

DRAGONS ON NOAH'S ARK SELF-CONTRADICTIONARY ATHEISM ANOTHER ICE AGE COMING?

# CREATION

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REACHING A GENERATION  
BORN CONNECTED

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Clementi Central PO Box 195  
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## Discovering the Deluge

Geology researcher saw evidence for the Genesis Flood—and it helped bring him to faith.

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One of the several species of vireos, which are hummingbirds of the genus *Colibri*.

See pp. 34–37

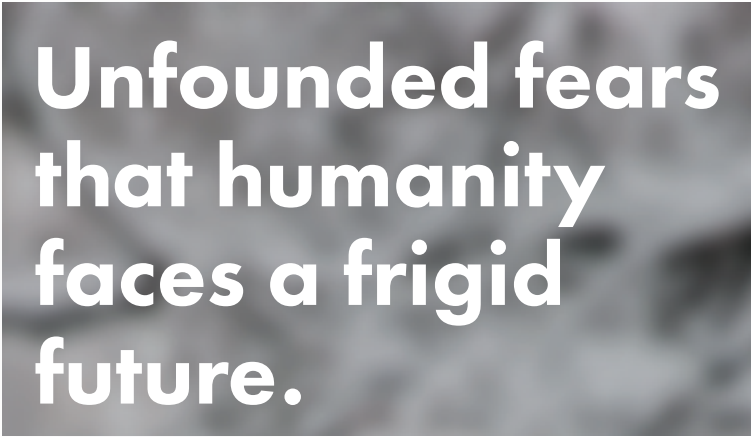
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Unfounded fears  
that humanity  
faces a frigid  
future.



**COLD,  
HARD  
FACTS**

**50**



To survive, humans  
need everything  
that this earth and its  
surroundings alone  
can give.



**THE  
ONLY  
PLACE  
TO BE ...**



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Dmytrii Minishev/123RF



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**Chief Executive Officer**  
Dr Don Batten

**Editors**  
Dr Don Batten, Lita Cosner,  
Dr Jonathan Sarfati, Dr Tasman Walker

**Graphic Designers**  
Joshua Daymond  
Tim Kneipp  
Tim Newcombe  
Caleb Salisbury

**Production Coordinator**  
Margaret Wieland

**Consulting, research and/or subediting**  
Gary Bates  
Russell Grigg  
Gordon Howard  
Andrew Lamb  
Barbara Madigan  
Michael Eggleton

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# FEEDBACK

Letters may be edited for clarity and brevity. If emailing letters (to: [Editors@creation.info](mailto:Editors@creation.info)) please include street address and phone number.

## FOUNDATIONAL TO SALVATION

"Causeless capitulation on creation" 38(4) is a great article. Yes, any deviance from the creation story is a detriment to the Gospel. To understand God's plan it is absolutely key to understand that: 1. Adam was created perfect; 2. Adam brought sin into the world when he purposefully ate the forbidden fruit, and 3. The Seed of the woman would crush the head of the snake and the snake would bruise His heel—the first mention of the Gospel right there in the first book of the Bible. These three truths are foundational to God's plan to deliver man.

Eddie C., *United States*

## SO MUCH FOR BIRDBRAINS

I have just read "Birdsong isn't for 'birdbrains'" (38(4)) with great interest and enjoyment. I have been trying to train a flock of galahs to use a feeder downstairs instead of on our upstairs verandah, where they have called for attention upward of 10 years. Everything was set up nicely and, when they came, I ran down-stairs. They watched me place the seed and eventually a couple came down and ate. Then they 'snubbed' me for a couple of days. This process was repeated several times.

Last Saturday they landed on the verandah, strutted the rails, and called me as usual, but refused to come down to eat. They know where the seed is. They can easily get to it. But I get the distinct impression that they are trying to train me as much as I am them! So much for silly birdbrains!

Joy E. *Australia*

Image source—©lfeonwhite/depositphotos

## STRUGGLED A LONG TIME

I was converted back in 1989, and for a long time I struggled with creation and evolution, trying to fit what scientists taught into the Bible. In all of that time, I did not grow as a Christian but lived in fear and doubt. What was incredible to me was once I began believing the Bible because it was God's Word, the doubts and fears stopped and I began to grow and change. I had the assurance that God is Sovereign and all things are in His hands, and all I have to do is put my trust in the Lord (Proverbs 3:5–7).

Malcolm T., *United Kingdom*

## KEEP DOING IT

Keep doing what you are doing. I love reading the information in your articles. You all are doing a great job of supporting people who believe in God and His word—the Bible!

Amy W., *United States of America*

## WHAT AN INSPIRATION

More and more, I'm finding that appreciating God's ability to speak life into existence strengthens rather than weakens my confidence in Him. We have an awesome Creator! What an inspiration creation is when we apply it at the spiritual level—God's power to create true life in our own hearts, so we can live righteously and overcome sin and error.

Gina T., *New Zealand*

## FACTS AT FINGERTIPS

I am so excited that I just had to write to you.

After reading *Creation* magazine (38(4)) cover to cover yesterday, I had a phone call from a relative.

As we talked, he stated that humans and apes have 98% similarity in their DNA. I was able to explain that wasn't true, because I had just read your article about "Human-ape similarities". I then told him how the bone originally thought to form part of the skeleton of the 'ape-woman' Lucy has been found to belong to a baboon (another article in the mag).

Then, he talked about life on other planets, and I told him there has not been any sign of life from anywhere despite over 50 years of scanning the universe (according to your article "The Fermi Paradox"). I asked him if he knew how the universe came into being. He didn't, so I told him that God made the universe. (Boy, was I on a roll!)

He then asked why innocent little children get cancer. I explained that we live in a fallen world and when the Lord comes again everything will be restored to how it was before the Fall.

So, I want to thank you for your valuable work. It is great to have facts at my fingertips.

Margaret B., *Australia*

## GIVEN GREAT CONFIDENCE

I have been receiving your magazine for several years now and wanted to thank you all for your hard work. Every issue, I get excited like a kid receiving his superhero comic, anticipating your up-to-date scientific discoveries that point to the hand of our great and awesome God. The understanding that it provides has given me great confidence when sharing the Gospel with others. In the face of the usual arguments thrown up I feel like an expert when discussing and challenging the knowledge that people 'really' have in what they think they believe in, such as Darwin, evolution, the Big Bang, etc. Let alone the abundant, undeniable evidence of a wonderful super-intelligent and holy Creator, who is beyond anyone's imagination, and yet cares about every hair on our head. Amazing.

Martin R., *Australia*



A few people commented on the article about Noah's Ark cartoons in 38(4).

### WHO WERE THESE PEOPLE?

Figure 7 of "The Cartoonification of Noah's Ark" (38(4)) shows about 50 people working on it. Who were these people who were destined to perish in the Flood?

Anthony B., France

*The article discusses the shape of the Ark, not the number of people who built it. Although the Bible is silent on how many were engaged in its construction, it's quite possible Noah used hired hands. People will frequently take paid employment even if they disagree with the beliefs of their employers.*

### SERIOUSLY?

Most older Bible translations retain Hebrew weights and measures without even footnotes to explain them. Thus even adults—including book illustrators for children—may have no idea of how long a cubit is. You are right when you say that publishers no longer seem to take seriously the details of some Bible stories—especially this one!

Seathrun Mac E., Ireland

### FACT LIKE FICTION

Very good article. I am an artist, and illustrate Christian topics and stories for children. They are mostly in the comic, or 'graphic novel' style, but I strive to keep them semi-realistic. I too am appalled at the silly, cuddly art in Christian children's books—not just of Noah's ark, but of the prophets and Jesus Himself! When you see the realism and detail put into a lot of secular folk myths and war history for children, it makes me think of the quote: "You Christians preach your fact like fiction, while atheists preach their fiction like fact."

Jeremy S., United Kingdom

### NO MENTION OF SCULPTURING ENDS

In the past, the Ark has frequently been depicted as a boat. However, although the dimensions of the Ark are clearly laid out in the Bible there is no mention of sculpting a 'front' or 'rear'. I guess the artist's impression has come to the fore! Note the Ark was never referred to in terms like raft, boat or ship.

Graeme M., Australia



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Home



**Ric Bond:** In pursuit of plant power  
[creation.com/plantpower](http://creation.com/plantpower)

Fantastic article! Could the oxygen in the earth's 'oldest rocks' have come from a source other than plants (photosynthesis)? Could it have come from these alleged meteorites? Recent research indicates that there was oxygen even in the 'oldest' rocks on earth, which evolutionists 'date' to 3.7 billion years old (Ga). This in turn suggests that there were green plants to produce it. However, evolutionists claim that the earth was being bombarded by meteorites till about 3.8 Ga.



**Creation Ministries:** The biblical Creation/Flood history explains the data. Oxygen was present from the beginning when plants were present on Day 3 of Creation Week. It was not produced by the plants (or by meteorites) but created for animals. The 'oldest rocks' they are talking about were most likely deposited very early in Noah's Flood, about 4,500 years ago.



**Shelby Goertzen:** Can you be a Gay Christian?  
[creation.com/gay-christian](http://creation.com/gay-christian)

This was very well written. They nailed how Christians are supposed to be welcoming but not supportive of the sin. And they were bang on about us all falling short of the glory of God.



**Mike Rommel:** Bye-bye big bang?  
[creation.com/v/v4YMU385q68](http://creation.com/v/v4YMU385q68)

I love the big bang theory. It is the easiest ever to rip apart. Has any scientist at any time ever seen order produced from an explosion? Blow up an Apple factory and get a bunch of Iphone 5's from that? I don't think so.



**Uriah Vigil:** Genetic Entropy: Expanded and updated 4th edition  
[creation.com/s/10-3-513](http://creation.com/s/10-3-513)

I read this book and found the subject matter mesmerizing. I don't see how this field of study can be overlooked. Simply falsifies the evolutionary paradigm with plenty of hard data and easy-to-understand information. This book alone put the nail in the coffin, exposing Darwinism as an absolute lie.



**Chris Stradling:** The Genesis Account  
[creation.com/s/10-2-606](http://creation.com/s/10-2-606)

A tremendous book! One of its many values is the vast number of references to other creation-science books, magazine articles (most available online), and other internet resources. The book acts as a central hub linking the nodes of the creationist 'library' together ... and plenty of relevant non-creationist writings are referenced besides.



**John Pelton:** Could monkeys type the 23rd Psalm?  
[creation.com/v/\\_89aN2kR1xl](http://creation.com/v/_89aN2kR1xl)

Excellent example and explanation as to just how impossible this idea is.



**Christian Jaeschke:** Untold Secrets of Planet Earth: Dire Dragons  
[creation.com/s/10-2-581](http://creation.com/s/10-2-581)

The only downside is that the book's not long enough! :)

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# THE IMPORTANCE OF THE AGE OF THINGS



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**T**HE LAST stumbling block against my total belief in the Bible's Genesis account was the age of things. Indeed, initially I found it rather incredible that the creation might be thousands of years in age rather than billions; it's quite a difference!

In the history of ideas, it was the biblical timeframe that skeptics challenged first, beginning in the late 1700s. They began with dismissing the Bible's historical record and then went looking for 'evidence' for their view. But it was not really evidence; it was in fact their skewed *interpretation* of the rocks and fossils. However, they were cleverly persuasive and sadly, many Christian leaders capitulated, abandoning the long-accepted biblical age, which is ascertained from Genesis 5 and 11. In this long-age view, fossils were being laid down long before man appeared, and so the death and suffering they display could not have been the result of man's Fall.

This then made the Bible's origins account into 'once upon a time'; a myth, or a quaint story with some theological lessons. Today, some theologians are saying that their view of Genesis can accommodate *any* 'scientific' view of

origins. In other words, in their view Genesis says absolutely *nothing* about real events in time and space.

If that is the case, *if you think about it*, everything goes:

- Since God 'created' a world of death and suffering (over billions of years), He cannot be 'good'.
- The Gospel is null and void because the New Testament links the reason for Jesus' death and resurrection to Adam's sin and the origin of death in Genesis (1 Corinthians 15:21–22).
- Jesus erred in believing in Adam and Eve (Mark 10:6) and the global Flood of Noah (Luke 17:25–27).

Other parts of the New Testament that refer to Genesis as recording real events are also wrong, such as the Apostle Peter in 2 Peter 3, where he spoke of Creation and the Flood, or Paul in 2 Corinthians 11:3 about Satan deceiving Eve.

Furthermore, long ages undermine the doctrine of the end times (eschatology): why would there need to be a new heavens and earth if this one is as God 'created' it (if the Fall is 'just a story' that had no effect on corrupting the created order, as per Romans 8:19–22)?

Such inconsistencies undermine our

ability to understand any of the Bible (hermeneutics).

We often get people wanting us to downplay the age argument; they are happy for us to be 'anti-evolution' and pro-design, but our stand on the biblical age embarrasses them. However, real age means real Genesis history means real events, and a real need for the Gospel. It also means that the Bible is God's reliable Word that will never fail—from the beginning to the end of time.

In this issue of *Creation* magazine, we show why biological evolution does not stack up (pp. 34–37, 38–41) and we have wonderful examples of design (pp. 12–13, 24–26, 30–33), but we also have articles dealing with the real age of the creation (p. 53) and the real history of the world: the Flood (pp. 42–45, 46–49, 54–55) and post-Flood Ice Age (pp. 50–52). Appreciating the reality of the world-wide Flood of Noah helped me enormously in jettisoning the myth of the old earth, because it explains how the fossil-bearing rocks formed in the period *after* Adam and Eve.

I hope you enjoy and also share this issue! ■



### EYEING OFF CENTURIES-OLD SHARKS

In the 1950s, the testing of nuclear bombs created a ‘pulse’ of carbon-14 that we can test in living things. This has allowed scientists to determine that Greenland sharks (*Somniosus microcephalus*) are the world’s longest-lived vertebrates.

Researchers established that the shark has a very slow annual growth rate of about 1 cm ( $\frac{1}{8}$  inch), which translates to a lifespan of around 400 years. Other known long-lived creatures include the chowder clam (500 years), bowhead whale (200) and Galápagos tortoise (170).

Bible skeptics scoff at the idea that humans such as Methuselah (969 years, Genesis 5:27) once lived for centuries and say that would be ‘biologically impossible’. Ignoring death by accident or disease, different living things seem to be genetically programmed to live for different average periods. Such ‘programmed longevity’ in animals can be drastically affected by breeding experiments.

For humans, it may be that the population bottleneck after Noah’s Flood (only eight people survived) contributed to the dramatic decline in post-Flood lifespans. There is also considerable evidence that the relentless accumulation of many mutations in each human generation also played a part, as renowned geneticist Dr John Sanford explains in his book *Genetic Entropy* ([creation.com/s/10-3-513](http://creation.com/s/10-3-513)).

Pennisi, E., Greenland shark may live 400 years, smashing longevity record, [sciencemag.org](http://sciencemag.org), August 2016.

Nielsen, J., *et al.*, Eye lens radiocarbon reveals centuries of longevity in the Greenland shark (*Somniosus microcephalus*), *Science* 353(6300):702–704, August 2016 | doi: 10.1126/science.aaf1703.

### PILTDOWN MAN HOAX CONFIRMED—AGAIN



*Science* magazine reported on definitive proof that Charles Dawson—the man who ‘found’ the skull of Piltdown Man in Sussex, England, in 1912—perpetrated the hoax.

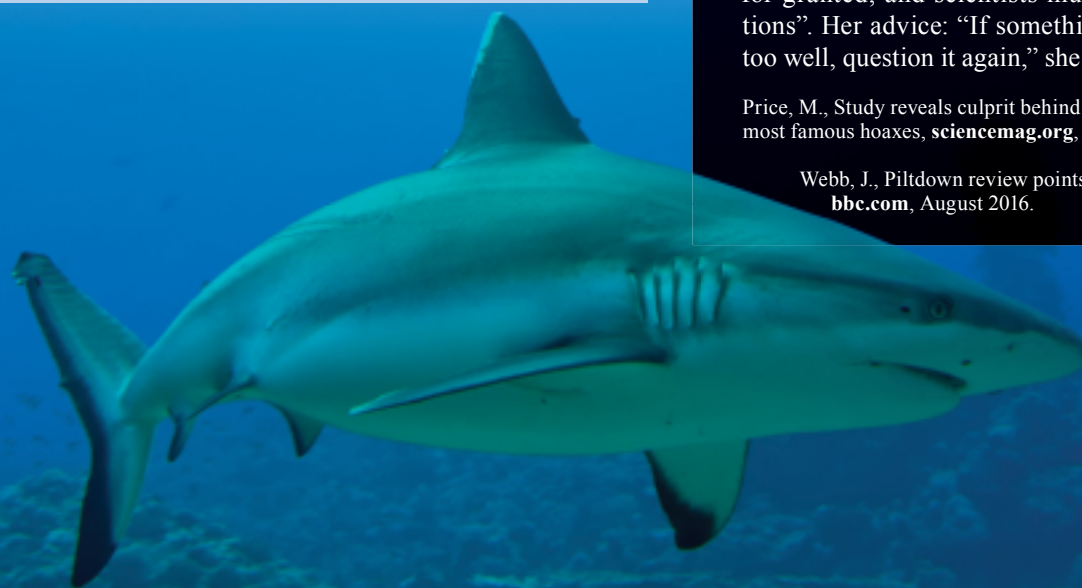
Dawson’s ‘find’ of humanlike skull fragments with a jaw and two apelike teeth was first exposed as a hoax in 1953 when it was shown that the skull was from a modern human and that the jawbone and teeth were from an orangutan. The teeth had been filed down to make them look human. The bones and teeth had been chemically treated and painted to make them look ancient.

More recently, a team studying the Piltdown skull applied modern scanning technology, DNA analysis and CT scans and concluded that Dawson was solely responsible for the fraud.

Isabelle De Groote, who was part of the team, said her sleuthing made her conclude, “no evidence should be taken for granted, and scientists must beware their preconceptions”. Her advice: “If something fits a hypothesis maybe too well, question it again,” she said.

Price, M., Study reveals culprit behind Piltdown Man, one of science’s most famous hoaxes, [sciencemag.org](http://sciencemag.org), August 2016.

Webb, J., Piltdown review points decisive finger at forger Dawson, [bbc.com](http://bbc.com), August 2016.





## CHINESE FLOOD IS NOT NOAH'S FLOOD

Chinese geologists say a major landslide about 4,000 years ago blocked the Yellow River at Jishi Gorge—about 1,600 km (1,000 miles) from Beijing—eventually causing an enormous flood. Some have incorrectly linked this to Noah's Flood, but for one thing, it would have occurred several centuries afterwards.

The geologists say an earthquake caused a natural dam about 200 m (650 ft) high behind which a massive body of water built up. Within months, that 'dam' collapsed and sent downstream a torrent of water, mud and debris; some of which filled earthquake fissures hundreds of kilometres away.

The event may connect to historical texts which tell of an Emperor Yu who devised a system to control a great flood. A geomorphologist who reviewed the research paper, said it was "too intriguing to ignore" the cultural connection to the scientific evidence of the earthquake and flood events. He said: "A telling aspect of the story—that it took Yu and his followers decades to control the floodwaters—makes sense in light of geological evidence that Wu *et al.* present." For more, see Tas Walker's article [creation.com/jishi](http://creation.com/jishi).

While this event in China happened after Noah's Flood, there are at least 500 'legends' of a worldwide deluge that *do* match that biblical catastrophe. These show remarkable



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similarities with multiple details of Noah's Flood in the Bible. For more, see [creation.com/many-flood-legends](http://creation.com/many-flood-legends).

Webb, J., Rocks tell story of China's great flood, [bbc.com](http://bbc.com), August 2016.

Wu, Q. *et al.*, Outburst flood at 1920 BCE supports historicity of China's Great Flood and the Xia dynasty, *Science* 353(6299):579–582, August 2016 | [10.1126/science.aaf0842](https://doi.org/10.1126/science.aaf0842).

Hickey, H., Ancient Chinese flood is latest to match oral, geologic histories, [phys.org](http://phys.org), August 2016.

## DARK MATTER SEARCH COMES UP EMPTY

An online news site reported: "Scientists looking for invisible dark matter can't find any." Called the Large Underground Xenon (LUX) experiment, it's located in a hole 1.6 km (a mile) underground in an old gold mine. It involves a detector that consists of about a third of a ton of cooled liquid xenon in a tank festooned with light sensors, each capable of detecting a single photon. As with previous experiments over the past 40 years, no dark matter particles were detected.

So what are they planning? Build a bigger detector, but this time costing \$50 million and 70 times more sensitive. They believe the elusive stuff must exist, despite not a shred of experimental evidence for dark matter's existence.

The very survival of the big bang paradigm is at stake here; when observational data for the alleged expansion of the universe is compared with standard big bang theory, dark matter is needed as a fudge factor. This is not surprising, as the theory is based on a false foundation: that the universe is the product only of matter, energy and natural law, and that it has evolved to its current state over the past 13.8 billion years.

