

# ACTS & FACTS

INSTITUTE FOR  
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The Fossils Still Say No:  
Capping a Cretaceous  
Conundrum

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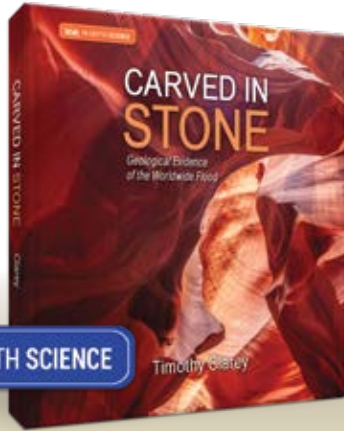
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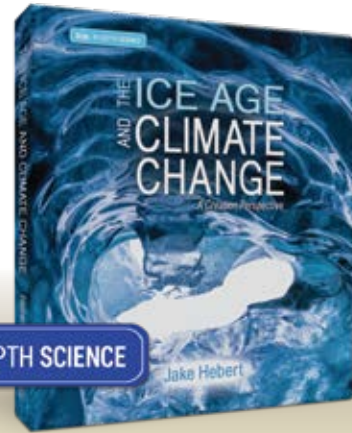
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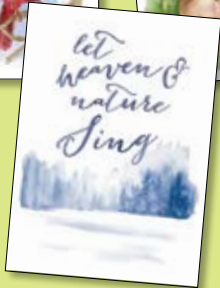
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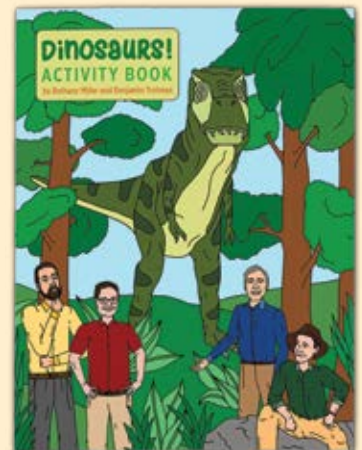
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He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence. For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.

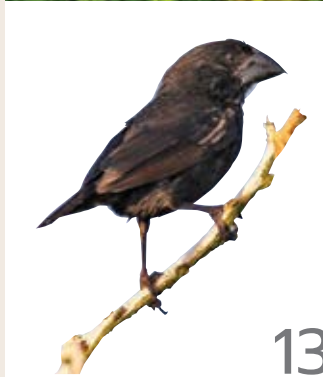
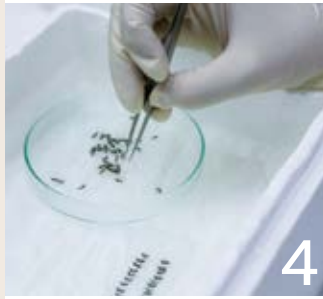
(Colossians 1:15-20)

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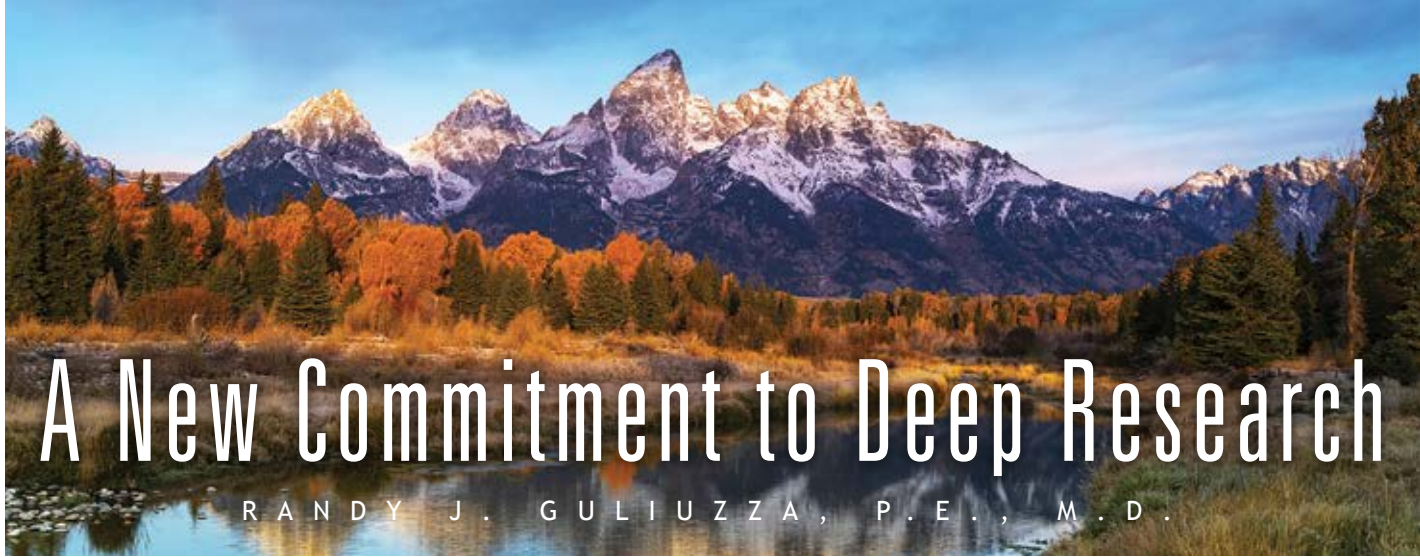
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# A New Commitment to Deep Research

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

If all is on schedule, and with the good blessings of the Lord Jesus, then as you read this article nearly all of the ICR scientists and a number of support staff will be working on the first-ever ICR science expedition. This important research trip into northern Wyoming has multiple scientific objectives. Objectives were carefully selected to be “big picture and big impact” to advance creation science. The overriding goal of this arduous excursion is to enhance the power of our scientific models to explain natural phenomena that are both informed by Scripture and scientifically sound, but also expressed in ways that reach the average person.

A main priority is to film ICR scientists in at least fifteen locations to produce two educational films. One film will introduce an explanation of biological adaptation that fully breaks away from Darwinian selectionism—a destructive worldview that is poisoning science. Our new engineering-based model called *continuous environmental tracking* (CET) emphasizes the incredible problem-solving abilities Christ designed into creatures. The second film will underscore the vital importance that Dr. Tim Clarey’s worldwide bore-hole research provides to Flood geology.

The Lord Jesus said that He would build such a powerful church that against it even the gates of hell could not prevail (Matthew 16:18). That sounds like a pretty intense battle, and ICR—especially because of our research—is in the thick of it. I would like to explain why ICR will be increasing our commitment to original research in creation science.

## Not Glamorous but Imperative

We’ve all heard the phrase, “If I had a dollar for every time I heard...I’d be rich.” Since becoming president of ICR I have heard multiple times something along the lines of, “Nobody, absolutely nobody is excited about ‘research!’ Booor-ring! If you really want to get Christians’ attention, grow the ICR ‘brand,’ or attract donations, then you must focus the power of ICR on things like LGBTQ+ inroads, global warming and the other ‘hot button’ topics. These will fire up your base. If you don’t, other ministries will jump at the chance.” If the dollar rule applied to this issue, I would be wealthy. We at ICR certainly care about the evil fruits rapidly making inroads in society.

## article highlights

- ICR embarked on a scientific expedition this September.
- We will create two films from the excursion: one film dealing with engineered biology and the other with Flood geology.
- We seek to ramp-up our research efforts to a higher level and show that Jesus Christ is the Designer of all rather than nature.
- We ask for comments from our *Acts & Facts* readers about a potential way to free up our resources.

The fruit grows from a worldview militantly opposed to Christ. This worldview is not fundamentally atheistic, but idolatrous. So, the fruit is not the root problem.

