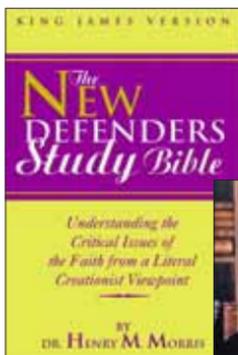


Acts & Facts

Institute for Creation Research
www.icr.org

Facts Facts Facts

Vol. 34 No. 11 November 2005



DEFENDER'S BIBLE EXPANDED

Many have commented on the profound content in the notes. They stem from decades of scholarship on the part of Dr. Morris, but especially an unswerving faith in Scripture and the Author of Scripture. The Bible can be believed just like it's written. That's his testimony, and that's the message of this Study Bible. ☩

In 1995 Dr. Henry Morris, ICR's founder, released *The Defender's Study Bible*, a study Bible "defending" all Scripture passages which had come under attack, and presenting creation and inerrancy as foundational doctrines of Christianity. Many consider this his life's work, containing the results of 50 years of Bible study and belief. Over 6,400 explanatory notes and 18 appendices aid the reader in understanding even the difficult passages, especially those which deal with the vital doctrine of creation.

Now he has added 3,000 more notes and two new appendices to increase its value and usability. World Bible Publishers has released this new edition in both true leather or hardback, complete with maps, concordance, and index to notes. Its ministry will no doubt be expanded by this new edition.



The New Defenders Study Bible — a Great Christmas I deal!



President's Column

THE NEED FOR A GOOD POLL

by John D. Morris

Numerous times over the years pollsters have noted that Americans are creationist. Usually over 50% are strict, young Earth, Biblical creationists, with another 40% believing in some form of God-directed evolution. Less than 10% hold to purely naturalistic evolution. Yet those in the 10% are the ones who hold a monopoly on university professorships, textbook content editors, teacher union leadership, prominence in the media, and the judicial system. A fringe group of zealots hold enormous power over the majority.

Recently two new polls came out. On July 6 The Harris Poll concluded (in the release's title) "Nearly two thirds of U. S. adults believe human beings were created by God." Another portion believed an unspecified "intelligent design" was responsible for human origin. Those who believed in evolution were not asked if the evolution was overseen by God.

Unfortunately, the questions were not explicit enough to reveal enough details. Some of them would be hard to answer even for a knowledgeable citizen. For instance it was asked, "Is Darwin's theory proven by fossil discoveries?" The pollsters may not know it, but few evolutionists agree with this statement. Most thinking evolutionists have given up on the fossil record as providing proof of evolution. They may think evolution is true, but look to other evidence for proof. How would they answer?

A second poll was also released in July, this one by the Pew Research Center. Similarly, 42% of respondents claimed that direct creation accounted for humans, while another 18% held that it was guided by a Supreme Being. Only 26% felt it was due to natural selection alone.

Again, questions were not definitive enough to draw firm conclusions. I would have had a difficult time knowing how to answer some questions, such as "Life on Earth has existed in its present form since the beginning of time." I am convinced that all of life (including mankind) has adapted to changing conditions and that mutation and genetic recombination has occurred, horizontal change is not true vertical evolution. Each basic category of life was created "after its kind" and has either continued into the present as that kind or gone extinct. No new basic types have arisen from other basic types. How would this be recorded in the misleading polls?

Often the poll's results were self-contradictory, indicating mutually exclusive opinions on a point. Are the people so confused, or were the questions misleading? A good poll should not lead or mislead the responders.

The need for reliable information is obvious. A nation responsible to its citizenry must have these data to make good educational and policy decisions. To whoever's listening, I call for another poll, but this time a good one.

It must be recognized that the words evolution, creation, change, etc., mean different things to different people, yet most have definite opinions on the broad subject. It seems to me that evolution teaching

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has often sought to miscommunicate on various points, but I would like to know what people really think. A poll must not merely sample people's misconceptions or variety of misconceptions, or identify areas of confusion. To be useful, a poll must define the concepts at issue, and then sample the opinions. A paragraph discussing the difference between microevolution (the small horizontal changes to which all agree whether or not they understand it) and macroevolution (big vertical change which is the real point of interest for the surveys) would help to clarify things so that the results are meaningful. Precision also needs to be attached to dates so that poll responders are comparing "apples to apples."

The Institute for Creation Research offers its expertise as advisor to any or all of the major polling services. We are acutely interested in truth, not in steering the results, and we suspect pollsters are interested also. Let's ferret this out together, and then we'll know something worth knowing. ☞



ICR RESPONDS TO KATRINA

In the aftermath of the tragic Hurricane Katrina along the Gulf Coast, ICR made arrangements to ship two pallets of materials to the devastated area. Dr. John Morris sent out an e-mail to the staff of ICR to include the following thoughts.

