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New Proposed Babel Site Supports Ark Location

page 7

The Fossils Still Say No: The Post-Flood Providential Pleistocene

page 8

Carlsbad Caverns National Park: Fast Formation

page 14

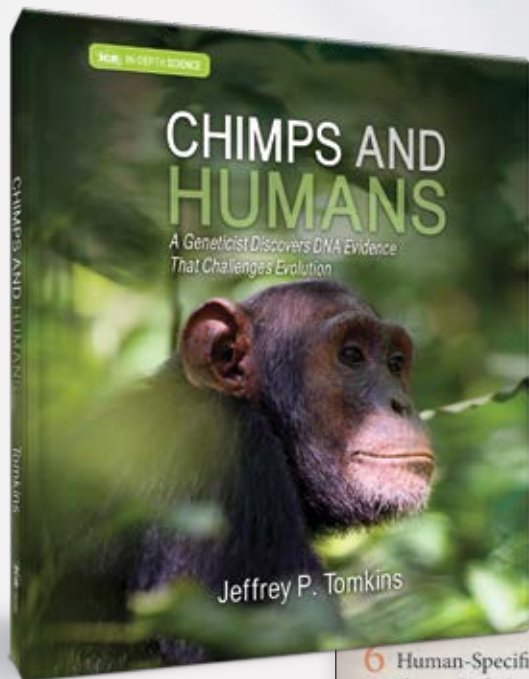
Rich Toward God

page 21

CHIMPS AND HUMANS

A Geneticist Discovers DNA Evidence That Challenges Evolution

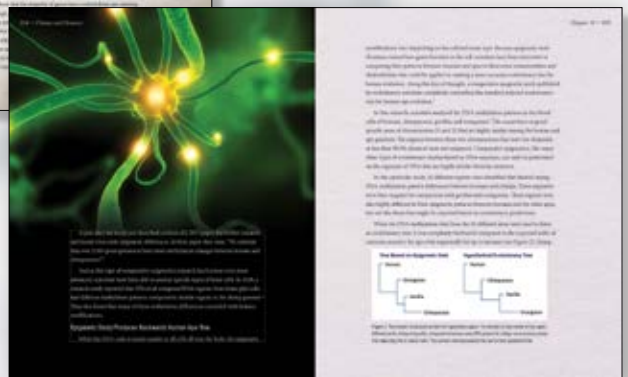
Dr. Jeffrey P. Tomkins



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Evolutionists claim human DNA and chimp DNA are over 98% similar. Based on known mutation rates, anything significantly less than a 98% similarity would destroy the entire theory of human evolution. With a background in genetics, Dr. Jeffrey Tomkins analyzes the data and discovers that secular scientists consistently tailor their research to fit evolution. From his own research, he demonstrates that human-chimp genome matches are about 84%—results that secular scientists are beginning to echo.

In *Chimps and Humans*, Dr. Tomkins dismantles evolutionary assertions of a close human-chimp relationship and shows they are too far apart to make a common evolutionary ancestor even remotely plausible. Christians have every reason to believe God created humans in His own image around 6,000 years ago.



“Dr. Tomkins has carefully investigated all of the various arguments supporting ape-to-man evolution. On every level, he has discovered that the supposedly compelling evolutionary arguments for ape-to-man evolution do not withstand careful scrutiny....In every case, whenever Dr. Tomkins has dug deep he has been able to overthrow the claims of the evolutionists.”

— Dr. John C. Sanford, author of *Genetic Entropy & the Mystery of the Genome*

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DESIGNER

Dennis Davidson

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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Front cover: Illuminated stalactites and stalagmites in Carlsbad Caverns National Park, New Mexico, USA
Image credit: BigStock



8



14



19



23

feature

4 Why Reinvent the Wheel?

RANDY J. GULIUZZA AND AARON T. GULIUZZA

research

7 New Proposed Babel Site Supports Ark Location

TIM CLAREY, PH.D.

impact

8 The Fossils Still Say No: The Post-Flood Provisional Pleistocene

JEFFREY P. TOMKINS, PH.D.

park series

14 Carlsbad Caverns National Park: Fast Formations

DAVE WOETZEL, M.S., AND BRIAN THOMAS, PH.D.

back to genesis

19 Evolutionary Acceptance and Misinformation

JAKE HEBERT, PH.D.

apologetics

20 Pickles for Apologetics

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

stewardship

21 Rich Toward God

BEAU PATTERSON

creation kids

23 Comparing Chimps and Humans

CHRISTY HARDY AND SUSAN WINDSOR

Why Reinvent the Wheel?

RANDY J. GULIUZZA AND AARON T. GULIUZZA

Most of us know the phrase, “Don’t reinvent the wheel.” It means that we hope to take the solution for one problem and readily apply it to another. For efficiency and simplicity, most people will take this approach if they can. This is especially true for engineers, computer programmers, or others in technical professions.

Whoever engineered the first wheel used the same methods that a skilled engineer would use today. Engineers must choose (or specify) the design, materials, and processes to build wheels. But consider this: If they make the choice to *not* reinvent the wheel, then their specification to re-use that same design in another application is still an act of engineering.

Biologists should keep this reality in mind as they reverse-engineer the systems underlying the operation of biological functions. Given that the Lord Jesus is God the Creator (John 1:1-3; Colossians 1:15-17), everything that biologists discover is evidence of an unrivaled engineer’s handiwork—whether they find unique inventions or the *wise re-use* of designs in diverse applications. Perhaps this is one easily observable way that Lord Jesus wanted to reveal His engineering expertise as a sign of both His reality and His glory.

Romans 1:20 reveals that it is through the recognition of “workmanship” that God chose to plainly manifest Himself in everyone’s mind. Every culture has experienced the telltale sign of human engineering at work as expressed in the unique characteristics of crafted things, such as tools, ships, buildings, etc. This collective human experience is the only way we understand what workmanship is. In terms of Christ’s revelation, this human ability cannot be overemphasized.

article highlights

- The re-use of biological designs throughout creation is an example of efficient divine engineering.
- The human ear’s cochlea detects vibrations in the air as sound, and our Merkel cells sense vibrations through our skin. The genetic code used in both systems originates from the same DNA location and uses neurons in shared regions of the brain.
- The re-use of the same genetic code underlying these cells are akin to what programming engineers do when developing computer code.
- There is also an irreducible complexity in the way these systems are set up—an example of all-or-nothing unity.
- Biological research at all levels reveals the engineering genius of our Creator, Christ Jesus.

Why? Because people also have a powerful predisposition to link the features they see on organisms and engineering design together.¹ Thus, the human ability to intuitively recognize those distinctive features of engineered craftsmanship in creatures—as a telltale sign of Christ’s agency—leaves people without excuse if they fail to credit God for their origination.

In addition, engineering principles underlie human workmanship and explain why it works. Since the Bible says that people will also recognize Christ’s workmanship, then this is a strong indicator that engineering principles can be sensibly used to explain how living things function. In fact, we will see corresponding engineering principles underlie sensors that enable creatures to detect very subtle vibrations from their environment and those of human-engineered sensors. We will also see evidence of engineering activity through the wise re-use of designs.

Diverse Creatures Detect Minuscule Vibrations

Our ears have a special organ, called the cochlea, that is designed to detect even minuscule vibrations of air. This organ sends signals to the brain that we interpret as sound. Many other creatures detect sound in similar ways. But auditory stimulation is only one route to detect vibrations within the environment. Other examples of mechanisms show how fascinating research in this area can be.

