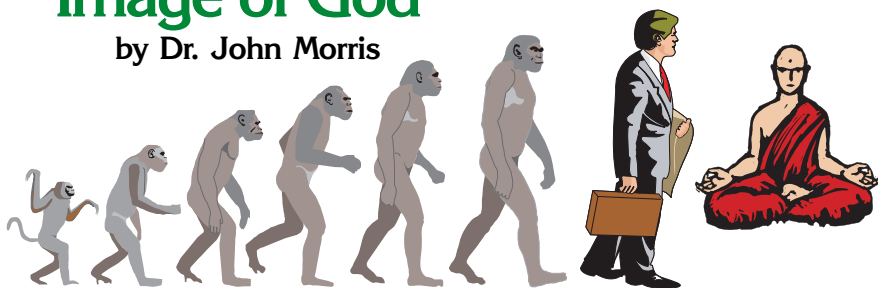


Evolution and the Image of God

by Dr. John Morris

Vol. 28 No. 4 April 1999



“So God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He him; male and female created He them.”

The Creator of mankind, Genesis 1:27

“If man and woman have ultimately come up from amoebas, then they are ultimately on their way to God.”

Ken Wilber, New Age Theoretician

Man in God’s image. What a precious teaching! What a sobering thought and somber responsibility. God has seen fit to endow mankind with qualities and characteristics which, in some way known fully only to Him, adequately reflect His image, and which totally distinguish man from any other created thing. The animals are amazingly well designed, but do not carry God’s image. The angels were created for specific and lofty purposes, but they are not in God’s image.

The highest angel ever created may have resented the special attention God showered on Adam and Eve. His pride led him to rebel against his Creator and resulted in his ejection from Heaven and banishment to Earth in a rage, along with a host of demonic henchmen.

His fury was left to focus on those “made in the image” of his more powerful Foe. His vicious hatred of God was transformed into a mocking of God’s creative handiwork by claiming that it all happened by natural processes, twisting His image into a sham. Recruiting Adam and Eve to rebellion was not enough. Under the guise of the lie that they could be gods themselves, he deceived them and their descendants into believing that they were evolving upward from the animals, not the fallen remnant of God’s image. In their thinking, they “changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things” (Romans 1:23). The enhanced knowledge gained by disregarding the Creator’s

authority would somehow lead them to higher planes of wisdom.

The rebellion's course progressed to the enigmatic "sons of God and daughters of men" episode (Genesis 6:4), which attempted to so distort the image that the promised redeeming seed of the woman (Genesis 3:15) could not come through it. The Creator interrupted Satan's plans but not his goal. The deceiver continues to deface God's image in man and block God's intention to have loving fellowship with mankind.

Today, Satan is launching another frontal attack against God and His image in the form of the New Age Movement. Like a multi-headed dragon, the rebellion takes many different forms, but all deny God as Creator, refuse His absolute authority, and sanction the defacing of His image.

Not content with merely keeping people from God, Satan delights in destroying even those who believe in his lie. He revels in broken marriages, starving children, an emphysema victim gasping for air, a cancer sufferer begging for morphine, or a teenager stealing money from the elderly to support a heroin addiction. Mutilating the image of God and causing it pain is his speciality.

In New Age literature, the Jehovah God of Scripture is maligned as a malicious judge, keeping enlightenment from His followers, and denying them sensual pleasures. To New Agers, God is identified as the Creation itself, specifically Mother Earth or Gaia, and we become one with God by gaining cosmic consciousness. They have "changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped . . . the creature more than the Creator" (Romans 1:25).

Created male/female distinctives are demeaned, and homosexual behavior is welcomed. Marriage and fidelity are considered optional. Child bearing is belittled, unborn and infant children, as well as the elderly, are expendable. Many of today's social ills can be directly traced to this aggressive war against God and His im-

age. Hug a tree or save a whale, as long as it is not the image of God.

Historians recognize that this agenda scarcely differs from that of ancient paganism. Gnostic thinking was similarly diffuse, but contained each of the above doctrines. The sun shines on nothing new. The father of lies may change the details, but his goals haven't changed. As he recruits followers for his ultimate rebellion against God, he delights in spoiling God's creation and God's image along the way.