As you know, there are multitudes of people in relief shelters near New Orleans. They not only have nothing, they have nothing to do, and ICR is moving to help alleviate the situation. We are preparing two pallets of books, DVDs, videos, and *Days of Praise* to send. A long time friend of ICR, judge Darrell White (retired) in Baton Rouge, will oversee the distribution to hurting families. The material will especially include children's material, but will minister to the whole family.

As you pray for the victims, please also pray that the ICR material reaches those who would benefit by it, and would bear much fruit for the kingdom. ☞



Hutchinson/Montevideo, Minnesota

On Sunday morning, September 11, Dr. John Morris spoke to the combined Sunday school classes and at an afternoon mini-seminar at Peace Lutheran Church in this farming community. The reception was warm and the interaction rewarding. As always, the lecture had been announced in *Acts & Facts*, leading a group of churches in nearby Montevideo to sponsor a community-based lecture that evening. A large crowd assembled.

Some in attendance had not thought they could attract a national creation speaker to such an out-of-the-way place and had never requested one. To this ICR responds, "We go where we are invited." Financial requirements are not excessive, and all people in all areas need the foundational teaching of creation. ☞





The eight-year research initiative on Radioisotopes and the Age of The Earth (or RATE) has been successfully completed, with the discovery that radioactive half lives of elements have changed in the past. This accelerated decay of radioactive elements not only accounts for the evidence of excessive decay in the past, but actively supports the Biblical teachings of recent creation and subsequent global flood.

Call now and join us in San Diego for the RATE conference on November 5. Call 619/448-0900 ext. 6020 for details.

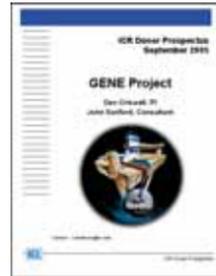
NEW ICR RESEARCH SUMMARIES AVAILABLE

ICR announced the completion of plans for several new research projects following the completion of RATE in the September *Impact* article #387 entitled, “What Comes after RATE?” In that same article an offer was made to our readers to distribute summaries of the intended research if they would contact Dr. Larry Vardiman at Lvardiman@icr.edu. Many potential donors have taken us up on this offer and have requested these summaries. We have printed a large number of additional copies for mailing and can also send an electronic copy. We would be pleased to respond quickly to your request for copies. Summaries are available for each project:

Research at ICR has become quite vibrant, with major advances in creation thinking coming from each project. An expert in genomics, after he had read the GENE proposal, exclaimed, “The fruit is hanging low on the tree. It’s ripe for picking.” Stunning discoveries await those who study God’s creation from a perspective of submission to God’s Word.

God has prepared the individual scientists with expertise in relevant areas and equipped them with a growing knowledge of His truth. He has brought ICR to the threshold of ascertaining extensions to our understanding.

We will need significant financial backing of like-minded creationists to accomplish this. And, of course, we need the prayers of Christians, for this is a spiritual venture. 



Prospective donors are encouraged to request a summary of proposed ICR research projects by contacting Dr. Vardiman at Lvardiman@icr.edu.

Project	Purpose	Principal Investigator
GENE	Genomics research	Dr. Dan Criswell
FAST	Flood Activated Sedimentation and Tectonics	Dr. Steven A. Austin
EPIPHANY	Numerical Computer Simulations	Dr. John R. Baumgardner
RATE II	Follow-on research to RATE (Radioisotopes and the Age of the Earth)	Dr. Andrew A. Snelling
COSMOS	Cosmological and geophysical research	Dr. D. Russell Humphreys



CREATION, CORRUPTION, AND CHOLERA

The creation model continues to take shape as contributions from various scientific fields are analyzed from a more rewarding non-Darwinian perspective.

Creation scientists suggest the pathogenic bacteria and parasites of today were in fact beneficial or at least neutral in the pre-fallen world. Consider the sometimes harmful, but otherwise beneficial bacteria in our large intestine known as *E. coli*. This complex organism (see *Back to Genesis* #146) helps to produce vitamins and even prevent disease. There is also a thread-like worm called *Strongyloides stercoralis* that has both a free-living stage and parasitic stage. In other words, the worm does fine in the environment removed from man, but it can also infect people with devastating results. It is suggested that parasite infection and disease-causing bacteria were the result of the Fall and universal curse.