Some animals use specialized sensors all over their body to detect vibrations. Research in Austria focused on one species of the Central American wandering spider. Micro-force detectors and scanning white light were used to quantify the forces on “strain sensors” that detect vibrations.² They discovered that these spiders are extraordinarily sensitive to vibrations by detecting an incredibly small force of about 0.000036 ounces (thirty-six hundred thousandth of an ounce). In addition, these spiders will react only to vibrations within biologically meaningful frequencies and amplitudes (such as those produced in mating rituals or by small insects) and ignore the rest.

Mammals have organs in their skin called *Pacinian* (or *lamellar corpuscles*) that are extremely sensitive to vibrations. One of the world’s leading researchers on elephant behavior from Stanford University has focused on elephant’s capabilities to detect ground vibrations coming from long distances.³ Elephants have a complex array of vibration sensors in their feet. The maximum distance for detecting these subtle vibrations is not known, but research indicates that el-

elephants can detect signals from other elephants at a distance of over nine miles. Elephants can also discriminate subtle differences between seismic stimuli and adjust their behavior accordingly.

Engineered Controls Regulate Embryonic Development

In addition to Pacinian corpuscles and the tiny hair cells in a cochlea, creatures have multiple types of sensors to detect a wide range of vibrations in their environment. Humans and some animals have thousands of other cells sensitive to both vibration and pressure in their skin. These are called Merkel cells (Figure 1). For years, investigators have known that the hair cells in our inner ear and Merkel cells share some similar features for detecting vibrations.

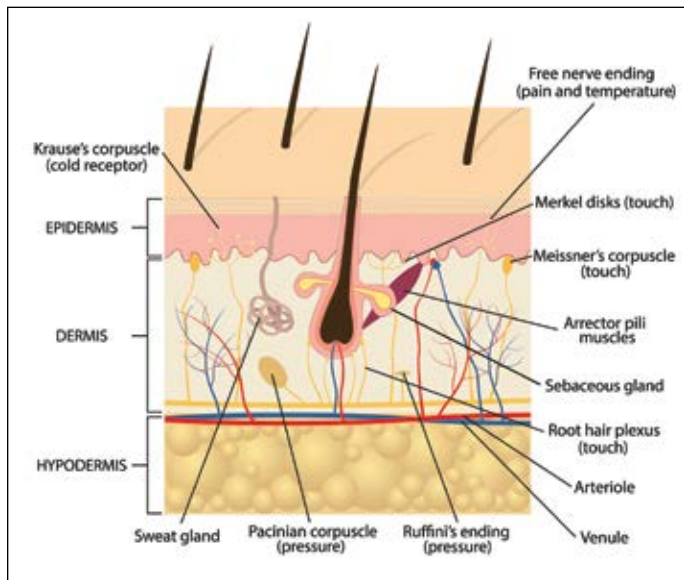


Figure 1. Cross-section of human skin

Engineers often re-use a good design in similar applications. Thus, they should not be surprised to learn that it happens in biology. Researchers from the University of Southern California discovered that during embryonic development the genetic code underlying the hair cells used in the cochlea for hearing and Merkel cells used for delicate skin vibration would originate from the same DNA location.⁴ Both are defined as *mechano-sensors*, and in this case, they each detect similar frequencies of vibration.

When, where, and how genetic information is expressed during development is highly regulated. Regulatory mechanisms can be incredibly complex and are indicative of expert engineering skills. The USC researchers found that the formation of specialized mechano-sensors in ear hair cells and Merkel cells from their progenitor cells cannot proceed unless a “master regulator” protein (called ATOH1) activates enhancers for certain genes. But, initially the action of ATOH1 on enhancers is blocked. This block is overcome by a “feed-forward mechanism” where ATOH1 first stimulates the expression of another protein (called POU4F3) that acts as a pioneer factor to provide access to the enhancers that are closed to ATOH1. By carefully

following this process we can see a “chicken-and-egg” scenario where the proteins ATOH1 and POU4F3 are both needed at the same time for each of them to complete their activities.

Another researcher provides a fascinating insight about how the brain processes information from the ear’s hair cells and Merkel cells that would be familiar to engineers. The human brain processes both sets of information—those produced by air vibrations in the ear and fine vibrations on the skin—using “neurons in *shared* regions of the brain” (emphasis mine) that “highlights how intimately the functions of hearing and touch are linked....”⁵ This demonstrates the re-use of divine engineering for different purposes.

Corresponding Use of Engineering Principles

Recall that people understand workmanship through experience. The tight correspondence between human-engineered systems and those found in creatures makes it hard for people to deny that creatures are also engineered. In these examples of vibration detection, we see multiple examples of corresponding engineering principles in both the mechano-sensors and in the processes that develop them.

Engineers design sensors that use the energy contained in a vibrating substance to move a trigger-like mechanism that activates an electric current (produced by many different means). Hair cells of the cochlea and Merkel cells use the same principle. One simple human-engineered device is shown in Figure 2. Engineers also employ “sys-

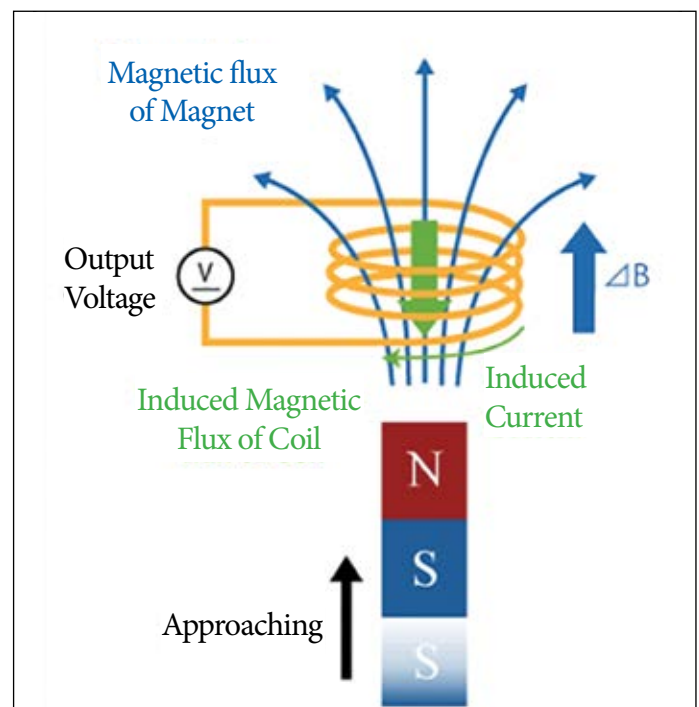


Figure 2. A basic engineered mechanism that converts vibrations into an electric current is a probe attached to a magnet which moves back and forth through a coil of wire. The changing position of the magnetic flux produces a measurable amount of electric current.

Image credit: Asahi Kasei Microdevices (AKM).

tems engineering” when they design a device with the signal detection *and* signal analysis to precede the real-world problems. We see the same systems engineering here.

Re-using the same genetic code underlying the hair cells in the cochlea and Merkel cells corresponds to what programming engineers do when writing computer code. This way of leveraging existing code is widely used in the world of programming and called “Code Reuse.”⁶ Another related area where we see correspondence is how and where data is analyzed. Engineers and programmers will often use one mathematical algorithm to process similar signals generated by multiple sensors. We’ve seen that this corresponds to how the same area of the brain processes signals carrying data about external vibrations from both Merkel and inner ear-hair cells.

