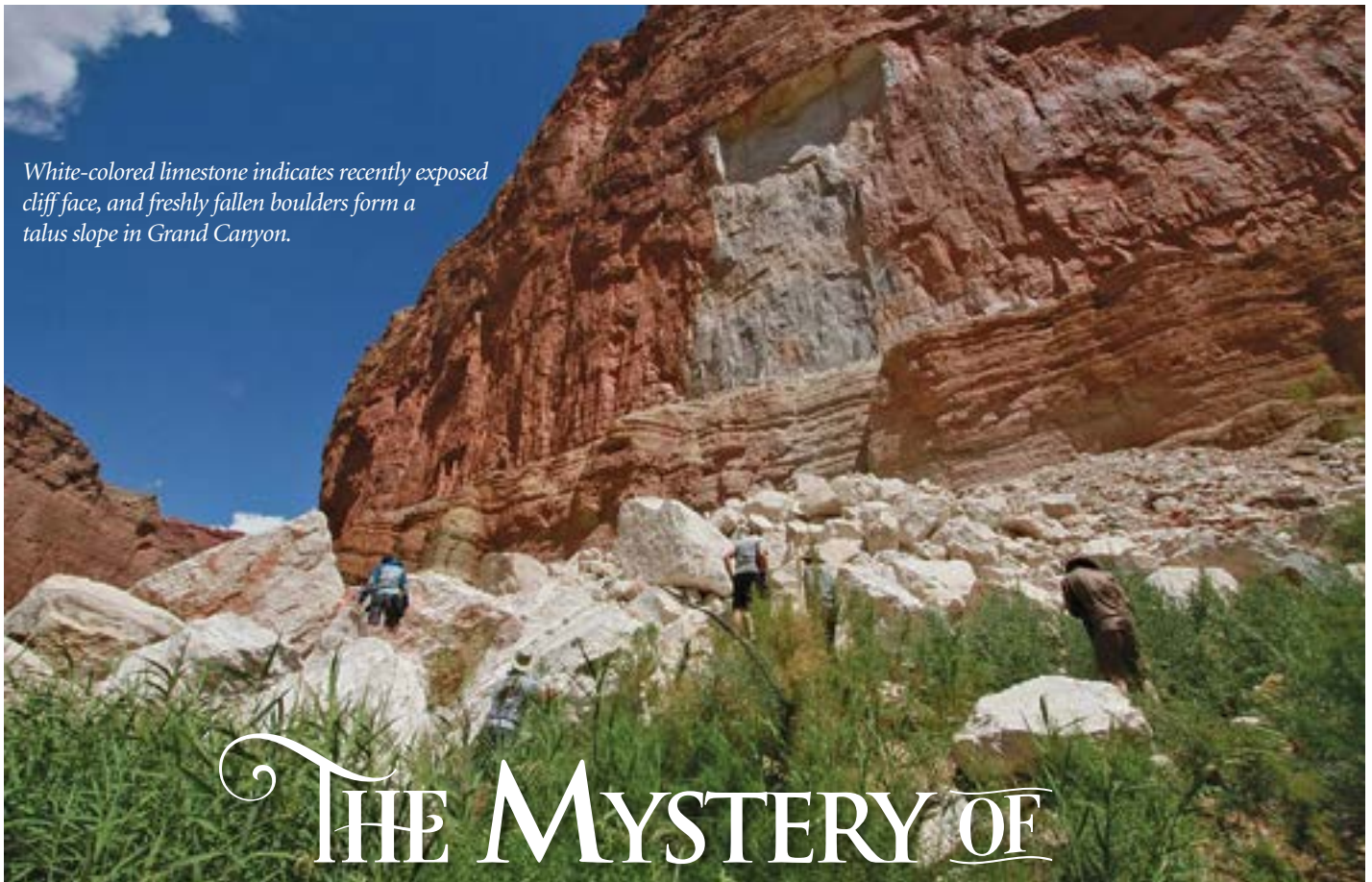


Image: Kyle Justice, Awesome Science Media.

THE MYSTERY OF MISSING TALUS

In August 2013 while on a week-long boat tour of Grand Canyon's Colorado River, I got a close-up view of secular geology's missing-talus problem. As our crew boarded the boats at Lee's Ferry, our geologist guide Dr. Steve Austin explained how missing talus challenges the millions-of-years version of Earth history. Everyday weathering processes weaken the cliff face within view of Lee's Ferry until the cliffs' rocks tumble down. But only a handful of boulders lie on the canyon floor—not enough if millions of years of erosion have taken place. Since my visit there, I have seen more examples of the missing-talus mystery.

The rocks that a given cliff face sheds form an angled rock pile called a *talus slope*. The angle of these slopes—called the *angle of repose*—depends on the size of the talus material. For example, rocks one foot in diameter form a 35-degree slope.¹ Unless a historic flood carries away a talus slope, it would eventually reach the very top of the cliff face.

Several processes incessantly erode cliffs. Water reaches tiny crevices and separates blocks of rock when it freezes. Tree roots can forge gaps, and percolating groundwater facilitates chemical reactions that can weaken native rocks. In some places, wind and water erosion of weaker rocks like shale will undercut more resistant rocks layered above them. Geologists recently discovered that billion-volt

lightning strikes blast new crevices into solid rock, accelerating their erosion. But against this backdrop of steady cliff decline, earthquakes do the most damage. One earthquake can destroy in a few moments what normal processes erode over many years.

