

LSI Journal

The Lutheran Science Institute

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Creation-Evolution Q&A

■ **The Place of Reason in Defending the Christian Faith—Part 4**

■ **'Cavemen' Artists Better Than Renaissance Artists at Depicting Animals**

LUTHERAN SCIENCE INSTITUTE, INC.

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The Annual Meeting of the Institute is held the Saturday *after* Thanksgiving. At least three other meetings are held during the year at locations

selected by the president. Meetings are open to the public and announced in the LSI JOURNAL and/or on our web site.

MEETING SCHEDULE*

- ◆ 2nd Saturday in January, 1:00 p.m.
- ◆ 2nd Saturday after Easter, 1:00 p.m.
- ◆ 2nd Saturday in June, 1:00 p.m.
- ◆ 2nd Saturday in October, 1:00 p.m.

*Dates, times, and locations subject to change. Additional meetings may be scheduled. Check with the president, secretary, or editor or see our web site for verification.

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Creation-Evolution

Q&A

Part 1

By Warren Krug

Christians often have questions regarding science issues, especially when they see a contradiction between what they hear from scientists or science teachers and what they have read in the Bible or heard in church services. It is the position of the Lutheran Science Institute (LSI) and the author of this paper that the Holy Bible is perfect and inerrant in all matters, including those that relate to science. In an effort to help resolve such issues I have here provided some questions Christians often ask and what we feel are reasonable answers, answers I pray might be helpful in resolving any problems that may be troubling some Christians. In discussing science,

I do not in any way imply that science can ever supersede God's Holy Word in knowing the truth about creation. This paper is not intended to be an exhaustive treatment of the subject by any means. The footnotes contain internet addresses (URLs) of a number of web pages for purposes of documentation and which will in many cases provide additional information.

Warren Krug, a retired teacher, is the editor of the *LSI Journal* and is currently serving as president of the Lutheran Science Institute. He holds a B.S. in Education from Concordia University Chicago and a M.S. in Education from Oklahoma State University. He is a member at Trinity, Caledonia, Wisconsin.

A disclaimer: LSI does not necessarily agree with every statement on those web pages, especially those on secular sites.

Questions Covered in this document:

1. Haven't scientists shown the earth to be much, much older than the Bible teaches?

2. Can't the creation "days" be interpreted as representing long ages?

3. What is the "gap theory" and is it legitimate?

4. What theological problems are encountered in theistic evolution?

5. What is the mechanism by which evolution is said to work?

6. Can we conclude that no species has ever changed into a different species?

7. Isn't genetics a key to evolution?

8. How do evolutionists explain the origin of life?

9. Hasn't the fossil record demonstrated Darwinian evolution?

10. What is entropy and how does it affect the evolution theory?

11. Were dinosaurs real and, if so, does the Bible mention them?

12. Were there really cave-men?

13. What about human evolution?

14. Who was Cain's wife?

15. Is there any evidence for the Big Bang?

16. Is there life in space?

17. Why is starlight a problem for creationists?

18. What evidence is there for a global flood?

19. Was Noah Ark large enough to handle all the animals that would have boarded the vessel?

20. Were there really ice ages?

21. Is the story of Jonah a real historical event or a fable?

22. What is intelligent design and is it an idea Christians can accept?

23. If an intelligent God designed the world so well, why are there so many problems?

24. What else has God designed for us?

1. Haven't scientists shown the earth to be much, much older than the Bible teaches?

Various Bible scholars such as Bishop Ussher (1581-1656) have attempted to arrive at an age of the earth by examining the various genealogies in the Bible, such as those in Genesis chapters 5, 10 and 11. While these scholars do not agree on the exact age, all who are faithful to the text of the Bible arrive at a figure of a few thousand years. Prof. John Brug has suggested that the

absolute maximum age of the earth cannot be more than 12,000 years.¹ This is not to say that the world is that old, for based on the genealogies it is likely much closer to 6,000 years old.

On the other hand, secular scientists have concluded that the earth is no less than 4.5 billion years old. They claim that this date is based on a method of dating rocks called radiometric dating. Scientists know that certain radioactive elements in rocks will over time decay into other elements; for instance radium into lead, or potassium into argon. The original elements are called parent elements and the newer ones are referred to as daughter elements. Scientists can determine the decay rates of these elements, and they use this information to date the age of the rocks which contain those elements. Using this method, scientists have arrived at millions and billions of years as the age for some rocks.