Though there may still be new particles yet to discover, the idea that dark matter comprises 80% of all the matter in our Galaxy, yet is invisible, sounds less and less like real physics.

Borenstein, S., Scientists looking for invisible dark matter can't find any, [phys.org](http://phys.org), July 2016.

Hartnett, J.G., Why is dark matter everywhere in the cosmos?, [creation.com/dark-matter-everywhere](http://creation.com/dark-matter-everywhere), March 2015.



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## GREENLAND'S CANYONS FROZEN IN TIME

Radar technology has revealed a landscape of rivers and canyons about 2,000 m (6,500 ft) below the ice of the fast-moving Jakobshavn Glacier in Greenland.

The researchers said it was water, rather than the glacier, that first impacted the landscape—including cutting canyons as big as the Grand Canyon. One remarked:

“The shape of the valleys was V-shaped [as is the Grand Canyon—ed.], rather than U-shaped; the flow network had a dendritic or tree-like structure ...”

The glacier is a remnant of the massive ice sheets that once covered huge areas of the world. This was during the Ice Age brought on by the conditions just after the Flood (see [creation.com/iceage](http://creation.com/iceage)). If the valleys found underneath it had been primarily carved by ice, they should have been U-shaped, as are some other landscapes resulting from the Ice Age.

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The type of terrain found under the Jakobshavn Glacier is characteristic of that formed when the waters of the global Flood receded off the continents, the ice coming later.

Ghose, T., Secret World of primeval rivers lies beneath Greenland Glacier, [livescience.com](http://livescience.com), July 2016.

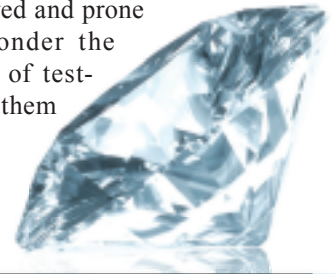
## TRUE GRIT! DIAMONDS AREN'T FOREVER

Tiny diamonds supposedly 4.3 billion years old and found inside zircon crystals from Jack Hills in Western Australia have turned out to be fragments of polishing grit.

The claim that the zircons contained diamonds was published in *Nature* in 2007 but, since then, researchers at the University of California, Riverside—who examined the specimens under a powerful transmission electron microscope—discovered sharp-cornered synthetic diamonds that had been introduced from a polishing compound.

This is yet another reminder that, because of the Fall, all humans are flawed and prone to making mistakes. No wonder the Bible encourages an attitude of testing claims before we embrace them (1 Thessalonians 5:21).

Oskin, B., Whoops! Earth's Oldest 'Diamonds' Actually Polishing Grit, [livescience.com](http://livescience.com), December 2013.



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## UNDERWATER CARCASSES STRIPPED IN DAYS

Researchers studying what happens when bodies decompose under water found that a pig carcass is reduced to a skeleton in just a few days.

The team chose deep, well-oxygenated water and placed two pig carcasses on a platform 300 m (1000 ft) down in the Strait of Georgia, Canada. One was covered in a barred cage and the other left exposed. A video camera followed the progress and various instruments recorded other variables such as temperature and salinity.

The team observed:

- The carcasses being swarmed by small shrimp-like creatures called lysianassid amphipods.
- Sharks feeding on the exposed carcass, but quickly losing interest after just a few bites.
- Spot shrimp eating all of the cartilage by the 10<sup>th</sup> day.

Science textbooks once taught, and showed diagrams too, of creatures dying, sinking to the ocean floor or river bottom, slowly decaying as vast periods of time go by, and the skeleton being gradually fossilized. That powerful imagery of a ‘slow and gradual process’ still remains with many people.

So this demonstration of rapid scavenging underscores the folly of that long-age thinking, which contradicts the Bible's timeline. These decomposition studies reinforce the fact that the Bible's history of the world is true and trustworthy. And from the account of the global Flood, we can understand how the many wonderfully preserved fossils were formed, such as a mother ichthyosaur in the moment of giving birth to her infant. For more, see: [creation.com/fossils](http://creation.com/fossils).

Macdonald, C., Watch what happens to a dead body at the bottom of the sea: Video reveals carcass reduced to a skeleton in just four days, [dailymail.com](http://dailymail.com), March 2016.

## BABIES GET JUST WHAT THEY NEED RIGHT FROM MOTHER'S MOUTH

Breastfeeding mothers who clean pacifiers (also known as dummies or binkies) that fall on the floor by popping them in their mouths first before giving it to baby—and also give lots of kisses—are promoting good health, studies show.

Referring to Swedish research, one report noted:

“Picking up a dropped pacifier and sucking it clean may help infants to be better germ fighters. The practice not only protects babies from the nasty microbes on the floor, but passes on good bugs that can lower the risk of allergies...”

A website promoting health tips said:

“When you kiss your newborn, you take in the pathogens that might be thriving on your baby’s skin. The pathogens reach your secondary lymphoid organs such as tonsils where memory B cells which are specific for those pathogens are re-stimulated. A breastfeeding mother would use those B cells to produce antibodies against those pathogens which are then passed on to the baby to fight the pathogens on its body.

Indeed, kissing is quite a sweet way to boost your baby’s immune system.”

Our incredibly well designed immune system, which reflects the love of God even in a fallen world, is extremely difficult for evolutionists to explain.

Rochman, B., Mom’s saliva can strengthen babies’ immune systems, [healthland.time.com](http://healthland.time.com), May 2013.  
Three Ways Your Baby Benefits When Kissed, [ngalive.com](http://ngalive.com), March 2016.



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## POLAR SEA CREATURES ‘WIPED OUT’ ALONG WITH DINOSAURS

Researchers from the University of Leeds and the British Antarctic Survey recently finished a study of about 6,000 marine fossils from the Antarctic from the Upper Cretaceous Period, that is, the alleged dinosaur extinction time. They conclude that there was a dramatic 70% reduction in the number of Antarctic species at the same time.

The research is seen as important in evolutionary terms because it is the first study to suggest that a mass extinction event just as rapid and severe as elsewhere took place in the polar regions.

Lead author, Ph.D. student James Witts noted: “Our research essentially shows that one day everything was fine—the Antarctic had a thriving and diverse marine community—and the next, it wasn’t. Clearly, a very sudden and catastrophic event had occurred on Earth.”

In line with evolutionary thought, the after-effects of a huge asteroid impact in Mexico (the one that allegedly ‘killed the dinosaurs’) were invoked as the cause, despite the fact that the poles were long thought to be too far away to be affected. Indeed, there are fatal problems with the whole impact-extinction concept. (For more, see: [creation.com/dino-asteroid](http://creation.com/dino-asteroid).)

The secularists interpret the fossils as slow-and-gradual evolution over hundreds of millions of years. And they are surprised when they continually encounter evidence for “sudden and catastrophic events” and mass extinctions from one day to the next.

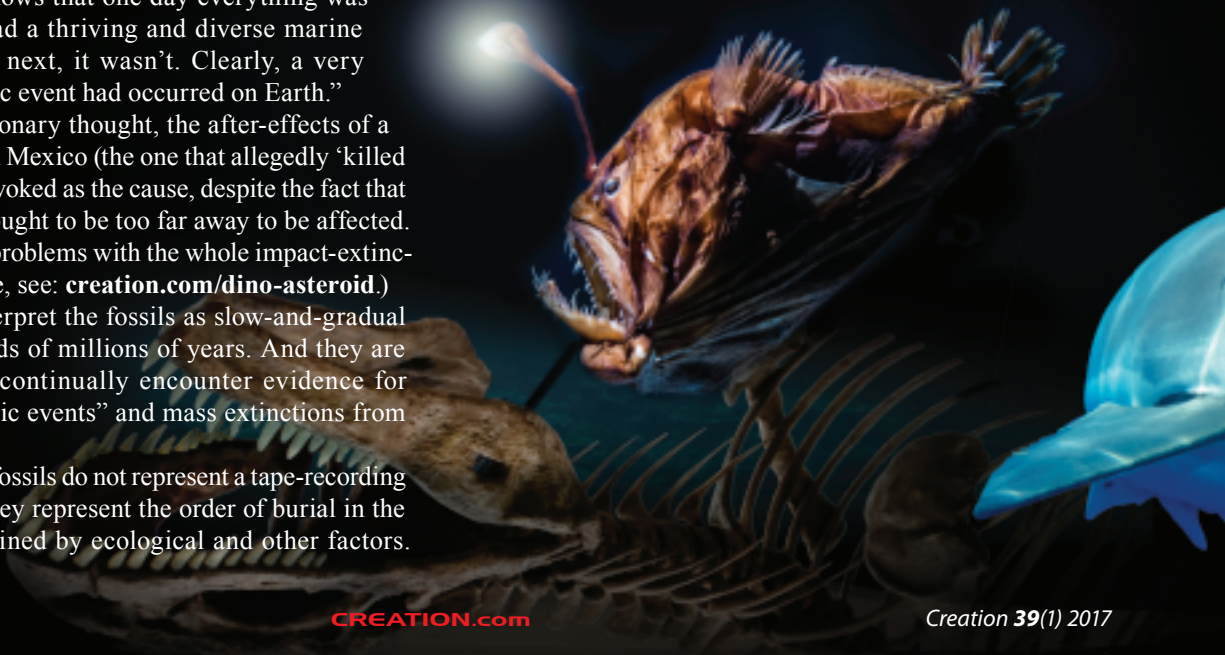
That is because the fossils do not represent a tape-recording of vast ages. Rather, they represent the order of burial in the Genesis Flood determined by ecological and other factors.

The evidence, viewed without the constraints of long-age ‘glasses’, is straightforward:

- Huge numbers of species found as fossils are now extinct.
- Massive extinction is not confined to fossils living in certain types of geographical areas, e.g. polar or non-polar.

Such non-discriminatory, worldwide mass extinction of species is what we would expect given the *global* catastrophe in Genesis; Noah’s Flood.

Antarctic fossils reveal creatures weren’t safer in the south, [leeds.ac.uk](http://leeds.ac.uk), May 2016.



© 123rf.com/superjoseph



## THERE'S A VEGETARIAN BEAR IN THERE

By examining the amino acids in the collagen of bear bones found in Belgium, researchers say the extinct animals were entirely herbivorous.

The team investigating *Ursus spelaeus*—or cave bear—said they were the extinct ancestors of European brown bears.

One of the team observed:

“As a large bear approaching grizzly bear size and bigger, it’s a little surprising that they’re coming out entirely herbivorous.”

All animals were once vegetarian (Genesis 1:30; also see [creation.com/carnivory](http://creation.com/carnivory)), and we should not be surprised when traditionally carnivorous animals turn out to be able to survive on, or even prefer, a vegetarian diet. We’ve often featured living examples of animals such as lions, cats, and dogs that prefer a meatless diet (For example, see [creation.com/spag](http://creation.com/spag)).

Furgala, G., Study finds that massive, prehistoric bears may have gone extinct because they were vegan, [nationalpost.com](http://nationalpost.com), August 2016.



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## SIMULATING REALITY

Are we just a computer simulation? Just living in ‘the Matrix’? Recently, ‘high-profile’ physicists and philosophers gathered to debate “whether we are real or virtual”. But if we’re not real, how did anyone gather, much less discuss whether or not we are real? Or maybe we’re just simulating being real ... The universe, for some of these researchers, looks just *too* mathematical to be real. But why can’t that be a sign of a universe designed on a mathematical plan? That suggests God, not some unknown alien computer operator in a completely unknown and unknowable ‘actual reality’ is behind it all!

Moskowitz, C., Are We Living in a Computer Simulation? [scientificamerican.com](http://scientificamerican.com), April 2016.

## SEAWEED SURPRISE

A shark attack is terrifying, and stimulates questions by both Bible-believers and skeptics. Why would a loving God have created a creature with ‘knives’ for teeth?

The history in Genesis is integral for Christians in giving a good answer. In the initial very good creation all creatures ate plants (Genesis 1:29–31). Death and bloodshed only came into the world after the Fall. Interestingly, a *Discovery Channel* ‘Shark Week’ video shows a Great White Shark choosing kelp over tuna and squid bait! Eating kelp requires sharp teeth. Even in a broken world we find remnants of God’s ‘good’ creation.

See [creation.com/bad-things-in-creation](http://creation.com/bad-things-in-creation) for more information.

Kelp With Dinner, [discovery.com](http://discovery.com)

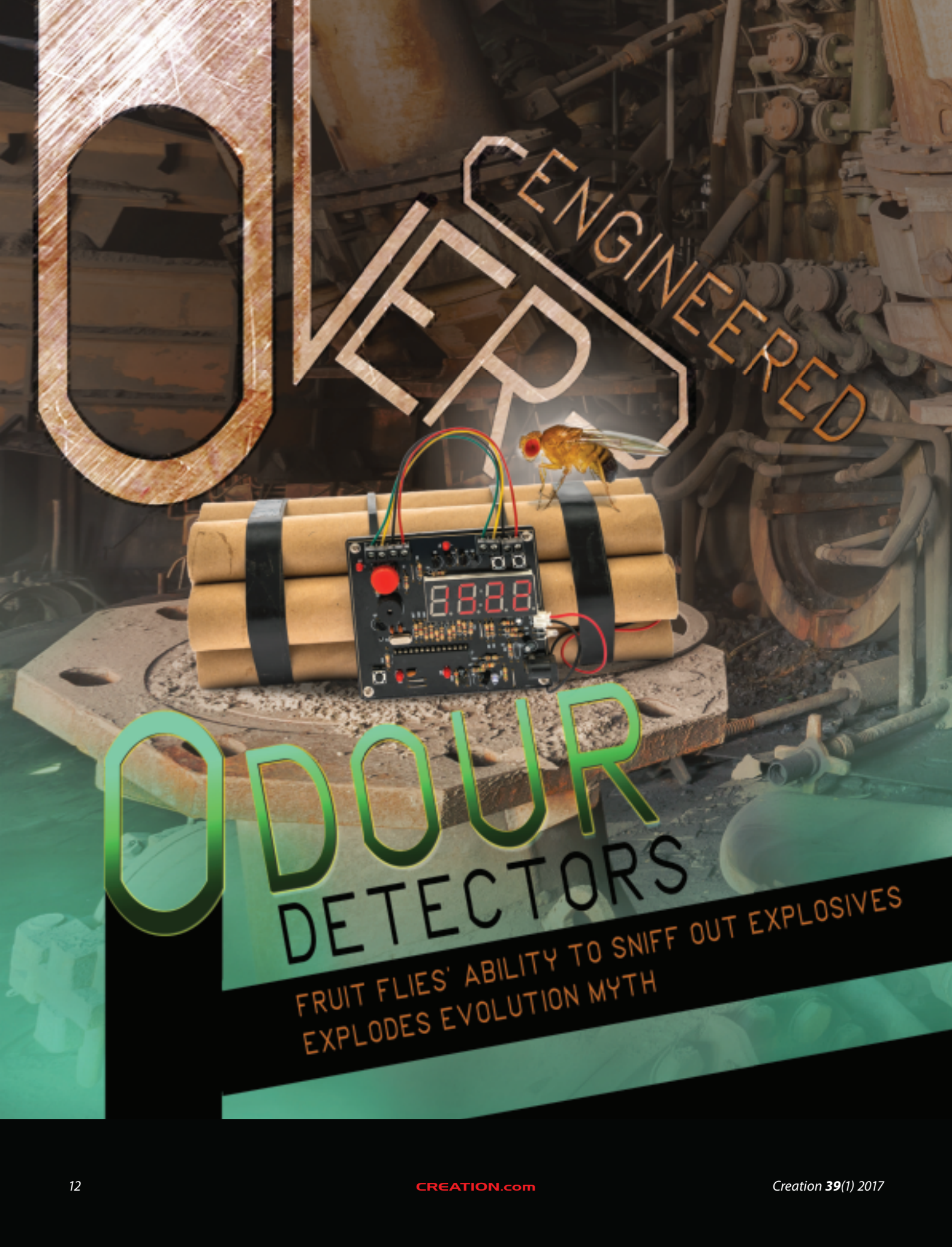


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## WebWatch

Type the words in **bold** into the search box on:  
**CREATION.com**

- Refuting **flat earth** misinformation.
- Pastor **Andy Stanley** versus the Bible.
- Can evolution produce **rational** minds?
- **Four dimensional** human genome.
- **Olympic** Gold-winning bike design.
- **Hypostatic** Union: Jesus is God and Man.





**O**VER-ENGINEERING in nature is a problem for evolution. There are numerous examples already known of this—creatures which have been ‘over-equipped’ for environments they have never faced or which don’t exist naturally anywhere on Earth.

For example, tardigrades<sup>1</sup> can survive being subjected to extreme laboratory treatments (radiation, cold temperature, hydrostatic pressure) far more severe than any Earth environment. As an evolutionist observed, “With such an arsenal of adaptations for survival, tardigrades appear to be over-engineered.”<sup>2</sup>

Similarly, the bacterium *Deinococcus radiodurans* can survive 12 million rads of gamma radiation, whereas natural radiation on Earth is nowhere more than a small fraction of that. “It is certainly a mystery how this trait has developed and why it persists,” said one evolutionary biologist, dismissing desperate suggestions from fellow evolutionists that it arose elsewhere in the solar system.<sup>3</sup>

The problem for defenders of evolution, according to their own theory, is that an organism will possess only the attributes it needs to survive. That’s all that natural selection can select for! So when organisms are discovered to have *supra-optimal* design, it bewilders evolutionists.

The latest example is the fruit fly, *Drosophila melanogaster*—specifically, the ability of its odour receptors to detect unfamiliar chemicals in drugs and explosives. The evolutionary researchers who discovered this wrote, “*Drosophila* receptors appear surprisingly capable of distinguishing chemicals that they have not evolved to process.”<sup>4</sup>

Furthermore, lead researcher Professor Thomas Nowotny of the UK’s University of Sussex said that, again

“contrary to our expectation”, unfamiliar odours “were not only recognised but broadly recognised with the same accuracy as odours more relevant to a fly’s behaviour.”<sup>5</sup>

This accuracy is particularly attractive to the research engineers, who aim to build robots capable of mimicking<sup>6</sup> the odour receptors of creatures such as these fruit flies, and sniffer dogs<sup>7</sup> (currently used in policing of drugs and explosives):

The long-term goal of this research direction is to ‘re-create’ animals’ noses for technical applications.<sup>8</sup>

Notice: “recreate”. That word implicitly points to the originals having been themselves created—anathema to the evolutionary fraternity, which is perhaps why the word was in ‘scare quotes’. And also note that the research engineers’ recreated versions of the fruit fly’s or dogs’ sniffing apparatus will fall way short of the masterful engineering evident in God’s originals. Professor Nowotny explained:

“But it would be quite difficult to recreate the entire nose; even adopting all sensors would be too difficult. One may be able to do five or maybe 10, out of 43 in the fruit fly or hundreds in the dog. So the question is, which 10 should we use and would it work? In this paper we show that it could work with as little as 10 fruit fly receptors and we identify the most likely candidates to use.”<sup>5</sup>

Indeed, if just ten receptors are sufficient, why would you bother over-engineering with more? Perhaps one reason God over-engineered His

creations was so that “we would never forget” just how all-powerful our omniscient, eternal Creator really is. ■