As we rafted down Grand Canyon, we saw recent rock falls, where newly exposed cliff faces gleamed brightly in the scorching sunlight against the darker patina of the older rock. A few years earlier I visited Mount Rushmore, where I learned just how rapidly normal cliff-face erosion occurs. Park signs explained that every year workers rappel down the cliff face to inject glue into newly formed cracks. Otherwise, erosion would soon wreak havoc on the presidential faces. Signs on hiking trails and mountain roads warn of the dangers of ongoing rock falls.

After a million years of wind, water, erosion, lightning, and earthquakes, shouldn't talus slopes completely cover cliff faces all over the world? At the very least, we should see enormous talus slopes where in most places we see only tiny ones.

Dr. Austin's *Grand Canyon: Monument to Catastrophe* describes an image of the cliff near Lee's Ferry that doesn't show enough talus to match the cliff's assigned evolutionary age. A caption beneath the picture says, "If the sandstone cliff had a history of slow and continuous erosion, a much more significant quantity of boulders would be

Talus slopes like this one near Red River, New Mexico, should cover all cliff faces if millions of years actually elapsed.



expected at the foot of the slope.”²³ Scoffers who pay no serious attention to arguments from creation resources—no matter the quality of evidence—can instead review how secular geologists try to explain the mystery of missing talus.

A textbook titled *Tectonic Geomorphology* describes the alleged evolutionary origins of Earth’s landforms. Regarding talus slopes, the authors write, “Rapid failure of the scarp [cliff face] by slumping and talus formation leads to angle of repose slopes within a matter of decades to centuries—times much shorter than the presumed ages of the scarps.”²³ Slumping refers to a land mass that follows a bowl-like curve as it slides down and away from its former high spot. How did these authors try to solve their timing discrepancy? They asserted that talus angles of repose “violate the linear diffusion process rule in the early stages of topographic evolution.”²⁴ Did rocks long ago really pile up according to a different “diffusion process” than that observed today?

There’s a simpler solution. Maybe the world’s talus slopes are so skimpy because they reflect only thousands, not millions, of years’ worth of erosion and talus formation. At least this scenario does not involve violating the basic physics of falling rocks.

Stanage Edge in England’s Peak District does not show millions of years’ worth of talus below the cliff. A lone climber provides scale.



If asked why cliff faces around the world look freshly exposed, a secular geologist might reply—like the authors above—that talus slope angles in the past somehow formed differently than they do today. But what experimental measurements support this odd explanation? It’s just reasoning in a circle: Because talus debris at today’s angles of repose do not cover cliff faces that have supposedly been exposed for eons, ancient talus debris must have fallen into shallower angles than they do today. Well, of course cliffs would be eons old if we assume their faces have been exposed for eons, but what about a reasonable explanation for the missing talus?

Dr. Austin’s talus lesson in Grand Canyon helped me make sense of cliff faces and their talus slopes wherever I see them. It also supplied a new question I can ask that may lead to a conversation about how observations in the real world confirm the Bible. And if the Bible got its history right concerning how Noah’s Flood left layers and gorges around the globe just thousands of years ago, then we have yet another reason to trust whatever else the Bible says.⁵ ●

References

1. Austin, S. A. 1994. *Grand Canyon: Monument to Catastrophe*. Santee, CA: Institute for Creation Research, 239.
2. *Ibid*, 101.
3. Burbank, D. W. and R. S. Anderson. 2001. *Tectonic Geomorphology*. Malden, MA: Blackwell Science, 242.
4. *Ibid*, 244.
5. Jesus said, “If I have told you earthly things [like Noah’s Flood that covered the earth] and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things?” (John 3:12).



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

Moonlighting Proteins Befuddle Evolution

In contrast to human-made systems such as dedicated pieces of electronic hardware that have a single function in a single location (e.g., a temperature sensor), the divinely made proteins in cells are able to perform completely separate functions in different places. However, even this simple comparison isn't really fair because individual human-made devices like sensor units still consist of multiple electronic components while a single cellular protein (that can also act like a sensor) is primarily a single defined and folded chain of amino acids. These amazing bioengineering marvels have been called *moonlighting proteins*, and they are utterly befuddling the evolutionary paradigm and its proponents.

Moonlighting proteins reside across the spectrum of life from single-cell bacteria to plants and animals, as well as humans.^{1,2} They are defined as “polypeptides [polymers of amino acids] that can perform two or more molecular functions within a single primary sequence.”² While many genes in plant and animal genomes can produce a wide variety of protein variants due to their incredible functionality and density of encoded information,³ moonlighting proteins do not fit in this category but are actually the same protein sequence doing different tasks, often in completely separate locations.

Many moonlighting proteins are known to achieve this multifunctionality by being folded into different configurations that change their 3-D shape and thus their functional specificity.¹ In addition to different functions, these proteins often perform different roles in completely different cellular compartments. In fact, some can even be found on the surface of the cell embedded

in the membrane or even outside the cell in the extracellular matrix.