The early church fathers met the challenge of Gnosticism by forcefully teaching Scripture, without compromising with evolutionary, pagan thought. As the battle confronts the modern church with nearly identical error, our weapons are the same. Our only hope of victory lies in the Creator's Word and worldview. May God grant us, each one, boldness to confront the usurper and his failed thinking. 🙏

ICR Announces Its 1999 Creation Fellow

For some time the ICR Graduate School has contemplated ways to encourage doctoral-level professionals to share in the ICR ministry. A Creation Fellow program has now been started that will invite prominent scientists, researchers, and writers to come to ICR for a time of special lectures, study, and research.



Acts & Facts
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The first such Fellow will be Dr. David Rosevear, who is the Chairman of the Creation Science Movement in Portsmouth, England. Dr. Rosevear was a research chemist at the University of Bristol and ICI Ltd. and has published many joint papers with two Fellows of the Royal Society. He has been Senior Lecturer at Portsmouth Polytechnic for 20 years. Dr. Rosevear has lectured all over the UK on scientific aspects of creation and written many articles, as well as a book on "Creation Science." He will be visiting ICR during the month of May. 🌱



Hybridization Studies

The definition of a species is a population of organisms that can interbreed and produce fertile offspring. In the wild, segments of a population may be separated by physical barriers or behavioral changes which can cause varieties no longer to interbreed. Taxonomists will then call the two separated populations different species, even though if circumstances changed they would still be able to interbreed. When and if circumstances change, naturally or artificially, the two separated species may begin to interbreed again.

While doing a literature review for her graduate thesis, recent ICR graduate, Wendy Billock, discovered many recorded hybridizations in captive primates. Her thesis was on the behavior in captivity of drills, *Mandrillus leucophaeus*. Drills belong to the same genus as the more colorful mandrills, *Mandrillus sphinx*, the latter being much more popular in zoos. It is not too surprising that drill/mandrill hybrids have been born in captivity, considering their morphologic and behavioral similarities. They have even been backcrossed successfully, which by definition would place them in the same species. Even more surprising is the number of

hybridizations that have taken place outside of the genus *Mandrillus*.

Assuming that mandrills and drills could be placed in the same species, another literature search was done to find all of the recorded hybridizations of primates with either *M. leucophaeus* or *M. sphinx*. Within the Cercopithecoidea family, seven separate species (from three different genera) have hybridized directly with either the drill or mandrill. Those three genera (*Macaca*, *Papio*, and *Cercocebus*) that have interbred with *Mandrillus* have also hybridized with another four genera. Altogether, this list includes 19 separate species including mangabegys, guenons, macaques, and baboons, that have hybridized with one or more species within the Cercopithecoidea family.



Creationists have long suspected that species classifications were artificial and that a higher ranking such as genus or family could be used to best represent the original created kinds. This study on primates (and a cursory study on other animals) tend to push the definition of "kind" to this level. In the case of baboons, at least, the created kind may have been a Cercopithecoidea type baboon from which these 19+ species have diversified. These 19 species could better be defined as varieties within a single interbreeding species, rather than 19 species and 7 genera within a single family.

With the current trend in maintaining as many separate "species" as possible, it is unlikely that any hybridization tests will be done between drills and mandrills. Unfortunately, this process of forced separation is endangering the animals. Perhaps this issue should be readdressed to determine if hybrid vigor could help keep the drills from becoming extinct in the next decade or two. 🌱



Radio Log

As the nation anticipates the May release of the first pre-quel to the *Star Wars* trilogy, *The Phantom Menace*, many are preparing to rush to the theaters. The release of the first of these movies two decades ago revolutionized the film industry and has had a profound effect on the way many think—even among professing Christians. Although these films may be fun adventure-fantasies, two of the subtle lessons they contain are based on evolutionary theory and lead to anti-Biblical New Age pantheism.

To commemorate the release of *The Phantom Menace*, the Institute for Creation Research is releasing its seventh annual radio special, *The Mystic Invasion*. This special broadcast will be released on CD in two stand-alone, 28-minute halves. It will air on local stations the same weekend as *The Phantom Menace* reaches theaters.

Episode 1: *The Phantom of Extraterrestrials* will discuss the popular idea of life in space and its roots in evolutionary theory. We will also look at the scientific evidence as well as the Biblical view of proposed extraterrestrial life.