Romans 1:25 identifies the root. Here, Paul says that the true Creator God is exchanged for a lie (literally, in context, “the false” god).<sup>1</sup> The “false god” is identified as nature itself as people worship and serve (as in religious devotion) the creation more than its true Creator. How telling.

Today’s science-focused culture worships nature as the giver of life and the cause of all of its diversity—perhaps more so than any time in history. It may not be a stretch to say that many people today idolize nature. Darwin’s nature-centric approach to biology has immense backing in the scientific community. Why does it have so much appeal? Many scientists and philosophers believe that Darwin cracked the nut on how to explain the obvious design of creatures without appealing to a Designer—that nature *itself* is the Designer and exercises intelligent agency over creatures.<sup>2</sup> This is where ICR research and theory development play a crucial role pushing back against Darwinian selectionism

First, Darwin focused his ideas on a creature’s ability to change. He devised an anti-designer way to interpret adaptability by portraying it the exact *opposite* way of what a real engineer would do. In other words, for Darwin, adaptable changes are hit-and-miss, non-purposeful, and extremely gradual.

However, ICR has some better ideas. Our CET model interprets a mountain of other data and is finding that adaptation can often be characterized as highly regulated, rapid, usually repeatable,

sometimes reversible, and with targeted solutions that are even predictable. This research demonstrates that the way creatures' innate systems enable them to self-adjust to environmental challenges is similar to how an engineer would design them. Some original ICR research is in the process of being published, and it strongly supports the CET model.

Second, Darwin made it easy for scientists who publish in technical journals to talk about nature as if it could exercise creative agency.<sup>3</sup> Darwin introduced an overt mysticism into science via selectionism. He personifies nature by projecting onto it "selective" abilities akin to how human breeders with real minds select for traits in creatures. Projecting selective ability onto nature inherently projects volition and intelligence onto it as well. Thus, in people's minds they imaginatively see nature exercising God-like actions such as "selecting," "favoring," "punishing," or "acting on" organisms. New theoretical frameworks developed by ICR have exposed this deification of nature inherent to Darwin's selectionist worldview as the secular sacred imposter for the true Creator God as in Romans 1:25.<sup>4</sup> There is no doubt that ICR research is needed today as much as it has ever been.



### A New Focus on Research

With the importance of research in mind, ICR would like to spend more time focusing on it. Let me give some of the backstory. This will allow you to put your thoughts together that I am asking you to share with us.

Some of our readers might recall that *Acts & Facts* used to be a folded half-page newsletter sent out monthly for decades. (I still have nearly all of them saved by year in my bookcase.) Then we greatly increased the number of features with our new magazine style of *Acts & Facts* in its current form. Many readers have expressed how appreciative they are for the materials in the magazine.

However, what we realized is that hand-in-hand with producing a full-blown magazine is a huge increase in *time* demanded from our scientists and editors. That fact probably explains why magazine production is the sole full-time job of some companies. In fact, producing our magazine now consumes nearly three weeks of the month for our Communications and Science departments. Obviously, this leaves only one week per month to work on book and video production and—most importantly—research...before the cycle repeats. Yet, our readers and everyone at ICR loves our current *Acts & Facts* notwithstanding the large man hours needed to produce it.

I speak to hundreds of our readers and supporters "out in the field" during the many events that we conduct. A number who've faithfully followed ICR have noticed a decrease in our book production and original research. After I explain why simply building up our

staff is more complicated than at first thought (especially for adding research scientists who need multiple talents), they offer recommendations on how we can find more time for research.

The solution offered most frequently is to keep the current popular format for *Acts & Facts* but just reduce the number of issues to eight, nine, or ten per year. The issues least likely to be read due to vacation or pressing work needs are mid-summer and shortly after the New Year. If this suggestion was implemented, then it would free up several full months to reallocate our manpower exclusively to new research and fresh resource development.

These changes will allow our research team to have more time to do higher-quality, uninterrupted research—especially in biology. As described last November,<sup>5</sup> ICR is actively developing a new engineering-based model that could change the fundamental explanation of how biological functions operate...away from simply a lighter version of Darwinism and to one that fully honors Christ as Creator.

So, that is our problem and a possible solution. Some folks have suggested that if we decreased *Acts & Facts* by a few issues then support for our research would actually decrease. I'm less than persuaded of that reaction, particularly if we are transparent in explaining a reason to our supporters that makes sense.

Yet, since this is a big change that would affect well over 100,000 readers at this time, I am asking for your thoughts—pro or con—on this recommendation. Many readers may likely be neutral, but if you have any thoughts of encouragement or concern that you would like to share please write us at: [contact@icr.org](mailto:contact@icr.org) or ICR, attn: Bruce Wood, 1806 Royal Lane, Dallas, TX 75229. Thank you very much for your love and faithfulness to ICR for so many years. The continued blessings of the Lord Jesus to you. ✉

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Many of the world's top paleontologists were again recently fooled by their own preconceived ideas. This time it was a tiny skull trapped in amber that was declared a hummingbird-size dinosaur and named *Oculudentavis*.<sup>1</sup> The initial report was published as the cover story in *Nature* in March 2020. However, nearly as soon as it was published, a second paper was submitted to *Nature* showing that the fossil was a lizard and not a dinosaur.<sup>2</sup> *Nature's* editors promptly rejected the rebuttal.<sup>2</sup> The authors of the refuting article had to publish their paper in a Chinese journal instead.<sup>3</sup>

Then, in July 2020, *Nature* did retract the original paper. They explained that a new specimen of *Oculudentavis* showed they were mistaken.<sup>4</sup> Others have come forth with the same conclusion.<sup>5</sup> The so-called "tiniest dinosaur" was labeled a lizard after all.

A recent paper, published in *Current Biology*, tried to rationalize that the earlier misidentification was due to distortions of the skull during fossilization.<sup>6</sup>

Alan Feduccia, emeritus professor at the University of North Carolina and a paleornithologist, noticed the red flags associated with the dinosaur interpretation right away.<sup>2</sup> Feduccia said the bony rings of the eyes in the original specimen (sclerotic ossicles) easily identified it as a lizard.<sup>2</sup>

This wasn't the first time a big blunder was made in paleontology. In 1999, *National Geographic* published the discovery of *Archaeoptor*. It was supposed to be a transitional fossil between birds and dinosaurs. But it turned out to be a hoax. The specimen was a bird fossil glued to a dinosaur fossil. And yet, it fooled many prominent paleontologists until it was exposed as a fraud. *National Geographic*



## World's "Tiniest Dinosaur" Is Just a Lizard

published a retraction the following year.

How can esteemed scientists make such mistakes? And why didn't the peer review process pick up on the mistakes? Alan Feduccia explains,

In the case of "tiny dino," the red flags were waving, but the *Nature* paper went to press. There was no retraction [immediately] by *Nature's* editors, who

### article highlights

- A tiny lizard fossil was recently labeled a dinosaur based on an evolutionary conjecture.
- In time, mounting evidence caused the publishers to retract the original story, and mistakes were readily admitted.
- Why do expert scientists jump to conclusions and make significant mistakes like this?
- Belief in evolution causes many scientists to fixate on their beloved model—they see what they want to see.
- We need objective, data-driven science now more than ever.

were made aware of the issue, and the authors offered no correction. The problem began not only with the authors, but also with editor Henry Gee, who processed the paper and has been publishing highly conjectural articles for decades on the dinosaur-bird nexus, many incapable of withstanding careful scrutiny.<sup>7</sup>

In other words, belief in dinosaur-bird evolution blinded them to reality. There never was an *Archaeoptor*, and *Oculudentavis* was never a bird or a dinosaur.