Evolutionists have great difficulty explaining the origin of any gene, much less those that produce moonlighting proteins. In the standard evolutionary paradigm, it is believed that so-called neutral mutations in pre-existing genes may be co-opted at some point to produce new functions. However, as noted in a recent secular journal paper that attempted to explain the evolutionary origin of moonlighting proteins, “this scenario is seemingly in conflict with the fact that mutations in the coding sequences of genes tend to be deleterious.”² The study's authors go on to fancifully claim these genes arose by being duplicated from other genes and then going through some magical pro-

cess of rapid alteration. However, the whole idea of gene duplication being able to explain gene origins and function is now being actively refuted by empirical data produced by evolutionists themselves.⁴ Ultimately, the authors concluded their paper by stating, “The evolutionary pathways leading to the generation, retention, and loss of moonlighting proteins remain largely unknown.”²

Perhaps the most damaging evidence for the whole evolutionary paradigm regarding moonlighting proteins is the fact that in humans, their dysfunction is associated with disease.¹ Whether the same moonlighting protein is functioning in the nucleus to regulate gene expression or embedded in the cell membrane functioning as an elaborate sensor-receptor, its mission-critical activities are precisely regulated.⁵

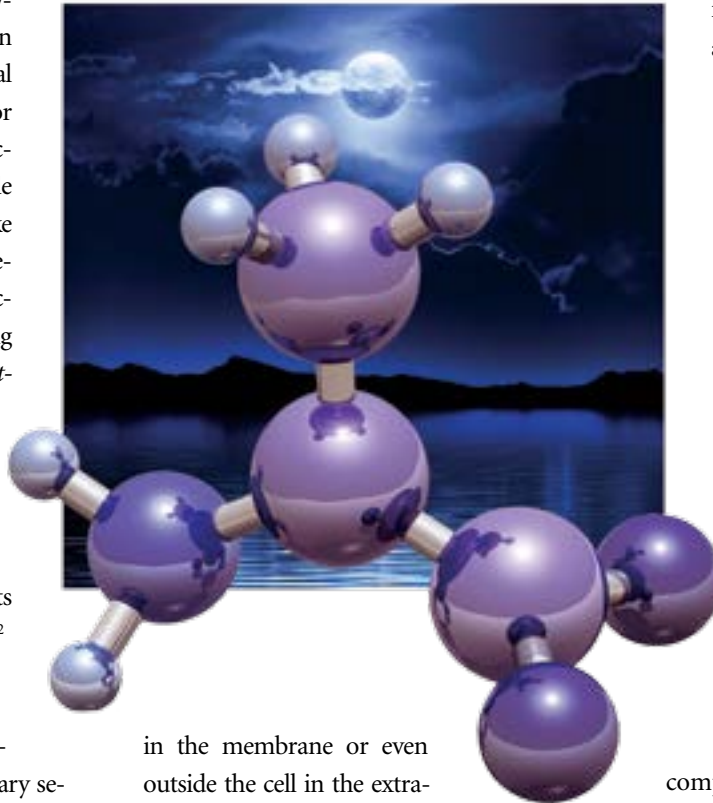
In other words, there is no wiggle room for any random “evolutionary tinkering.”


The precise multifunctional bio-complexity of these proteins—all encoded in the same sequence—is direct and powerful evidence of an omnipotent Creator's handiwork, not purposeless evolution based on chance. ●

References

1. Jeffery, C. J. 2015. Why study moonlighting proteins? *Frontiers in Genetics*. 6: 211.
2. Espinosa-Cantú, A. et al. 2015. Gene duplication and the evolution of moonlighting proteins. *Frontiers in Genetics*. 6: 227.
3. Tomkins, J. 2015. Extreme Information: Biocomplexity of Interlocking Genome Languages. *Creation Research Society Quarterly*. 51 (3): 187-201.
4. Hargreaves, A. D. et al. 2014. Restriction and recruitment – gene duplication and the origin and evolution of snake venom toxins. *Genome Biology and Evolution*. 6 (8): 2088-2095.
5. Boshnjaku, V. et al. 2012. Nuclear localization of folate receptor alpha: a new role as a transcription factor. *Scientific Reports*. 2: 980.5.

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





MAJOR EVOLUTIONARY BLUNDERS

Evolutionary Predictions Fail the Reality Test

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

Without a doubt, humans, chimpanzees, and other organisms share some very similar features. One explanation for the origin of these features is that they reflect similar designs that serve similar purposes. The common design inference is quite intuitive since components of complicated human-designed systems are all directly analogous to other creature's features for similar purposes, such as their structural frameworks, pumps, sensors, and data processors.

People willing to hypothesize that God's supernatural design and creativity caused the great diversity of life on Earth have, for millennia, acknowledged the plausibility of the common-design explanation.

Another approach some people use to explain all phenomena is *naturalism*, which closes off any appeal to supernatural intelligence or power and rather presupposes that nature's matter and forces alone are sufficient causes of the origin of the universe and life itself. But naturalism has to appeal to mystical mechanisms since people have never observed anything design and create itself by mechanisms known to have originated purely by nature's matter and forces.