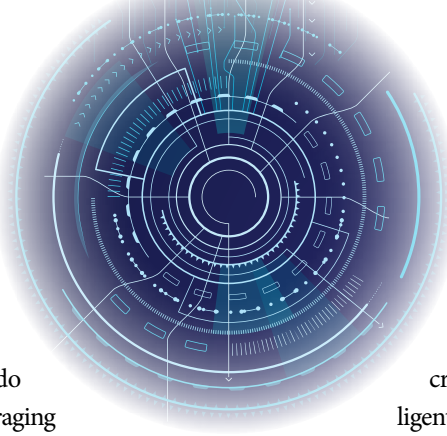
Finally, we saw in development a process with a “chicken-and-egg” scenario where the proteins ATOH1 and POU4F3 are both needed at the same time for each of them to complete their activities. All creatures have systems with multiple parts working together for a purpose. Many of these systems have core components that have to be functioning all together from the start. What we are recognizing is the engineering principle of “functional coherence.” This principle has also been called “irreducible complexity” or “all-or-nothing unity.” All-or-nothing unity is best explained from a systems engineering perspective that specifies all of the necessary parts being constructed together from the beginning.

Further analysis would no doubt detect many more areas where creatures and human-engineered devices use corresponding engineering principles. This is a strong indicator that engineering principles can be sensibly used to explain how living things function.

Evolutionary Magic = Vivid Imagination + Mystical Agents

If we were looking for serious scientific explanations for the origin of these vibration-detection and analysis systems, then that would force us to ask some probing questions. Why would the epigenetic “feed forward” mechanism (noted above) come into existence before there were two types of vibration cells? This seems like an obvious Catch-22.

However, evolutionary biologists’ explanations for the development of these similar mechano-sensors prove to be mystical. They are forced to conjure vivid imaginative scenarios to fill in for missing data. For instance, in regard to the origin of the “feed forward” mechanism in humans they say, “We hypothesize that this feed-forward mechanism arose in an ancestral neurosensory mechano-receptor cell type and may have provided a basis for sister-cell evolution through enhancer network divergence between modern mechanoreceptors.”⁴ That yarn, rooted in magical words like “arose” and “evolution” routinely invoked by evolutionists, may only be topped by this phantasm for the origin of the auditory system: “The auditory system may have



evolved from the more rudimentary mechano-sensitive system in the lateral lines of fish as organisms became land dwelling.”⁵

There is no room in Darwin’s selectionist worldview for giving Christ the credit for engineering the intricate systems that we see in creatures. Selectionists project volitional and intelligent agency onto nature when they ascribe unto it the ability to “select for” or “act on” creatures. Nature derives its imaginary law-like creative powers over organisms from the belief that it somehow selects for traits just like real human breeders. God’s true agency is exchanged for an idolatrous view of nature that treats this unconscious entity as though it had volition and exercises an omnipresent agency. Evolutionists did not explain away the Creator, they simply venerate nature as God.

ICR Has a Better Idea: Develop a Theory of Biological Design

ICR has been working to develop a theory of biological design based on both scientific observations and biblical indications that engineering principles can be sensibly used to explain how living things function. The systems engineering underlying the similar development of these stunningly sensitive mechano-sensors (and the processing of their signals in common neural algorithms) is highly suggestive of the wise re-use of designs in diverse applications. Human engineers can readily identify with this approach. This observation further fills out another facet of a theory of biological design.

There is absolutely no area of biological research—no matter how specialized—that does not reveal the profound engineering genius and inestimable power of the Lord Jesus. Even though the Lord astounds us in the incredible things that He does invent, His deep wisdom in regard to efficiency and simplicity is further revealed in His impeccable choices to “not reinvent the wheel.” 🛠️

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Dr. Guliuzza is President of the Institute for Creation Research. He earned his M.D. from the University of Minnesota, his Master of Public Health from Harvard University, and served in the U.S. Air Force as 28th Bomb Wing Flight Surgeon and Chief of Aerospace Medicine. Dr. Guliuzza is also a registered Professional Engineer and holds a B.A. in theology from Moody Bible Institute.

Aaron Guliuzza is an Industrial Engineer with Molded Fiber Glass Companies. He leads a team of engineers that manages the planning and production of composite wind turbine blades for large electric generators. He holds a B.S. in Industrial Engineering from South Dakota School of Mines and Technology.



New Proposed Babel Site Supports Ark Location

Most people believe the Tower of Babel was built somewhere in Iraq or even modern-day Syria. However, a recent article proposed that the Tower of Babel was built farther north in southeast Turkey.¹ While their research needs verification, this conclusion may alleviate some of the criticism raised against my earlier proposed Ark landing site.²

In 2019, I suggested the Ark landed about 70 miles or so west of Mt. Ararat on Kagizman Ridge (Figure 1). This so-called paleo-ridge³ extends east-west for over 100 miles, with some sections above 10,000 feet in elevation. This uplift likely formed at about the highest water point of the Flood at the end of the Zuni megasequence, placing its development about Day 150 of the Flood year. According to the biblical text, this was exactly when the Ark ran aground (Genesis 8:4). Figure 1 shows this ridge extends west from Mt. Ararat, further qualifying it as part of the “mountains of Ararat.”

The reason I discounted Mt. Ararat itself as the Ark’s landing site is because much of Mt. Ararat formed from more recent volcanism during the Ice Age, well after the Flood was over.² Of course, it is still possible the Ark landed there and was subsequently buried as Mt. Ararat’s volcano continued to erupt.

Critics quickly pointed out that Kagizman Ridge couldn’t be the proper Ark landing site because Genesis 11:2 says “as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar.” Instead, they argue the Ark must have landed further west in the Zagros Mountains of Iran in order to fulfill the requirement of coming from the east. But this interpretation also has to claim that the Zagros Mountains are part of the mountains of Ararat, which is less likely.



Figure 1. Map showing the locations of Kagizman Ridge, Mt. Ararat, and the proposed site for Babel. Note the travel direction (white arrow) from the “mountains of Ararat” to the Babel site, whether the Kagizman Ridge or Mt. Ararat itself, is from the east.

And the timing of the development of the Zagros Mountains doesn’t fit well with the Ark landing on Day 150 of the Flood. Much of the relief of the Zagros formed after Day 150, during the receding phase of the Flood (in the Cenozoic).^{4,5}

However, if the Tower of Babel was built in northern Mesopotamia, and not southern Iraq, then the founders of Babel would have indeed traveled from the east if the Ark landed either on Kagizman Ridge or on Mt. Ararat (Figure 1). The Zagros Mountains location becomes completely unnecessary in this scenario.

Secondly, a Babel location in northern Mesopotamia affirms the high Cenozoic Flood/post-Flood boundary we have proposed.^{6,7} Examination of the geologic column in this part of southeast Turkey shows over 3,600 feet of Cenozoic marine limestones, shales, and sands atop a thick section of Cretaceous marine rocks.⁷ In

fact, marine deposition continued across much of Europe, Turkey, and the Middle East through much of the Cenozoic.⁷ This equates to the Tejas megasequence. In other words, the Flood did not end at the Cretaceous or K-Pg boundary (Cretaceous-Paleogene) because too much ocean sedimentation was still occurring across this region. The K-Pg was the high point of the Flood, occurring on Day 150. The rocks deposited after the Cretaceous, entailing much of the Cenozoic (Tejas megasequence), was the receding phase of the Flood (Days 150-314).⁵

The exact location of the Tower of Babel and the landing site of the Ark still remain mysteries. Combining the biblical text with the geology and archeology helps pin down the possibilities, further refining our interpretations. One thing we can be sure of is the book of Genesis is true. ☞

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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.



article highlights

- Conventional scholarship places the Tower of Babel in Iraq or Syria, but recent evidence points to Turkey as the actual location.
- The Kagizman Ridge apparently uplifted at the same time the Ark ran aground, while Mt. Ararat itself appears to have formed later during the volcanism of the Ice Age.
- The proposed Tower of Babel building site in southeastern Turkey also keeps the traveling “from the east” requirement intact.