The Bible warns Christians about this type of so-called science, where philosophical views trump factual evidence:

For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. (2 Timothy 4:3-4)

Fortunately, some of these fables disappear on their own. But we can be sure Jesus' Word is true. Birds have always been birds and dinosaurs have always been dinosaurs from the beginning. 🦎

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



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# The Fossils Still Say No: Capping a Cretaceous Conundrum

## article highlights

- Cretaceous rock layers were deposited during the later stages of the break up of the mega-continent Pangaea and continue to exhibit the enigmatic mixing of land animals with sea creatures.
- Many fossilized creatures found in Cretaceous rock layers are similar to those found in lower layers, while other creatures appear for the first time.
- A variety of new dinosaur, mammal, and plant fossils appear suddenly in the Cretaceous without any evolutionary precursors.
- Cretaceous plant and animal fossils are best explained by the progressive global Flood.

**T**he Cretaceous system of the geological column, like the other systems below it, is a conundrum to evolutionists because it represents a continuance of many life forms found buried in lower strata combined with one of the most popularized mass extinctions at its conclusion.

In addition, many unique types of plants and animals make mysterious sudden appearances in the Cretaceous with no evolutionary precursors. This diverse and unexplained fossil assemblage also coincides with the accelerating final stages of the separation of the former mega-continent Pangaea. However, the evolutionary conundrum of this unique mix of catastrophically buried fossils and violent



tectonics is solved by the model of progressive burial by ecological zonation and rapid plate tectonics of the global Flood of Genesis.

### Darwin's Abominable Mystery Begins

Charles Darwin acknowledged that the lack of transitional forms in the fossil record (representing one fundamental type of creature evolving into another) was “a valid argument” against his theory of gradualistic evolution over millions of years.<sup>1</sup> Not only were undisputed transitional fossil forms lacking for the animal kingdom, the fossil record for plants was even more problematic and deeply troubled Darwin.

About 20 years after Darwin published his famous book on evolution, he wrote a letter to his personal friend, the famous botanist Joseph Hooker, complaining, “The rapid development as far as we can judge of all the higher plants within recent geological times is an abominable mystery.”<sup>2</sup> The chief reason for this abomination is the sudden appearance of many unique kinds of flowering plants (angiosperms) beginning in the Cretaceous—a trend that became even more problematic in higher rock layers.<sup>3</sup>

### Dinosaur Fossils and Soft Tissue Amaze

While dinosaurs are often touted as proof of long evolutionary ages, their mysterious existence and mass burial is actually evidence of creation and the global Flood. As I noted in previous articles in this series, dinosaurs make their first sudden appearance (without evolutionary ancestors) in the Triassic, with even more unique sudden appearances of specialized kinds continuing through the Jurassic and through the Cretaceous.<sup>4,5</sup> In fact, the Cretaceous contains many new dinosaur kinds that appear suddenly without evolutionary precursors.<sup>6</sup>

Perhaps the most well-known dinosaur among the public's perception is *Tyrannosaurus rex* (*T. rex*) which is found in Upper Cretaceous rocks.<sup>6</sup> The *T. rex* was part of a group of dinosaurs known as

tyrannosaurids, which were considered to be the largest predators in their various ecosystems. Tyrannosaurids were huge bipedal reptiles with massive skulls filled with large sharp teeth. Despite their immense size, they had large muscular legs that were long and perfectly proportioned for fast movement. In contrast to their back legs, their arms were small with two functional digits. The largest of this dinosaur type was *T. rex*, which could get over 40 feet in length and up to 8 tons in weight.



*T. rex*

The *T. rex* has made headlines not only for its unique and imposing appearance, but also because its fossils have yielded soft tissue, debunking the idea they lived millions of years ago. A variety of research papers show that *T. rex* bones contain intact osteocytes (bone cells with intact finger-like extensions), intact blood vessels (with blood cells), and collagen fibers and proteins.<sup>7,8</sup> The reason that these tissues, cells, and biomolecules are still present is because these dinosaurs were buried about 4,300 years ago in the Genesis Flood. If they were millions of years old, these features would have degraded.

Another popular dinosaur of the Cretaceous that appears suddenly with no evolutionary ancestors is the *Triceratops*. This intriguing dinosaur had a unique beak-like mouth and three distinctive horns protruding out of its head, which was framed by a spectacular frill. This imposing creature was a plant-eater, up to 30 feet long, and weighed 12 tons. Although it was a vegetarian, it had a formidable defense with its horned head and must have been involved in many battles with other dinosaurs, as evidenced by many bite marks and scars in fossil bones that have been discovered (including a bitten-off horn from a *T. rex*). Like the *T. rex*, *Triceratops* fossils have also been found with spectacular examples of soft fibrillar bone tissue that



*T. rex* blood cell

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*Triceratops* skull

should not be present if these creatures were actually millions of years old as claimed by evolutionists.<sup>9</sup>

One more example from the Cretaceous is the duck-billed hadrosaur. Hadrosaurids are called *facultative bipeds*, meaning the younger ones may have walked mostly on two legs while the adults walked mostly on four legs. Their jaws were uniquely designed for grinding and eating plants, with multiple rows of teeth that could replace each other as the older teeth wore down. Hadrosaurs were quite large and could get up to 26 feet in length and weigh up to 4 tons. Not to be outdone by *T. rex* and *Triceratops*, hadrosaur fossils have also yielded spectacular soft tissue discoveries including osteocytes, cartilage, collagen proteins, and chondrocytes (cartilage cells) with chromosomal DNA.<sup>10</sup>

### Mammals and Birds Abound

As I reported in my previous article, mammals were found living alongside dinosaurs in the Triassic and the Jurassic—and the same evolutionary conundrum carries into the Cretaceous, where new mammal types appear suddenly. In fact, Cretaceous fossils have revealed that these various types of mammals were ecologically diverse—exhibiting unique adaptations of gliding, swimming, burrowing, and climbing. This unexpected fossil appearance prompted renowned evolutionary paleontologist David Krause to comment, “The explosion of early-mammal discoveries, particularly from China, over the last two decades has been eye-opening, mind-numbing and absolutely dazzling.”<sup>11</sup>

Not only do mammals appear suddenly living alongside dinosaurs, but so do birds. A recent fossil discovery in China puts fully avian birds appearing suddenly at the beginning of the Cretaceous.<sup>12</sup>

Until recently, the oldest Chinese fossil birds from Lower Cretaceous deposits seemed better adapted to climbing or occasional gliding than powered flight. Because only modern-looking bird anatomies were found in Upper Cretaceous rocks, evolutionists believed they had a magic window of about 40 million years for modern-looking birds to evolve. However, that critical window of time has now been shattered with the finding of a fully flying avian fossil in Lower Cretaceous rocks. In other words, fully formed birds appear suddenly alongside dinosaurs without any evidence for dinosaur-to-bird evolution.

### Cretaceous-Paleogene Extinction: Smoke and Mirrors

Evolutionary speculation is filled with fanciful tales of repeated mass extinctions, but the evidence is better explained by the global Flood that progressively inundated and buried higher ecosystems as the tsunami-like waters rose. Perhaps the most fanciful and popularized of all these alleged extinction events is at the end of the Cretaceous, known as the Cretaceous-Paleogene (K-Pg) extinction. In this story, we are told about a massive asteroid that hit the earth in Mexico at a site called the Chicxulub crater. This impact supposedly caused a major global cataclysm that selectively led to the demise of the dinosaurs but somehow had no effect on other reptiles, amphibians, mammals, insects, and plants that persisted on into the next geological system (Cenozoic).

While the convoluted story of the K-Pg extinction itself has serious problems, so does the issue of an asteroid impact.<sup>13,14</sup> The Chicxulub crater is a semicircular anomaly along the northwestern edge of the Yucatán Peninsula with a diameter of about 110 miles that was supposedly made by a six-mile-wide asteroid or meteorite. It isn't readily visible because it is covered by younger sediments and is only observed with geophysical methods. However, its validity as a real impact site is negated by a number of serious issues. First and foremost is the fact that it lacks any substantial iridium signature—a hallmark of such impacts. In addition, the so-called “melt layers” are too thin and sparse for an impact of this size. And any high-pressure signatures in the rocks and deformed minerals can also be formed by volcanic eruptions and are not unique to impacts. In reality, the paucity of so-called “circumstantial” evidence can easily be explained by other non-impact processes.