After all, a heart pumping blood through vessels seems to correspond very well in purpose and design to human-made fluid-pumping systems. Should anyone believe that some purposeless, undetectable mystical intelligence of nature shaped the exquisite details of cardiovascular systems over eons? But a dogmatic commitment

to naturalism forces naturalists to construct explanations that are “counterintuitive” and “mystifying to the uninitiated,” according to renowned Harvard geneticist Richard Lewontin.¹

Upcoming issues of *Acts & Facts* will feature several articles that compare some of those counterintuitive naturalistic explanations to actual discoveries. This comparison will focus attention on the largely suppressed but disappointing track record of naturalism’s dubious notions that have been taught as factual evidence only to later be revealed as total blunders.

For instance, we know that similarity among creatures extends past body parts to their underlying genetics. Decades in advance of current detailed genetic analysis techniques, creationists and evolutionists alike published expectations based on either intelligent design or evolution, respectively. One test of the accuracy of a scientific model is its ability to make accurate predictions of future research results. These published expectations can now be examined in light of new genetic information.

Design-Based Predictions

In 1975, prior to any detailed genetic analysis, ICR founder Dr. Henry Morris asserted there would be common underlying design patterns to explain similar structure. He said:

The creative process would have designed similar structures for similar functions and different structures for different functions...In the creation model, the same similarities are predicted on the basis of a common purposive designer.²

Thus, knowing that organisms, per their kind, must have traits to thrive on the same planet but occupy diverse niches, advocates for design-based explanations expected that 1) similar features needed to fulfill similar purposes would be based on similar information, and 2) extreme multi-step specified regulation over thousands of details produces unique organisms that may yet have similar overall plans.

Evolution-Based Predictions

Virtually all prominent evolutionists rejected basic common designs, but their rationale differed. Darwin, for theological reasons, doubted “that it has pleased the Creator to construct all the animals and plants in each great class on a uniform plan” and derided the concept of underlying common information as “not a scientific explanation.”³

In 1963, Harvard’s leading evolutionary theorist Ernst Mayr predicted that looking for similar DNA between very diverse organisms would be pointless. He claimed that random genetic changes over millions of years explained the differences in creature’s traits and that those many changes would have obliterated genetic similarities.

Much that has been learned about gene physiology makes it evident that the search for homologous genes [similar codes due to common ancestry] is quite futile except in very close relatives. If there is only one efficient solution for a certain functional demand, very different gene complexes will come up with the same solution, no matter how different the pathway by which it is

achieved. The saying “Many roads lead to Rome” is as true in evolution as in daily affairs.⁴

New evolutionary explanations do not explain similarities in organisms whose ancestors supposedly “diverged” eons ago. *Convergent evolution* is a frequently invoked ancillary explanation, as denoted in Mayr’s “Many roads lead to Rome” affirmation. For example, how did naturalists explain diverse creatures possessing eyes made up of similar parts? They claimed that similar environments constrained them to “converge” on comparable complex features—independently at least 40 times—and probably as many as 65 times.⁵

This explanation, steeped in evolutionary naturalism, counterintuitively claims that millions of years of genetic tinkering somehow propelled organisms to diverge into increasingly different classes while simultaneously cobbling their traits to converge upon “the same solution” to problems.

Creationists, a vocal subgroup of Lewontin’s “uninitiated,” remained skeptical that similar highly complex structures evolved independently over and over again, but maintained their expectation of finding a similar feature-to-genetic information link.

Evolutionary Predictions Spectacularly Wrong

Landmark discoveries between 1978 and 1984 showed the reality of a common genetic basis prescribing how similar structures could be built across diverse groups of organisms.⁶ Genes with regulatory and developmental functions responsible for core basic-design patterns in developing embryos are called *Hox* genes (a contraction of longer descriptive words, *homeotic* and *homeobox*). This astounding finding was so opposite to the evolutionists’ notions that it clearly constitutes a spectacular blunder on their part. Evolutionary developmental biologist Sean Carroll describes the implications of the stunning details:

When the sequence of these homeoboxes were examined in detail, the similarities among species were astounding.



Over the 60 amino acids of the homeodomain, some mice and frog proteins were identical to the fly sequences at up to 59 out of 60 positions. Such sequence similarity was just stunning. The evolutionary lines that led to flies and mice diverged more than 500 million years ago, before the famous Cambrian Explosion that gave rise to most animal types. No biologist had even the foggiest notion that such similarities could exist between genes of such different animals. The *Hox* genes were so important that their sequences had been preserved throughout this enormous span of animal evolution.⁷

The discovery that the same sets of genes control the formation and pattern of body regions and body parts with similar functions (but very different designs) in insects, vertebrates, and other animals has forced a complete rethinking of animal history, the origins of structures, and the nature of diversity. Comparative and evolutionary biologists had long assumed that different groups of animals, separated by vast amounts of evolutionary time, were constructed and had evolved by entirely different means.⁸

Yet evolutionists remain closed-minded to an explanation of the *Hox* genes' origination by a common designer. They need not concede they were greatly mistaken in their predictions, they were merely "stunned" at the appearance of new, unexpected evidence for evolution (in their reworked, conveniently fluid evolutionary story, that is).

Yet, the only "evidence" that *Hox* genes can be "preserved throughout this enormous span of animal evolution" is the belief that life evolved from a common ancestor. All of the stories about convergence get promptly scrapped. Firmly held prior accounts like convergent evolution are run through the magic tunnel of evolutionary belief, and, *voilà*, *Hox* genes somehow instantly turn into "preserved" ancient DNA, which is now used—with equivalent certainty—as evidence of common ancestry.