The Fossils Still Say No The Post-Flood Providential Pleistocene

article highlights

- The Pleistocene layer is a thin, loose layer of sedimentary rock lying on top of the geologic column.
- This layer was likely deposited after the Flood during the Ice Age that immediately followed.
- Secularists have developed dozens of ice-age models, but the Flood provided the right combination of conditions to cool Earth: hot oceans from volcanic activity, rapid ocean evaporation, and the aerosols that blanketed Earth.
- With massive amounts of ocean water frozen at high latitudes, land bridges became available to migrating humans and animals after the Flood.
- The Flood is the best scientific explanation of the 500-year Ice Age.

In the previous article in this series, I explained how the final rock layers were laid down in the global Flood as the newly separated continents and their mountain ranges were being uplifted and the sediment-laden waters poured off the continents.¹ These last Flood layers formed what is known in the geological column as the Cenozoic era, and the fossils it contains are full of creatures that were living at higher elevations in the pre-Flood world. In the system of geological sequence stratigraphy, the Cenozoic is mostly comprised of what is termed the Tejas megasequence.

At the top of the Cenozoic are thin rock strata in various locations around the world that are called Pleistocene. While some of these deposits may actually be late-Flood rocks, the majority were likely formed after the Flood from the unique climactic conditions that occurred. In general, Pleistocene strata are typically composed of



Drumlins around Horicon Marsh, Wisconsin

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Terminal moraine of Wordie Glacier, Greenland

Image credit: By NASA / Michael Studinger

unsorted (random-sized fragments) and unstratified (loose and not solidified) rocks and sediment as compared to the lower Flood layers of the geological column which form distinct solid (lithified) strata.

The Post-Flood Ice Age

One of the defining features of the Pleistocene is the global evidence of a post-Flood Ice Age. Much of this geological data can still be observed in receding glaciers that are active around the world today. These glaciers produce several distinctive geological features that we also see in Pleistocene strata.

One of these features is known as *drumlins* which are low elongated hills containing the rock debris left behind by the glacier at its base. They are typically aligned with the direction of the flow of the ice. Another feature is known as *moraines* which contain what is called “glacial till” (loose rock) that form at the end of the glacier and are often perpendicular to the glacial flow and extend to the sides of the glacial valley. These features from the Ice Age are found in lower latitudes than today’s ice sheets and glaciers. These provide evidence that ice sheets in both the northern and southern hemispheres extended to lower latitudes than exist today and have since melted.

While secular scientists have great difficulty in explaining evidence of an ice age and have literally put forth dozens of speculative theories, a biblical solution based on the global Flood fits the data

closely. In this model, it is proposed that an ice age began shortly after the Flood about 4,300 years ago and likely only lasted for several hundred years.²



Volcanic lava eruption, Kilauea, Hawaii

The mechanism for its action has been aptly applied as a four-point model using the acronym HEAT. 1) *Hot Oceans* during the Genesis Flood were produced by hot, molten material from the Earth’s interior along with hot waters from the “fountains of the great deep” (Genesis 7:11), ongoing underwater volcanic activity, and heat generated from the friction of plate tectonics. 2) *Evaporation* into the

atmosphere from the warm oceans would have increased levels of atmospheric moisture, allowing for high levels of snowfall over the cooler mid-to-high-latitude regions. 3) *Aerosols* (airborne particulates) would have resulted from the enormous amounts of volcanic activity occurring at the end of the Flood and afterward, filling the atmosphere and blocking the sun—creating a cool climate for snow and ice to accumulate. 4) *Time* (several hundred years) would have been involved in this overall process of extended post-Flood volcanic activity that continued as the earth was equilibrating from the massive amount of plate tectonics that had occurred during the Flood.



Ice Age Land Bridges

In previous articles, I described how the pre-Flood earth had been composed of one large mega-continent called Pangaea which split apart into the global continental configuration of seven continents we see today.³⁻⁵ Not only is this massive level of tectonic activity important in explaining the HEAT model of the Ice Age, but it also directly relates to the ability of humans and animals to repopulate the earth after the Flood.

When the present separation of continents by oceans is observed, it is difficult to explain how the various kinds of animals on

the Ark could have dispersed around the earth. However, when we take into account the post-Flood Ice Age, the problem readily disappears. The Ice Age would have created land bridges all around the world by exposing dry land as large proportions of the oceans would have been frozen. In fact, the massive amount of water stored in ice sheets would have fortuitously lowered sea levels by 200 to 280 feet below today's level.⁶ The resulting land bridges would have made excellent pathways and migration routes for animals and humans to simply walk to the major continents.



Eastern Grey Kangaroo

One such interesting trail of evidence that serves as a good example has to do with the presence of kangaroos in Australia. How is it that kangaroos only live in Australia and how did they get there? In a recent discovery, kangaroo cave paintings have been discovered in India yet no kangaroos are known to currently live in India.⁷ However, India lies in the middle of the path across lower Asia leading from the landing site of Noah's Ark to Australia. Furthermore, there exists a submerged former land bridge that came close to connecting Asia to Australia that would have allowed the kangaroos to migrate. The reason that we typically only find certain types of animals on the various continents is because of this selective migration that occurred post-Flood for several hundred years and was then brought to an end as the land bridges got covered with water as the vast amounts of frozen water bound up in the Ice Age melted.



Woolly Mammoths

The Mysterious Woolly Mammoth

Another defining feature of the Pleistocene seems to be the evidence of large body size (to conserve heat) and more hair as insulation, especially in creatures with the innate programming to live in the cold climates at higher latitudes. An excellent example of this is the mysterious woolly mammoth. The mammoths were essentially a type of elephant that expressed the traits needed to live in cold climates having a very large body size compared to other types of elephants and a thick coat of hair. There is evidence that large herds of mammoths roamed the northern plains of Siberia and North America and that they were hunted by post-Flood humans for their meat and valuable hides.

Even today, we see large mammals living in the extreme cold of the north such as walruses and polar bears. Like the mammoth among the elephant kind, polar bears are the largest of the bear kind. This evidence of *scaling* is an innate adaptive mechanism built into creatures by their Creator, the Lord Jesus. It is common to see larger variants of a created kind in cold climates while smaller variants of the same kind inhabit warmer environments at lower latitudes. And of course, one trait of creatures that have self adjusted to warm environments is that they usually have less hair.

God's Providence in the Ice Age

The majority of the Pleistocene rock layers are from post-Flood glacial and associated climactic activity during the roughly 500-year period of the Ice Age and are directly connected to the mechanisms surrounding the Flood. In fact, the Ice Age brought about by the tectonic activity of the Flood providentially lowered global sea levels and provided the phenomena of intercontinental land bridges so that the earth could be repopulated by animals and humans after the Flood. Only the activity and conditions generated by the global Flood can explain the Ice Age and which was a key part of God's plan in the judgment and subsequent restoration associated with the global Flood. ☞

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Dr. Tomkins is Director of Research at the Institute for Creation Research and earned his Ph.D. in genetics from Clemson University.



NOVEMBER 5-7

Epsom, NH
**Back to Genesis
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 Bible Church**
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Randy Guliuzza, P.E., M.D.



Tim Clarey, Ph.D.