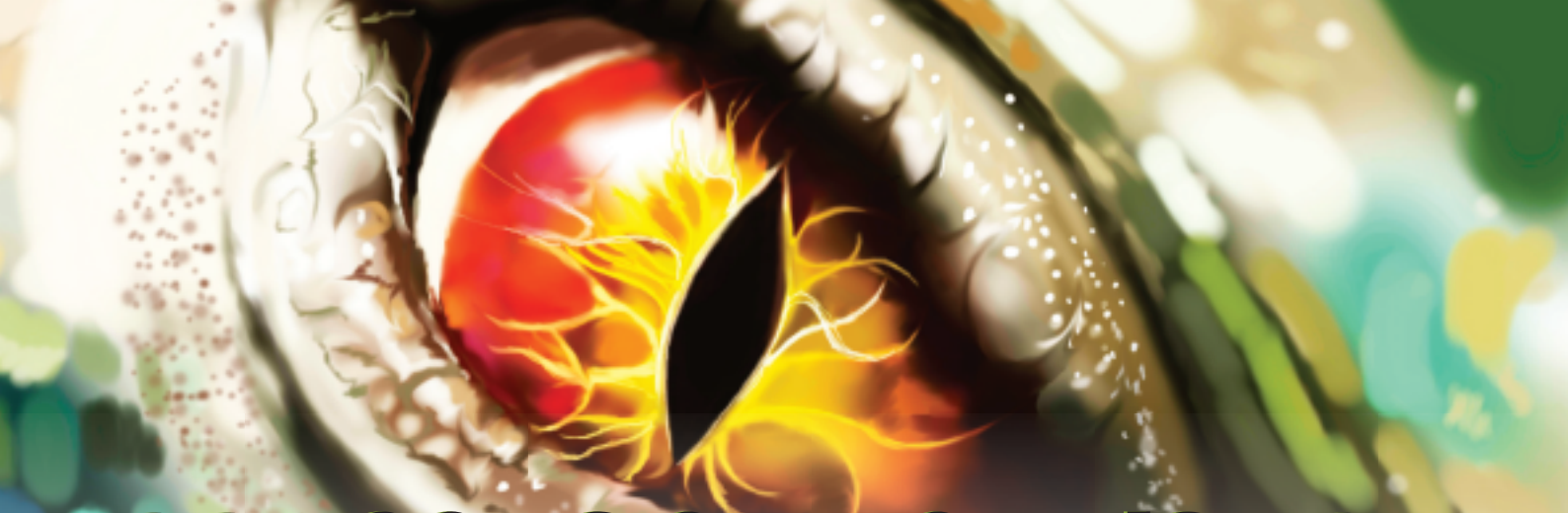
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3. Clark, S., Tough Earth bug may be from Mars, [newscientist.com](http://newscientist.com), 25 September 2002.
4. Nowotny, T., and four others, *Drosophila* olfactory receptors as classifiers for volatiles from disparate real world applications, *Bioinspiration and Biomimetics* 9:046007, 2014 | doi:10.1088/1748-3182/9/4/046007.
5. Hakner, J., How the fruit fly could help us sniff out drugs and bombs, [sussex.ac.uk](http://sussex.ac.uk), 21 October 2014.
6. The design and construction of robots inspired by design in nature is a rapidly-expanding discipline known as biomimetics. See e.g. [creation.com/biomimetics](http://creation.com/biomimetics) and [creation.com/burgess](http://creation.com/burgess).
7. For our earlier articles about sniffer dogs and olfactory detection, see [creation.com/sniff1](http://creation.com/sniff1), [creation.com/sniff2](http://creation.com/sniff2), [creation.com/smell](http://creation.com/smell).
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**DAVID CATCHPOOLE,**  
**B.Ag.Sc.(Hons.), Ph.D.**

*After working as a plant physiologist and science educator, Dr Catchpoole worked for many years as a scientist/speaker for Creation Ministries International (Australia). He continues to write for CMI. For more: [creation.com/catchpoole](http://creation.com/catchpoole).*





# DRAGONS ON NOAH'S ARK

## THE TAPESTRIES OF SIGISMUND II AUGUSTUS

**Philip Robinson**

**A**DORNING THE walls of Krakow Castle, Poland, is a magnificent display of royal tapestries from the 16th century. Sometimes called the 'Jagiellonian tapestries', most were amassed by Sigismund II Augustus (1520–1572), King of Poland and Grand Duke of Lithuania. Once a larger collection, the remaining 136 tapestries include 19 biblical scenes from the book of Genesis: The Story of the First Parents (seven pieces), The Story of Noah (eight pieces), and The Story of the Building of the Tower of Babel (four pieces).<sup>1</sup>

The first two sets are thought to have been ordered in the mid-1500s from Brussels and designed by Michiel Coxie (1499–1592), known as 'the Flemish Raphael'. They were revealed to the public in 1553 during the celebrations of Sigismund's marriage to his third wife, Catherine of Austria.<sup>2</sup> These beautiful and intricate tapestries, some measuring up to 45 m<sup>2</sup> (450 sq. ft), are an impressive sight.

Within the eight pieces telling the story of the Flood are two tapestries showing the animals going onto and coming off Noah's Ark. Many of them are easily recognizable as good depictions of their living counterparts today: lions, camels, cows,<sup>3</sup> and various types of birds. But there are also animals that look distinctly like dragons.

### Consistency with the biblical text

Why would the tapestries' designer have included dragons going onto Noah's Ark? The Latin inscription woven into the top of the tapestry reads: "Noah and all his family as well as all kinds of animals are entering the Ark, while the godless deride him. Gen. 7." The designer is drawing on the Bible, especially Genesis 7. This chapter three times describes in detail that *all* the kinds of land animals and "every winged creature" (v. 14) "in which there was the breath of life" (v. 15) were to enter Noah's Ark—then did so—before the global Flood began.

At the time of designing the Flood tapestries, numerous natural history books all referred to the very real existence of dragons (which we would now call dinosaurs and the like—see box). As a modern-day secular book states: "The evidence [for dragons] is not confined to works of natural history and literature but appears in everyday chronicles of events . . . . And such eyewitness accounts are not derived from hearsay or anonymous rumour; they were set down by people of some standing, by kings and knights, monks and archbishops, scholars and saints".<sup>4</sup>

So the artist, wanting to be wholly consistent with the biblical text, included dragons on his list of animals shown entering the Ark. He would not likely have been familiar with them personally, since at that time only a few of

these now-extinct animals would have still been in existence. He would have had to rely upon the materials available to him in the 1500s, whose depictions of dragons had by then been increasingly embellished over the centuries. This embellishment is reflected in the dragons on the tapestries of Sigismund II Augustus, but even these still have discernible dinosaurian features.

### Lessons for today

The tapestry reinforces the fact that the Bible gives us a framework for looking at the natural world around us. When it so unambiguously states that all the kinds of land animals and winged creatures went onto Noah's Ark, this categorically means dinosaurs went onto the Ark, too. And our representations of this episode in biblical history should not shy away from depicting this.

To do so is to capitulate to the secular view that the Bible's history is mythological, and that dinosaurs were already extinct before people appeared. In that view, dinosaurs/dragons, along with all the death and suffering their fossils portray, lived and became extinct long before people, contradicting the Bible's teaching of a once-perfect world ruined by human sin. So the question of whether or not to show dinosaurs and pterosaurs entering the Ark is not some minor issue, but involves the credibility of the Bible and the Gospel itself.





A portion of the tapestry: Animals embarking the Ark, Brussels, c. 1550 © Wawel Royal Castle, Cracow, Photo by Lukasz Schuster. See [creation.com/wawel-tapestry](http://creation.com/wawel-tapestry).



A portion of the tapestry: Disembarking from the Ark, Brussels, c. 1550, © Wawel Royal Castle, Cracow, Photo by Lukasz Schuster. See [creation.com/wawel-tapestry](http://creation.com/wawel-tapestry).

The Bible plainly says that *all* kinds of creatures, including dinosaurs and people, were created within six days, so there is no room for any ‘prehistory’. Including dinosaurs in pictures of animals entering the Ark starkly makes that point, and can be a great conversation-starter.

Conversely, having only ‘familiar’ animals entering it, like lions, giraffes and pelicans, tends to reinforce the idea that this is some sort of ‘Aesop’s fable’ story, invented by people who simply didn’t know about fossils.

In our time, we have more knowledge of the issues than did the tapestry artist, who was nonetheless doing his best to be faithful to the Bible. We should do no less. ■

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4. Hogarth, P. and Clery, V., *Dragons*, New York, Viking Press, pp. 13–14, 1979.

**PHILIP ROBINSON, B.Ed., M.Div.**

has been an associate speaker and writer for Creation Ministries International (UK) in a voluntary capacity since 2009. For more: [creation.com/phil-robinson](http://creation.com/phil-robinson).

## DRAGONS: THE DINOSAUR LINK

Dragons have been written about as real, living creatures, and depicted on many different items for the past few thousand years among people groups from every continent.<sup>1</sup>

While there is no doubt that some elements of these writings and depictions of dragons have had embellishments and mythological elements added, more so as time went on, such a consistent array of testimony over thousands of years testifies to the truth of their existence. This makes sense; the many similarities of dragon features to those of dinosaurs and other now-extinct reptiles known from the fossil record is not a coincidence. ‘Dragon’ was simply a colloquial term for them.

The fossils of these ‘dragons’ are not

millions of years old. They were entombed by the Flood, 1656 years after the creation of all things. Since their ‘rediscovery’ in the early 1800s, we now call them dinosaurs, or winged reptiles such as pterosaurs. As non-aquatic creatures, representatives of each of their kinds (presumably immature ones for the very large types) had to have boarded the Ark. This explains why they were written about as still-living animals for many centuries after the Flood.

One of the best books ever on this topic, with stunning photographic evidence, is *Dire Dragons* from the *Untold secrets of Planet Earth* series (available [creation.com/10-2-581](http://creation.com/10-2-581)).

1. Grigg, R., Dinosaurs and dragons: stamping on the legends, *Creation* 14(3):10–14. 1992; [creation.com/dinolegends](http://creation.com/dinolegends).





**K**IRK CAMERON is an American actor best known for his role as teen Mike Seaver in the US television sitcom *Growing Pains* (1985–1992), a role for which he won two People's Choice awards and was nominated for two Golden Globe awards. Kirk's acting career has included many subsequent TV roles and movies, including faith-based films such as the *Left Behind* series (2000–2005) and *Fireproof* (2008). To many, he is better known for his overt public stance on his Christian faith.

*Growing Pains* cast in 1985



# FROM ATHEIST TO CHRISTIAN

SCOTT GILLIS interviews actor, producer, and christian, **kirk cameron**.



I first met Kirk while flying to upstate New York for a CMI speaking tour. I offered my seat to a young man so that he could sit next to his brother, and later learned that the siblings were sons of Kirk Cameron, who was on the plane with his family. They had just finished a week in Georgia at *Camp Firefly*, a charity founded by Kirk and his wife, Chelsea, 20 years earlier, to provide a much-needed week-long fun-filled vacation for terminally and seriously ill children and their struggling families. I had the privilege of speaking to Kirk about his life and family, and what it's like to be the rare combination of a Hollywood celebrity and a Christian.

## THE ATHEIST

"I grew up in a family where we never went to church and God was not spoken of; He was never part of the conversation", Kirk said, adding, "Science was one of my favorite subjects. I loved cosmology, biology, anthropology." Like most people, Kirk was taught that evolution is an immutable scientific fact. "My science teacher had a very charismatic, dynamic personality. And he would laugh at the idea that there was some mystical voodoo power in the sky ... we were simply evolved and science knew how it all happened," Kirk said. "We were taught that there were people far more intelligent than we were, as 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade students, that understood these things, and God was just a fairytale—so that's what I believed."

Most young people want to be seen as rational, and this was no different for young Kirk. "I wanted to be counted among the intellectuals, and those who reasoned through things based on the evidence and facts." As is the case with the majority who are taught that evolution is the only rational scientific paradigm, any reasonable consideration of a divine Creator was logically excluded. Kirk quipped, "I believed God was part of a different trinity: the other two were Santa Claus and the Easter Bunny."

He had a few friends in school who believed in God, had some friendly debates with them, and went to church once or twice. Despite this, Kirk said, "I had some significant hurdles to overcome, and they were primarily rooted in my evolutionary atheistic beliefs. Like, we evolved, didn't we? Scientists have proven that."

So how would an upcoming celebrity and self-described atheist come to know Christ?

At 17 years old, Kirk found himself right in the middle of the phenomenal success of *Growing Pains*. He described one of the main reasons he didn't believe in God: "It was the appeal of doing what I wanted. I was a celebrity. I had money, insane popularity, nobody said, 'No' to me, it was always, 'Yes, sir.' So it didn't make sense to consider a higher authority over me."

But even though he rejected God, he still had questions. "I was crushed in the middle of a very adult world and asking a lot of adult-sized questions, like, 'What happens when you die?' 'What's the meaning of life?' 'Is it to make as much money and have as much fun as you can?' I was beating most people in those last two categories and yet I sensed there's got to be something more meaningful than all that."

## EXPOSED TO THE CREATOR

"God wasn't even a consideration, until I was in high school, when I met someone who took me to church." There, Kirk heard a message that was very new to him. The pastor told Kirk, "There are answers from the Bible. We didn't get here by some accident. You and I were not the unintended result of a process of time and chance that never had us in mind. In fact, we were created by an all-powerful, wise, loving, and just God; and our lives have purpose and meaning. In fact, there is a cosmic drama being played out between good and evil, and God wins."

That was a life-changing moment: "The chink in the armour was that there are a lot of really smart people who believed in God and who were Christians. I found out that creationists have intellect in spades on their side. That opened the door for me to the claim that there is a God."

Kirk began to really investigate Christianity, and as a consequence, soon after submitted his life to Christ.

For years now, Kirk has been well-known as an outspoken evangelist and apologist for the Christian faith. His experience as a former atheist helps him understand and relate to others who still do not believe. I asked Kirk what strategies he uses when sharing his faith with unbelievers who still believe evolution is an undisputed scientific fact. "Atheists will tell you that evolution really explains everything," Kirk said. He uses analogies to help

explain how we can tell there is a Designer. "When you look at a painting, how do you know there's a painter when you can't see him, touch him, feel him or speak to him? Paintings don't paint themselves. Those things usually register with most people."

I found out that creationists have intellect in spades on their side

## ADVICE WHEN CHALLENGED IN PUBLIC

Kirk is a celebrity who openly lives his Christian faith in the public eye, and this often results in public confrontations that turn into headlines. I asked Kirk what principles he uses to respond to these challenges in a biblical manner. “I tend to stick to the principle of speaking the truth in love. I fall back on sincerity all the time,” Kirk said. “Your personal testimony often speaks volumes. It’s my faith in the Word of God and the faithfulness of God that resulted in me being married to the same woman for 25 years, which is something like 250 in ‘Hollywood years,’ and living like we do with six kids, and being able to work on things that I’m passionate about.”

When asked what advice he might give believers on standing boldly for their faith when challenged in public, Kirk responded, “It’s very difficult to stand if you don’t have something solid that you are standing on. So I would say, first of all, be sure you are standing on the truth. That’s the only solid ground to argue from, when you know something is genuinely and sincerely true.” Kirk added, “The most meaningful purpose of apologetics is to strengthen the believer. If you are arguing based on your feelings or hopes and wishes, people are going to push you over. So get your own questions answered for yourself first.

“Second, make sure you have a life that backs up what you say. Don’t be a religious showoff or some sort of a hypocrite whose life speaks more loudly than your words and undermines everything you say. You’ll know a tree by its fruit.

“Third, don’t allow others to push you into a trap. Learn to discuss these things by honing the argument and directing the narrative yourself.” Kirk gave an example by adding, “When



someone says to me, ‘Kirk, when did you stop believing in reason and start believing in God?’ I will immediately say, ‘That’s the wrong question. What actually happened was that I blindly believed that nothing created everything, which is illogical. Then I started looking at the facts, and reasoned through them and came to the obvious conclusion that God made all of this.’”

## KNOW WHAT AND WHY YOU BELIEVE

“Being able to know what you believe and to know why you believe is critically important. And we need to have intellectual integrity, to know we are standing on solid ground.” However, Kirk was quick to add, “Not everybody needs to have all the answers at the tip of their fingers, but we must have a basis of understanding that there *are* answers. I often find them through ministries like yours.”

We must remember that there are so many who, like Kirk, need to be told about the ‘chinks in the armour’ of evolution, *and* the truth of the life-giving Gospel. Who around you needs to hear? Who around you might be like Kirk Cameron once was, needing someone to share the truth of the Bible with them? Perhaps we can take a page from Kirk’s life, and be ready to share the truth of Scripture, remembering the words of 1 Peter 3:15, which commands us to be “... prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.” ■

“ ... being married to the same woman for 25 years ... is something like 250 in ‘Hollywood years,’ ”

**SCOTT GILLIS, B.A. Oregon State U.**

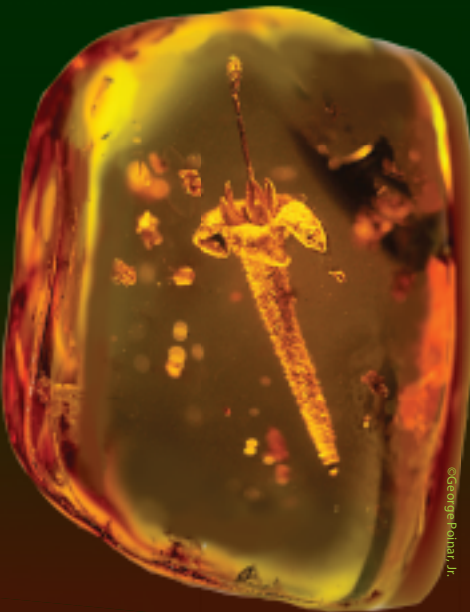
*Scott served in ministry for over 25 years as a youth pastor, teacher and a key leader in a church plant. He was the senior executive for a large construction firm before coming to work for CMI-US as the Chief Operations Officer. For more: [creation.com/gillis](http://creation.com/gillis).*



THE DISCOVERY OF TWO “remarkably complete” flowers beautifully preserved in amber has excited experts.<sup>1</sup> The amber (fossilized tree resin) from an amber mine in the Dominican Republic is said by evolutionists to be 15–45 million years old. Professor George Poinar (Oregon State University, USA), an entomologist who has spent almost 30 years researching the wealth of insects entombed in amber fossils, noticed flowers that might belong to *Strychnos*. Shrubs and trees in this genus, named by creationist Carl Linnaeus in 1753, contain the highly toxic alkaloid strychnine, often used in rat poisons.

“These flowers looked like they had just fallen from a tree,” said Professor Poinar.<sup>2</sup> He sent high resolution photos to Lena Struwe, Professor of Botany, Rutgers University, USA, an expert on *Strychnos*. After comparing them with museum collections of some 200 known species, she decided it was a new species, *Strychnos electri* (in Greek,

Additionally, what has been overlooked here is how the flowers could be in such good condition after the claimed 15 million (at least) years—so good in fact, that they could be identified not just as the genus *Strychnos*, as if fresh off the tree (!), but in such minute petal-hair detail as to allow meticulous microscopic comparisons at *species* level.



## POISON PLANT'S FLOWERS IN AMBER DEADLY TO EVOLUTION

amber is ἤλεκτρον, *ēlektron*). Their joint paper was recently published in *Nature Plants*.<sup>3</sup>

Professor Struwe believes they have “particular significance for our understanding of the evolution of plants in the Caribbean and the New World tropics.” However, the grounds for announcing a new species were such minute factors as the precise location and appearance of hairs on the petals—so her claim is overstated. Biblically, the many different species of this genus of flowering plants all likely descended from one created plant kind. Organisms were designed with the capacity to vary, but within limits. The observed diversity across *Strychnos* species is not evidence for the evolution of one kind of plant from another; rather it fits perfectly with creation biology.

### The bigger picture

When these amber fossils (pictured) are considered in tandem with the many others in the scientific literature showing equally exquisite preservation, a ‘big picture’ emerges that is absolutely ‘deadly’ to evolutionary chronology and long-age ideas of amber fossil formation.

For example, amber ‘dated’ at 320 million years has been found to have a molecular composition seen only in flowering plants (angiosperms). Yet these supposedly did not arise until 200 million years later!<sup>4</sup> And the organisms entombed in amber overwhelmingly show ‘evolutionary stasis’<sup>5</sup>—they are the same as their counterparts today.

What’s more, the vast extent of many amber deposits, and the types of organisms entombed, point to a

preservation event way beyond the resin-oozing-slowly-from-forest-trees scenario mooted by evolutionists. While insects predominate, lizards<sup>6</sup> and aquatic (even *marine*) creatures<sup>7</sup> have also been found in amber—as well as mammal hair<sup>8</sup> and, just recently, *bird wings*.<sup>9</sup> It all points to a catastrophic event of biblical proportions, with resin bleeding profusely from forestloads of smashed floating logs: the Flood of Noah’s day, only around 4,500 years ago.<sup>10</sup>

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### DAVID CATCHPOOLE, B.Ag.Sc.(Hons.), Ph.D.

After working as a plant physiologist and science educator, Dr Catchpoole worked for many years as a scientist/speaker for Creation Ministries International (Australia). He continues to write for CMI. For more: [creation.com/catchpoole](http://creation.com/catchpoole).

### PHILIP BELL, B.Sc.(Hons.), P.G.C.E., C.Biol. M.R.S.B.,

worked in cancer research, then as a school science teacher before entering creation ministry in 2001. He is CEO of Creation Ministries International (UK/Europe). For more: [creation.com/pbell](http://creation.com/pbell).



# BY FAITH UNDER

■ Lita Cosner

THE ‘HALL of faith’ in Hebrews 11 is one of the passages that Christians are most familiar with. It is inspiring to look at the recounting of the biblical heroes, and spurs us on to greater faith. But the first example of faith that the author recounts is one practised by *all* believers. Hebrews 11:3 tells us:

“By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.”

There is a lot of content packed in one small verse which is worth looking at in more detail.

## By faith

There are many truths in Scripture that we can only arrive at through

special revelation. Nothing in nature would cause someone to arrive at the doctrine of the Trinity; we believe it because it is clearly taught in Scripture.<sup>1</sup>

Likewise, nothing in nature would lead us to the absolute truth that God created in an orderly process over six 24-hour days. Our own human reason cannot lead us to this truth, either. We must believe it *by faith*. This does not mean that science has nothing to say about the matter, only that it cannot reach back to the first days of history and tell us what happened. Only an eyewitness can do that, and God was the only eyewitness to creation.