Design-Based Expectations Confirmed

Now it is factually confirmed that sim-



ilar genetic regulatory information is common to many classes of organisms and aids in helping achieve similar function—many with remarkably similar designs. Sean Carroll again relates the confounding weight of this finding.

It was inescapable. Clusters of *Hox* genes shaped the development of animals as different as flies and mice, and now we know that includes just about every animal in the kingdom, including humans and elephants. Not even the most ardent advocate of fruit fly research predicted the universal distribution and importance of *Hox* genes. The implications were stunning. Disparate animals were built using not just the same kinds of tools, but indeed, the very same genes!⁹

What about the teaching of 40 independent occurrences of eye evolution? That manifested as another incredible evolutionary blunder and validation of creationists' design-based expectations. As Carroll candidly continues, "Natural selection has not forged many eyes completely from scratch; there is a common genetic ingredient to making each eye type, as well as to the many types of appendages, hearts, etc."¹⁰

Is Common Design More Plausible than Common Ancestry?

Could it be that *Hox* genes are the "smoking gun" of common design expected by supporters of intelligent design for decades? Consider this—if engineers were tasked to investigate for common design in any other area, how would they proceed? They would study various sets of plans and specifications, identify any common features, and verify if there was, in fact, common underlying information. Genetic research has identified this common information across diverse groups of organisms prescribing traits with the same general

function. In other areas of research, this fact would be ascribed to common engineering instructions.

Evolutionary theory predicted the complete opposite of common underlying information for similar traits. The fact that it was dogmatically taught as evidence for evolution and later found to be profoundly wrong catalogs it as a spectacular blunder and makes its teaching misguided at best. This repressed prediction-evidence mismatch is connected to ever-changing evolutionary explanations like "convergence" or "conservation/common ancestry." These come across scientifically as a mishmash of improvised, after-the-fact stories aimed at forcing observations into an evolutionary paradigm.

Creationists can say with credibility that in creatures as diverse as bacteria, insects, and humans the same genetic information controls the formation and utilization of many key anatomical or molecular structures observed to be performing broadly similar functions.

Applying organism-focused, design-based analysis to biological phenomena brings great clarity to our understanding of life. A compelling case is made that these are clearly the common designs creationists have been looking for the last 200 years. ●

References

- Lewontin, R. 1997. Billions and Billions of Demons. *The New York Review of Books*. 44 (1): 31.
- Morris, H. 1975. *The Troubled Waters of Evolution*. San Diego, CA: Creation-Life Publishers, 84-85.
- Darwin, C. 1872. *The Origin of Species By Means of Natural Selection*, 6th ed. London: John Murray, 383.
- Mayr, E. 1963. *Animal Species and Evolution*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 609.
- Land, M. F. and R. D. Fernald. 1992. The Evolution of Eyes. *Annual Review of Neuroscience*. 15:1-2, referencing Salvini-Plawen, L. von and E. Mayr. 1977. On the evolution of photoreceptors and eyes. *Evolutionary Biology*. 10: 207-263.
- Lewis, E. B. 1978. A gene complex controlling segmentation in *Drosophila*. *Nature*. 276 (5688): 565-570; Wakimoto, B. T. and T. C. Kaufman. 1981. Analysis of larval segmentation in lethal genotypes associated with the Antennapedia gene complex in *Drosophila melanogaster*. *Developmental Biology*. 81 (1): 51-64; Scott, M. P. and A. J. Weiner. 1984. Structural relationships among genes that control development: sequence homology between the Antennapedia, Ultrabithorax, and fushi tarazu loci of *Drosophila*. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. 81 (13): 4115-4119; Slack, J. 1984. Developmental biology: A Rosetta stone for pattern formation in animals? *Nature*. 310 (5976): 364-365.
- Carroll, S. B. 2005. *Endless Forms Most Beautiful*. New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 64.
- Ibid, 71.
- Ibid, 65.
- Ibid, 72.

Dr. Guliuzza is ICR's National Representative.



Q: How Realistic Was *Jurassic World's* Science?

A:

In church, a friend asked me about the movie *Jurassic World*. Its high-tech presentation makes the idea of scientists resurrecting dinosaurs from DNA “mined” from fossils almost seem believable. What parts can we trust, and what parts can we toss?

Good science supports about as many of this movie’s major science-sounding concepts as it does those of recent superhero movies—i.e., very few.

First, the movie’s creators seem to have matched giant sauro-pods to their sizes known from fossils, but real dinosaurs hatched from small eggs and took several dozen years to get that big. Nobody can accelerate a creature’s growth, and there wasn’t enough time for them to achieve that size. Plus, many other dinosaurs appear much larger in the movie than they ever were when alive.

Much of the movie shows unrealistic technology. Geneticists have made incredible discoveries in the last few decades, but with each new detail they uncover, they find another mind-boggling feature of living creatures. Animal anatomies, genetics, and developmental regimes are so complicated we may never understand them well enough to manipulate them like the fictional geneticists in *Jurassic World* did. The human body accesses over 200 interactive genes involved in height alone. And many of the genes used during embryonic development perform important separate functions later in life, showcasing the awesome ingenuity of our great Creator. Geneticists would not know where to begin manipulating such a vast network of incredible complexity to produce a new type of creature from living animal genes—let alone an extinct animal like a dinosaur.