The bacterium *Vibrio cholera* causes the human intestinal disease cholera. The infection is deadly because of the toxin the bacteria secretes. What if—prior to the Fall—this toxin had an alternative function? A very similar toxin is produced by *V. fischeri*, a curious light-emitting symbiotic bacterium found in the Hawaiian bobtail squid.¹ The creature uses the luminescent properties of the bacteria to evade predators in the clear water where it feeds. Although the squid are good hunters, they make a tasty snack for large, nocturnal predators. Seen from below, the dark squid would ordinarily be framed against the moonlight, making an easy target. But the bottom (ventral) side of the squid contains a light organ containing *V. fischeri* surrounded by an ink sac that operates much like a camera's diaphragm. Light from the bacteria plus a reflector, is radiated downward in a way that counters the moonlight, putting the squid in a "stealth mode." When the bacteria get hungry, they secrete the cholera-like toxin that doesn't *sicken* the squid but rather *informs* it—they need food, which the squid then provides. Indeed, one evolutionist suggested, "Maybe when we've been studying cholera pathogenesis we've been studying an aspect of a normal conversation that's gone wrong."² Creation scientists would suggest this may be a result of the curse.

This brings us to a creation theory proposed by biologist Joe Francis. He views the world of viruses and microbes from a creation perspective. "Microbes were created as an organosubstrate; a link between macro-organisms and a chemically rich but inert physical environment, to provide a substrate upon which multicellular creatures can thrive and persist. . . ."³ Indeed, many bacterial cells communicate and function as a symbiotic community,⁴ and a growing number of these relationships are constantly being discovered. Pathogenesis may thus be a divergence from the original creation intent. The *V. fischeri* and *V. cholera* microbes are examples.

1. <http://whyfiles.org/022critters/light2.html>

2. Ibid.

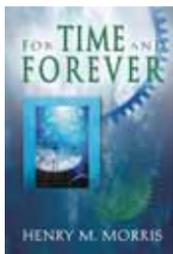
3. Francis, J. "Organosubstrate of Life," *The Fifth International Conference on Creationism*, (2003, Pttsburgh, PA., Creation Science Fellowship), p. 433.

4. As read in sciencedaily.com reporting on Virginia Tech research. 



Books in Review

For Time and Forever
by Henry M. Morris
(Master Books, 2004),
222 pp. \$12.95



Besides debunking evolutionary myths, Dr. Morris answers the heart cry of man: “Where do I fit? Does God have a purpose for me?” Dr. Morris explores the breadth of what it means to have purpose in God’s Creation. This is an excellent work for laymen and scholars alike.

Israel My Glory

A most engaging book, with much to say about Creation and Evolution, but with numerous observations on the Christian life. The overall aim is to show the Christian’s purpose in life, and God’s wonderful plan.

Here too is fascinating speculation on the Dominion Mandate, extending in eternity to the exploration of the entire cosmos. For all readers.

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Radio Log

This month on “Science, Scripture, & Salvation”:

Weekend of: _____ **Title/Topic:** _____

Nov. 5 Created Gender

Did everything in life happen by chance? Or was it designed for a purpose? What about gender? Did God create male and female in the beginning? Tune in to this interesting discussion!

Nov. 12 Intelligent Design

The Intelligent Design movement has become popular as more people seek an alternative to evolution. Although this group is against naturalistic evolution, do they stand for Biblical creationism? Join us to learn more about Intelligent Design!

Nov. 19 Flightless Birds

Have you ever heard the saying, “birds gotta fly”? Well, for some that’s impossible. God has created some beautiful flightless birds. Evolutionists claim these creatures used to fly, but lost that ability. We’ll take a look this week!

Nov. 26 ICR Graduate School

For 25 years the ICR Graduate School has been advancing the cause of creation by providing higher education in several fields of science, while standing for the truth of a literal six-day creation. Join us as we talk to some ICR graduate students and professors!

If you would like to find out where you can hear these and other ICR radio programs, please email radio@icr.org with your name and address and we will be happy to send you a radio station listing for your state. If our programs are not aired in your area, we would be glad to send you a free demo packet for you to take to your local Christian station! 

“Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me” (Isaiah 46:9).

“The year that is drawing towards its close, has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added, which are of so extraordinary a nature, that they cannot fail to penetrate and soften even the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever watchful providence of Almighty God. In the midst of a civil war of unequalled magnitude . . . peace has been preserved with all nations, order has been maintained, the laws have been respected and obeyed, and harmony has prevailed everywhere except in the theatre of military conflict. . . . Needful diversions of wealth . . . have not arrested the plough, the shuttle or the ship; the axe has enlarged the borders of our settlements, and the mines, as well of iron and coal as of the precious metals, have yielded even more abundantly than heretofore. . . . and the country, rejoicing in the consciousness of augmented strength and vigor, is permitted to expect continuance of years with large increase of freedom.

No human counsel hath devised nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. They are the gracious gifts of the Most High God, who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy. . . . I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens. And . . . while offering up the ascriptions justly due to Him for such singular deliverances and blessings, they do also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, . . . fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty Hand to heal the wounds of the nation and to restore it as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquillity and Union.”

Abraham Lincoln, 1863



Dr. Henry Morris III, ICR Executive Vice President for Strategic Ministries.
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Donations can be made online at www.icr.org/contribute.html