There is a great deal of scientific evidence *consistent with* six-day creation—but such evidence can never *prove* either creation or evolution, due to science’s built-in limitations. It is not even enough to have ‘an eyewitness’ when the truths one is proclaiming are so important for our lives that we are literally staking our eternal existence on their trustworthiness. It requires

an infallible, divinely-inspired record, which is what we believe the Bible is.

## We understand

But the faith to which we are called as Christians is not ‘blind faith’. There are good reasons to believe the Bible’s record, and we engage our minds as we think about this doctrine of creation. We apprehend what it teaches us about God, His nature, and our relationship to Him, as well as our relationship to the rest of nature. When we understand the doctrine of creation, we will apply it to all areas of our thinking. For instance, because human beings are created in the image of God, human life is sacred, so we will be pro-life and anti-slavery.

Because we are the stewards of creation, we will take reasonable steps to preserve the environment, without crossing the line into ‘geolatry’. We could multiply examples; in short, it will affect our thinking in every aspect of our life and worldview.





# THE WE STAND

It is also noteworthy that the ‘we’ in Hebrews 11:3 is talking about believers. This is a truth that is not accessible to people who are not in the right relationship with God, because they have rejected the revelation that would have taught it to them. The idea that faith is preliminary to right knowledge is not new to the author of Hebrews. Much earlier, Scripture stated that “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom” (Psalm 111:10; Proverbs 9:10). This means that “the fear of Yahweh is where we must begin, if we are to have any hope of gaining wisdom.”<sup>2</sup>

The only way we can understand the true history of the world is by *faith*; by trusting in the true God who has revealed Himself to us through Scripture.

## Creation through the Word of God

Because He is the Creator, God is the source of everything that exists. Unlike in pagan creation myths, however, God did not create the world as the outcome

of a war with other gods; He created the world *by His Word*. He spoke, and what He commanded to come into being, began to exist. Scripture uses God’s identity as Creator to contrast God, who created humanity, with false gods, who are created by humans.

The New Testament, of course, teaches us that Jesus is the Word of God incarnate (the *logos*, John 1:1).<sup>3</sup> Jesus claimed to be with the Father before creation, and He is the agent of that creation. In light of this fact, it is even more important that we believe what He says about creation, and Jesus Himself referenced God creating the world (Mark 13:19).<sup>4</sup>

## Visible out of invisible

If the creation was not made out of visible things, it had to be made from something not visible—the Word of God. And Scripture teaches that just as it was created by that Word, it continues to be dependent on the Word

for its continued existence: “For by him [Jesus] all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together” (Colossians 1:16–17).

## Examples of faith in the unseen

The author of Hebrews goes on in the rest of chapter 11 to recount examples of Scriptural heroes who had faith in the unseen. Noah had never seen a global Flood; yet he believed God and built an ark which saved him, his family, and the animals. Likewise, Christians today believe in Jesus, whom we have not seen, but we trust Him to save us from judgment. Abraham went out to a land that he had never seen. Yet the author of Hebrews says that Abraham was looking forward to

an even better country—the New Jerusalem (11:10, 16).

Materialist scientists pride themselves on only trusting what they can see and test in a lab. But they are either lying or deluded. They believe in things like the big bang, past climate scenarios, evolution and many other things, real or otherwise, they have not seen. Second, they are only personally capable of ‘doing science’ in their own field.

A biologist must *assume* that the chemists, physicists and other scientists on whose work his own research depends have done their own jobs correctly. And given that less than half of peer-reviewed published scientific research can be replicated,<sup>5</sup> it seems that many put far too much trust in ‘science’.

### Faith in an unbelieving culture

It can be difficult to ‘go against the current’ of the culture, which is thoroughly evolutionized. Creationists are considered so wrong in many areas as to be worthy of only mockery, not serious intellectual engagement. There is thus a real temptation for many Christians to compromise on God’s revealed Word so as to be accepted in an evolutionized world.

However, the Bible’s record reveals that God rewards those who trust His Word, *especially* against a hostile, disbelieving culture. This does not mean having blind faith, but rather trusting God’s promises based on what we know to be true of His nature. Christians trust Jesus with our eternal destiny based on the testimony of Scripture; shouldn’t we also trust the same book when it tells us

why we need to be saved in the first place? ■

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### LITA COSNER

Lita has a B.A. in Biblical Studies from Oklahoma Wesleyan University and an M.A. in New Testament from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. She is the full-time Information Officer for CMI-USA. For more: [creation.com/cosner](http://creation.com/cosner).

# HERE'S GOOD NEWS FOR THE WORLD

*Creation Ministries International seeks to give glory and honour to the triune God of the Bible as Creator, and to affirm the truth of the biblical record of the real origin and history of the world and mankind.*

Part of this real history is the bad news that the rebellion of the first man, Adam, against God’s command, brought death, suffering, and separation from God into this world. We see the results all around us. All of Adam’s descendants are sinful from conception (Psalm 51:5) and have themselves entered into this rebellion (sin). They therefore cannot live with a holy God, but are condemned to separation from God. The Bible says that “all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23) and that all are therefore subject to “everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power” (2 Thessalonians 1:9).

But the good news is that God has done something about it. “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).

Jesus Christ the Creator, God the Son, though totally sinless, took on human nature, so He could become our Redeemer. Then He suffered, on behalf of mankind, the penalty of mankind’s sin, which is death and separation from God. He did this to satisfy the righteous demands of the holiness and justice of God, His Father. Jesus was the perfect sacrifice; He died on a cross, but on the third day, He rose again, conquering death, so that all who truly believe in Him, repent (repentance = a change of mind) of their sin and trust in Him (rather than their own merit), are able to come back to God and live for eternity with their Creator.

Therefore: “He who believes on Him is not condemned, but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only-begotten Son of God” (John 3:18).

What a wonderful Saviour—and what a wonderful salvation in Christ our Creator!

If you want to know more of what the Bible says about how you can receive eternal life, please email, write or call the office near you ... see p.2.





# SELF-CONTRADICTORY ATHEISM

## WHY ANTITHEISTS ARE **FORCED** TO BELIEVE IN ANTISCIENCE

■ **Chris Smith**

**G**OOD SCIENCE shows that in this world, perpetual motion machines and ‘free energy’ machines are absolutely impossible. The first and second laws of thermodynamics dictate with absolute certainty that these machines are impossible,<sup>1</sup> and any claims of making or discovering such a machine are either mistaken or fraudulent. But upon reflection, this knowledge leads, if you are willing, to belief in our glorious Creator, God.

Perpetual motion machines and ‘free energy’ machines are imaginary machines that can either run forever without additional fuel, or they can produce more work, energy and/or fuel than they use.<sup>1</sup>

Now, the whole universe can be thought of as a kind of machine. It has moving parts, it contains fuel, it uses energy in stars and in the sun and in other ways, and it does a kind of work.<sup>2</sup> But, for people who don’t believe that a creator God exists, the universe is in fact—as will be shown—a ‘free energy’ perpetual motion machine. Why?

For atheists, the universe (defined as all the matter and energy that exists, which also covers any hypothesized ‘multiverse’<sup>3</sup>), *either*:

Came into being without any work or fuel or energy provided from any other source. I.e. it made all the work and fuel and energy there is. *Or*:

Is eternal. In which case it is by definition capable of running forever without any energy being added from the ‘outside’.

Most today would opt for option 1, as they are aware that the universe is heading towards the ‘heat death’ demanded by the Second Law of Thermodynamics, which inescapably means it had a beginning.<sup>3</sup>

But this obviously also demands that the energy arose ‘for free’, in contradiction to the First Law of Thermodynamics. So, either way, for atheists, the universe *must* be a ‘free energy’ perpetual motion machine, by unavoidable definition.

Thus the atheist hypothesis of a ‘Universe from Nothing’<sup>4</sup> is revealed to be no better than the futile imaginings of some misguided tinkerer, trying to harness ‘free energy’ or build a perpetual motion machine in his garage.

Make no mistake; it is bad science to believe in perpetual motion machines and ‘free energy’ machines. One atheist ‘copout’ is to postulate that the laws of science are themselves not fixed, evolved somehow, or are different in other parts of the alleged ‘multiverse’ mentioned earlier. It should be obvious that by abandoning the foundational axioms of observational science itself to support a preferred philosophy, proponents of such a rejoinder are abandoning the rationale for calling their view ‘scientific’ in the first place. If, however, you believe that God created the universe, you don’t have to irrationally believe in a universe that *must* be a perpetual motion machine. You can adhere to the very highest standards of observational and experimental science.

The sometime atheist response, that this requires believing in a God who is the ultimate perpetual machine, is an obvious mistake (apart from the slight of describing God as a machine). Machines consist of matter and energy, part of the

material world which God (who is spirit, and whose “kingdom is not of this world” (John 18:36) created. Science only dictates that perpetual motion machines are impossible in this material world, which is subject to the laws that God Himself put in place.

So the choice comes down to either having to believe in an entity that science says is impossible—the nonsensical, self-contradictory, unscientific atheistic notion of a universe that *must* be a ‘free energy’ perpetual motion machine, or believe in the eternal God who gave rise to the universe—all matter and energy—and instituted the laws by which it operates.

Hence reason, logic and science lead to belief in our wonderful, mighty, glorious Creator, God! ■

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### CHRIS SMITH

Ass. Dip. App. Sc., B. Ec.

is the penname of a writer with tertiary qualifications in building science and an economics degree earned at Sydney University. Chris has a background in the construction industry, and currently works in the financial markets.



# HOW IS NEIGHBO

**Mark Harwood**

**E**VERYONE LIKES to live in a good neighbourhood—one that is safe, protected, friendly and predictable. And it turns out that Earth's neighbourhood is very much like that.

Our planet is one of several which orbit the sun and, although it has long been realized that we occupy a special place in our solar system, it is becoming even more evident that the solar system and our place in it is anything but ordinary.<sup>1</sup>

In fact, our world continues to look like it has been especially made as a home for us. This feature has even been given a name—the 'anthropic principle'—and it confronts the atheist's view that the world originated from unguided evolutionary processes.

Some have attempted to avoid the obvious by saying that the universe looks like it was designed for us simply because we exist in it. Were it not so, they say, we wouldn't be here to observe it. But this has no explanatory power at all! If my doctors had saved me from a life-threatening disease and someone asked me how, it would be an inadequate explanation to say, "If I hadn't survived then I wouldn't be

here talking to you." Such philosophical dodges are often employed to sidestep the overwhelming evidence for creation.<sup>2</sup>

But our neighbourhood does indeed have all the hallmarks of having been designed just for us. Let's see just how good it really is.

### ***A safe place***

Our moon is unusual compared with other moons in the solar system. It is large enough and close enough to partially protect the earth from meteorites, comets and asteroids. Every crater on the moon's surface represents an object which might otherwise have impacted the earth.

The giant planets, Jupiter and Saturn, exert massive gravitational influence in the solar system and help to 'sweep' potentially dangerous objects, especially comets, from the solar system. In 1994, the comet Shoemaker-Levy collided

with Jupiter having first been ripped apart by the intensity of Jupiter's gravitational field as it was drawn into the giant planet. The presence of the gas giants greatly reduces the impact risk for us.

Our atmosphere is the final line of defence. Very few objects actually reach the surface of the planet as they are consumed by fierce heat generated by entry into the atmosphere. And another special feature of the earth, its powerful magnetic field, strongly protects the atmosphere from being lost, as seems to have happened on Mars.<sup>3</sup>





# GOOD OUR URHOOD!

## ***A friendly place***

The earth orbits the sun in what is called the circumstellar habitable zone, where liquid water, essential for life, can exist. Being in this zone is a necessary but not sufficient condition for the earth to have the abundance of water it enjoys. It is influenced by the stability of the host star; a significant variation in the star's output of energy will greatly narrow the habitable zone and may even eliminate it entirely.

According to the evolutionary story, the earth and solar system were not designed for life, and cannot be

considered special in that sense. That is why we are often told our sun is just an ordinary, somewhat boring, star. But it is anything but ordinary! First, it is exceptionally stable.<sup>4</sup> Although it does produce flares, these are far smaller than those of similar stars which have produced superflares 100 to 100-million times more energetic than the sun's, with associated high-energy particles that would be lethal to life on Earth. Also, the sun is in the top 10% by mass of stars in our neighbourhood of the Milky Way Galaxy,<sup>4</sup> providing a relatively high energy output especially suited for life on the earth. So it is by no means ordinary.

Furthermore, the sun is a lone star whereas many stars in the Milky Way Galaxy are either in binary systems, where a pair of stars orbit each other, or in orbiting groups of three or more. A planet orbiting a multi-star system could

experience wide temperature variations even if it were in a circular orbit. Even worse, such a planet would risk being tossed into a chaotic orbit making it even less conducive to life.

## ***Our extraordinary solar system***

In 2009, NASA launched the Kepler Space Telescope to “determine how common Earth-size and larger planets are in the habitable zone of Sun-like stars”.<sup>5</sup> They expected to find many Earth-like planets because, in the evolutionary worldview, they must be easy to form by natural processes.

Kepler uses very clever science to detect ‘extra-solar planets’ or ‘exoplanets’<sup>6</sup>—planets orbiting stars other than our Sun. Including other methods, as of September 2016, around 3,500 candidates have been confirmed as planets.<sup>7</sup> However, to date, the merest handful of Earth-sized planets inside the habitable zone of a Sun-like star have been claimed. In any case, many more factors than just the ability to support liquid water need to be present to sustain life. And of course it is impossible for life to arise unaided from lifeless chemicals, anywhere in the universe.<sup>8</sup>

This is an impenetrable barrier to any naturalistic explanation for origins.

But what do these planetary systems look like anyway? Many of the terrestrial (rocky) exoplanets discovered orbit much closer to their parent star than does the earth<sup>9</sup>. So they are likely to be tidally locked with one side of the planet always facing the star, the way our moon orbits the earth. But this would be hostile for life since one side would be very hot with the ‘sun’, fixed in the sky, shining relentlessly. The other side of the planet would be cold and frozen, in permanent darkness. Only along the thin line between ‘day’ and ‘night’, called the terminator, could the temperature possibly be conducive to sustaining life.

Perhaps the most stunning discovery is the large number of planetary systems which are extremely inhospitable neighbourhoods for life. Huge planets, much larger than Jupiter, have been found hurtling around their ‘suns’ in just a matter of days. In some cases, violent interactions are taking place such that the star is consuming the planet. But if these ‘hot Jupiters’, as they are called, are being rapidly consumed, they could not have been orbiting their stars for billions of years.

Interestingly, the standard view of solar system evolution, the nebular hypothesis, fails to explain such large planets so close to a star—because gas giants should form in the cold *outer* parts of the supposed gaseous nebula.

Some exoplanets have even been found to orbit their stars in the wrong direction,<sup>10</sup> opposite to what the nebular hypothesis predicts. In order to save this evolutionary hypothesis, these planets are usually explained by invoking an undetected third body which has supposedly perturbed their initial orbits and caused the planets to change into the opposite orbits.

But these just-so stories are not confirmed by observation. Such events, unlikely enough in themselves, must have occurred multiple times, making the explanation even less credible. Astronomer Ann Finkbeiner observed:

“The discovery of thousands of star systems wildly different from our own has demolished ideas about how planets form. Astronomers are searching for a whole new theory.”<sup>11</sup>

### ***We live in a wonderfully designed neighbourhood***

Our solar system with its combination of inner rocky planets and outer gas and ice giants stands unique. Astronomer Carl Sagan once said: “... we live in a routine planet of a humdrum star stuck away in an obscure corner ... on an unexceptional galaxy which is one of about 100 billion galaxies. ... That is the fundamental fact of the universe we inhabit, and it is very good for us to understand that.”

In contrast, ongoing exploration of the universe reveals that our planet is anything but routine, that our sun is certainly not humdrum, and our neighbourhood, the solar system, is beautifully suited as the home for mankind. To borrow from Sagan, “Those are the fundamental facts of the universe we inhabit, and it is very good indeed for us to understand that.” This matches exactly what the Bible says, that the earth was created to be inhabited (Isaiah 45:18). How good is our Creator, and how good is our created neighbourhood! ■

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#### **MARK HARWOOD B.Sc., B.E. (Hons), Ph.D.**

*Dr Harwood worked for 30 years in the aerospace industry and played a key role in the design of Australia’s national satellite system. He now works for CMI-Australia as a speaker and scientist. For more: [creation.com/harwood](http://creation.com/harwood).*





# Born Connected

## Reaching the iGeneration with Genesis

 **Thomas Fretwell**

**Y**OUNG PEOPLE today are part of a growing digital generation. They live in a world surrounded by smartphones, tablets, and computers. The iGeneration is here and they are born connected!

### Plugged in

A recent report indicates the iGeneration in the UK spends on average over 27 hours a week on the Internet—and over 50% of the average waking day (more than typical sleep time) on media or communication activity.<sup>1</sup>

In some ways, members of the current iGeneration are guinea pigs in one of the largest social experiments ever. The full effects are not yet known, but we are already seeing the rise of clinical diagnoses like ‘technology addiction’.

Almost every week, it seems, we read of the next big thing in the ‘tech revolution’, and wonder where it will end. But despite changing technology, human nature remains the same, and each generation needs to hear the Gospel. How can we identify the issues that impact the iGeneration in the online world they now inhabit?

As truly global citizens plugged into the world via technology, they are exposed to a constant barrage of opinions (and thus numerous evils) from around the globe.

To add to their confusion, marriage and gender, some of the most fundamental aspects of humanity, are included in this big social experiment. Is it any wonder that issues of identity, fear, loneliness, confusion, and frustration are so common amongst the iGeneration? This is the time for Christians to challenge their thinking and show them a “more excellent way”.<sup>2</sup>

### Genesis has the answers

Members of the iGeneration are searching for answers to the deeper questions of life. They are being let down by the answers they get from a cold, mechanistic naturalism which fails to satisfy their deep longings in their search for truth. They are told that their lives have no ultimate meaning or purpose, because they are simply the

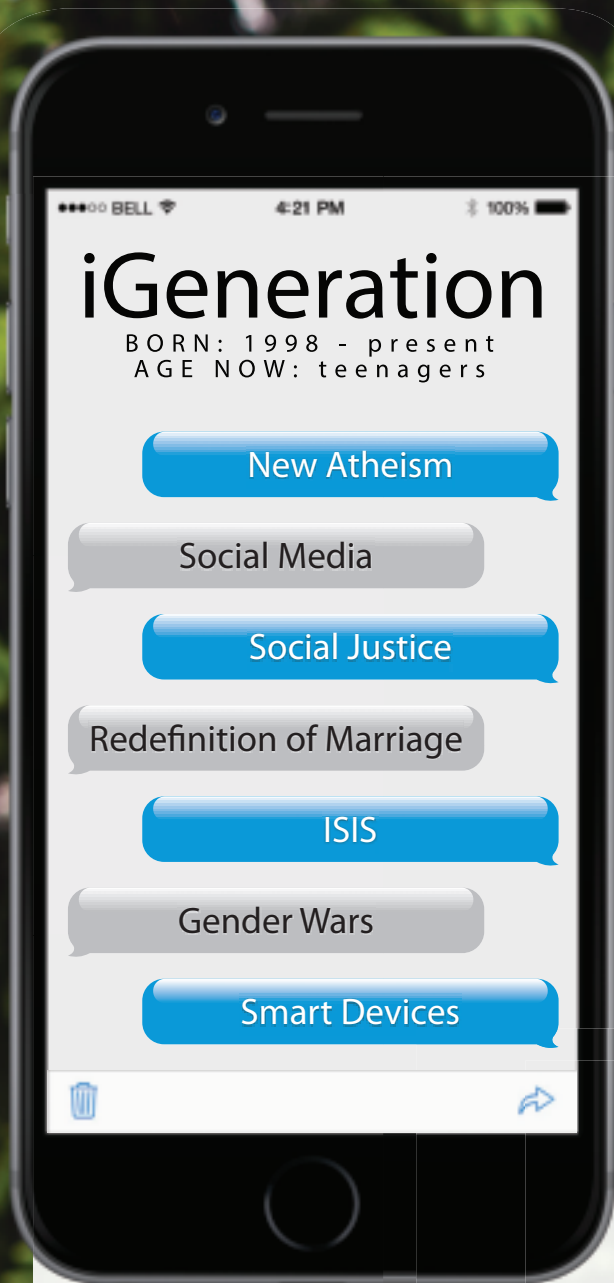
end result of unguided physical processes (evolution). So it is not surprising that they use social media as their main way to create an identity and a sense of individuality. With the ‘selfie’ proclaimed as the ‘new autograph’ this is only going to increase.

### Purpose

The church scrambles to seek new ways to be relevant to this young generation, but the irony is that we have had the answers all along—the book of Genesis has never been more relevant. The very first verse proclaims: “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”<sup>3</sup> This stands as a refutation to all naturalistic theories about existence.