Speaking of which, no scientist has yet brought an extinct creature back to life from just its DNA, much less from isolated and degraded fragments of ancient DNA. It takes a mother to make a baby. It would be amazing indeed to make a machine that mimics all the complicated and wonderful features of a mother’s egg and a mother’s body. The opening scene of *Jurassic World* shows a dinosaur hatch-

ing from an already mature egg. They don’t show how that egg got there—where’s the required mother? Scientists cannot craft eggs. The mere shell of a dinosaur egg consisted of precisely interwoven protein fibers and minerals thin enough to permit gas exchange but thick enough to protect the baby dinosaur.

Good science can achieve wonderful feats, but it cannot work miracles or magic. It cannot make a baby out of just DNA.

And what about the idea in *Jurassic World* that iron plus “hydroxyl” can cause special chemical reactions that somehow preserve

animal tissues—and maybe even DNA—for millions of years? The scriptwriters needed a scientific-sounding basis for asserting that DNA buried in the earth stayed in good enough shape for geneticists to read its stored information even after that length of time. But this iron rescuing device fails for two reasons. First, although iron discourages bacterial growth, iron plus hydroxyl shreds proteins and DNA. In contrast to the assertions about iron’s preserving power, experiments show it destroys tissues.¹ Second, researchers find few signs of iron or hydroxyls when they uncover bone proteins in fossils. Iron can do amazing things like help transport oxygen and conduct electricity, but it cannot halt or reverse the inevitable chemistry involved in the decay of proteins over time.

Jurassic World packs plenty of pure fiction into a literally unbelievable thriller. Here in the real world, incredibly complicated gene networks reveal the Creator’s masterful mind. This fits with Genesis creation. Also, proteins and DNA found in fossils show that Earth’s sedimentary layers are quite young. This fits the Bible’s timeline. The *Jurassic World* filmmakers did a nice job making science-sounding concepts appear reasonable, but as usual, real science supports Scripture, not fiction. ●

Reference

1. “Due to its strong reactivity with biomolecules, hydroxyl radical is capable of doing more damage to biological systems than any other ROS [reactive oxygen species].” Prousek, J. 2007. Fenton chemistry in biology and in medicine. *Pure & Applied Chemistry*. 79 (12): 2325–2338.

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



Image credit: Copyright © 2015 Jurassic World Universe. Adapted for use in accordance with federal copyright (fair use doctrine) law. Usage by ICR does not imply endorsement of copyright holders.

The Moon Rules

Earth is ruled, in part, by lunar rhythms. It is “tuned” to the moon’s periodic rhythms in its daily and monthly cycles as well as annual seasons. This illustrates Genesis 1:16, which states God purposefully programmed the moon to “rule” the night.

Animistic and polytheistic religions personify the moon, but what does Genesis teach about its effects on the earth and creatures living here? In other words, how can the moon, which is inanimate, rule anything?

God programmed the moon to rule in at least two ways: 1) by gravitational attraction—which is physically quite forceful; and 2) by providing reflected light to Earth, which rotates so one side is always facing the moon.

The moon’s physical regulation, by gravity and by moonlight photoperiodicity (periodic light exposure), can be analytically compared to the inanimate governor device (also called a “speed limiter”) that can be installed to regulate the top speed of a commercial truck. The truck’s governor is inanimate, yet it implements the purposeful intention of the intelligent engineer who devised it to limit how fast a truck can go on the highways.¹ Likewise, the moon mechanically implements the intelligent design that God selected for its fine-tuned movements and regulatory functions.

Moonlight Photoperiodicity Rules the Earth

How important to life on Earth is moonlight and its periodic rhythms?

No physical factor is of greater interest to the ecologist than light. It is, first, a

source of energy; second, a limiting factor (since too little or too much kills); and third, an extremely important regulator of daily and seasonal activities for a great many organisms, both plant and animal...One of the most dependable environmental cues by which organisms time their [developmental and periodic] activities in temperate zones is the day-length period, or *photoperiod*....Photoperiod [can regulate] a physiological sequence that brings about molting, fat deposition, migration, and breeding in temperate-zone birds...However, one can produce out-of-season fat deposition, migratory restlessness, and an increase in size of reproductive organs in midwinter in the laboratory by an artificial increase in the light period.²

Moonlight affects Earth by each diurnal (day/night) cycle, by each lunar-month cycle (i.e., new moon, second quarter, full moon, fourth quarter phases), and by the annual cycle of recurring seasons. The equinox-to-equinox year varies the ratio of daylight to moonlight, so days get “shorter” and “longer” depending on the time of year.³

Lunar light regulates Pacific salmon smolt migratory movements.⁴ Moonlight intensity and daylight/moonlight ratios, which vary with the seasons, regulate salmon migration, growth, and development.⁵ Even some plant chlorophyll activity depends in part on moonlight.⁶

Lunar Gravity Rules the Earth

Lunar gravity forcefully regulates Earth’s tides worldwide.⁷ Christmas Island red crabs depend on tidal rhythms to time their migrations to beaches to mate and deposit the next generation of baby crabs into

high-tide waters.⁸ Likewise, barnacles, as anchored filter-feeders, depend on the tides to wash up planktonic nutrients, providing ready meals on tidal waves.⁹ Many more examples of tide-dependent animal behaviors could be given.