NOVEMBER 6-10



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 November 7: Lake Zurich, IL
 November 8: Antioch, IL
 November 9: Carol Stream, IL
 November 10: Mundelein, IL
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 ICR.org/ChicagoTour or
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Brian Thomas, Ph.D.

NOVEMBER 14

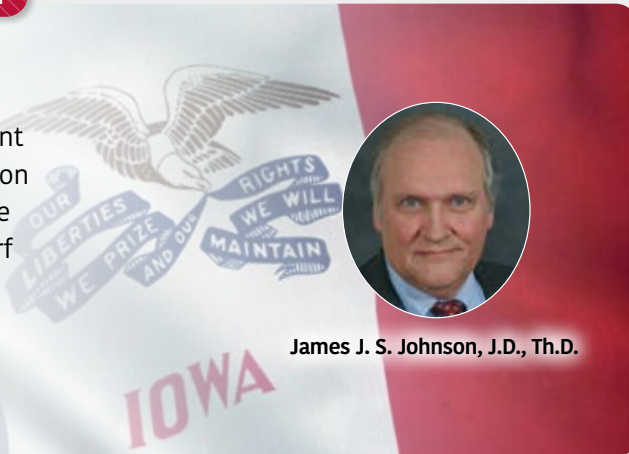
Trussville, AL
Grace Community Church
 (B. Thomas)
 214.615.8325



Brian Thomas, Ph.D.

NOVEMBER 19-21

Iowa Tour
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 November 20: Fort Madison
 November 21: Muscatine
 November 21: Bettendorf
 (J. Johnson)
 ICR.org/IowaTour or
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James J. S. Johnson, J.D., Th.D.

NOVEMBER 22

Rolla, MO
English Corner
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Far left: The expedition team descends on a fossil dig near Devils Tower, Wyoming.

Left: The Institute for Creation Research's Dr. Brian Thomas carefully prepares a fossil.

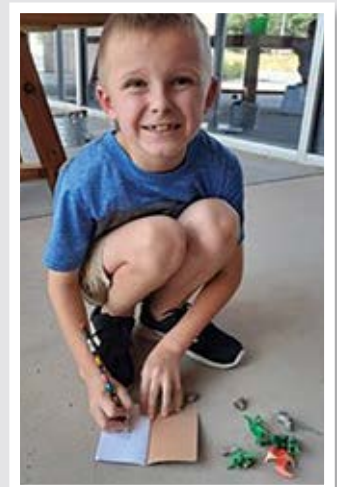
Below: A Camarasaurus tooth!



ICR Video Producer Clint Loveness and Digital Media Content Developer Trey Bowling film Prof. Tom Meyer, "The Bible Memory Man," at Capernaum Studios in Poolville, Texas, for an upcoming video on biblical archaeology.



Dinosaur Week at the ICR Discovery Center for Science & Earth History included a fossil dig for the younger visitors.





DAVE WOETZEL, M.S., AND BRIAN THOMAS, PH.D.

CARLSBAD CAVERNS NATIONAL PARK

FAST FORMATIONS

article highlights

- Cave formations (speleothems) can form quite rapidly.
- The caves at Carlsbad are dry today, but were wet in the past during the cave's formative years.
- During the Ice Age, the caverns were wet when most of its speleothems formed.
- Bats fossilized in Carlsbad's stalagmites show little sign of decay, indicating the creatures were rapidly encapsulated.



Have you ever toured a cave? There is something especially intriguing about exploring the deep, dark underground and its mysterious animals and rock formations. Tour guides at Carlsbad Caverns and at caves around the world repeat the mantra that it takes a thousand years of slow drips to build just a centimeter of these formations, called *speleothems*.¹ Two observations about speleothems show they can form much faster than that. These observations help explain why we would expect caves and their speleothems to have

formed within the Bible's timeline of only several thousand years.

Cave Formations and the Bible

Most modern speleothems typically grow very slowly. Mainstream geologists extrapolate today's slow rates into the past to estimate millions of years for some of the large speleothems. Such conclusions depend on whether or not we believe that today's processes (such as rainfall and erosion) happened at the same rates in the distant past. And we know they did not.

Dripstone formations are called *speleothems* and take two basic forms. Stalagmites point up from the floor like traffic cones (Figure 1). Stalactites, the most common, hang from the ceiling like icicles. Speleothems form when subtle chemical changes cause dissolved minerals to come out of water (precipitate) and form a solid. Caves are termed *dead* when they have no active speleothem growth. This happens when the water that had been dripping from above dries up. Thus, climate profoundly impacts speleothem formation rates.



Figure 1

Instead, catastrophic activities that follow from the Bible’s record of Noah’s Flood and the later Ice Age shaped the large geological structures on our planet. And science sings the same tune.

The Ice Age and Caves

The first observation that suggests speedy speleothem formation starts by noting that the Carlsbad region of New Mexico has been dry for centuries. This arid climate means most of its speleothems are dormant. They therefore largely formed in the past. But when and how fast? Scientifically, we cannot assert that they grew slowly back then if their growth rate is zero today, and nobody was there to measure the growth rates in the distant past. What if Carlsbad’s speleothems formed fast in a wetter past?

In general, cave formation likely began with the help of receding waters from the global Flood and the rapid circulation of water underground. Then during the Ice Age, the American Southwest was wet for centuries. Enough water flowed there to quickly deposit Carlsbad’s speleothems.² And the Ice Age saw wetter climates around the world. In other words, the Ice Age offers a stronger reason to suppose fast speleothems than slow ones.

Bats in Rocks

Fossilized animals encased in Carlsbad’s speleothems point to a second observation that fits fast speleothem formation. The October

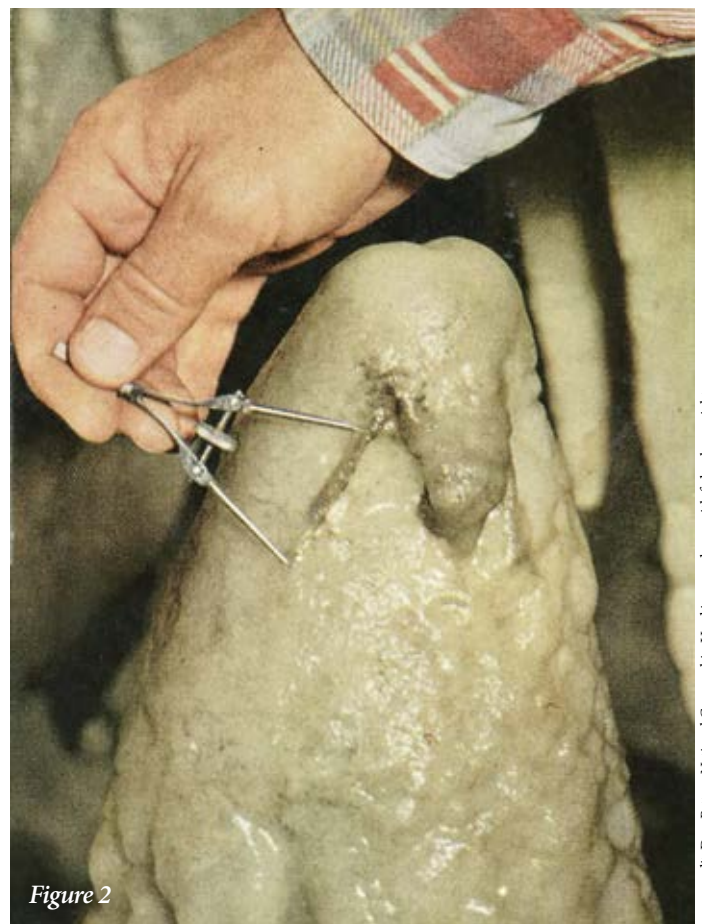


Figure 2

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Image credit: National Park Service. Used in accordance with federal copyright (fair use doctrine) law. Usage by ICR does not imply endorsement of copyright holder.