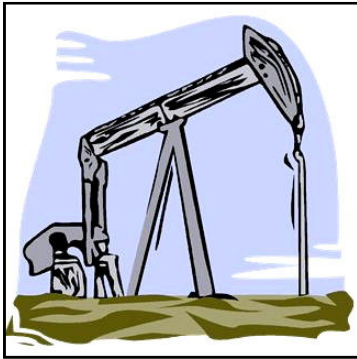
The problem with radiometric dating is that this method rests on at least three assumptions which cannot be verified: first, that scientists can know how much parent element and daughter element, if any, were in the rock when it was first formed; second, that the decay rate has not varied

since the rock was formed; and third, that nothing else has altered the amount of parent and daughter elements during the time the rock was in the ground. A failure in any one of these three assumptions would yield false dates.

Some historical events and discoveries have indeed shown radiometric dates can be seriously in error. For instance, rocks formed from lava flows at Mt. Ngauruhoe in New Zealand in 1954 have been dated as being 3.5 million years old. Rock at the top of Grand Canyon, formed by a volcanic eruption in recent times has yielded an age of more than 1 billion years!² It is also true that measuring the same material with different tests will often produce quite different ages. The RATE project, a major scientific effort by a group of creationist scientists (scientists who

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1. John D. Brug, "Origins of earth and People," *Forward in Christ* 86:12 (December, 1999), www.wels.net/news-events/forward-in-christ/december-1999/origins-earth-and-people?page=0,1 (accessed April 26, 2013).
 2. Andrew A. Snelling, "Radiometric Dating: Problems with the Assumptions," *Answers in Genesis* (September 2, 2009), <http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/am/v4/n4/assumptions> (accessed April 30, 2013).

accept Genesis as being literally true) to test the reliability of radioactive dating has found the evidence supports a young age for the earth.³ So, there are good reasons to be suspicious of radiometric dating.



There are many scientific “clocks” that produce dates far younger than 4.5 billion years. If the earth were this old, then there is too much carbon 14 in diamonds and the strata, too much helium in minerals, not nearly enough salt in the oceans, too much pressure in oil fields, and too little meteorite dust in the earth’s strata. Moreover, the moon is too close to the earth, our planet has too strong of a magnetic field, the shape of the earth and its continents is all wrong, and the earth’s rotation on its axis is slowing down too fast.⁴

2. Can’t the creation “days” be interpreted as representing long ages?

Some Bible scholars who wish to accommodate the long ages of evolutionary theory refer to 2 Peter 3:8 (“With the Lord a day is like a thousand years...”) as giving them permission to interpret the creation days as representing very long time periods. Of course, these scholars usually don’t quote the rest of that verse (“...and a thousand years are like a day”) which tends to destroy their argument.⁵

Although the word “day” can have more than one meaning, it is obvious a normal day (Hebrew

3. “Radioisotopes and the Age of the earth (RATE),” *Institute for Creation Research*, <http://www.icr.org/rate> (accessed April 27, 2013).
4. “What is the True Age of the earth?” *Institute for Creation Research*, <http://www.icr.org/age-of-the-earth> (accessed April 26, 2013); cf. also Warren Krug, “The Age of the earth – Part 2,” *LSI Journal* (2009), <http://www.lutheranscience.org/2009-Ageofearth.html> (accessed April 26, 2013); cf. also “Days Keep Getting Longer,” *LSI Blog* (July 4, 2012), <http://www.lutheranscience.org/12-07-04.html> (accessed April 26, 2013).
5. “What We Believe: Questions and Answers: The Length of Creation,” *Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod* (2013), <http://www.wels.net/what-we-believe/questions-answers/creation/length-creation> (accessed April 27, 2013).

yôm) is intended for each of the six creation days. When combined with a numeral as it is in the creation account, *yôm* means a normal day, as does the phrase “evening and morning.” Some people say these days can’t be normal days (approximately 24 hours) because the sun wasn’t created until the fourth day. However, this argument is irrelevant because “day” is a measure of time and the sun in this context merely serves as a marker of time for humans who weren’t created until the sixth day.

3. What is the “gap theory” and is it legitimate?

Some people believe there is a long period of time between Genesis 1:1 (“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”) and Genesis 1:2 (“Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.”) In general, they seem to allow for this gap in order to accommodate the billions of years that secularists believe the earth has existed. Supposedly during this gap period the geological ages took place and most of the fossils including those of apemen were formed. It is also believed that near the end of the period Satan rebelled, causing God to not only eject him from

heaven but also to destroy the earth, leaving our world “formless and empty” and “dark.” However, when this gap period ended, the six days of creation are said to have begun as God went about re-creating the universe.