Even plants depend on the rhythmic pull of the moon’s gravity. The moon’s monthly cycle regulates water in cultivated soil, triggering seed swelling, seed bursting, seed germination, leaf growth, root growth—which is why the lunar cycle-timed Jewish feasts of Leviticus 23 coincide with spring and autumn harvest cycles.⁶

Bottom line: Genesis 1:16 teaches that God made the moon to rule the night. Creation provides a host of witnesses—crabs, barnacles, salmon, crops, and more—that corroborate that truth. ●

References

1. The usage of speed-limiting “governors” was tested by this author, years ago, when he was a Class B truck-driver.
2. Odum, E. P. 1975. *Ecology: The Link Between the Natural and the Social Sciences*, 2nd ed. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 113-114.
3. Genesis 8:22.
4. “The 29.5-day cycle of moonlight does have a timing function in some fish behavior.” Smith, R. J. F. 2012. *The Control of Fish Migration*. New York: Springer-Verlag.
5. Ditlefsen, A., translation by C. Stultz and C. B. Eckmann. Salmon Thrive on Electric Lighting. The Research Council of Norway. Posted on forskningsradet.no August 20, 2007, accessed July 2, 2015.
6. Norten, M. 2015. *Unlocking the Secrets of the Feasts: The Prophecies in the Feasts of Leviticus*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 38-39.
7. “The part of the earth that is closest to the moon at any given moment will feel the moon’s gravitational pull most strongly...this pull is experienced as high tide.” Amos, W. H. and S. H. Amos. 1985. *Atlantic and Gulf Coasts*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 27-28. For analysis, see James J. S. Johnson’s An Oceanographer’s Insight, for Researching and Analyzing Oceanic and Littoral Ecosystem Dynamics, Guided by ‘High-Definition’ Biblical Philology, Creation Research Society Conference, Dallas, Texas, July 31, 2015, 67 pages.
8. See Johnson, J. J. S. 2011. A Christmas Carol in Four-Part Harmony. *Acts & Facts*. 40 (12): 8-10 describing tide-governed phenology of red crabs.
9. Regarding filter-feeding barnacles, dependent upon moon-ruled tidewaters for planktonic food, see Amos, *Atlantic and Gulf Coasts*, 454-455.

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



Stewardship of ICR Publications



As Christ illustrated in the parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14-30), God grants various “talents” to every believer. Talents take many different forms—such as wealth, intelligence, and skill—and are given in differing degrees by God in His wisdom. But no matter what or how much we’ve been given, our Lord calls us to invest these gifts to produce spiritual gains for the Kingdom. One day He will hold us accountable as stewards of His resources here on Earth (2 Corinthians 5:10). Thus, part of our walk as Christians is to diligently seek to maximize His resources to the best of our abilities.

Though the text does not specify, the stewardship principles demonstrated in this parable certainly apply to Christian organizations as well as individuals. Equipped to reach and influence many more people than most individuals, the Institute for Creation Research takes this mandate very seriously. Knowing that every gift we receive is an expression of personal stewardship from individual believers, ICR prayerfully applies each gift so Christ’s message of salvation as seen through His creation is communicated as effectively as possible.

ICR accomplishes this primarily through our *Acts & Facts* and *Days of Praise* publications. As a subscriber, you are already familiar with the breadth of articles in the monthly *Acts & Facts* magazine, which provides important insights into origins and scientific research as well as perspectives on how the biblical message impacts critical thinking. *Days of Praise* provides a daily portion of hearty “meat” for the Christian (Hebrews 5:14), delivering devotionals that encourage our walk and strengthen our witness for Christ.

For 45 years, ICR has been blessed to provide these publications free of charge to all who ask—and we wish to keep doing so. But

the expense for such quality materials is considerable, costing over \$1,500,000 to prepare, publish, and mail each year. Virtually all of the expense is borne by a handful of faithful donors who understand the eternal value of these vital publications. ICR will continue offering these materials free, but we are also required to be good stewards of the gifts God has provided through His people.

To this end, ICR mailed letters over the last several months to subscribers we haven’t heard from in a while, asking if these publications are still meaningful and useful to them. We’ve received a good response thus far, but a sizeable majority hasn’t yet responded. If this applies to you, please know that we’d like nothing more than to continue making these publications available to you—but we need to hear from you.

Otherwise, this issue of *Acts & Facts* may be your last.

If these resources are helpful to you and your witness for Christ and you wish to keep your subscription active, please let ICR know by either:

- Returning the tear-off response slip you received in a previous letter, or
- Visiting www.icr.org/renew

And if our ministry has blessed you, won’t you please consider sending along a tax-deductible gift to support ICR’s work? It will be put to good and effective use, and with God’s help, it will bear much lasting fruit for the cause of Christ (1 Corinthians 3:7-8). Thank you for your prayerful consideration. We look forward to hearing from you! ●

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



PRAYERFULLY

CONSIDER

SUPPORTING

ICR

— GALATIANS 6:9-10 —

Through

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

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

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

What a blessing ICR has been to our family. My mom has diligently read your *Acts & Facts* and *Days of Praise* for four years. In 2011, she said YES to Jesus' voice and became His child! Last month she passed into glory, face to face with our Savior. From age 86 to 90 she was in love with Jesus



Christ and read your publications with fervor, and she remarked that "ICR is the only one with intelligence showing Jesus is the Creator."