Figure 3

1953 issue of *National Geographic* published a pictorial overview of Carlsbad Caverns. One photo showed a bat's skeleton encased in a stalagmite. This intriguing picture (Figure 2) became iconic to those interested in questioning the “thousands of years per centimeter” mantra. The bat fossil demonstrates the speed with which stalagmites can form. How could a bat's intact bones lie undisturbed and undecayed unless its stalagmite formed fast?

Dave Woetzel, coauthor of this article, visited Carlsbad in 2021 with the goal of documenting this rock-encased bat. He was surprised



Figure 4

to discover more than one such bat (Figure 3). One spot in the Lower Cave at Carlsbad holds special interest (Figure 4). A whole bat lies entombed in a large speleothem that is part of the Colonel Boles Formation. A guide was able to photograph the bat remains by backlighting the translucent speleothem. And this one suggested more than just bones locked in rock.

Do you see the discoloration in and below the body of the bat? We wonder if decaying flesh and body tissue slid down as the wet stalagmite formed around the bat. Soft tissues decay faster than bone. On the cave floor, cave crickets scavenge the flesh off fallen, dead bats. It looks like this bat got entombed faster than it could get scavenged or decay.

While bones might last for thousands of years, softer tissues would have decayed long before the often-cited millennia for speleothem formation would have elapsed.³

Fast Stalactites

Bible scoffers have used caves as platforms to propagate old-earth ideas. But actual speleothem formation rates and the bats they encapsulate tell a far different story. We don't need a thousand years to make one centimeter of speleothem. With enough water, such as the Ice Age supplied, even large calcite formations can form in mere centuries. Speleothems can form fast, and bats trapped in rocks show it. 🦇

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Dr. Thomas is Research Scientist at the Institute for Creation Research and earned his Ph.D. in paleobiology from the University of Liverpool. Dave Woetzel is an active creation researcher with experience in artifacts and zoology and earned an M.S. from Clemson University.



ICR By the Numbers

ICR's September 2021 Expedition
14 days, 3,432 miles,
Five fossil dig sites

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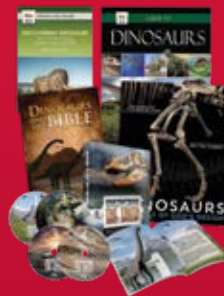
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Evolutionary Acceptance and Misinformation

A recent study claims that a majority (54%) of Americans now accept as true the statement “Human beings, as we know them today, developed from earlier species of animals.”¹ Unfortunately, given the increased secularization of American society, this increased acceptance of evolution may well be real. Nevertheless, it’s remarkable that, despite decades of attempts by the scientific establishment and popular culture to convince Americans of human evolution, 46% of Americans still reject it!

Not too surprisingly, evolutionists attribute this apparent increase in acceptance of human evolution to higher levels of education and scientific literacy. In their minds, it is only natural that better-informed and more scientifically literate people would accept the “fact” of evolution.

However, the “scientific literacy” usually obtained in college is a rather shallow overview of key scientific concepts. College students are exposed to evolutionary claims, but on a very superficial level. They are almost never exposed to the real problems and weaknesses in the evolutionary story.

This is demonstrated by considering some serious problems with the claim that humans and chimpanzees descended from a common ancestor six to seven million years ago:

- Long before the human and chimpanzee genomes were sequenced, a 1984 paper used a rather crude technique called DNA hybridization to convince secular scientists that humans are closely related to chimps. However, this paper was later exposed by other evolutionists as almost certainly fraudulent.² Had it not been for this 1984 paper, the now-popular claim of a close relationship between humans and chimpanzees might never have gained traction.
- Geneticist Jeff Tomkins of ICR has shown that the oft-cited claim of 98-99% human-chimp DNA similarity was achieved by cherry picking the genomic data.³ His more objective comparison shows that the true similarity is at best about 85%. Evolutionary biologist Richard Buggs (Queen Mary, University of London) obtained the same result using a different method.⁴
- A sophisticated population genetics software program called Mendel’s Accountant that uses standard evolutionary assumptions and parameters has rigorously demonstrated that even the 6-7 million years postulated by evolutionists is insufficient time for a chimpanzee-like creature to transform into a human. In fact, this well-known “waiting time” problem, also known as Haldane’s Dilemma, has long been recognized as a serious problem, not just for human evolution, but for the evolutionary story in general.⁵

And this is just the tip of the iceberg. Human and ape fossil re-

article highlights

- Even after generations of Americans being indoctrinated to believe evolution, almost half of them still don’t buy it.
- The long-standing evolutionary claim that humans and chimps have a 98% DNA similarity has been thoroughly discredited.
- Furthermore, human and ape fossils don’t support evolution’s claims.
- All we ask as biblical creationists is for people to honestly study the scientific data in light of a straight-forward reading of Genesis—biblical creation is by far the best scientific explanation of our world.



mains do not support the concept of human evolution, despite the popular hype.⁶ How many of those among the 54% affirming human evolution were aware of these inconvenient facts? Not too many, I would imagine.

Evolutionists will be tempted to see an increased acceptance of evolution as a vindication of the strength of their position. But this is more akin to jurors who have ruled a defendant guilty, but only after being carefully shielded from any exculpatory evidence and weaknesses in the prosecution’s arguments. In that case, the guilty verdict is not an indication of the strength of the prosecution’s case, but rather an indication that the jurors were denied access to all the relevant facts.

Evolutionists claim that creationists are spreading “misinformation,” and some even argue that creationists should be censored. Such a claim requires considerable chutzpah, given the fallacious arguments that evolutionists have disseminated over the years and the fanatical efforts of some evolutionists to stifle debate on this issue. However, the truth is the exact opposite of their claim. ICR exists to uncover and share information that evolutionists are ignoring or suppressing. We are here to correct misinformation. We have done this for more than fifty years, and by God’s grace, we will continue to do so in the years to come. ✍

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



Pickles for Apologetics

article highlights

- Food is proof of God's providential care.
- Various apologetics insights are illustrated by Scriptures that specifically refer to cucumbers, garlic, salt, and vinegar—the main ingredients of the humble dill pickle.
- The Creatorship of Christ is a primary biblical doctrine, not a secondary issue.

Food, even dill pickles, can provide relevant insights for creation apologetics.¹ Since November 14th is National Pickle Day, this is a good time to consider how dill pickles can remind us of four apologetics values.^{1,2} These four priorities connect specific Scriptures to dill, cucumbers, garlic, salt, and vinegar—basic ingredients for making kosher dill pickles.²

Cucumbers, Garlic, and Corroborating Scripture

When Scripture portrays human nature, it's realistic. Human communication, when reported in Scripture, matches how real people communicate. Scripture records quotations that fit real-world experiences, such as icy vocabulary used during Job's lifetime that likely corresponds to the post-Flood Ice Age.³ Accordingly, it's not surprising that murmuring Hebrews, during their Exodus testings, mentioned foods that matched their Egyptian diets, as they complained of missing "the cucumbers...and the garlic" (Numbers 11:5).

Accordingly, even grumpy allusions to cucumbers and garlic—by Hebrews who escaped Egyptian slavery—can remind us that the Bible's detailed record of human history events perfectly fits the real world.