Genesis, the seedbed and foundation of the Gospel, loudly proclaims that there is a purpose behind this universe. The message that a loving Creator God is the cause of all life is the antidote to a cold meaningless universe which offers no objective value to their lives. It answers life’s big WHY question: Why do we exist?

“Only in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ do we see the ultimate solution to the world’s problems.”



## Image

Genesis declares that all humans are made “in the image of God”.<sup>4</sup> So each individual human life is inherently valuable, invested with a dignity and worth that comes from the highest source imaginable; God Himself! This message stands in stark contrast to today’s evolutionary explanations for humanity. Evolutionary biologist Jerry Coyne blogs: “There is no special purpose to your life ... no more extrinsic purpose than a squirrel or an armadillo.”<sup>5</sup> The

teaching that humans are created in God’s image answers the big WHAT question: What does it mean to be human?

## Identity

As the West has jettisoned its biblical heritage, a huge cultural shift has occurred as this new naturalistic way of thinking has crept into its place. This has even impacted the way many view their own body. It is no longer seen as an essential or fixed part of our being, but rather a blank slate which can be labelled with whatever identity one chooses. Gender identity is ‘fluid’, considered as nothing more than a social construct.

If a person feels they are a man trapped inside a woman’s body (or vice versa), then hormones and/or surgery can be used to try and realign this confusion. As an example of this insanity, Facebook now offers account holders the choice of over 50 different gender options! We are witnessing the breakdown of one of the most fundamental

structures of God’s created order; the sexes. Genesis 1:27 says God created them “male and female”. Our gender is a scientific reality as well as a sacred gift from God—there are only rare tragic aberrations,<sup>6</sup> which are also explained through what happened in Genesis Chapter 3 (see below on the Fall). There is a complementary design inherent in the sexes which is to be celebrated and proclaimed as the remedy to the confusion that reigns over this subject. This helps answer the crucial WHO question: Who am I?

## Suffering

The mass media floods the iGeneration with reports of atrocities and injustices. Fearful about their future in this unsettling world, many cry out for justice and wonder why things are like this. Once again naturalism falls short. Unable to even account for moral categories and impulses, it offers no resolution for this sense of injustice.

Genesis has the answer here too, with its history of the Fall of man (Chapter 3). Adam and Eve disobeyed God’s command. Their rebellion against Him brought sin and Satan’s deceptive rule into this world, causing their fellowship with God to be broken and the created order to be cursed. This explains suffering—the world was never intended to be like this. It answers that huge IF question: If God exists, why is there so much suffering?





## Solution

Concerned by world events, the iGeneration wants to help! Social justice, government intervention, and economic redistribution are the offered solutions. But ultimately these do nothing about the root of the problem: man's fallen nature.

Genesis tells of the origin of sin and death at Satan's instigation, and God's solution with the promise of a coming Saviour, the 'Seed of the woman'<sup>7</sup> who

will ultimately destroy Satan. Only in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ do we see the ultimate solution to the world's problems. In His life, He showed us how to live, and He died to pay the penalty for our sins. In His Resurrection He defeated death once and for all, proving that He is the only one with the authority to promise that one day He will "wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning,

nor crying, nor pain anymore."<sup>8</sup> For all generations this is the greatest message of all!

### THOMAS FRETWELL, B.A., M.A.

*earned both of his degrees in theology from the University of Chester; and is a full-time associate tutor in theology and apologetics at Kings Evangelical Divinity School (UK). Thomas (Tommy) is also an associate speaker with Creation Ministries International (UK/Europe). For more, [creation.com/thomas-fretwell](http://creation.com/thomas-fretwell).*

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# Reaching the iGeneration with Creation

In a world where most people get their news via the Internet, and sometimes in just a 140 character 'tweet', it's hard to communicate Creation and provide full answers. But *Creation* magazine has been successful at doing this for over 35 years because it's stayed current with the trends without compromising the information content.

*Creation* magazine is available digitally on any Apple, Android or Internet-enabled device. None of the brilliant full-colour layout is lost and there are a host of other benefits such as searchability within the magazine.

When you subscribe to the print version, you can also get the digital version of the magazine—and the best news is that you can freely share it on up to 5 separate devices. What a great way to reach the younger generations!

See page 2 for details.



by Erin Hughes and Lita Cosner

Sabel and Wesley were busy putting the final touches on their robots for the science contest. “Mine is a pterosaur! It’ll win for sure!”

“No, *mine* will win!” Wesley said. “I spent forever making sure my plesiosaur robot has waterproof skin so it can really swim! Dad, who do you think has the best dinosaur?”

“Well, *neither* of you!” He laughed at their puzzled expressions. “Pterosaurs and plesiosaurs weren’t dinosaurs. They were different groups of reptiles.”

## What is the difference between these creatures?

*Dinosaurs* are a group of extinct land reptiles, which means they would have been created on Day 6 along

with man. *Pterosaurs* were flying reptiles, and *plesiosaurs* were one type of swimming reptile. Both would have been created on Day 5, with other flying and swimming creatures.

Dig deeper: Genesis 1:20–23

## What about other extinct sea monsters?

Pliosaurs were reptiles that looked sort of like plesiosaurs, but with shorter necks, and massive heads. Mosasaurs were very powerful swimmers, and looked more like whales, even though they were reptiles like the others. Ichthyosaurs look more like a reptile version of a dolphin.

Another really interesting sea creature is *Megalodon*. It was probably the same created kind as a great white





shark, but grew to be fifteen to eighteen metres (sixty feet) long! The word megalodon means 'big tooth' and you wouldn't want to run into one of them while surfing!

### How did all of these animals go extinct?

The Flood in Noah's day was a huge catastrophe that began in the ocean, with "the fountains of the great deep". That's why most fossils are of marine creatures. Because the Ark had only land animals, some sea creatures became extinct in the Flood. Some would not have survived the far warmer oceans after the Flood. Some larger creatures may have become extinct after the Flood because it wiped out a lot of the prey they needed.

There would also have been effects on the weather

for centuries afterwards, so it's possible that some creatures like pterosaurs were not able to survive well in the post-Flood climate during the Ice Age when temperatures were lower.

### What do the names mean?

The word plesiosaur means 'near lizard'; they looked nearer to land reptiles than to fish, compared to the ichthyosaur ('fish lizard'). 'Pliosaur' means 'more lizard', i.e. supposedly even more reptilian looking than the plesiosaur. Like all reptiles, including sea turtles, they breathed air.


The word pterosaur means 'winged lizard'. Pterodactyl, a type of pterosaur, means 'winged finger', because of the way pterosaur wings stretch from their



very long fourth finger. Pterosaurs were very skillful flyers which helped them to capture their prey.

### **Did Noah take pterosaurs and plesiosaurs on the Ark?**

Noah had to take two of every kind of land animal on the Ark. This would include pterosaurs, though we don't know how many kinds of pterosaurs there were. Plesiosaurs were ocean-dwelling, so wouldn't have gone on the Ark because Noah only took land animals.

 **Dig deeper:** Genesis 6:20

### **Is there any evidence that people encountered these creatures?**


People in various places have drawn pictures and written about dragons, and sometimes they are described as winged, or as water-dwelling. In these

cases, they may very well have been talking about pterosaurs or plesiosaurs. But it's likely that they never flourished in the post-Flood world, which is why they seem to have been rare. The book of Job even refers to a mighty sea-creature called leviathan. We are not sure what type of creature this was but we know it lived in the water and it sure was tough!

 **Dig deeper:** Job 41:1-8, Psalm 104:26 & Isaiah 27:1

### **How big were they?**

Like most kinds of creatures, there were smaller and larger pterosaurs and plesiosaurs. The smallest pterosaurs were the size of an average bird, while the *Quetzalcoatlus* had a wingspan of over 10 metres (33 feet). The smallest plesiosaurs were about the size of a person, while the biggest were ten times larger! It is truly amazing how much variety God has created!

 **Dig deeper:** Psalm 104:24





### Could we find pterosaurs and plesiosaurs today?

The ocean is hard for humans to explore, and as we figure out how to access new areas, scientists are discovering new species all the time, even species thought to have gone extinct a long time ago. However, plesiosaurs breathe air, so they would need to surface and we probably would have seen them by now if they were still alive. And it would be even less likely to find pterosaurs, since someone should have found evidence for them if they're still alive.

### What about other creatures thought to be extinct?

While plesiosaurs and pterosaurs are probably extinct, some creatures thought to be mythical or extinct have been found alive and well in the oceans. Sailors used

### Activity

With your parents' permission, go to [creation.com/cfkactivity](http://creation.com/cfkactivity) and print out the Monsters of the Sea and Sky word search. See if you can find all the words!

to talk about the Kraken as a huge squid-like creature that fought whales, and it was thought to be a legend. But then scientists found that giant squid are real, living creatures; it's just that they live so deep in the ocean that humans don't normally come across them. The coelacanth is a fish that was thought to have gone extinct 'millions of years' ago, like the dinosaurs, but about 80 years ago, it was discovered alive.

"Not fair! I want a robot too!" Simon chimed in. "Don't worry", said Isabel, "We'll help you with yours."

Simon replied, "I want to make mine an *Apatosaurus*, that way I'll have the best and only dinosaur!"

# The Hummingbird: CREATION'S SUPERHERO

'MICROPUMP'  
TONGUE

UP TO  
200  
FLAPS  
PER SECOND

UP TO  
250  
BREATHS  
PER MINUTE

UP TO  
1,200 BPM

FIGURE 8  
WING PATTERN

■ Scott Gillis

PASTOR MARK asked the men at the retreat what their favorite animal was. One called out, "Lion!"; another, "The eagle!" Stunned silence followed when I exclaimed, "The hummingbird!" Apparently that answer was not 'manly' enough. Mark chided, "It figures that would come from you, Gillis! Why in the world would you pick the hummingbird?" In a 'glad you asked' tone, I told my friends about God's amazing design of the hummingbird.



Actual Size: 5cm



Actual Size: 22cm

The more than 300 species of hummingbird are found only in the western hemisphere. The smallest bird in the world, the bee hummingbird (left), is only 5 cm (2 inches) long, while the giant hummingbird (below) can be 22 cm (over 8 inches).

## HUMMINGBIRD FLIGHT

It would be enough to only mention the obvious: the incredible speed at which this tiny bird flaps its wings. When hovering, the wings beat at 50–80 flaps per second,<sup>1</sup> even increasing to as many as 200 during a short courtship chase. They utilize a figure-8 pattern, you might say ‘treading air’, in which the wings flap forward and backward, generating lift with both motions (75% on the forward stroke and 25%

on the back stroke<sup>2</sup>). This is very unlike the ‘up and down’ motion of most birds with typical airfoil wings. This unique ability to hover precisely in one position, and fly backwards or take off vertically, was not completely understood until recently. Although wing speed seems to make their wings disappear, high-speed video cameras were able to capture the intricacy of this flapping pattern (to see an incredible slow-motion video, go to [creation.com/hummingbird-video](http://creation.com/hummingbird-video)).

## WING DESIGN

The ultra-flexibility of the hummingbird’s unique wing strokes requires a very specialized design—not just of the bones, muscles, and tendons but also of the brain and nervous system controlling them. The flexibility of the shoulder joint is a unique design, allowing the wing to twist into extreme positions not found in other birds. However, unlike the wing structure of all other birds, the ‘elbow’ and ‘wrist’ joints are rigid, making the wing more like a stiff paddle.<sup>3</sup> The relatively huge breast muscles that manipulate the rapid wing flaps represent a massive 40% of the bird’s total weight.<sup>3</sup> Millions of dollars have been unsuccessfully invested in

biomimetic engineering attempts to duplicate this complex system of bio-mechanical wonders. However, evolutionists believe that random mutations, natural selection, and millions of years can do better than brilliant engineers. It makes more sense to explain the brilliant hummingbird design as created by a brilliant divine Designer.

## FUEL REQUIREMENTS

The term ‘eat like a bird’ takes on new meaning when you consider the fuel required to keep this relentless powerhouse churning for seemingly endless stretches of flight. The metabolism of the hummingbird is the highest among all vertebrates.<sup>4</sup> When active, its heart rate is up to a staggering 1,200 beats per minute, while the respiratory rate even at rest is up to 250 breaths per minute.<sup>5</sup> To support such ‘breathtaking’ metabolism, this marvel must eat almost constantly to get the energy needed. Every day, it extracts nectar from up to 2,000 flowers.<sup>6</sup> If humans were able to operate at their energy level, we would have to ingest almost 1,300 hamburgers a day just to keep up. Furthermore, “our hearts would beat 1,260 times a minute and our body temperature would rise to 385°C [725°F] and we would burst into flames”.<sup>7</sup> Although nectar is the main



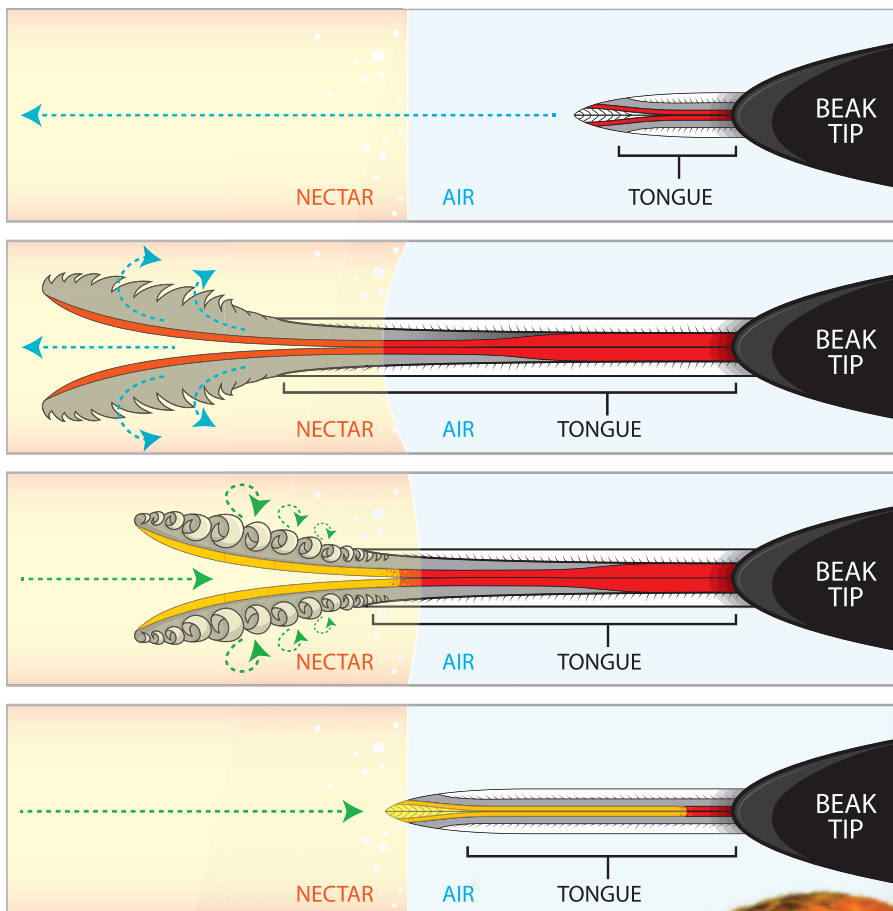
Image source—©Ondrej Prosicky/123RF

micropump.<sup>9,10</sup> The hummingbird tongue is about twice as long as its beak, allowing it to probe deep into flowers. It is composed of two long narrow tubes that ‘unzip’ in segmented flaps when in contact with liquid nectar. Then the flaps retract to ‘pump’ the nectar, in less than 1/20 of a second, in rapid succession, thousands of times each day. You can see a fascinating animation of this incredible mechanism in the documentary *Flight: the genius of birds*.<sup>11</sup>

## HUMMINGBIRD EVOLUTION IMPOSSIBLE

The evolutionary explanation of slow, step-by-step addition and modification of these components over millions of years also fails to explain the way these birds’ design has solved a daunting challenge presented by the laws of physics. You see, the blindingly fast flapping and twisting motion of the wing structure generates an incredible amount of friction, and thus, heat

(in addition to that of muscle metabolism). For comparison, fast man-made



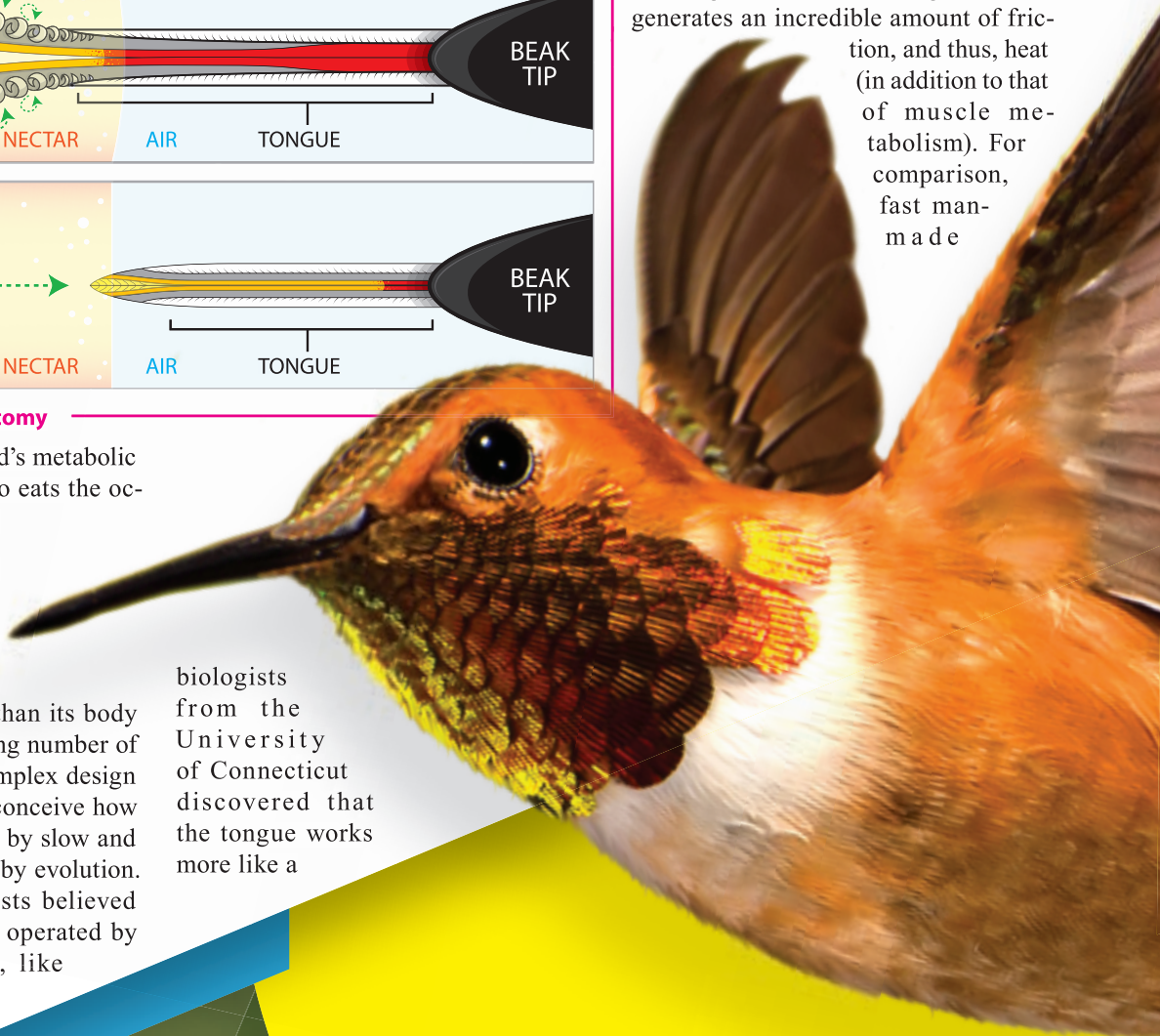
### Hummingbird tongue anatomy

fuel source to keep the bird’s metabolic engines ‘humming’, it also eats the occasional insect for protein.

### UNIQUE TONGUE DESIGN

Even the hummingbird’s tongue used to gather this nectar (more than its body weight,<sup>8</sup> in a mind-boggling number of sips per day) is such a complex design that it seems difficult to conceive how it could ever be explained by slow and gradual steps as required by evolution. Until 2010, most biologists believed the hummingbird tongue operated by simple capillary action, like ‘wicking’. However,

biologists from the University of Connecticut discovered that the tongue works more like a





## CONVERGENT EVOLUTION?

After viewing the amazing hummingbird in flight, it is a surprising sight to discover a strangely similar creature called the hummingbird moth (or hummingbird hawkmoth, picture left). These moths hover, fly and move in an almost identical manner to hummingbirds. They emit a similar audible humming sound, hover in front of flowers, unroll their long proboscis and insert it into flowers to sip nectar. Some even mistake these insects at first glance for a small hummingbird. Can 'convergent evolution' explain the bizarre behavioural similarities? This is the idea that evolution happened to independently 'converge' upon the same outcomes—not an explanation so much as a hand-waving appeal to countless coincidences during their very different alleged evolutionary histories.