Episode 2: *The Menace of the Force* takes a look at the underlying philosophies running through these movies. We will look at the “force” of *Star Wars* and compare it to the Biblical Creator. We will also discuss its origin. And, we will hear what lesson *Star Wars* has for Christians.

Look for these programs the weekend of May 22 on your local Christian radio station. Also, you can check out ICR’s web site (www.ICR.org) for more information and an audio preview of *The Mystic Invasion*.

This month on “Science, Scripture, & Salvation—A Creation Radio Journal”:

Weekend of:	Title/Topic
Apr 03	“The Creation and the Resurrection” This Easter we again celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Many do realize that it was the Creator who died on Calvary. But do we understand <i>why</i> ? Why did the Creator God have to be that sacrifice for our sin? We invite you to tune in as we discuss Christ the Creator’s death on the cross!
Apr 10	“Egyptian Writing” This past December, news headlines revealed a fascinating discovery. Five-thousand-year-old clay tablets discovered in the tomb of ancient Egyptian, King Scorpion, have been claimed to be the oldest known writing. Is this true? What is the significance to Christians? Tune in as we learn about this surprising new find.
Apr 17	“Urban Legends” Well-meaning Christians may use “wonderful” stories or testimonies to witness to unbelievers. Unfortunately, many times these stories are unsubstantiated and may even turn out to be false. This has serious consequences in a Christian’s credibility and can even invalidate the gospel to the listener. Join us as we take a look at some of the popular urban legends around today!
Apr 24	“Petrified Forests” The standard understanding of petrified forests (like the ones we see in Yellowstone National Park) is that they are successive fossil forests. Each forest representing a thousand or more years, multiplied by the many layers, gives long ages. This fits with the evolutionary story, but is there another explanation? Tune in this week to hear about research and different interpretations of these amazing geologic formations. 🌿



False or unsubstantiated rumors, once established, achieve a life of their own. One example is that life has been found on Mars.

Those who support the idea of Martian life do so mainly because of the Mars meteorite mania of August 1996. It was then that the world was stunned to hear that primitive life *may have* existed on the Red Planet. A meteorite (ALH 84001), thought to have originated on Mars and plucked from an Antarctic ice field in 1984, allegedly had possible signs of fossil bacteria. But the claim was bogus, recognized by many as a NASA ploy to drum up more interest in space research, which would shore up their sagging budget. A wealth of scientific articles have appeared since then refuting every claim made by NASA. Unfortunately, the news hasn't been passed on to the many who believed the original claim.



But even if they were signs of life, does this prove life on Mars? Consider the following recent quotes:

“Bacteria can infiltrate Antarctic rocks and become fossilized there. Even if researchers find an indisputable genuine fossil bacterium in ALH 84001, it may be hard to prove that it lived on Mars rather than on Earth.” (*Sky & Telescope*, April, 1999, pp. 56–57.)

Furthermore, if scientists were to find clear, unmistakable fossilized bacteria in a meteorite (or soil) from Mars in the future, it doesn't necessarily mean such bacteria evolved from non-life over millions of years. Applying uniformitarian assumptions, secular scientists conclude: “Just as the Mars meteorite . . . is thought to have been tainted by Earthly bacteria, samples from Mars, too, may not be what they seem . . . We think there's about 7 million tons of earth soil sitting on Mars,” says Kenneth Nealson, a microbiologist with NASA. “You have to consider the possibility that if we find life on Mars, it could have come from Earth.” (*Newsweek*, September 21, 1998, p. 12.)

Christians should keep three things in mind regarding this whole issue:

1. Life has *never* been found on the planet Mars. Doubts continue to grow regarding fossilized bacteria in the meteorite from Mars.
2. If some day life were to be found on Mars, there would be good reason to believe it may have come from Earth, possibly having been blasted there by asteroid impact during the Flood of Noah's day.
3. Given the amazing complexity of life, wherever life is found, it had to have been created by an intelligent Designer. 🌱

DATES NOW OPEN FOR FALL 1999

“BACK TO GENESIS” SEMINARS!

Will you prayerfully consider partnering with ICR and other local volunteers to bring an area-wide creation seminar to your community? Fall 1999 dates are now available for “Back to Genesis” seminars. **Call early to get your choice of dates.** If you are interested in pursuing this, we will send you a complimentary copy of our new “War of the Worldviews” video. To receive more information, please contact ICR's Director of Seminars, Mark Rasche, at 619-596-6043.