### Explaining the Cretaceous Conundrum with the Global Flood

As I mentioned in my previous two articles,<sup>4,5</sup> the break up of the pre-Flood mega-continent (called Pangaea) began in the Triassic. The continental separation accelerated in the Jurassic and through the Cretaceous. The Jurassic and Cretaceous also involved the rapid injection of new, hot, and buoyant ocean crust forming between the separating continents. Furthermore, the high-water mark for the global Flood most likely occurred during the deposition of the last

Cretaceous sediments, which comprise the end of the fifth megasequence known as the Zuni.<sup>15</sup> Interestingly, the Zuni also represents a massive increase in the overall amount of sediments being deposited. The average thickness nearly doubles globally from previous megasequences. The deposition of the Zuni likely began about day 100 of the Flood (mid-Jurassic), with the highest water level coming about day 150 (end of the Cretaceous). At this point, the separated continents were completely submerged and all land life exterminated.

This increasing tectonic activity in the Cretaceous accelerated the violence of the Flood by forcing tsunami-like waves higher and farther inland. The violent action thrust larger marine reptiles (e.g., *Mosasaurus*), along with deeper-water ocean fish, onto the divided continents, mixing marine with land creatures living at higher elevations. This violent back-and-forth action also transported some land creatures (e.g., dinosaurs) to be buried deep in ocean sediments.<sup>15</sup> Land life buried in Cretaceous rocks represents both an increase in water height and depositional violence along with the continuing progressive burial of ecosystems living farther inward.

The Dinosaur Peninsula model developed by ICR scientist Dr. Tim Clarey, which I noted in my previous article, explains their fossil record in the American West from the Triassic through the Jurassic<sup>5,15</sup> and continuing through the Cretaceous. In the progressive destruction of the Dinosaur Peninsula, the Cretaceous represented the last

massive herds of dinosaurs fleeing the rising floodwaters, which included hadrosaurs, ceratopsians, and tyrannosaurs. And like many land animal fossils, Cretaceous dinosaurs are found mixed with marine creatures. All of this data taken together points directly to the global Flood of Genesis. ✎

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*Mosasaurus*



Crawly centipedes usually elicit shock and revulsion when they appear in one's home, the woods, or some other place. They are found from deserts and Amazon forests to surge zones of seashores. Centipedes are not insects but belong to a large group of arthropods called the Myriapoda (having multiple segments and many paired legs) that also includes the millipedes. There are four classes within the Myriapoda, and their evolutionary relationships are only "hypothetical."<sup>1</sup> Meanwhile, the fossil record shows centipedes have always been centipedes.

The Lord Jesus has designed centipedes with multiple mechanisms that enable them to move in and fill unique—some would say extreme—environments. They are normally found under stones, bark, and logs and other dark, moist areas. But some are found in more challenging places. For example, centipedes commonly inhabit caves, although a few species are what zoologist call true troglodites—those who live their entire life in a cave.

In 2015, it was reported that the world's deepest cave-dwelling centipede was found in Velebit Mountain of central Croatia. The remarkable arthropod was "well adapted to an underground mode of life."<sup>2</sup>

This new species of centipede was named *Geophilus hadesi* after Hades, the mythical god of the underworld. It was found in deep vertical caves in central Croatia and is "characterized by relatively elongated trunk segments and appendages, including unusually long claws of the legs." In fact, "another [centipede] has been observed at

# Centipede Adaptation Is Divinely Engineered

## article highlights

- Centipedes are a class of arthropods.
- They live in a variety of extreme places like deep, dark underground caves.
- It's quite apparent that centipedes have a designed internal ability to speciate (rapidly change themselves) in order to inhabit these far-flung environments.
- Centipedes have always been centipedes.



an unreachable spot at -1100 m ... representing the world's deepest record of a centipede known to date."<sup>2</sup>

Although centipedes are occasionally found in caves, "very few of them seem to be highly adapted to this environment." Whether they are highly adapted or not, the fact remains that some are found in this extreme deep-cave environment and evidently doing quite well. Stoev et al. state the characters of

these cave-dwelling centipedes "evolved in relation to the underground lifestyle."<sup>2</sup> But creation scientists see the ability of centipedes (as well as other animals, plants, and microbes) to move in and fill various and unique habitats as being due to their engineered systems. They have an internal ability known as *continuous environmental tracking* (CET).<sup>3</sup> This amazing engineered capability did not evolve through chance and time but was part of their genome (total genetic information) at the creation thousands of years ago. CET explains how organisms purposefully self-adjust to changes in environmental conditions, whether it's the wind-swept Arctic, thermal pools, or deep caves—rather than adapting by evolutionary chance.

Centipedes are able to self-adjust in a manner that is highly rapid, regulated, and repeatable because they are purposefully engineered. They are designed with innate systems of adaptation that track various aspects of their cave environment and respond accordingly. Christ the Creator has designed creatures such as the Myriapoda with complex proteins called *detectors* (sensors) embedded in the cell membranes that detect and tightly track changes in the environment. In other words, evolution has nothing to do with this divinely engineered system of adaptation to cave-dwelling.

When studying this fascinating population of cave-dwelling centipedes with its obvious design features, creationists give glory to the Creator, not the creation.<sup>4</sup> ✎

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# Three Hurdles for Evolution



**S**ure, finch beaks shift their shapes, but does that mean nature invented beaks and birds from stardust? Evolution's proponents often speak as though we witnessed the supposed steps from dust to planets, and from single cells to humans. This story replaces a Creator. Since this grand evolutionary narrative gets so much attention in our culture, let's look at three hurdles that only a real Creator could overcome. They put the Lord Jesus back in place as the Author of life and the universe.

The first hurdle concerns the origin of that stardust that supposedly turned into us. An anti-Creator bias has basic elements simply coming into existence. From nothing. One atheist physicist even titled his book *A Universe from Nothing*. This option violates the Law of Conservation of Energy, which notes how the total amount of energy in a system stays the same over time. How can a universe conserve the same amount of matter/energy if it goes from nothing to everything?<sup>1</sup>

Maybe matter and energy never had a beginning, making them eternal. This option would violate the Law of Entropy, which describes the relentless randomization of energy. Since evolution runs into either one hurdle or the other, we have confidence that it takes a Creator to have a creation. And we definitely have a creation. So, when John said about the Lord Jesus that "all things were made through Him" (John 1:3), he offered the best way to leap over the dual hurdles of entropy and conservation—supernatural, instead of natural, origins.

If we pretend that matter and energy did come from nothing, how could they organize themselves into living cells? If dust naturally became cells, then we should see forces make things. Maybe waves should sculpt beach sand into animal sculptures. Maybe wind should put wings onto lizards. But natural forces never add information like specifications or code to matter. From rocks, gases, and whatnot come rocks, gases, and whatnot...only less organized. Even some of the most convinced evolutionists admit that nobody knows how the first cell

supposedly formed. But without faith that life evolved, one would have to consider a Creator.

Our last hurdle for evolution concerns the uniquely spiritual qualities of humankind. Both animals and humans can run, but only humans can train for an upcoming triathlon. Both animals and humans can misbehave, but only humans can repent or forgive. Both animals and humans can communicate, but only humans can intentionally store communications for future generations. This happened when "holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit" to form the Bible. God's Word teaches that Jesus made stars to inhabit the heavens (Genesis 1:15), swimming creatures to inhabit the seas (Genesis 1:21), and people to partake in life with Him forever (John 3:16). Our imagination, moral sensibility, and cross-generational talk all help us relate with our Creator.