Salt for Seasoning and Countering False Teachings

Christians are charged with the responsibility to "contend earnestly for the faith" (Jude 1:3-4), both defensively and counter-offensively. God's truth needs to be explained to contradict and refute many false teachings, such as Darwin's "natural selection" theory.

However, Christians should engage in such conflicts and dialogues with all due respect, meekly—communicating graciously—as if delivering "food for thought" seasoned with salt.⁴

Salt can make less-than-flavorful food more enjoyable (Job 6:6). Likewise, to encourage a receptive response, our presentations of God's truth should share information "seasoned with salt."⁴

Vinegar for Soaking and Clarifying Confusion

Some portions of Scripture are "hard to understand" (2 Peter 3:16), so many individuals are puzzled or confused by complicated



topics that need patient clarification.

One example is the usage of sponge-soaked vinegar during Christ's crucifixion (Matthew 27:34, 48; Mark 15:36; Luke 23:36; John 19:29-30), the details of which are confusing—unless carefully reviewed. Some question the Bible's consistency, criticizing how it reports Christ rejecting vinegar, but elsewhere reports Him accepting (drinking) vinegar. There is no inconsistency—because Christ rejected vinegar mixed with painkiller (Mark 15:23), yet later drank vinegar without painkiller (Mark 15:36).⁵

This interpretation pickle reminds us to help guide those who misunderstand God's truth.

Dill, Proportionality, and Crediting Christ's Creatorship

Dill was mentioned by our Lord Jesus Christ when He criticized Pharisees for their lopsided priorities regarding how they lived. The Pharisees paid great attention to tithing dill, mint, cumin, and anise—yet not to "weightier matters," such as "judgment, mercy, and faith" (Matthew 23:23-26). What disproportionate values! Yet Christ commended proper attention to dill, while He simultaneously rebuked Pharisaical neglect of higher moral obligations.

Likewise, many appreciate small blessings in life, yet fail to fully prize Christ as our Creator. Some (e.g., theistic evolutionists) ignore the Bible's teachings about creation—sidestepping controversies that they deem "secondary issues" and acting as if they only care about "primary" priorities.

However, the Creator is none other than the preeminence-deserving Lord Jesus Christ Himself (John 1:1-3; Colossians 1:14-17; Hebrews 1:1-3), so there is nothing "secondary" about Christ deserving what Dr. Randy Guliuzza calls "rightful credit" for being Creator of all creation.⁶ ✉

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



Rich Toward God



What do you think of riches? Some of us may instinctively equate riches with money, and therefore have a natural tendency to shy away from it and think of it as a bad thing. However, we are reminded that money itself is amoral, and may be used for either good or evil. It is the *desire* for worldly riches and the *love* of money that leads to all kinds of evil (1 Timothy 6:9-10).

What if I weren't even talking about being "rich" in the monetary sense? I'm referring to the riches that God commends for us to be rich in and storing up for ourselves.

In Luke 12, our Lord Jesus teaches a parable about a rich fool. This man's field produces so plentifully that his barns and storehouses did not have room for the rest of his crops. He decides to tear down his barns and build bigger ones to hold all the excess. Then he can rest, having plenty to live on for a long time. God responds to the man by calling him a fool, requiring his soul from him that night. God asks him: "What good is all that he stored now?" After the parable, Jesus says: "So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God" (v. 21). There is that word: rich. But this time Jesus contrasts worldly riches with being "rich toward God." Interesting. What might that mean? Well, 1 Timothy 6:17-19 says this:

Command those who are rich in this

present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold of eternal life.

We see the word "rich" show up three times in this section. We can make many observations from this passage, but let's focus on the section that tells us what we should be rich in—namely, to "do good," being "ready to give," and "willing to share." The "good works" are what we should strive to be rich in!

The same sentiment echoes in Ephesians 2:10, where we see that God prepared these good works beforehand that we should walk in them. To be rich in good works will take a sacrifice and giving on our part. It will require our time, talent, or treasure, and sometimes all. We have all been gifted, but in different ways. Some have more time than others, while some have been gifted financially or have a specific, unique skill set. Either way, we are to steward well what we

article highlights

- Money isn't bad, but it can be dangerous.
- The rich fool in the Gospel of Luke tried to hoard earthly treasure—and lost it all in a moment's time.
- Being rich toward God means storing up heavenly treasure, and each and every believer is in the position, and is called, to do this.

have been gifted with and do so for the glory of Christ and the edifying of His Church.

I am in a unique position at ICR where I get a glimpse into God's children being rich in good works, faithful with what they've been gifted, while storing up treasures for themselves eternally at the same time! From the many volunteers giving their precious time in the Discovery Center or at ICR Events, to the faithful financial supporters, and the very uniquely skilled individuals using their talents and craft for the glory of God through ICR—to all of you, I say "Thank you!" You are an encouragement to me personally, and a blessing from the Lord Jesus to the ministry of ICR. Please keep up the good work, and we will, too! ✨

Mr. Patterson is Chief Financial Officer at the Institute for Creation Research.



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I recently enjoyed a trip to Dallas to visit the ICR Discovery Center [for Science and



Earth History] with my wife and a couple of older grandkids. Very impressive! I'll have to say the most memorable exhibit for me was the Founders of Science Hall with the talking portraits. Very well

done! It was an immersive experience, listening to these luminaries of scientific research speak and carry on conversations. Having said that, all the exhibits, presentations, animatronics (especially the *T. rex!*) were incredibly well done.

— A. Q.

Shout-out to the ICR Discovery Center for Science & Earth History...for making a very interesting museum! It does a good job showing how scientific evidence—and dinosaurs—fit the Bible. (If that sounds weird to you, maybe you should visit and see for yourself!)...My friend said it's her favorite museum she's ever been to... because it make sense of science and the Bible.

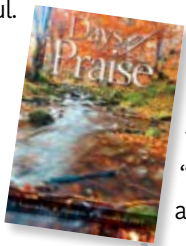
— S. P.



This podcast helps feed my soul.

— D. S.

To the lovely people at the Institute for Creation Research. Thank you for the booklets, *Days of Praise*. I look forward




Editor's note: The picture on page 18 of the October 2021 *Acts & Facts* labeled "Baldwin Beach, Maui" picture is actually Hanalei Beach, Kauai.

to them so much and carry one with me at all times. I can't walk much anymore, so while I'm waiting for my husband at places we have to go, I can read my little booklets and also refer the Bible. They help me keep reading the Word.

— E. P.



 ICR also helped me to find a different point of view in many scientific matters. For instance, if you ask the question "is radiometric dating a proven and reliable technique?" the mainstream press and even tech books spread only one view (propaganda). No doubts, no examples are published which could cause the reader to doubt. When I began to believe, I found it very weird that God had created the world in 6 days but was playing with us by letting us believe that it took 4-5 billion years. Well the truth is that He does not play with us. It's a certain number of people calling themselves "scientists" that have this view and interpret the data only this way. I also thank ICR for having given me the opportunity to see the other view and understand that science is not contradicting the Bible.



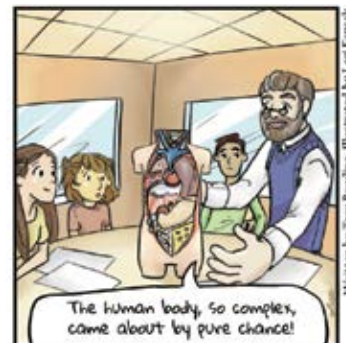
— L. U. C.