Of course, the actual differences between this bird and insect are almost innumerable. Just for starters, the hummingbird moth does not have feathers, while the hummingbird's mechanical wing structure, skeletal, circulatory and respiratory systems are utterly different. Evolution is firmly based on the concept of common descent, but no reasonable evolutionist would propose that these particular similarities can be explained by a common ancestor for this amazing bird and insect. What would be a more logical explanation for similar functional design? A common Designer.

through  
the skin  
and bill, and water  
bathing.

In researching this remarkable bird you will come across many claims such as: "Hummingbirds evolved to display unique adaptations and anatomy allowing them to survive."<sup>12</sup> Evolution cannot explain the appearance of the first bird, nor how a slow process of gradual adaptation brought about all the complex structural components needed to hover and extract vast amounts of energy from flowers, all with wonderful and awe-inspiring precision and beauty.

machines  
need sophisticated  
cooling systems. The brisk flapping motion allows these birds to dissipate all that generated heat from their body across their rapidly fanning wing. Other modes of heat dissipation include rapid air respiration, heat exchange

My  
friends'  
stares and chuckles  
turned into nods of  
amazement and agreement as I  
summarized some of the unique design  
and extraordinary features that make  
the hummingbird unlike any other of  
God's creatures. ■

### SCOTT GILLIS, B.A. Oregon State U.

Scott served in ministry for over 25 years as a youth pastor, teacher and a key leader in a church plant. He was the senior executive for a large construction firm before coming to work for CMI-US as the COO. For more: [creation.com/gillis](http://creation.com/gillis).

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# Isn't it **OBVIOUS?** Natural selection can **ELIMINATE,** but never **CREATE!**

**David Catchpoole**

**M**ANY PROPONENTS of evolution repeatedly cite examples of natural selection as evidence of evolution—i.e. evidence of the sorts of processes that could have turned microbes into man, given enough time. Often the terms 'natural selection' and 'evolution' are used interchangeably, as if they were synonymous.<sup>1</sup>

Occasionally an evolutionist will speak out against such error. One notable example was John Endler, who in his 1986 book *Natural Selection in the Wild*<sup>2</sup> warned that "natural selection must not be equated with evolution", and he also said:

Natural selection is common enough in natural populations to have been detected in a wide variety of organisms ... However, natural selection does not explain the origin of new variants, only the process of changes in their frequency.

Endler had seen this himself in his own previous research on guppies in mountain streams in Trinidad, Tobago and Venezuela.<sup>3</sup> He observed that

populations of guppies there include drab-coloured males as well as brightly coloured ones, and the relative frequency of each goes up or down in line with predation pressure. If predators are few or absent, brightly coloured males predominate, as female guppies prefer them as mates; so gaudy males are more likely to pass their genes to the next generation. But when predators are numerous, the better camouflaged drab male guppies are less likely to be eaten than the gaudy ones, and so the females have to be content to mate with the survivors, thus drabness becomes predominant in the population.

The guppy population dynamics are indeed a terrific example of natural selection. Ironically, however, Endler's warning in his 1986 book hasn't stopped others from incorrectly misrepresenting his guppies as demonstrating evolution. E.g. Richard Dawkins proclaimed it to be "a spectacular example of evolution before our very eyes"<sup>4</sup> but it most definitely is *not*, as there is *no new genetic information* in evidence anywhere here. There is not a shred of any evidence from Endler's creditable guppy research that fish could have turned into *fishermen, fishmongers and fish physiologists* (yet that is what the evolution story would have us believe).<sup>5</sup>

As *Creation* magazine has pointed out many times, natural selection has been amply observed happening in many populations of insects, animals, fish, and plants, but in all instances it is *not* evolution.<sup>6</sup> Whether by differential reproduction or differential survival, natural selection results in the *culling* or *loss* of genetic information, not its creation.

That last point was certainly obvious to another noted evolutionist who spoke out against the natural-selection-equals-evolution sham, *viz.*, the late Lynn Margulis.<sup>7</sup> Just before her death in 2011, she said in an interview:

Natural selection eliminates and maybe maintains, but it doesn't create.<sup>8</sup>

That's telling it like it is: natural selection by itself generates no new genetic information. It can *eliminate* genes that already exist, but *never create*.

## **Evolution evidence evades evolutionists (and everyone else!)**

According to standard evolutionary theory today, evolutionists look to *mutations* as being the process responsible for generating the new genetic information



evolution requires, which is then sorted by natural selection. But where is the *evidence* of this happening? Margulis had a very blunt, and bleak, assessment of this. Note again that she was no creationist, being absolutely committed to Darwin's ideas of evolution, which she happily defined as, "Darwinism says that there has been change through time, since all life comes from a common ancestor".<sup>8</sup> But her biological experience and observations of nature had made her contemptuous of the neo-Darwinists' faith in mutations as being the engine<sup>9</sup> of evolution:

[N]eo-Darwinists say that [evolutionary change occurs] when mutations occur and modify an organism. I was taught over and over again that the accumulation of random mutations led to evolutionary change— ... I believed it until I looked for evidence.<sup>8</sup>

Indeed, when other evolutionists over the years have been pressed to give specific evidence of mutations that increase the information in the genome, they are unable to give coherent answers.<sup>10</sup> That's because mutations are overwhelmingly a *downhill* process—see box p. 40 "Mutations can't climb mountains!".

Is it any wonder that Margulis went looking for some other mechanism that might provide a means of evolutionary change, latching on to her own pet theory of *endosymbiosis*?<sup>8</sup> Not that there's any evidence of any evolution there, either.<sup>11</sup> But Margulis was certainly right to point out the dearth of evidence for mutations and natural selection ever being able to create the evolutionary change required for all living things to have arisen from a common ancestor.

#### **Examples of natural selection and mutations galore—but no evolution**

As with Endler's guppies, when one looks at the evidence in the real world, stand-out examples of natural selection and mutations show a consistent *loss* or mere *maintenance* of genetic information, not the gains that microbes-to-man evolution requires:

#### **• DANCE-OR-DIE LIZARDS:**

Fire ants invading parts of the USA quickly cull out fence lizards that don't do the 'twitch dance' to shake off biting ants.



Only the twitch-dancing lizards survive—a characteristic which was *already present* in the lizard population. In the face of such natural selection, the lizard population is now better *adapted* to maintain a presence in fire ant areas.<sup>12</sup> Note: no new genetic information, therefore no evolution.

#### **• KAUAI'S SILENT CRICKETS:**

A deadly parasitic fly on the island of Kauai acoustically tracks down chirping male crickets—but crickets with an X-chromosome mutation that silences them evade detection by the killer fly. Somehow the mutant mute crickets have been able to find mates, and pass their mutated genes to the next generation. Note that genetic information (for chirping) has been *eliminated*. In this classic example of natural selection and genome degradation, Kauai's crickets are now silent, but at least they survive.<sup>13</sup>





• **NOT-SO-DARK DEER MICE:**

In Nebraska's sand hills, deer mice with a mutation conferring pale colouration are better camouflaged against bird predators than normal deer mice. But the mutation is a *downhill* change, not gain-of-function—no justification whatsoever for those trying to claim this as the latest 'icon of evolution'.<sup>14</sup>



• **SHORTER-WINGED SWALLOWS:**

Cliff swallows live in mud nests they build on highway bridges and road culverts. But when flying out from the nest they are vulnerable to being killed by passing vehicles—particularly those with longer wings, less able to take off vertically than birds with shorter wings. The genes for longer wings are thus being progressively *eliminated*, leaving behind a population with most birds having shorter wings.<sup>15</sup>



• **WINGLESS BEETLES:**

In the absence of their usual predators found on the mainland, the mutant flightless offspring of beetles on windswept islands are favoured by natural selection over their winged prone-to-being-blown-out-to-sea siblings. But there's no gain-of-function evolution here—the genes for flight have been *lost*.<sup>16</sup>



• **SMALLER FISH TO FRY:**

It's getting harder to catch fish of even minimum legal size—in some commercial fishery popula-



## Mutations can't climb mountains!

Mutations overwhelmingly degrade genetic information, a *downhill* process. Whereas for microbes-to-man evolution to be true, evolutionists should be able to point to thousands of examples of information-gaining mutations, an *uphill* process, but they can't. Note that sometimes diehard anti-creationists quibble over the definition of 'information'. As information is foundationally an argument from probability, we might expect a few cases of trivial information increase (see the CMI DVD *Understanding the Law of Decay*, and [creation.com/edge-evolution](http://creation.com/edge-evolution)). But evolution requires *encyclopedic amounts of new information*. Some evolutionists have pointed to nylon-eating bacteria as being a lead candidate, but it fails to prove the point. The new 'ability' to digest nylon comes from two 'typos' in an existing enzyme that is finely-tuned to break bonds similar to those in nylon. The mutated enzyme is less tuned for its old task, but can digest nylon. Such mutations cannot explain microbes-to-man change, which requires the invention of many thousands of brand-new proteins, not just slightly modifying existing ones (see: [creation.com/evoquest#nylonase](http://creation.com/evoquest#nylonase)). They are thus of no help to evolutionists in the climbing of the 'Evolution Mountain'—representing evolution's mooted uphill journey from microbes to *marlin*, *macaws*, *magnolias*, and *man*—no matter how many millions or billions of years are invoked.



tions (e.g. Canadian cod) the genes for large size have been *completely eliminated*.<sup>17,18</sup>

- **SHORTER-TUSKED ELEPHANTS:**  
By selectively killing elephants



with the largest tusks, poachers for the ivory trade have left behind elephant populations having short, or even no, tusks. The genes for large tusks are being *eliminated*.<sup>19</sup>

- **BLIND CAVE FISH:** Living in dark, underwater caves, natural



selection favours eyeless mutant fish over their sighted kin. Eyes in such an environment are a disadvantage as the delicate tissue is prone to injury as fish bump against sharp rocks in the darkness, becoming an entry point for potentially lethal bacteria. Eyelessness clearly represents a *loss*, not a gain,<sup>20</sup> yet leading evolutionists bizarrely have claimed it as supporting their case.<sup>21</sup> But evolution needs to *invent* eyesight, not destroy it!



## • NOT-SO-TALL SNOW

**LOTUS:** Highly prized for traditional Chinese medicine, the Tibetan snow lotus has halved in height during the past century, because every year at flowering time people scour the alpine slopes for the taller plants considered more potent. Only the smaller plants have been left behind to produce seed, and thus the genes for snow lotus tallness are being progressively *eliminated* from the Himalayas.<sup>22</sup> Far from being one of the top seven examples of 'evolution in action' as some claim,<sup>23</sup> this observed genetic change is in the *wrong direction* for primordial ooze to have ever turned into plants and animals.



From a straightforward view of the evidence from these and other real-world examples, surely it's obvious: natural selection can *eliminate*, but *never create*. And we see that mutations are no help to the microbes-to-man evolutionary storyline either. The facts instead fit the Bible's historical account of our post-Fall world having originally been created "very good" (Genesis 1:31) but now being "in bondage to decay" (Romans 8:19–22). The evidence is there for all to see—and the wise to comprehend. ■

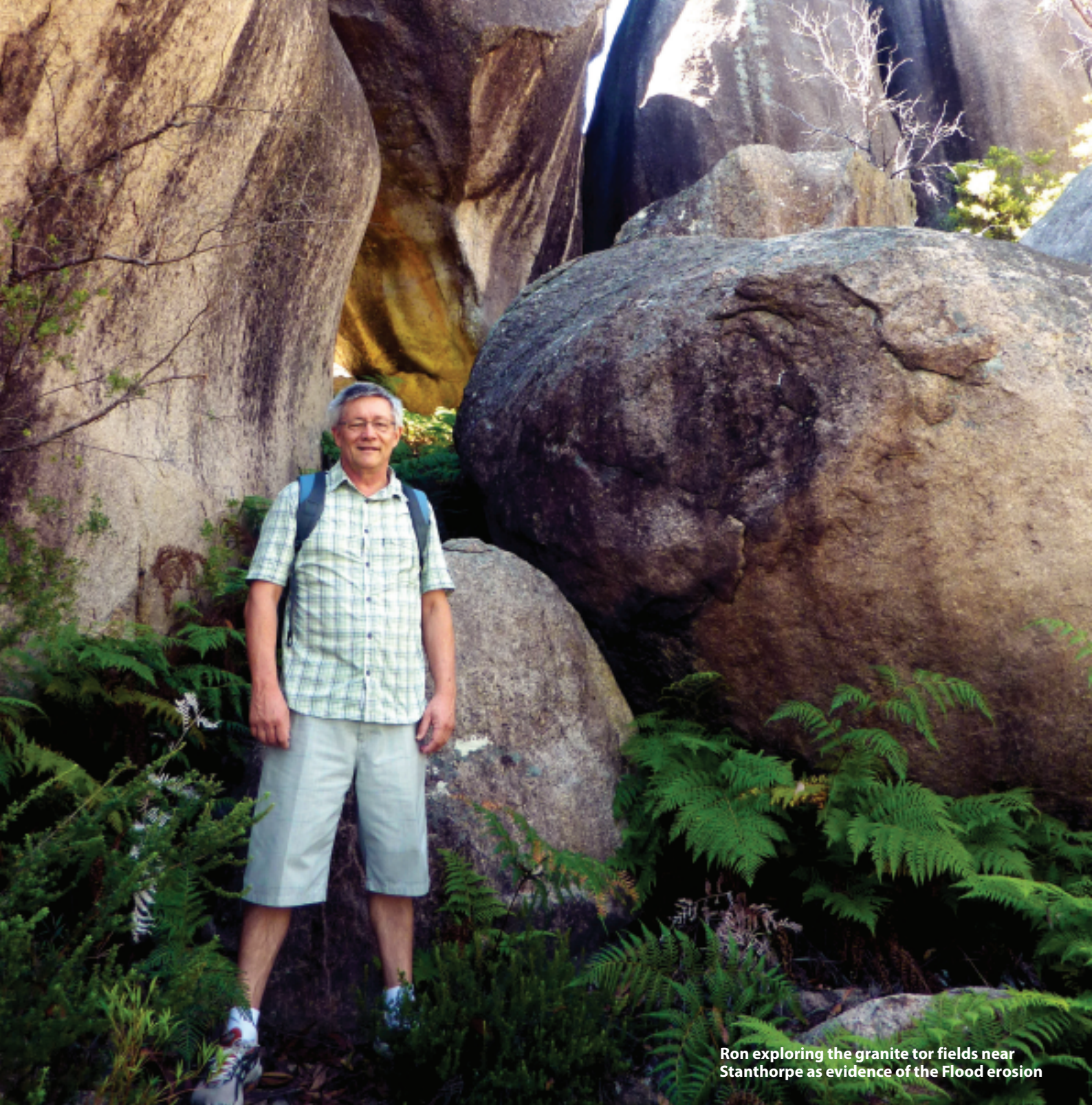
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DAVID CATCHPOOLE, B.Ag.Sc.(Hons.), Ph.D.

After working as a plant physiologist and science educator, Dr Catchpoole worked for many years as a scientist/speaker for Creation Ministries International (Australia). He continues to write for CMI. For more: [creation.com/catchpoole](http://creation.com/catchpoole).





Ron exploring the granite tor fields near Stanthorpe as evidence of the Flood erosion

# THE FLOOD CHASER

... Tas Walker chats  
... with fluvial  
... geomorphologist  
... *Dr Ron Neller*



Dr Neller holds a B.A. (Hons), and a Ph.D. in fluvial geomorphology, one of the Earth sciences. Geomorphology (*geo* = earth; *morph* = shape) is the study of the surface features of the earth, such as the landscapes on the continents and the landforms under the oceans; ‘fluvial’ (Latin *fluere* = to flow) relates to rivers. He has held lecturing and research positions at four universities in Australia, as well as universities in Finland and Hong Kong. Ron has initiated and directed a research institute in environmental sustainability, and established two research stations in natural resource management. He has undertaken landscape studies in many places around the world, and held numerous advisory positions with Australian governments and international agencies such as the OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development).

**D**R RON NELLER reflects that he has had an amazing career. “I’ve travelled the world. I’ve seen incredible river systems and incredible landscapes. I’ve experienced a diversity of cultures. I’ve also been robbed. I’ve been shot at. I’ve been arrested by foreign governments. I’ve been bitten by venomous creatures, I’ve fallen into raging rivers ... and I’ve survived. It’s been an exciting life.”

### The power of water

“I was essentially a flood chaser”, Ron says. “People enjoy movies about tracking and researching tornadoes, but I found floods more interesting. I saw an incredible variety of fluvial systems on this planet in a diversity of environments, including arctic, temperate, subtropical, tropical, and desert environments. In these travels I came to appreciate the power of water, and to understand the landscapes such systems created.”

Raised as one of four children in what he says was a dysfunctional family, Ron explained that he saw education as an escape mechanism. “Although I did not get the best of school grades to go to university I pleaded with my parents to let me go nonetheless—I would pay my own way. They did so, thinking that I was seeking education. But I was seeking to escape from life’s problems.

“Don’t get me wrong. I loved my parents. In the years before they died I had a wonderful relationship with them. But in those earlier times it was difficult. So, when I stepped onto the stage of life I was not interested in a ‘father God’. I was trying to escape my own family.”

After he had completed his Ph.D., Ron set out to see the world. Over the years he’s

carried out research in many countries, including Australia, Finland, various Pacific Island nations, South Africa, China, Peru, and Libya.

On returning to Australia with his many years of experience, Ron rose quickly through the ranks. He was appointed director of a research institute aligned with over 40 researchers. He set up a field research station on Fraser Island near Brisbane, Australia. It’s the world’s largest sand island, with an area of 1,840 km<sup>2</sup> (710 sq. miles), and is World Heritage listed. Local research students joined others from overseas universities and worked on projects at the centre. As his reputation spread, he became an adviser to state and federal governments, dealing with World Heritage sites.

As Ron travelled the world, he says, “I was amazed by the diversity of environments on our planet. In Genesis 1:31 we read, ‘God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good.’ At that time I would have changed that around and said that I saw everything that was there, and it was very good. So, although I now appreciate that we live in a fallen world, I think I was developing a tiny bit of the love for creation the Lord was expressing there.”

With his wide experience, Ron began to see that the geological evidence collected during his research did not fit the slow-and-gradual thinking that permeates his profession. He tells a story: “I was once researching in the Amazon jungle and my colleagues back home were theorizing how a changing climate formed the landscape over millions of years. But when I looked at the evidence I did not see that. What we saw were very mobile river systems rapidly changing their courses, and creating new landscapes that do not



Ron and his wife Julie





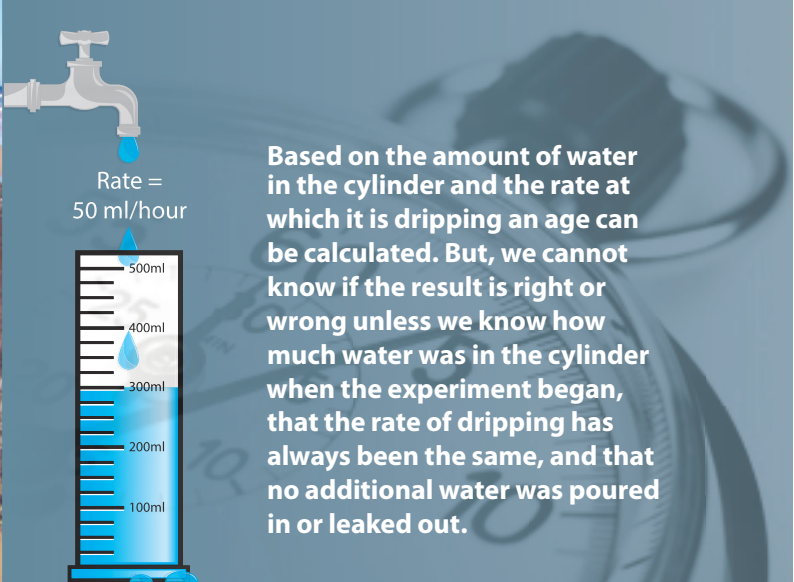
**Ron surveying humicretes (coffee rocks) on the eastern beach of Fraser Island**

need eons of time. Why do we need to say it took many years? But, of course, I was told in no uncertain terms by some colleagues to think more ‘logically’.”

### Peer pressure vs evidence

Sometime later, Ron, not yet a Christian, was with a research team examining continental shelf sediments off Hong Kong. He says, “After we had analyzed the sediments in the laboratories, I looked at the data and said to university colleagues, ‘I see evidence in these ocean sediments for *one* flood, one enormous flood.’ Of course, I was again told to be ‘logical’, otherwise I could lose research grants.”