With evolution's stories taught as fact so often in our culture, thinking through three of its many hurdles reminds us of just as many reasons why Jesus deserves the credit for our world and why we should know Him. ✨

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#### article highlights

- Creatures do diversify, but three obstacles show that evolution is a weak explanation for their existence.
- Firstly, the universe can't come into existence without a cause.
- Secondly, randomness doesn't create order—entropy constantly destroys organization in matter and energy.
- Lastly, humans are spiritual beings, knowing right, wrong, love, and forgiveness—none of which fits evolution.



# WACO MAMMOTH NATIONAL MONUMENT

B R I A N T H O M A S , P H . D



**H**

unters in the 1970s discovered mammoth bones exposed in sediments near the confluence of the Bosque and Brazos Rivers in north central Texas. They notified scientists who began excavating the site. Decades later, in 2015, the site and surrounding land became a national monument.





## Burying Mammoths

All this mud, now dry ground, demands an immense catastrophe. So much sediment rapidly covered the ancient landscape that it entombed whole mammoths, an Ice Age cat, a giant tortoise, and camel remains.

Park signage agrees. Scavengers and microbes normally recycle dead animal bodies. One sign says, “So why didn’t the bones here get recycled? The sediment!” This site received much higher rates of sediment than today’s slow processes produce.

Image credit: Brian Thomas



### article highlights

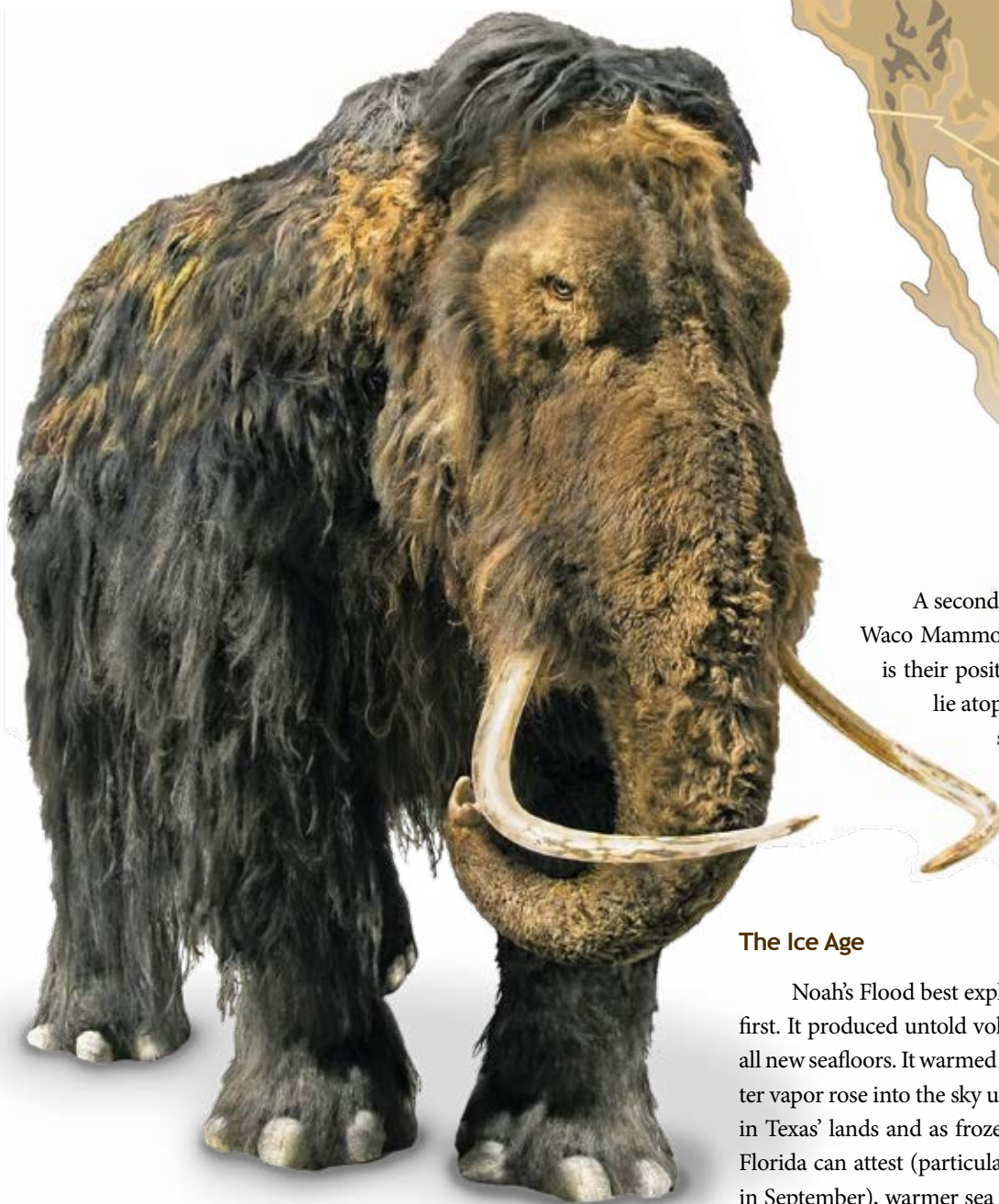
- A chance mammoth bone discovery in Texas is now the site of Waco Mammoth National Monument.
- The mammoths—and other large animals—were buried in deep mud, probably during the Ice Age.
- Noah’s Flood set the right effects in motion to create the Ice Age.
- These mammoths died in Texas generations after their ancestors traveled to North America.

Image credit: Brian Thomas

Today, visitors hike a short path to a large, air-conditioned building that covers the dig site. A herd of huge Columbian mammoths got buried in mud. How and when did they die? Waco Mammoth National Monument offers an opportunity to allow God’s Word to help answer these questions and to place the Ice Age in world history.

Another sign nearer the burial site says, “Scientists think the mammoths may have been gathered at a watering hole when a flash flood struck, trapping the animals in thick mud, killing them.” Possibly, huge Ice Age storms dropped so much rain so fast that the runoff made a muddy torrent that filled the shallow valley.

The extent of sediment offers a key clue to connecting the mammoths’ flash flood to the Ice Age. Rock layers from Noah’s Flood tend to extend very flat across hundreds of square miles. That calls for sheets of water to cover whole continents. In contrast, smaller Ice Age sediment volumes fill lowlands and valleys.



A second key clue to connecting the sediments at Waco Mammoth National Monument to the Ice Age is their position. These valley-confined sediments lie atop widely spread rock layers far below the surface. The Flood’s continent-covering waters explain the lower, widespread layers. The Ice Age’s later storms explain the mammoths’ sediments at the surface.

### The Ice Age

Noah’s Flood best explains the Ice Age.<sup>1</sup> The Flood happened first. It produced untold volumes of hot, molten material to create all new seafloors. It warmed the oceans. Evaporation increased. Water vapor rose into the sky until it cooled and fell back down as rain in Texas’ lands and as frozen forms farther north. As residents in Florida can attest (particularly those who watch weather forecasts in September), warmer sea surfaces fuel larger hurricanes. During



# CANADA

Image credit: Susan Windsor

# STATES

# Waco



Image credit: Brian Thomas

the Ice Age, Flood-warmed seas powered hurricanes so huge that we call them “hypercanes.”<sup>2</sup>

Possibly an Ice Age hypercane gorged itself on warm Gulf waters before dumping its contents onto central Texas. Camels, cats, tortoises, and mammoths caught in low areas had too little time to escape the torrents.

## Timing

The National Park Service study on the site says that researchers in the mid-1980s obtained a carbon date of 28,000 years before present (BP) for a mammoth bone. It says this “became the de facto date of the mammoth event.”<sup>3</sup> Later researchers tried uranium-series (U-series) dating on mammoth tooth enamel. But these results “were not initially considered accurate because they were much older than the expected age of the site.” Why not base ages on dating results instead of expectations?