— L.W.



The Institute for Creation Research is very, very special! I always enjoy your articles, and the one [in June *Acts & Facts*] about "Rise up, O Men of God" was excellent! We are truly living in a world where there are "false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies." Quoting from page six: "Fallen men do not have

the right to judge the Word and tell others what it means to them; human opinions and expectations are not revelations from God." How true!

— J.D.

Thank you for emphasizing the fact that the Bible is authoritative on every subject it deals with. You have helped drive my family and many others into Scripture and encouraged me greatly toward a more authentic trust in the Word of God and His faithfulness. Your speakers have come to my church, and my family receives *Acts & Facts* as well as *Days of Praise*. My wife and I eagerly wait for *Acts & Facts* to arrive each month. Your faithful ministry and that of other solid organizations that boldly herald the message of biblical creation evangelism have truly blessed my family in recent years. You are fulfilling the great commission in a powerful way. Keep it up. It is working and bearing much fruit. I thank the Lord for your entire organization.

— N.H.

I have mantle cell lymphoma. In January my doctor recommended a treatment of heavy-duty chemotherapy that destroys stem cells, white cells, platelets, and many other necessary components of the blood. I was in remission from previous chemotherapy (by the Lord's gracious hand), and so I was a good candidate to have my

stem cells harvested so they could be reintroduced after the treatment. I was to be in the hospital for three weeks during April, so as I was collecting reading material I included the April [2015] edition of *Acts & Facts*. While in the hospital I was fascinated to discover Dr. [Randy] Guliuzza's article "Made in His Image: Life-Giving Blood." It touched on many of the characteristics of blood with which I had recently become familiar. Particularly amazing is how stem cells are responsible for creating the other blood cells—red, white, and platelets—all in order according to need.



I had discussions with several of the nurses and staff about the trials of my treatment (the severe damage to my body and blood) and the miraculous activity of the blood to rebuild and renew itself, without which none of the other healing could occur. I shared Dr. Guliuzza's article with many of my caregivers, and several asked to make copies. This article gave me the perfect opportunity to discuss God's amazing handiwork and creative genius with caregivers who had the same interest and fascination with this subject that I have.

My heartfelt thanks to Dr. Guliuzza for his work in putting this information together. He may not have known it, but he was being used by God as a testimony to many technicians who took away from our discussions a more precise understanding of, and appreciation for, the complexity of God's design. I thank God for directing ICR to insert this article in this magazine so that I can say, "For such a time as this may God be praised and glorified!"

— S.G.



Thank you to Dr. Guliuzza and all of your staff for the March [*Acts & Facts*] article "Made in His Image: Baby's First Breath." This was a fascinating description of the baby's heart and blood flow. It was especially interesting to me as I was pregnant with my third child at the time. Thank you for sharing this information in a way that a layperson can

understand and share with others. What a wonderful example of the Lord's intricate design and care for His creation!

— J.F.

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.

MADE IN HIS IMAGE

A four-episode DVD series
on the complexities
of the human body.

"God created man in His own image."
— Genesis 1:27 —



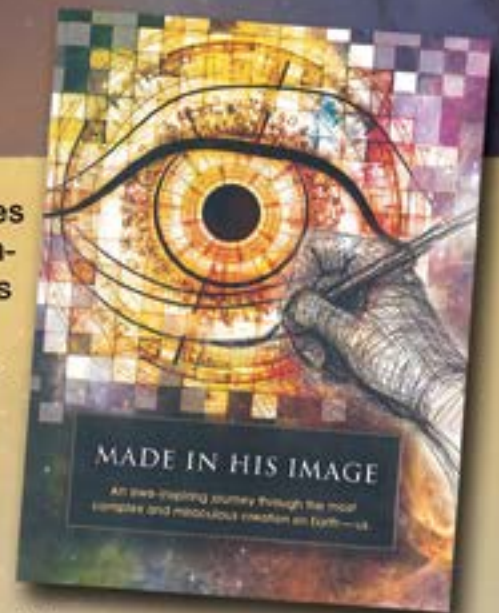
Made in His Image, ICR's new DVD series takes audiences on a journey through the most complex and miraculous creation on Earth—us. There is no better example of complex, conscious design than the human body. Featuring medical, engineering, and other experts, *Made in His Image* fascinates audiences with mind-blowing facts, dazzling imagery, and memorable illustrations.

Episode 1: The Miracle of Birth. Only a masterful Creator could enable a baby to thrive in a watery world for nine months then suddenly live in an air-breathing environment at birth. Witness His incredible design from gestation to birth.

Episode 2: The Marvel of Eyes. The intricate engineering of the human visual system is vital for cognitive development from infancy through adulthood.

Episode 3: Uniquely Human Hands. Human hands and muscles display purposeful design, granting us unique abilities controlled by a sophisticated nervous system.

Episode 4: Beauty in Motion. This final episode illustrates the peak of human ability through athletic performance and highlights the aspects of complex design that confirm divine creation.



COMING THIS FALL!
ICR.org/MadeInHisImage