Obviously, there is not a smidgen of evidence in nature or the Bible for this idea. Those who hold to it though believe Genesis 1:2 should read, “Now the earth BECAME formless and empty,” suggesting our planet already had a history prior to Genesis 1:2. However, conservative Bible scholars say the Hebrew word *hayah* used in Genesis 1:2 is a verb of “being,” almost always translated as “was” and never as “became.”⁶

The only reason for accepting either the gap theory or the “long creation days” idea is to accommodate secular science’s views regarding an old earth. When one becomes convinced that the scientific arguments for an old earth are shaky at best, these two theories have no appeal.

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6. Russell Grigg, “How Long were the Days of Genesis 1?” *Creation* 19 (December, 1996), <http://creation.com/how-long-were-the-days-of-genesis-1> (accessed April 27, 2013).

4. What theological problems are encountered in theistic evolution?

Theistic evolution, the idea that God used the process of evolution to create the world and its creatures over millions and billions of years, poses serious theological problems. Sadly, many denominations and churches seem to have accepted this theory. However, if evolution is real, then the creation account in Genesis is not a true account of our origins. It also means it is not a true account of how sin entered the world. Adam and Eve were not real people. They cannot be blamed for the first sin if they didn't even exist.

Darwinian evolution is an progressive process with better, more advanced humans slowly emerging out of the animal kingdom. There is no point in the evolution process at which we can say sin entered the world, and this conflicts with Genesis. If we are evolving into more advanced creatures naturally, it would seem we should not be held accountable for our sins – if we indeed have any sins – because we are getting better on our own. If evolution were true, it would be easy to conclude that we don't need a Savior.

However, the Bible paints an

entirely different picture. The human race was created holy, then fell into the deep abyss of depravity when Adam and Eve sinned, and it can be pulled up only by Jesus Christ. St. Paul accepted Adam as a real person whose disobedience brought sin into the world when he wrote, "Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned" (Romans 5:12). He also wrote, "For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive" (1 Corinthians 15:22), which suggests that if Adam were not real, then neither is Christ's work of saving us.

Looking at theistic evolution rationally means that God used the extremely lengthy and painful survival-of-the fittest process to create living creatures, eventually including us humans. An intelligent God of order and planning is thereby reduced to an extremely wasteful inventor who takes an inordinate amount of time to do what he could have done (and did do) in a short time. Theistic evolution is illogical and, as we shall see, is beset with most of the same scientific problems as atheistic evolution. It is also true that if we can't trust Genesis as being a true historical account, then we may have doubts about other

portions of Scripture such as the miracles, the resurrection of Jesus, and the Gospel itself.

5. What is the mechanism by which evolution is said to work?

Evolution is supposed to be able to create new organisms by means of natural selection and mutations. Nobody doubts that mutations cause changes in genes which can indeed lead to differences in creatures. Natural selection (a.k.a. “survival of the fittest”) then “chooses” those creatures which are better able to survive. The idea is that over time natural selection will tend to produce better, more advanced creatures which pass on the improvements to their descendents – hence, molecules-to-man evolution.

However, natural selection is not the same as evolution. Natural selection can be observed whereas evolution cannot. For instance, the story is told that in England at the start of the Industrial Revolution there was a light-colored species of moth (called a peppered moth) which blended in with the light-colored bark of the trees on which it rested. Predatory birds had a hard time seeing these moths because of the camouflage, so very few of them were eaten by the birds. Then,



when smoke-producing factories were built, pollution in the air caused the light tree bark to darken with soot, thus exposing the light-colored moths and making them easy prey for birds. At that point the dark-colored peppered moths began to dominate because they blended in much better with the dark tree bark which afforded them more camouflage. This story may be an example of how natural selection can lead to changes, but it isn't evolution. The two varieties of moths are still peppered moths, and both varieties of moth did exist before the Industrial Revolution. No new creature had evolved.

As for mutations, only in rare cases are they beneficial to an organism⁷, and the so-called beneficial genetic mutations usually seem to have a downside. For example, a small group of villagers in Ecuador have experienced a genetic mutation which protects them from diabetes and cancer, but it stunts their growth, making them more vulnerable in a physical confrontation with normal-sized people.⁸ Because mutations which are significant enough to be noticed are almost always harmful to organisms, mutations are not a friend to the theory of evolution.