Later, optically stimulated luminescence (OSL) tests offered an age estimate of 68,000 BP. So, carbon dating, U-series dating, and

OSL dating clash.<sup>4</sup> Probably none are correct. Unlike ever-changing and subjective secular age-dating estimates, the Bible’s timeline comes from reliable eyewitnesses.

Mammoths, animals, and mankind migrated from the Ark’s landing site in the Middle East. They multiplied into Asia and the Americas. Back then, when much of the world’s waters were frozen into ice sheets, there were land bridges that connected Siberia to Alaska.

Using just the Bible and allowing for a few unrevealed details, the Flood happened in 2472 BC (4422 BP), give or take a few decades.<sup>5</sup> All the earth’s broad and extensive flat-lying rock layers fell into place during that year. Waco’s mammoths must have been buried some centuries afterward.

Mammoth remains at Waco tell a sad tale of Ice Age catastrophe. They don’t present a defensible challenge to the history in God’s Word. Instead, they highlight how helpful the Bible is in explaining our earth’s rocks and fossils. ✍

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# Transmitting TRUTH in a Modern Pagan World

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

We share the world with modern pagans who worship the sun—or idolize an imagined primordial Big Bang—so we need to be truth witnesses unto a world drowning in deception and delusion. Ancient paganism is not as dead as we might think. The old paganism still has followers in today’s world. “At the Summer Solstice Pagans honour the incredible strength of the sun and the divine powers that create life.”<sup>1</sup>

However, promoting biblical creation apologetics is needful, nowadays, for more reasons than just evangelizing neo-pagans. Although most moderns don’t try to idolatrously shift Christ’s creatorship glory to Thor or Odin, “that doesn’t mean that another group of modern pagans has escaped similar myths”—that animistically personify forces of nature.<sup>2</sup>

Anyone who says that natural elements like fire and ice and rain and stone can create and “select” and “favor” some animals over others, or some humans over others, is not far from the magical myths of the ancient Teutons.<sup>2</sup>

In previous years—especially in articles by Dr. Randy Guliuzza—ICR has alerted *Acts & Facts* readers to how nature is insidiously and idolatrously credited with inventing itself, cheating Christ out of credit that He deserves as Maker of heaven, Earth, and all living creatures.<sup>3,4</sup>

Some pretend to honor Christ by attaching His name to evolutionary theories, suggesting that “evolution is okay for Christians, so long as God gets credit for evolution.” But theistic evolution, like atheistic evolution, is still evolution. A pig with a golden snout-ring is still a pig (Proverbs 11:22).

And theistic idolatry is still idolatry—even if promoted by a popular religious leader such as Aaron, who once fashioned a golden calf idol (Exodus 32:1-4).

But it got worse. Making the golden calf idol was bad enough,

yet Aaron also abused the Lord’s name, linking it to the golden calf.

Then they said, “This is your god, O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt!” So when Aaron saw it, he built an altar before it. And Aaron made a proclamation and said, “Tomorrow is a feast to the LORD.” Then they rose early on the next day, offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play. (Exodus 32:5-6)

Adding God’s name to evolutionary concepts doesn’t convert them into biblical truths. Monsignor Georges Lemaître’s Big Bang cosmogony, even if promoted by a Christian astronomer, is still evolutionary mythology. Likewise, Charles Darwin’s natural selection sophistry, if promoted by self-identified “creationists” (or “evolutionary creationists”), remains an animistic nature myth.<sup>2-5</sup>

Accordingly, providing clear teaching on origins is a large part of what ICR’s School of Biblical Apologetics (SOBA) has done since 2009, aiming at four types of truth transmission:



Dr. Bill Cooper and Dr. James Johnson by the River Thames.

- (1) corroborating Scripture's teaching about creation facts
- (2) contradicting false teachings about our origins and history
- (3) clarifying confusing topics that distract from understanding truth
- (4) crediting Christ with honor He deserves as the glorious Creator.<sup>6</sup>

Corroborating Scripture with supportive creation apologetics evidences can encourage Christians to remember how amazingly authoritative and relevant the Bible is on every topic it touches. Likewise, refuting unbiblical teachings is a major goal in all SOBA programs. Here are testimonies from SOBA graduates.

I had done my first year of college at a local Christian university. I was very frustrated and disheartened at how teaching the Bible was not very important there, and often compromised with unbiblical ideas. I was honestly thinking about quitting college altogether, until I found SOBA. (Rachel Dallow, M.C.Ed. graduate)

ICR's SOBA program is unique, providing a solid apologetic foundation not only in theology, but in aspects of history, biology, astronomy, etc. I appreciated the self-paced nature of the courses and the quick feedback from the ICR teachers....As a teacher, I have been able to bring to the classroom my deepened knowledge of vital topics such as the reliability of the Bible and evidence of design. It has been amazing to see my students connect with truth and pick up on what we call the "magic" words often used in evolutionary descriptions...."We will...tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the LORD, and His might, and the wonders that He has done....So that they should set their hope in God and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments." (April Rohland, M.C.Ed. graduate, quoting Psalm 78:4,7)

On confusing topics—such as how (and why) secular scientists' teachings often clash with Scripture—there is often a truckload of Bible-affirming evidences. Sometimes, they are "hidden in plain view" and should be shared and explained.

Even though I had lifelong learning from a faithful pastor, and had earned a degree from seminary, ICR opened my eyes to a realm of apologetics that I had never considered....As an itinerant preacher and evangelist, it is common for me to introduce

pastors and congregations to the apologetic methods and truths learned from ICR. (Randy Keener, B.C.Ed. graduate)

Yet as the apostle Peter noted (in 1 Peter 3:15), "sanctifying the Lord God" in our hearts—not just how we interact with humans—is the highest motive for serving in apologetics ministry.<sup>6</sup> Dr. Jack Weitzel, graduate of SOBA, says,

I'm a retired General Surgeon of 30 years....At a crossroads I happened to open my copy of *Acts & Facts* and found on the inside cover an advertisement for SOBA. It was the first and last time I ever saw that advertisement. I signed up for a Master's Degree in Christian Education and Apologetics....It was the most arduous degree I have received...I have kept everything related to the degree...I am now disabled due to the radiation effects of tonsil cancer. I have been left with a feeding tube even before my experience at SOBA. The beauty of [SOBA's online M.C.Ed. program] was that I didn't have to leave my home to further pursue my education for the Lord.

SOBA courses are intended to equip Christians to better serve God's personal callings. This includes the Christian K-12 school-teacher, dentist, lead pastor, youth pastor, police officer, ornithologist, evangelist, financial advisor, computer technician, almond farm manager, missionary, engineer, etc.

Ultimately, SOBA's online programs (ICR.edu/soba) aim at equipping Christians to appreciate the Lord Jesus Christ as our caring Creator-Redeemer.<sup>7</sup>

After learning the truths of God's Word—which make sense of His providential works in creation—the logical response is to reverently glorify Him, and joyfully thank Him, for being so worship-worthy, wise, and wonderful.<sup>6,7</sup> ✨

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2. Johnson, J. J. S. 2016. "Norse and Germanic Mythology," in *World Religions and Cults, Volume 2*. Hodge, B. and Patterson, R. ed. Green Forest, AR: Master Books, 287. Both theistic old-earth evolutionists and recent young-earth evolutionists use this animistic nature-worship approach—which is, essentially, a modern repackaging of ancient pagan myths.
3. Some early examples of Dr. Randy Guliuzza's 2010 articles on this topic include: Unmasking Evolution's Magic Words. *Acts & Facts*. 39(3): 10-11; Natural Selection Is Not 'Nature's Intelligence'. *Acts & Facts*. 39(5): 10-11; The Mind Behind the Design. *Acts & Facts*. 39(6): 10-11. See also Johnson, J. J. S. 2010. Survival of the Fitted: God's Providential Programming. *Acts & Facts*. 39(10): 17-18.
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5. The critical criterion, for judging an origins theory, is not who popularizes it—it's whether it fits (or contradicts) the written Word of God (John 5:44-47; Psalm 119:89,160; Psalm 138:2; Isaiah 8:20; Matthew 24:35).
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7. 1 Peter 4:19; Hebrews 13:20-21; Ezra 7:10; Revelation 4:11.