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A note from Dr. Guliuzza

Your suggestions and comments to help us find the best balance between research and *Acts & Facts* production have been extraordinary in both number and thoughtful advice. Hundreds of messages from every avenue have poured in, and we are reading and cataloging each one. Many of you have quoted Proverbs 15:22 (or a parallel verse) that says, "Without counsel, plans go awry, but in the multitude of counselors they are established." Your love for our ministry and concern that we are an effective force for Christ are abundantly evident! In addition to your counsel, it has been a joy to read sweet testimonies of how ICR has been a help to you and your ministry. For me, it was very encouraging to hear your assurance of continued faithful backing of our mission and kind words of trust and whole-hearted support for the direction of our ministry. So, on behalf of the ICR staff I thank you very much for your participation and, Lord willing, will let everyone know of some decisions next month.

COMPLEXITY



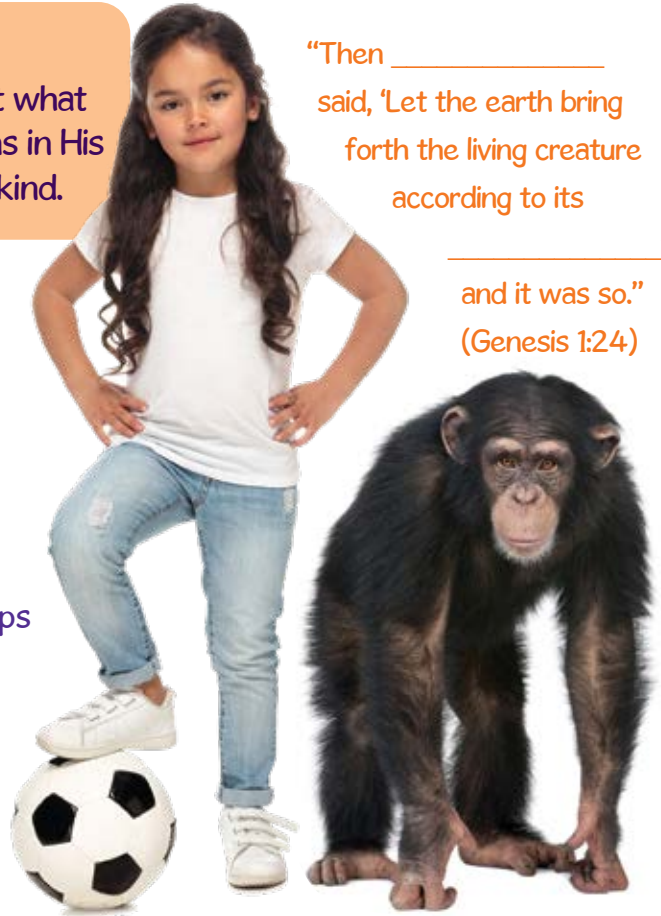
Written by Troy Bowling, Illustrated by Lett Emsaleh

Comparing Chimps and Humans

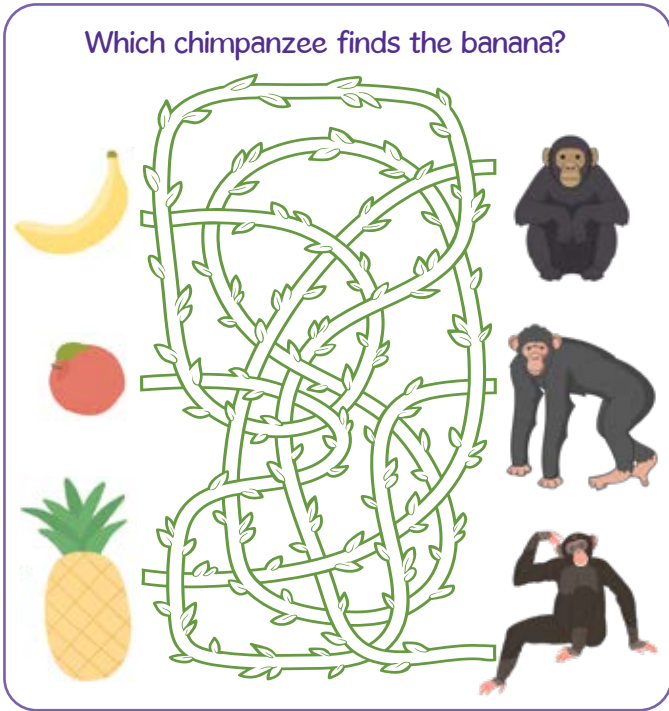
Have you ever heard someone say that people and chimpanzees are in the same family? Well, that's not what the Bible tells us. Genesis 1 says God created humans in His image. And He made each creature according to its kind.

"Then _____ said, 'Let the earth bring forth the living creature according to its _____,' ... and it was so."
(Genesis 1:24)

- ✓ Humans and chimpanzees have some similarities, like hands with five fingers on the ends of our arms and lungs inside our chests. Chimps can even waddle on two feet.
- ✓ Evolution scientists think this means humans and chimps are cousins. They say an ancient ape-like creature evolved into both humans and chimps through small changes over millions of years.
- ✓ But ICR scientist Dr. Jeff Tomkins found that chimps and humans are only 85% similar in their DNA. So even six million years would not be enough time for humans and chimps to evolve from the same ancestor.
- ✓ Chimps and humans share some traits because they were designed by the same Creator, the Lord Jesus Christ.



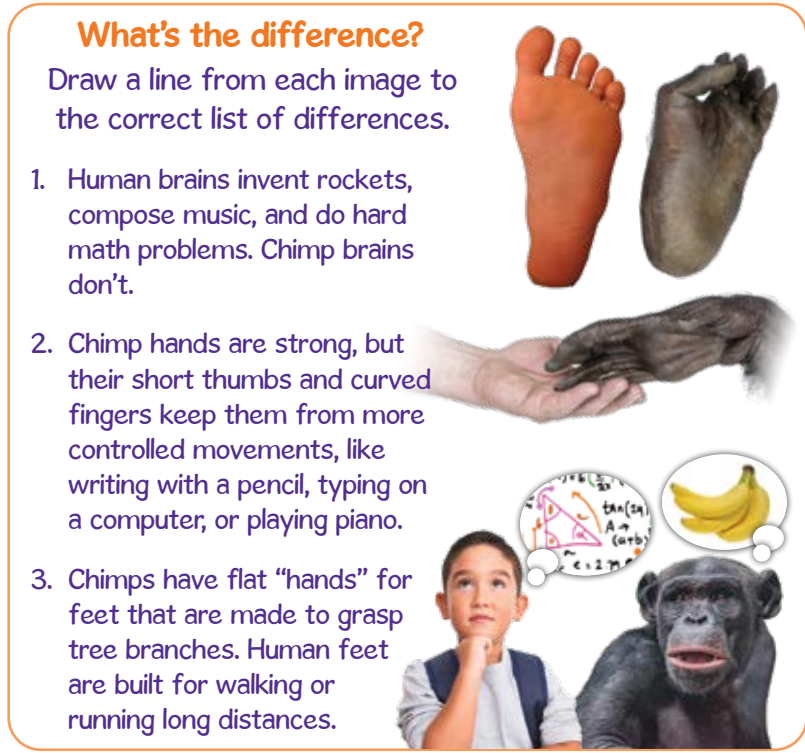
Which chimpanzee finds the banana?



What's the difference?

Draw a line from each image to the correct list of differences.

1. Human brains invent rockets, compose music, and do hard math problems. Chimp brains don't.
2. Chimp hands are strong, but their short thumbs and curved fingers keep them from more controlled movements, like writing with a pencil, typing on a computer, or playing piano.
3. Chimps have flat "hands" for feet that are made to grasp tree branches. Human feet are built for walking or running long distances.



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