In all the time that Ron was travelling around the world, family, friends and colleagues would invite him to church. And he would go. “I could give you a list of the churches that I went to,” says Ron. “I don’t know what I was looking for, but I wasn’t consciously trying to connect with God. I was into my early fifties before I came to accept Jesus Christ and to finally give my life to Him.” It was only upon becoming a Christian



Based on the amount of water in the cylinder and the rate at which it is dripping an age can be calculated. But, we cannot know if the result is right or wrong unless we know how much water was in the cylinder when the experiment began, that the rate of dripping has always been the same, and that no additional water was poured in or leaked out.

that the geomorphological data he had gathered from decades of research finally started to make sense.

One issue that Ron faced when he became a Christian involved the age of the earth. According to the Bible, the earth’s age is about 6,000 years, but mainstream geologists work with ages of hundreds of millions of years. Asked about this, Ron explained that all dating methods are based on assumptions. He said that no one knows if these assumptions are valid or not. Recognizing those assumptions has for Ron destroyed any idea that radioactive dating, for instance, is a challenge to the biblical timeline. He illustrated with a simple example of water dripping into a cylinder (diagram above). Ron indicated that he had no problem with the biblical date of 6,000 years for the earth and universe, and 4,500 years for the date of Noah’s Flood.

A related issue Ron mentioned concerns how most people think that scientists accept the results of radioactive dating without question. “They do not,” Ron said. “Large numbers of dates are rejected as being ‘contaminated’. Why? Because the dates do not match the age they already believe about that particular environment. But they do not report it that way.”

He gave one example from his experience when he was a research director at a camp on Fraser Island. Ron explained

### The Amazon River



that there had been at least six dates obtained using carbon dating, but four of them were rejected as being ‘contaminated’. Ron argues, however, that they were rejected because they were too young—they indicated that the island was only *thousands* of years old.

Ron’s academic strength lies in understanding erosion, sediment transport and sediment deposition, and he found that he was unable to align his deep understanding of these with the orthodox geological belief about the process of fossilization. He argues that “Fossils are a record of death and catastrophic burial. These are clearly consistent with what we would expect from Noah’s Flood.”

### Fossils not from river floods

Ron states that although fossils can be formed by a variety of processes, by far the majority of land-based plants and animals that have been fossilized were rapidly and deeply buried by sediments in an aquatic environment. To ensure fossilization, an organism must be buried deep enough to protect it from predation and to minimize decomposition by bacteria and chemicals.

“50-plus years of monitoring of rivers globally”, says Ron, “shows there is not enough sediment produced to create the large regional fossil beds that we see. There are many journal papers about sediment deposition from large floods today. They report only centimetres of sediment, and only over local

areas. But metres of sediment are needed over extensive areas to fossilize even a small animal.”

When Ron eventually came to Christ, it was because, in his life’s journey, he was seeing Creation and the Genesis Flood in the landscapes. He says, “When I finally got around to looking at the Bible I thought, ‘Wow, there is such an amazing harmony between the landscapes and the account of Scripture.’” Ron is thankful that the Lord’s presence is so obvious. As the Apostle Paul notes, “For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,” (Romans 1:20). Ron is also thankful that the Lord, who is great in power, is also slow to anger and wonderfully patient with all whom He loves.

Some eight years ago Ron left the university he was at because he wanted to research and write about the connection between geomorphology and the Bible. He is now part of the *Creation Ministries International* (CMI) team in Brisbane, where he is a researcher, writer and speaker whose articles are now appearing in *Creation* magazine, the *Journal of Creation*, and online on [creation.com](http://creation.com). ■

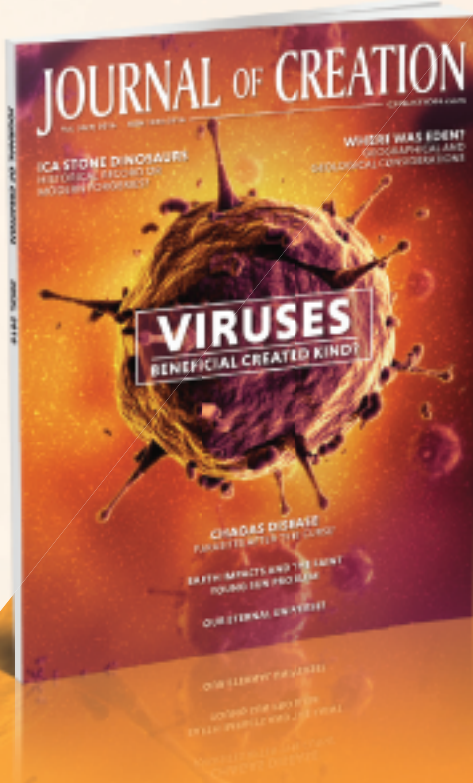
**TAS WALKER,**  
B.Sc.(Hons.) [geology],  
B.Eng.(Hons.), Ph.D.

*Dr Walker worked in power station design and operation, and the geological assessment of coal deposits. He works full-time researching and speaking for Creation Ministries International (Australia). For more: [creation.com/walker](http://creation.com/walker).*

## “CREATIONISTS DON’T UNDERSTAND EVOLUTION!”... **REALLY?**

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# INSELBERGS

## EVIDENCE FOR RAPID FLOOD RUNOFF

■ Michael Oard

**A**S THE world's continents were uplifted from the waters of the global Flood, they were greatly eroded.<sup>1</sup> During this massive erosion, the rocks that weren't pulverized were transported hundreds of kilometres toward the oceans.<sup>2</sup> The enormous power of the receding water, relentlessly shaving off the surfaces it flowed over, left behind large flat areas known as planation surfaces,<sup>3</sup> along with coastal Great Escarpments,<sup>4</sup> large natural bridges, and freestanding arches. Scientists studying conventional geomorphology<sup>5</sup> find all these features puzzling because they ignore the Flood and rely only on slow erosion

over millions of years, which does not work.<sup>6</sup>

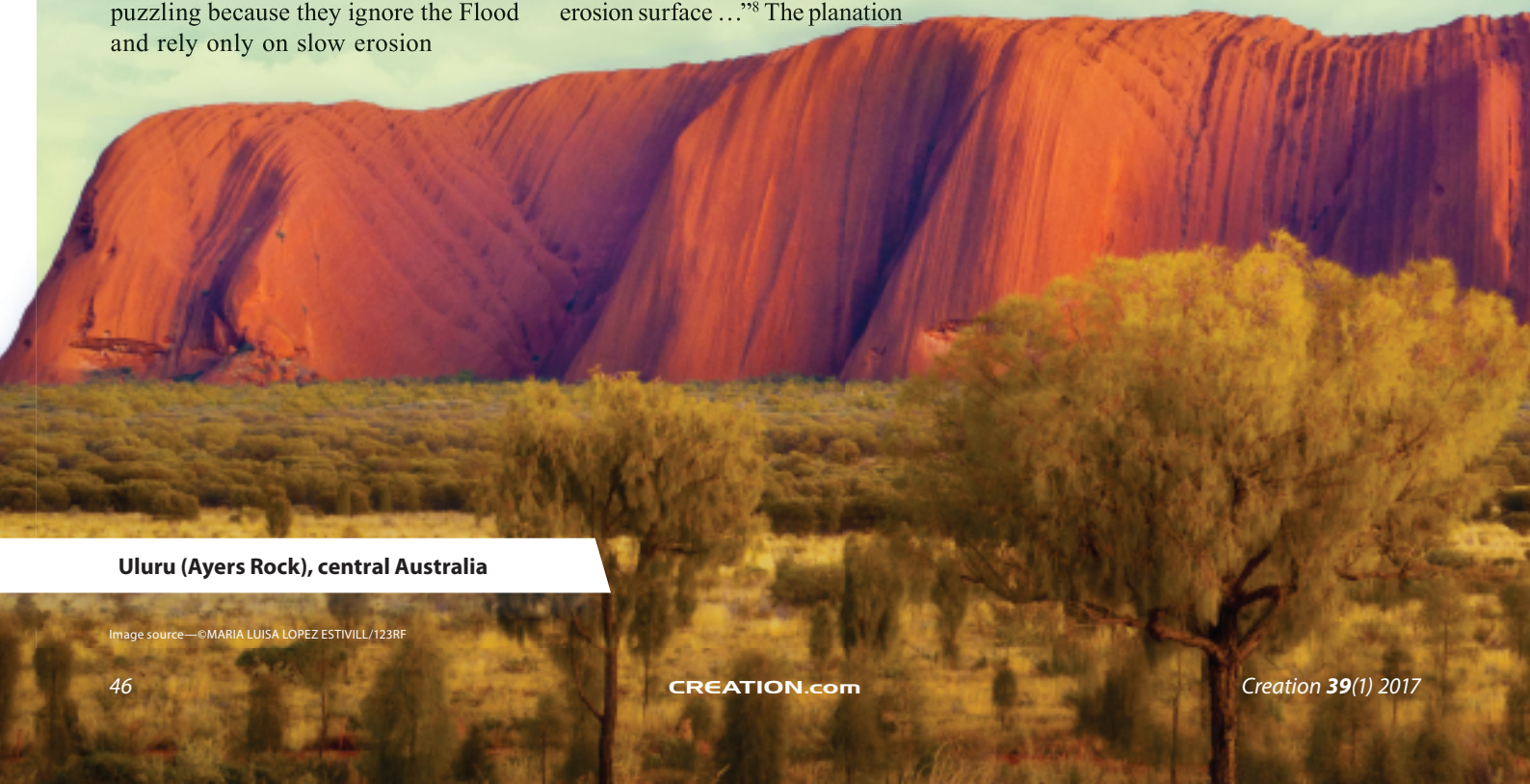
### The mystery of inselbergs

Tall erosional remnants are another feature that puzzles secular scientists.<sup>7</sup> Although there are other terms for such prominent leftovers from erosion, they are generally called 'inselbergs'. An inselberg (from the German = 'island mountain') is: "A prominent, isolated residual knob, hill, or small *mountain of circumdenudation*, usually smoothed and rounded, rising abruptly from and surrounded by an extensive lowland erosion surface ..."<sup>8</sup> The planation

surface usually surrounding the structure represents the flat 'sea' from which the isolated structure juts, like an oceanic island. ('Circumdenudation' = all around it has been eroded away.)

### Impressive inselbergs

Thousands of tall inselbergs are found on all continents. Uluru (Ayers Rock) in central Australia is one of the most famous.<sup>9</sup> It stands 350 metres (1,150 feet) above a flat desert floor (figure 1). Its east and north edges are flanked by a buried pediment (i.e. a planation surface formed by water at the foot of a



Uluru (Ayers Rock), central Australia

Image source—©MARIA LUISA LOPEZ ESTIVILL/123RF



mountain, mountains, or a ridge). Uluru is a surface erosional remnant carved from a huge sandstone body, one that continues some 6,000 m (20,000 ft) below the surface. The sandstone rock layers in Uluru are almost vertical,<sup>10</sup> indicating that, before the rock was eroded, it was tipped up and subsequently eroded leaving the erosional remnant. The origin of Uluru remains a mystery for conventional long-age geology, since its survival was not due to the type of rock. Indeed, it's largely composed of feldspar-rich 'arkose' sandstone, and feldspar would have weathered into clay if it had been exposed for millions of years.<sup>10</sup> According to one secular scientist, "The early geomorphological history and the fundamental reasons for Ayers Rock [Uluru] remain obscure, though various possibilities have been suggested."<sup>11</sup>

Other notable inselbergs include Spitzkoppe (figure 2) which towers about 600 m (2,000 ft) above the Namib Desert, southwestern Africa.<sup>12</sup> This desert is a gravel-capped planation surface in the country of Namibia, west of the Great Escarpment in southern Africa.

The famous Sugarloaf Mountain, 400 m (1,300 ft) tall, and other granite residuals (leftover remnants of erosion) bordering the Rio de Janeiro harbour of Brazil are also inselbergs.

Stone Mountain, Georgia, is one of the most famous ones in the eastern United States.

In the southwestern USA, Monument Valley on the border of Utah and Arizona contains an impressive group of inselbergs. These sedimentary erosional remnants stand about 300 m (1,000 ft) above the wide valley.

An unusual and beautiful type of inselberg that was carved from limestone and is what is called 'tower karst'. The most impressive examples are found in China (figure 3) and southern Thailand.



**Figure 1. Uluru (Ayers Rock), central Australia**



**Figure 2. Spitzkoppe in the Namib Desert of Namibia; at 600 metres (2,000 ft) above the surrounding planation surface, it is one of the tallest inselbergs in Africa**





### Inselbergs cannot be millions of years old

Inselbergs were once buried underground. When the surrounding landscape was eroded away, the more resistant material was left behind in the form of tall towering structures. Interestingly, many inselbergs are weathering relatively quickly today.<sup>10,13</sup> By conventional geological reasoning, then, they should have weathered at the same rate as the surrounding countryside, and therefore lost their great height. However, inselbergs are ‘dated’ as many millions to tens of millions of years old; some are even claimed to be older than 100 million years.<sup>13</sup> It makes no sense for the surrounding countryside to be eroded down hundreds of metres over millions of years, while the inselberg shows little sign of erosion in all that time.

Such a radical disparity in erosion when millions of years are assumed is dramatically illustrated at Devils Tower, Wyoming, USA. This tall steep-walled igneous body stands some 400 m (1,300 ft) above the nearby river (figure 4).<sup>14</sup> Because of its vertical cracks and freeze-thaw weathering, blocks are

constantly falling off. It is eroding rapidly, and yet it is claimed to be 40 million years old. Interestingly, the width of Devils Tower has apparently changed very little during all that alleged time,<sup>15</sup> even though hundreds of metres of material was eroded from the surrounding landscape. The anomaly is especially blatant since gravity causes vertical faces to erode much faster than horizontal surfaces.

Another example is Navajo Mountain near the Utah/Arizona border. It is about 130 kilometres (80 miles) northeast of Grand Canyon and stands some 3,200 m (10,500 ft) above sea level. Navajo Mountain is a volcanic mass that formed *within* sedimentary rocks. Today it rises about 1,800 m (6,000 ft) above the surrounding sedimentary rock. If we assume a secular interpretation, it is strange that all of the sedimentary rock surrounding Navajo Mountain was eroded away, but the mountain itself was not.

### Mystery for long-age geology

Despite several hypotheses, the origin and supposed long survival of inselbergs is a mystery for the secular interpretation. Geomorphologists Twidale and Bourne state: “That an inselberg could survive for so long as is suggested here calls for considerable mental adjustment.”<sup>16</sup> They later said that all hypotheses which attempt to explain the exposure of landforms for tens

of millions of years fall short of solving the age problem:

“Various mechanisms and factors have been suggested in explanation of such very old palaeoforms (unequal activity, reinforcement mechanisms, stability of rocks when dry) ... but they alleviate rather than resolve the difficulty.”<sup>17</sup>

### Inselbergs—powerful evidence for Flood runoff

It is well known that floods leave behind erosional remnants.<sup>18</sup> Steamboat Rock (figure 5) in the upper Grand Coulee is an erosional remnant 275 m (900 ft) tall from the huge Lake Missoula Ice Age flood.<sup>19</sup> The Missoula Flood provides further evidence that floods produce inselbergs, and that erosion has to be rapid or there would be no inselbergs.

Just as other floods have left erosional remnants, the runoff of the Genesis Flood has left thousands of inselbergs on the earth’s surface. This phenomenon cannot be explained by slow erosion over millions of years. ■

### MICHAEL OARD

*has an M.S. in atmospheric science and is a retired meteorologist from the US National Weather Service. He has authored numerous books and articles, including Exploring Geology with Mr Hibb. He is on the board of Creation Research Society and is widely regarded as an expert on Ice Age creation topics. For more: [creation.com/oard](http://creation.com/oard).*

Figure 3. Tower karst around a bend in the Lijiang River, Guilin, China



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**Figure 4. Devils Tower, Wyoming, USA—note the vertical fractures that should result in rapid erosion from the freeze-thaw mechanism**



**Figure 5. Steamboat Rock, 275 metres (900 ft) tall, is an erosional remnant of basalt lava in the Upper Grand Coulee, Washington—the lava around Steamboat Rock was eroded in a few days by the Lake Missoula flood**





**I** REMEMBER the first time I saw the movie *The Day After Tomorrow*.<sup>1</sup> I was fairly young, with a wild imagination, so when our community experienced a hailstorm shortly after, I thought we were about to experience another ice age. (I even started planning how my family and I would survive.) Now, years later, with a more informed understanding of the science behind the (actual) Ice Age, I am convinced that there is no reason to fear we will experience another ‘big freeze’. Unfortunately, most people don’t know what caused the Ice Age, and that only the biblical creation model explains it. This has resulted in some (I think unwarranted) panic and confusion

on issues like ‘global warming’ and whether or not the earth is heading into another ice age as in the above movie. Let’s put those worries to rest.

### ***Different models, different conclusions***

Today, ice sheets and glaciers cover approximately 15 million km<sup>2</sup> of the earth’s total land mass—roughly 10% of its land surface. Both young-earth and old-earth scientists agree that this is left over from an ice age. But there is much disagreement as to the number of ice ages that have occurred throughout Earth’s history, as well as over what causes an ice age to start and end. A

proper understanding of these issues will help us with regards to whether Earth might face another ice age in the future.

### ***Old-earth models***

Those who believe the earth is billions of years old argue that there have been multiple ice ages throughout Earth’s history, the most recent of which ended about 10,000 years ago.<sup>2</sup> Proposed causal mechanisms for these massive glaciations have included large meteorite impacts,<sup>3</sup> supervolcano eruptions,<sup>4</sup> and changes in things such as atmospheric carbon dioxide,<sup>5</sup> the sun’s output,<sup>6</sup> and the moon’s orbit.<sup>7</sup> The most

Will  
there  
be  
another





popular model today relies on so-called Milankovitch cycles, which posit that fluctuations of about two degrees in the earth's axial tilt every 41,000 years, and changes in its elliptical orbit around the sun every 100,000 years, would produce a cooler climate.<sup>8</sup> The proposed effects of these mechanisms are much reduced precipitation, with rainfall half of what it is today, and global average temperatures about 5–10°C below today's.<sup>9</sup>

A major difficulty with all these ideas is that the proposed effects on global temperatures are too small to trigger an ice age, leading old-earth scientists to further propose 'positive feedback' mechanisms to amplify the change.<sup>10</sup> However, these are unsubstantiated.<sup>11</sup>

An even bigger problem is that, while the proposed changes could account for the freezing of the oceans,<sup>9</sup> simply cooling down the earth's temperature will not cause ice to build up on the continents. Instead it would create a cold desert, like most of northern Siberia and Antarctica today.<sup>12</sup> In order for continental ice build-up to occur, there would need to be increased precipitation of ice and snow<sup>12</sup> and, unfortunately for old-earth scientists, all of the proposed theories can only account for temperature change. A plausible explanation for an ice age needs a mechanism<sup>13</sup> that would provide not only lower temperatures but also increased precipitation of ice and snow.

And finally, proponents of these views remain in the dark as to why an ice age would end—that is, why the snow and ice would cease to accumulate and begin to thaw.<sup>14</sup>

#### *The young-earth model*

Contrary to old-earth ideas, models based on biblical history propose that only one Ice Age has occurred and that it took place subsequent to and as a direct result of the global Flood (about 4,500 years ago). This Ice Age is understood to correspond to what old-earthiers call the Pleistocene Ice Age (1.8 million years long in the old-earth timeline), though taking place over a much shorter span of

time—about 700 years. As for the supposed 'earlier ice ages',<sup>2</sup> examination of the evidence indicates that their features are different from those of the Pleistocene one. They are better interpreted as huge underwater landslides caused by massive sediment movement during the Flood.<sup>15</sup>

Unlike old-earth scientists, young-earth scientists have a scientific model, drawing on the events of the Flood, that can explain both the beginning and the end of the Ice Age.<sup>16</sup> The catastrophic, tectonic and volcanic activities during the Flood would have made the post-Flood oceans warmer than they are today (evidenced in ice core samples). This caused much greater evaporation, leading to increased precipitation of ice and snow, allowing ice to accumulate on the continents.

Furthermore, all that volcanism would release fine volcanic dust and aerosols high into the atmosphere, reflecting a larger percentage of sunlight back into space, keeping the interiors of the continents cooler in summer than today. This would prevent the snow and ice that fell on the continents in winter from fully melting the following summer, allowing the ice to build up from year to year.

It is estimated that the ice accumulated for approximately 500 years following the Flood.<sup>16</sup> Once the oceans had cooled (reducing the evaporation) and the atmospheric dust





and aerosols had cleared, it would have taken about 200 years for the ice sheets to retreat to near where they are today. Thus, the global Flood provides the necessary conditions for the beginning and end of the Ice Age, with its end ushering in the typical temperature fluctuations experienced today.<sup>17</sup>

### Will there be another ice age?

Old-earth models not only require multiple ice ages in the past, they also suggest that the earth will face more in the future.<sup>18,19</sup> Given the lack of consensus among old-earth scientists as to what causes an ice age, they have much difficulty predicting, according to their models, when another might happen.<sup>19</sup>

While many think that global warming will save us from the next ice age, media hype has given the impression that it will actually trigger it, through its supposed effects on oceanic circulation. But the proposed effects of global warming are in any case insufficient to trigger an ice age.<sup>20</sup>

Regardless, the history in Genesis implies that the earth is a highly stable system, considering that its climate returned to equilibrium following the incredibly large deviation caused by the Flood.<sup>12</sup> This knowledge can usefully inform our thinking about climate models and concerns, and our responses to them.