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# Q: ANIMAL DEATH BEFORE THE FALL?

Both the Old and New Testaments teach that death entered the world when Adam ate the forbidden fruit (e.g., Genesis 2:17 and Romans 5:12). Since fossils are the preserved remains of dead animals, Christians who believe these fossils are millions of years old claim animal death existed prior to Adam's sin. They say the Bible allows for this possibility, since neither Genesis 2:17 nor Romans 5:1 specifically mention animal death.

This claim may superficially seem plausible, but it ignores important clues from Scripture. Both pre-Fall humans and animals were vegetarian (Genesis 1:29-30). A vegetarian diet makes perfect sense in a world without death but seems out of place in a world containing it. If animal death was part of God's original creation, wouldn't God have designed some animals as scavengers to clean up carcasses littering the ground?

Acceptance of animal death before the Fall necessarily implies suffering. Some dinosaur bones show evidence of violence in the form of healed-over tooth marks, and even cancer.<sup>1,2</sup> So acceptance of pre-Fall animal death necessarily implies pre-Fall suffering and even bloodshed, and not merely animals passing away peacefully and quietly. How does this fit a "very good" (Genesis 1:31) creation?

We instinctively know that bloodshed, even animal bloodshed, is not right. Many people react with horror upon seeing it, and some even faint. Yet bloodshed's horror is precisely the point. Sin is so horrific that God demands a horrific penalty for it, the shedding of blood. Although only Christ's shed blood can provide true removal of sin (Hebrews 9:24-25, 10:4), the shedding of animal blood symbolized His future sacrifice and gives us an idea of the seriousness of sin in



## article highlights

- Christians who accept that fossils are millions of years old argue for animal death before Adam, but Scripture rejects any such compromise.
- Fossils were actually formed after the Fall during Noah's Flood.
- The scientific data confirm the biblical account of creation, the Fall, and the Flood.

God's eyes. But if bloodshed existed millions of years before Adam fell, then bloodshed can't really be *that* bad. And by implication, our sin isn't that bad, either.

Finally, Paul writes in Romans 8:22 that "the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now." The natural sense one gets from reading the passage is that this "groaning" was imposed upon the creation at the Fall. This argument is greatly strengthened when one realizes that Paul compares this groaning to the pangs of childbirth. But when was pain in childbirth imposed upon women? At the Fall! Hence, Paul's analogy strongly implies that God imposed groaning and laboring on the creation at the *same* time he imposed groaning and laboring in childbirth upon Eve and her daughters!

As noted earlier, the real reason some Christians entertain animal death prior to human sin is because secular scientists insist fossils are millions of years old. Christians who accept this claim are forced to argue that animal death entered the creation long before Adam's sin, despite the obvious theological and biblical problems with this position.

But there is a better explanation. These fossils are found in water-formed sedimentary rocks.<sup>3</sup> The global Flood of Noah (which happened *after* Adam sinned) provided the massive quantities of mud and sediment needed to rapidly bury and preserve the remains of billions of plants and animals.<sup>4</sup>

Thus, there is simply no good theological or scientific reason for a Christian to posit human or animal death before the Fall. ✎

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1. Clarey, T. 2013. *Tyrannosaurus rex*: Scavenger or Predator? *Acts & Facts*. 42 (11): 13.
2. Thomas, B. 2019. Triassic Tumor Raises Creation Questions. *Creation Science Update*. Posted on ICR.org March 5, 2019, accessed July 9, 2021.
3. A secular geologist once told me that 90 to 95% of all sedimentary rocks are water-formed. Moreover, creation scientists think this figure is an under-estimate, as some sedimentary rocks are incorrectly attributed to wind deposition, rather than water.
4. Hebert, J. 2021. Is the Bible Evidence for Creation? *Acts & Facts*. 50 (5): 15.

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



# Defend Your Faith with ICR

**H**ave you ever heard a pastor question the historical nature of Genesis? “The days of creation weren’t really 24 hours long. The Bible is not a science textbook.” Do family members challenge you because of your belief in biblical clarity? “Evolution has been proven true. Dinosaurs existed long before people.” What about ridicule from coworkers, bosses, or teachers? “You weren’t paying attention in seventh grade science class. Evolution is a fact. Don’t talk to me about Jesus.”

How can you respond to these misguided—or even hostile—statements? Here’s where Nodari found help:

## article highlights

- Do people you know deny the Bible’s creation account or ridicule you for believing it?
- ICR exists as a resource to confirm the accuracy and clarity of Scripture—beginning with creation.
- For over half a century the Lord Jesus Christ has lavishly provided for us through people like you.
- This month our friends can support us through North Texas Giving Day—join with us as we continue to showcase our Lord’s creation!

ICR stands ready to be your go-to resource for creation apologetics. From books and videos to conferences, guided national park tours, and our Dallas creation museum, our team of Ph.D. scientists, theologians, and dedicated staff will come alongside you to guide your creation conversations and build your faith.

Our ministry exists because of the Lord’s provision through generous, prayerful friends like you. And we want you to be aware of a unique opportunity since you are our ministry family. Over the last several years ICR has participated in one of the largest regional giving events in the nation—North Texas Giving Day.

While this event promotes nonprofits in Texas, gifts given to ICR on this special day impact more than our local programs. Your gift of any amount funds our ongoing scientific research, national events, community outreach at the ICR Discovery Center, this magazine, and our daily devotional—provided free of charge to anyone who subscribes—as well as books, videos, podcasts, and much more! Share in ICR’s ministry on September 23. Go to [ICR.org/ntgd](http://ICR.org/ntgd) to schedule your donation.

How else can you advocate for biblical creation? Please pray for ICR—for fruitful ministry, global reach, and ultimately, all glory to Christ. Tell your family, friends, church members, and neighbors about our mission. If you live near Dallas, apply to volunteer at the ICR Discovery Center for Science & Earth History.

And lastly, as you are able, consider monthly financial gifts ([ICR.org/donate](http://ICR.org/donate)) to fuel our ministry programs and spread the life-changing truth about our Creator, Savior, and returning King. Your gifts will impact others like Nodari, who need the faith-building resources ICR has provided for over 50 years.

Our staff prays for you as you evangelize the lost, stand firm in the faith, and run the race for the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ. May the Lord bless you for your advocacy and generous support of ICR.

*Mr. Hansen is Marketing Manager at the Institute for Creation Research.*



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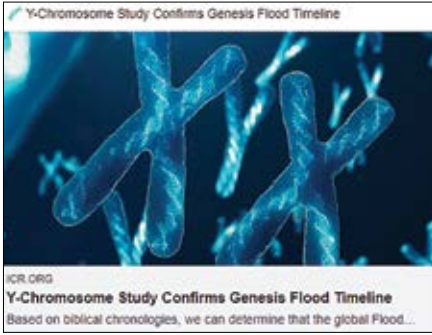
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It really does make sense that DNA, also being a record of our past, can show as well how many constructions have taken place within our genetic timeline. Just like family names in the records of governments can show how people married and got married, science can show different mutations of the DNA.

— P. B.

It's so wonderful that God has placed all of you at ICR in times like these. Not only to educate nonbelievers but also believers. Thank you for your hard work.

— Y. R.