Meeting Highlights

Palmdale, California

The “Case for Creation” was presented to the First Baptist Church in both the morning worship services and adult Sunday school classes by Dr. Duane Gish on January 17 (Rev. Don Furrow, pastor).

Azusa, California

Dr. Duane Gish spoke to students and professors of Azusa Pacific University Science Department Thursday morning, February 11. The meeting was arranged by Mark Armitage who earned a masters degree at the Institute for Creation Research Graduate School and is a professor in the physical therapy department at Azusa.

Ventura, California

Dr. Duane Gish spoke at the monthly meeting of the Creation Science Association of Ventura County Saturday evening, February 20. The meeting had been arranged by Linda Mueller. On Sunday morning he spoke to the adult Sunday school class of Pleasant Valley Baptist Church (Rev. James Hormeling, pastor). The meeting had been arranged by George Huisken. ☞☞



ICR Meetings

“BACK TO GENESIS”

Apr 16-17 Rapid City, SD (J.Morris/Gish)
The Ramkota Hotel, 2211 No. LaCrosse Street (I-90, Ex. 59). 605-342-0019 or 605-343-0722.

Apr 23-24 Chicago (Lake Zurich), IL
(J.Morris/D. Phillips) Quentin Rd. Bible Baptist Church, 60 Quentin Rd., Lake Zurich. 800-784-7223.

“CASE FOR CREATION”

Apr 26-30 Arlington, TX (H.Morris)
Arlington Baptist College.
Creation Bible Conference.

817-461-8741.

Apr 30 West Bridgewater, MA
(J.Morris/Sherwin) New England Baptist Church, 560 N. Main St., 508-584-5188.

May 1 Golden Valley (Minneapolis area) MN (Gish/Sherwin)
Golden Valley Lutheran Church, 100 Turners Crossroad So. Contact 612-519-0918.

GOOD SCIENCE WORKSHOPS

(For K-6; Adults [AD]; & High School [HS])

Apr 17 Peoria, IL (D’Armond) PACHE Home School Convention.

Apr 24 Highland, IN (D’Armond)
Lake County Home School Curriculum Fair.

Apr 25 Galesburg, IL (D’Armond)
Creation Seminar, Mark Howerter.

Apr 29-May 1 Muscle Shoals, AL (Willson; K-6, Mini HS, AD) First Baptist Church of Muscle Shoals. Contact 256-446-6515.

“GENESIS PRESENTATIONS”

Apr 20 La Mesa, CA (Sherwin) Journey Community Church, men’s ministry. 619-464-4544.

Apr 23-25 Mt. Gilead, CA (Gish) 1999 Western Region Evangelical Free Church Men’s Retreat. Contact Freddy Entriken, 707-263-7731.

Apr 25 Arlington, TX (H.Morris)
Pleasantview Baptist Church. 817-483-7100.

Apr 30-May 2 Cottage Grove, OR (Chittick)
Riverside Comm. Church, 541-942-7126. Southlane Christian Center, 541-942-0123.

May 1-2 Washington C.H., OH
(DeYoung) Grace Community Baptist Church. Contact Mark McFadden, 740-335-7466.

May 19-20 Winchester, VA (Gish) Debate. Mountainview Auditorium, Mountainview Church of Christ, Route 11 South. Contact Charles Doughty, 540-869-2250, ext. 100.

“CREATION PRESENTATIONS” TOURS

Apr 7-May 2 Bill Hoesch Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, Nevada. 619-596-6041.

May 10-30 M. Riddle Washington, Idaho, Montana. 619-596-6040. ☞☞

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live” (John 5:25).

“He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from Him; He was despised, and we esteemed Him not. Surely He hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed.”

“All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to His own way; and the LORD hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all.”

(Isaiah 53:3–6)

“Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labor for that which satisfieth not?” (Isaiah 55:1,2).

As those who were dead and have heard the voice of the Son of God, may we examine our lives this Easter to see whether, through God’s eyes, we are investing our time and resources in such a way that others will hear and live.

Tom Manning, ICR Stewardship and Trust Services, P.O. Box 2667, El Cajon, CA 92021. Phones: ICR, 619-448-0900, x6007; fax, 619-448-3469; office at home, 619-440-3218; E-mail icr_manning@hotmail.com.

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