### No future Ice Age

Whatever the latest media buzz, we can safely predict that the world will not see another Ice Age. This is founded in the confidence that the account of the global Flood in the book of Genesis is true, and that the Flood is what triggered the Ice

Age. In Genesis 9:11, God made a covenant with Noah, saying, “I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” Logically, if the Ice Age was caused by the Flood (the only model to date that explains the Ice Age), then since God has promised to never again send such a flood, we should not expect another such ice age, either.<sup>21</sup> Ever. ■

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### CODY GUITARD, B.Sc.

Cody obtained his B.Sc. in biology from Crandall University and is pursuing his M.A. in Apologetics (concentration in Scientific Apologetics) at Southern Evangelical Seminary. For more: [creation.com/cody-guitard](http://creation.com/cody-guitard).



# 'STAR WITNESSES' TO A YOUNG CREATION

■ Don Batten

WE CANNOT use science to *prove* the age of the universe because science can only deal with what is observable now. We can measure the rates of all manner of things in the present. However, to use these as 'clocks' to estimate ages, we have to assume a history, which in turn depends upon our *beliefs* about where we came from. The Bible gives us an eyewitness record of what happened, the order, and the time-frame, which 'science' cannot tell us.

Nevertheless, today's widespread belief in a very old universe fails to account for many 'clocks' that indicate a far younger age. Here are two.<sup>1</sup>

## Blue stars in galaxies

Blue stars are the biggest and brightest of all 'main sequence' stars, but this means they burn up their nuclear fuel very fast. Indeed, they burn so fast that the biggest ones could not last more than a million years, and the smallest around 10 million years. Yet blue stars abound in spiral galaxies, including our Milky

Way. This suggests that these galaxies cannot be even one million years old. This problem for the belief that the galaxies are billions of years old is 'solved' by assuming the blue stars formed more recently than the rest of the galaxy. However, no one has observed such star formation and there is not even a viable mechanism for it to happen.<sup>2</sup>

## Neutron stars in globular clusters

Globular clusters are compact, ball-shaped groups of stars that orbit the centre of a galaxy. They supposedly contain 'very old' stars. The secular big bang story has great difficulty explaining them.<sup>3</sup> Astronomers have seen many fast-moving neutron stars in globular clusters. These are thought to arise from supernovas (exploding stars) within the cluster, where a neutron star is created that is 'kicked' out at very high speed. With the compact sizes of globular clusters and the high speed of the neutron stars, all neutron stars should

be ejected from such clusters in less than two million years. Many globular clusters should have emptied in a few *thousand* years. A major study of this so-called 'retention problem' called it a "long-standing mystery".<sup>4</sup> These observations, too, are consistent with a young age of the universe. ■

**DON BATTEN, B.Sc.Agr.(Hons.), Ph.D.**

*Dr Batten worked as a research scientist and consultant plant physiologist and is now the CEO of Creation Ministries International (Australia), based in Brisbane, Australia. For more: [creation.com/batten](http://creation.com/batten).*

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Thanks to Paul Nethercott for alerting us to this 'clock'.



# The CAL ORCKO (‘Lime Hill’) DINOSAUR TRACKWAYS

■ **Andrew Lamb**

IN 1994, Bolivian workers quarrying high-grade limestone for cement reached a layer with too much quartz, a hard mineral, so they left it alone.<sup>1</sup> As quarrying continued, more and more of the unwanted layer was exposed, forming a huge cliff and revealing hundreds of dinosaur trackways. The tracks are of at least eight different kinds of dinosaurs, including a pair of titanosaurs and a herd of 16 ankylosaurs. The layer also contains the longest dinosaur trackway in the world, over 500 m (1,640 ft), by a small theropod,<sup>1</sup> possibly a juvenile *Tyrannosaurus rex*.<sup>2</sup>

These rocks are part of the El Molino Formation which extends over much of Bolivia. The Vilquechico Formation of Peru and the Yacoraite Formation of Argentina contain similar dinosaur trackways, and all three are suspected to be merely different parts of the one continent-wide formation.<sup>3</sup>

The El Molino Formation has cycles of layers (see diagram 1), each cycle consisting of a similar depositional sequence of various sandstone, limestone, and claystone sediments. Most layers contain assorted types of fossils,

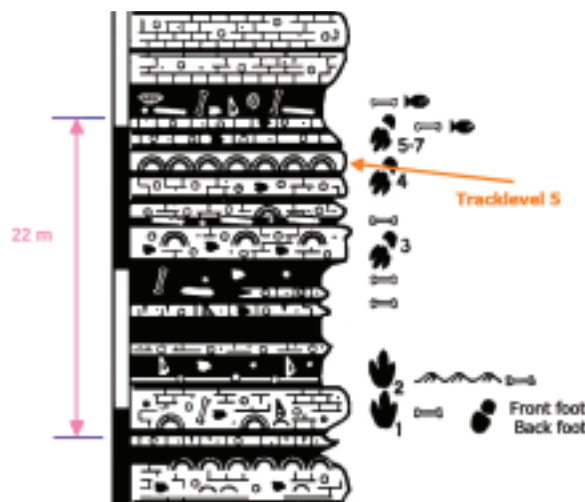
been described, seven containing a layer with dinosaur tracks.<sup>4</sup> The cliff face consists mainly of the single high-quartz layer

(tracklevel ‘5’ in diagram 1), though there are patches of cliff where overlying or underlying layers are revealed.

These tracks would have been made toward the end of the first half<sup>5</sup> of the Flood, before all the animals had perished.<sup>6</sup> While globally the sea level was remorselessly rising, in each locality the sea would continuously surge and recede (see diagram 2) due to tectonic movements, tsunamis, lunar tides, and large-scale currents. This would repeatedly cover

and re-expose areas, before eventually all the land was deeply underwater. New layers would continually be being

El Molino Formation



**Diagram 1:**  
**El Molino Formation cross section. Layer 5, containing many hundreds of dinosaur footprints, is the layer that forms the bulk of the Cal Orcko cliff face. (After fig. 3 in ref. 3.)**

mainly marine. Within the particular 22-metre thickness that includes the Cal Orcko cliff, 11 depositional cycles have







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A ‘Cretaceous Park’ tourist centre was established at Cal Orcko in 2006, but the cliff and its spectacular trackways are rapidly eroding, and could be “completely damaged” by 2020.<sup>2</sup> Proposed preservation measures include rock bolts, anchors and wire nets, and impregnation of the rock with chemicals to harden and waterproof it.<sup>1</sup> This speaks strongly against the idea that they could have already endured 65 million years of natural processes.<sup>7</sup>

The daily routine of most animals typically involves lots of meandering about, foraging for food, etc., but the dinosaur trackways at Cal Orcko, like virtually all other known dinosaur trackways around the world, are relentlessly straight, indicative of frightened animals fleeing danger. Significantly, despite the big vertical gaps between them, the various track-bearing layers of the El Molino Formation

contain the exact same fleeing-type tracks of the exact same kinds of dinosaurs. Having the same types of dinosaurs exhibiting the same unusual behaviour at the same point on the earth’s surface (separated only by the layers laid down in

than with the idea that those layers are separated by millions of years.

The Cal Orcko cliff and its dinosaur trackways are a sobering testament to the cataclysmic Flood recorded in the Bible, in which every living nostril-breathing creature that moved on land perished (Genesis 7:21).

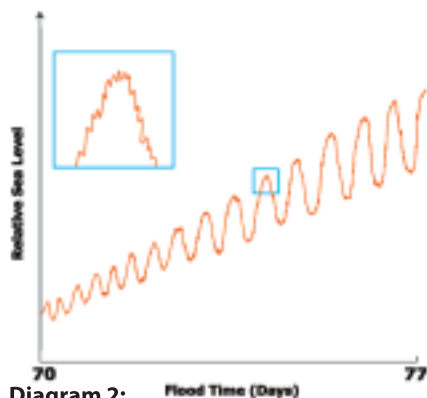
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**ANDREW LAMB, B.Sc., Dip. Ed.** has worked for Creation Ministries International (Australia), in various capacities since April 2000. For more: [creation.com/andrew-lamb](http://creation.com/andrew-lamb).

deposited from the sediment-laden waters, potentially burying and preserving the freshly-laid tracks of surviving animals desperately seeking safety. In their few hours of exposure the track-bearing sediments would partially harden, helping them resist

erosion by the next rush of water. Each depositional cycle in the rock likely represents a surge and recession of water. In this way, the aforementioned 22 m thickness was probably laid down in a few days or less. Later in the Flood, tectonic forces pushed the earth’s crust around, forming gigantic folds in the still-soft sedimentary layers. The near-vertical (72°) cliff at Cal Orcko is a portion of one such fold.



**Diagram 2:** Estimated sea level oscillations for one week during the Flood<sup>8</sup>

the meantime) is more consistent with the oscillating Floodwaters scenario





**David Catchpoole**

**T**HE EYE-CATCHING reflective patches on the abdomen of this *Thwaitesia* spider certainly make it one of the prettier spiders. “Like a disco ball with lots of different mirrors” is how Queensland Museum spider expert Robert Whyte described it, speculating that the shimmery spots “scatter light and make it difficult for predators to see it.”<sup>1</sup>

Popularly known as ‘mirror spiders’ or ‘sequined spiders’, *Thwaitesia* species are relatively little studied as yet. However, in other better-researched spiders which have similar white or silver markings it is known that the causal pigment is guanine (which is also a component of DNA). Unlike the blue/green bilin pigments (e.g. of huntsman spiders) and the red-brown-gold-yellow-purple-black pigments such as in redback spiders, guanine is not a ‘conventional’ pigment, as it simply reflects light.

Guanine is a waste product that spiders store in crystalline form in specialized cells called guanocytes, immediately beneath the spider’s transparent skin. The crystal form and arrangement determines colour—matt white or silver.<sup>2</sup>

“Guanine deposits in a spider’s skin are not there by chance and neither are they just the random deposition of unwanted guanine under the cuticle”, wrote one spider expert, noting the consistency in placement and form across white/silver spider species.<sup>3</sup> What’s more, ‘mirror’ patches are not static but can change in size—within a fraction of a second.

When disturbed—especially when a spider has to drop suddenly from its web—the reflective guanine markings suddenly contract<sup>4</sup> or even “disappear more or less completely”.<sup>2</sup> Thus the spider rapidly changes colour to something much drabber, more like its surrounds. It generally takes a few minutes to recover its ‘mirrors’ again. While “it is not clear how this impressive phenomenon works”, in one spider finely striated muscles have been found with guanocytes. Contraction of those muscles might cause the rapid shrinking of the guanine patches, but this has “yet to be explored”.<sup>2</sup>

Indeed there is much about God’s amazing creation yet to be explored; many more surprising creatures and their features await man’s discovery and examination. “O LORD, how manifold are your works! In wisdom have you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.” (Psalm 104:24)

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# Isn't it **OBVIOUS?** Natural selection can **ELIMINATE,** but never **CREATE!**

**David Catchpoole**

**M**ANY PROPONENTS of evolution repeatedly cite examples of natural selection as evidence of evolution—i.e. evidence of the sorts of processes that could have turned microbes into man, given enough time. Often the terms 'natural selection' and 'evolution' are used interchangeably, as if they were synonymous.<sup>1</sup>

Occasionally an evolutionist will speak out against such error. One notable example was John Endler, who in his 1986 book *Natural Selection in the Wild*<sup>2</sup> warned that "natural selection must not be equated with evolution", and he also said:

Natural selection is common enough in natural populations to have been detected in a wide variety of organisms ... However, natural selection does not explain the origin of new variants, only the process of changes in their frequency.

Endler had seen this himself in his own previous research on guppies in mountain streams in Trinidad, Tobago and Venezuela.<sup>3</sup> He observed that

populations of guppies there include drab-coloured males as well as brightly coloured ones, and the relative frequency of each goes up or down in line with predation pressure. If predators are few or absent, brightly coloured males predominate, as female guppies prefer them as mates; so gaudy males are more likely to pass their genes to the next generation. But when predators are numerous, the better camouflaged drab male guppies are less likely to be eaten than the gaudy ones, and so the females have to be content to mate with the survivors, thus drabness becomes predominant in the population.

The guppy population dynamics are indeed a terrific example of natural selection. Ironically, however, Endler's warning in his 1986 book hasn't stopped others from incorrectly misrepresenting his guppies as demonstrating evolution. E.g. Richard Dawkins proclaimed it to be "a spectacular example of evolution before our very eyes"<sup>4</sup> but it most definitely is *not*, as there is *no new genetic information* in evidence anywhere here. There is not a shred of any evidence from Endler's creditable guppy research that fish could have turned into *fishermen, fishmongers and fish physiologists* (yet that is what the evolution story would have us believe).<sup>5</sup>

As *Creation* magazine has pointed out many times, natural selection has been amply observed happening in many populations of insects, animals, fish, and plants, but in all instances it is *not* evolution.<sup>6</sup> Whether by differential reproduction or differential survival, natural selection results in the *culling* or *loss* of genetic information, not its creation.

That last point was certainly obvious to another noted evolutionist who spoke out against the natural-selection-equals-evolution sham, *viz.*, the late Lynn Margulis.<sup>7</sup> Just before her death in 2011, she said in an interview:

Natural selection eliminates and maybe maintains, but it doesn't create.<sup>8</sup>

That's telling it like it is: natural selection by itself generates no new genetic information. It can *eliminate* genes that already exist, but *never create*.

## **Evolution evidence evades evolutionists (and everyone else!)**

According to standard evolutionary theory today, evolutionists look to *mutations* as being the process responsible for generating the new genetic information





evolution requires, which is then sorted by natural selection. But where is the *evidence* of this happening? Margulis had a very blunt, and bleak, assessment of this. Note again that she was no creationist, being absolutely committed to Darwin's ideas of evolution, which she happily defined as, "Darwinism says that there has been change through time, since all life comes from a common ancestor".<sup>8</sup> But her biological experience and observations of nature had made her contemptuous of the neo-Darwinists' faith in mutations as being the engine<sup>9</sup> of evolution:

[N]eo-Darwinists say that [evolutionary change occurs] when mutations occur and modify an organism. I was taught over and over again that the accumulation of random mutations led to evolutionary change— ... I believed it until I looked for evidence.<sup>8</sup>

Indeed, when other evolutionists over the years have been pressed to give specific evidence of mutations that increase the information in the genome, they are unable to give coherent answers.<sup>10</sup> That's because mutations are overwhelmingly a *downhill* process—see box p. 40 "Mutations can't climb mountains!".

Is it any wonder that Margulis went looking for some other mechanism that might provide a means of evolutionary change, latching on to her own pet theory of *endosymbiosis*?<sup>8</sup> Not that there's any evidence of any evolution there, either.<sup>11</sup> But Margulis was certainly right to point out the dearth of evidence for mutations and natural selection ever being able to create the evolutionary change required for all living things to have arisen from a common ancestor.

#### **Examples of natural selection and mutations galore—but no evolution**

As with Endler's guppies, when one looks at the evidence in the real world, stand-out examples of natural selection and mutations show a consistent *loss* or mere *maintenance* of genetic information, not the gains that microbes-to-man evolution requires:

#### **• DANCE-OR-DIE LIZARDS:**

Fire ants invading parts of the USA quickly cull out fence lizards that don't do the 'twitch dance' to shake off biting ants.



Only the twitch-dancing lizards survive—a characteristic which was *already present* in the lizard population. In the face of such natural selection, the lizard population is now better *adapted* to maintain a presence in fire ant areas.<sup>12</sup> Note: no new genetic information, therefore no evolution.

#### **• KAUAI'S SILENT CRICKETS:**

A deadly parasitic fly on the island of Kauai acoustically tracks down chirping male crickets—but crickets with an X-chromosome mutation that silences them evade detection by the killer fly. Somehow the mutant mute crickets have been able to find mates, and pass their mutated genes to the next generation. Note that genetic information (for chirping) has been *eliminated*. In this classic example of natural selection and genome degradation, Kauai's crickets are now silent, but at least they survive.<sup>13</sup>



• **NOT-SO-DARK DEER MICE:**

In Nebraska's sand hills, deer mice with a mutation conferring pale colouration are better camouflaged against bird predators than normal deer mice. But the mutation is a *downhill* change, not gain-of-function—no justification whatsoever for those trying to claim this as the latest 'icon of evolution'.<sup>14</sup>



• **SHORTER-WINGED SWALLOWS:**

Cliff swallows live in mud nests they build on highway bridges and road culverts. But when flying out from the nest they are vulnerable to being killed by passing vehicles—particularly those with longer wings, less able to take off vertically than birds with shorter wings. The genes for longer wings are thus being progressively *eliminated*, leaving behind a population with most birds having shorter wings.<sup>15</sup>



• **WINGLESS BEETLES:**

In the absence of their usual predators found on the mainland, the mutant flightless offspring of beetles on windswept islands are favoured by natural selection over their winged prone-to-being-blown-out-to-sea siblings. But there's no gain-of-function evolution here—the genes for flight have been *lost*.<sup>16</sup>



• **SMALLER FISH TO FRY:**

It's getting harder to catch fish of even minimum legal size—in some commercial fishery popula-



## Mutations can't climb mountains!

Mutations overwhelmingly degrade genetic information, a *downhill* process. Whereas for microbes-to-man evolution to be true, evolutionists should be able to point to thousands of examples of information-gaining mutations, an *uphill* process, but they can't. Note that sometimes diehard anti-creationists quibble over the definition of 'information'. As information is foundationally an argument from probability, we might expect a few cases of trivial information increase (see the CMI DVD *Understanding the Law of Decay*, and [creation.com/edge-evolution](http://creation.com/edge-evolution)). But evolution requires *encyclopedic amounts of new information*. Some evolutionists have pointed to nylon-eating bacteria as being a lead candidate, but it fails to prove the point. The new 'ability' to digest nylon comes from two 'typos' in an existing enzyme that is finely-tuned to break bonds similar to those in nylon. The mutated enzyme is less tuned for its old task, but can digest nylon. Such mutations cannot explain microbes-to-man change, which requires the invention of many thousands of brand-new proteins, not just slightly modifying existing ones (see: [creation.com/evoquest#nylonase](http://creation.com/evoquest#nylonase)). They are thus of no help to evolutionists in the climbing of the 'Evolution Mountain'—representing evolution's mooted uphill journey from microbes to *marlin*, *macaws*, *magnolias*, and *man*—no matter how many millions or billions of years are invoked.



tions (e.g. Canadian cod) the genes for large size have been *completely eliminated*.<sup>17,18</sup>

- **SHORTER-TUSKED ELEPHANTS:** By selectively killing elephants



with the largest tusks, poachers for the ivory trade have left behind elephant populations having short, or even no, tusks. The genes for large tusks are being *eliminated*.<sup>19</sup>

- **BLIND CAVE FISH:** Living in dark, underwater caves, natural



selection favours eyeless mutant fish over their sighted kin. Eyes in such an environment are a disadvantage as the delicate tissue is prone to injury as fish bump against sharp rocks in the darkness, becoming an entry point for potentially lethal bacteria. Eyelessness clearly represents a *loss*, not a gain,<sup>20</sup> yet leading evolutionists bizarrely have claimed it as supporting their case.<sup>21</sup> But evolution needs to *invent* eyesight, not destroy it!



## • NOT-SO-TALL SNOW

**LOTUS:** Highly prized for traditional Chinese medicine, the Tibetan snow lotus has halved in height during the past century, because every year at flowering time people scour the alpine slopes for the taller plants considered more potent. Only the smaller plants have been left behind to produce seed, and thus the genes for snow lotus tallness are being progressively *eliminated* from the Himalayas.<sup>22</sup> Far from being one of the top seven examples of 'evolution in action' as some claim,<sup>23</sup> this observed genetic change is in the *wrong direction* for primordial ooze to have ever turned into plants and animals.



From a straightforward view of the evidence from these and other real-world examples, surely it's obvious: natural selection can *eliminate*, but *never create*. And we see that mutations are no help to the microbes-to-man evolutionary storyline either. The facts instead fit the Bible's historical account of our post-Fall world having originally been created "very good" (Genesis 1:31) but now being "in bondage to decay" (Romans 8:19–22). The evidence is there for all to see—and the wise to comprehend. ■

## References and notes

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DAVID CATCHPOOLE, B.Ag.Sc.(Hons.), Ph.D.

After working as a plant physiologist and science educator, Dr Catchpoole worked for many years as a scientist/speaker for Creation Ministries International (Australia). He continues to write for CMI. For more: [creation.com/catchpoole](http://creation.com/catchpoole).