I have been receiving *Acts & Facts* magazine for several years. I just finished reading "Walton's Lost World Obscures Biblical Clarity" by Dr. Randy Guliuza. It is an excellent read! I have been pastoring for 25 years and have taught a hermeneutics and Bible study interpretation course at Bible institutes and pastor training conferences from Liberia to Haiti, and I'm here to tell you from my humble perspective Dr. Randy's article is a goldmine for

basic Bible study interpretation skills. His clarity in getting to the root issue in false and deceptive ideas was a real treat for me to read and enjoy. Thank you ICR and all that you do! One day I would love to come down to Dallas and see your Discovery Center.

— Pastor G.



We love ICR and your work. Thank you for the powerful witness you have for creation

and the Lord. Your recent article "Walton's Lost World [Obscures Biblical Clarity]" was an excellent review and critique of Dr. Walton's errors and, we might say, apostasy.

Surely, with his background, he must know what you said is true about Moses and the Egyptians recording a valid and genuine history of their culture. Moses records Israelite culture and history as you pointed out. Every culture and nation on Earth...have some sort of oral and/or written history of their people and culture. This has been true since the beginning.

Also, for Dr. Walton to question the veracity of the written Word of God and to submit it to his and/or some sort of scholastic, mystical lens of interpretation is absurd. It seems...Walton, among many academics, has swallowed the first lie of the Serpent in the Garden of Eden: "Hath God really said?" Second-guessing God and His Word is dangerous—always has been. To elevate oneself as the final au-

thority to judge God and His Word is very treasonous to Him. Dr. Walton seems to prefer the "tree of the knowledge of good and evil" rather than the sure Word of God and submission to His Word.

— A. and C. W.



Arbed02, 06/30/21

**ICR DAYS OF PRAISE**

What a great way to start my day! Just enough nuggets of wisdom to meditate on throughout the day. Love this app. Thank you!



bfair90, 06/29/21

**Just Right**

Days of Praise is a solid, biblical devotional that plants the seed of God's Word in my heart and mind each day!



Paul C.11, 05/09/21

**A Great way to start your day!**

I have been listening for over a year now, and I have found that when, on occasion, I miss an episode, I miss it. It is amazing how God has worked in me through this podcast!

Have a comment? Email us at [Editor@ICR.org](mailto: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. We cannot review manuscripts, books, or other materials.

WHY WE'RE HERE by Lori Fausak

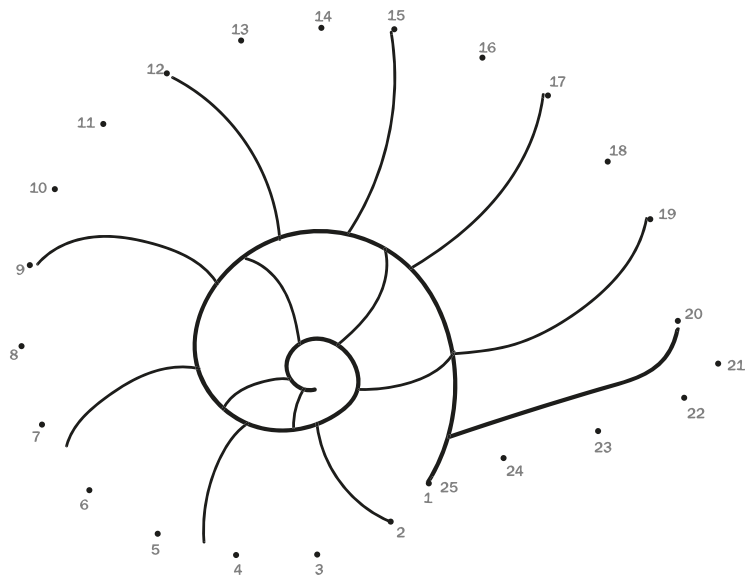


Jesus created a universe full of beautiful things! Some people say these creations formed by accident. But if that were true, why do many of them show math and patterns? Did you know...

- ✓ Sunflower seeds in the brown middle grow in a spiral pattern. The number of seeds in each row is based on a math pattern called the Fibonacci (fib-oh-not-chee) sequence.
- ✓ In the Fibonacci sequence, each number is the sum of the two numbers before it.
- ✓ Patterns like this are also found in seashells, rose petals, pine cones, and even some galaxies.
- ✓ People find this Fibonacci pattern to be very pleasant to their eyes. That's why ancient artists often used it in their sculptures and paintings.
- ✓ Do you think Jesus used this math pattern in His creations so you would enjoy seeing them too?



Connect the dots and color the design.



## Word Search

P	S	T	T	N	N	D	B	W	I	E	T	Y	U	F	I	H	S	M	A
F	M	Y	P	O	S	U	N	F	L	O	W	E	R	P	V	M	Y	A	G
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M	K	S	I	O	H	V	Z	S	K	T	I	B	O	L	G	X	N	Z	W
X	M	A	G	S	Y	T	S	Q	I	D	V	E	C	Q	X	B	R	K	E
F	P	L	M	F	P	Z	Q	H	A	B	E	F	A	Y	C	Q	W	M	L
U	P	K	T	T	M	I	U	G	D	W	S	S	E	B	V	I	N	X	W

- |           |          |           |
|-----------|----------|-----------|
| Fibonacci | Spiral   | Math      |
| Pattern   | Rose     | Pine Cone |
| Beauty    | Seashell | Sunflower |
| Design    |          |           |

## Beautiful Math!

In a sunflower, the number of seeds in each row increases like this: 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13...

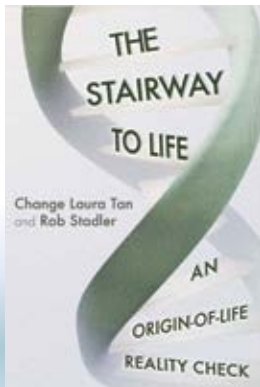
Add the last two numbers to find out how many seeds would be in the next row:

$8+13=$  \_\_\_\_\_

Answer: 21

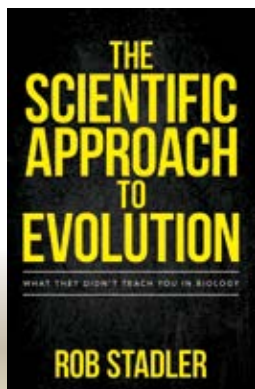
## ***The Stairway to Life: An Origin-of-Life Reality Check***

The spontaneous generation of living organisms was a common belief in the time of Aristotle. Over the next two thousand years, support for spontaneous generation slowly retreated to its final stronghold: spontaneous formation of the first living organism. From recently acquired insights into the complexity of the simplest organisms, authors Tan and Stadler specify the requirements for the spontaneous formation of life and evaluate the prospects for natural processes to satisfy these requirements. *The Stairway to Life* is a thought-provoking inquiry that breaches the final stronghold of spontaneous generation.



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dence. Dr. Rob Stadler describes a compelling approach to determine the level of confidence and applies it to the commonly cited evidence for evolution. When high-confidence evidence is appropriately prioritized over low-confidence evidence, the result is a profound new view of evolution—one they did not teach you in biology.

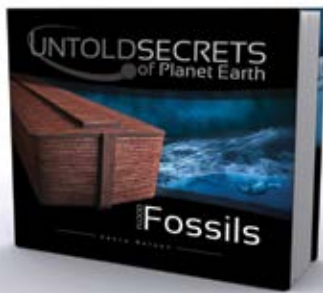
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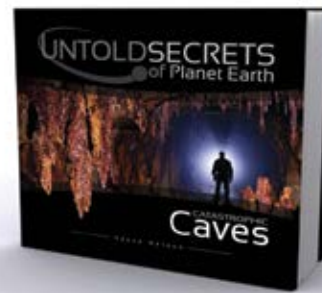
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Caves are extraordinary underground spectacles of pure grandeur. But more than that, they're a wondrous part of the history of this planet. Though their formation is often presented as exceedingly slow and gradual, new untold secrets are revealed in *Catastrophic Caves*, which suggest otherwise.

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