Dr. John C. Sanford, a highly regarded former professor of genetics at Cornell University, has written a book entitled *Genetic Entropy & the Mystery of the Genome*.⁹ (Question 10 has more to say about “entropy.”) In this book Dr. Sanford discusses the net negative effect mutations are having on our species. As harmful mutations build up in our genes, often to be passed on to our descendants, we are not getting better or healthier as a species but weaker. If his idea is correct, then we are degenerating, not evolving! Some support for this idea can be seen in what appears to be an increase in developmental diseases in recent times.¹⁰ LSI

Part 2:

Can we conclude that no species has ever changed into a different species?

Isn't genetics a key to evolution?

How do evolutionists explain the origin of life?

Hasn't the fossil record demonstrated Darwinian evolution?

What is entropy and how does it affect the evolution theory?

Were dinosaurs real and, if so, does the Bible mention them?

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7. Georgia Purdom, “Feedback: Are There Beneficial Mutations?” *Answers in Genesis*, <http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/2008/04/25/feedback-beneficial-mutations> (accessed May 4, 2013)
 8. “Mutation Helps Some Ecuadorians Live Longer,” *LSI Blog* (February 18, 2011), <http://www.lutheranscience.org/11-02-18.html> (accessed April 30, 2013).
 9. John C. Sanford, *Genetic Entropy & the Mystery of the Genome* (Lima, NY: Elim Publishing, 2005), <http://www.amazon.com/Genetic-Entropy-Mystery-Genome-Sanford/dp/1599190028> (accessed April 30, 2013).
 10. “Developmental Disabilities on the Rise,” *LSI Blog* (May 25, 2011), <http://lutheranscience.org/11-05-25.html> (accessed April 30, 2013).

The Place of Reason in Defending the Christian Faith

—with ministry ideas
regarding creation/evolution

By Mark Bergemann


(Part 4 of 4)

The *LSI Journal* is printing this article in four parts. This print version has also been condensed by nearly half, primarily through removal of many supporting quotations. The complete uncondensed article (including all 4 parts and an appendix) is available in the on-line LSI Journal at **www.LutheranScience.org**. The four parts are:

- 1 – Introduction; What the Bible Teaches about Reason.
- 2 – Scriptural Examples of Arguments from Reason.
- 3 – Skeptics Exposed to the Gospel.
- 4 – Ministry Considerations Regarding Creation.

Mark Bergemann, a retired electrical engineer, serves on the LSI Board of Directors. He is an evangelism leader at Good Shepherd's in West Allis, WI. Mark holds a B.S. from UW-Milwaukee.

Part 4 – Ministry Considerations Regarding Creation

 evolution is a very real temptation in today's world. This anti-Christian teaching is presented as truth nearly everywhere: TV, internet, news, advertising, radio, magazines, schools, museums, and zoos. Evolution has led many to abandon their faith in Jesus.

Our WELS congregations, schools, and other ministries proclaim that God created everything in six literal days. This is certainly a blessing from our Loving Father, as so many churches teach “millions of years” and other false

evolutionary ideas.

But are we teaching our people all the details we should regarding origins? Are we teaching our people why evolution is so deadly to the Christian faith and how some Christians twist Scripture to accommodate evolution?

Following are discussion ideas to aid in evaluation of ministry where it touches on creation/evolution issues:

Evolution Attacks The Gospel

Have we taught our people how evolution attacks the very Gospel itself, the need for a Savior, and the doctrines of man, original sin, actual sin, the fall into sin, the law, and death?

Resource: Lyle W. Lange, *God So Loved the World – A study of Christian Doctrine* (Milwaukee: Northwestern Publishing House, 2005), 158-161

Beyond Genesis 1-11

Do our people know that creation and Noah's Flood are taught as true history throughout Scripture? That Jesus and the Apostles spoke about Adam, Eve, Cain, Abel, Enoch, Noah, the flood, Eden, creation, the fall into sin,

and the curse, as real people and true events?

Exodus 20:8-11 — God created everything in 6 days, and rested on the 7th day.

1 Chronicles 1:1 — The genealogy of Noah includes Methuselah, Enoch, Seth, and Adam.

1 Chronicles 1:1-27 — Noah's descendants formed The Table of Nations (Genesis chap. 10).

Psalms 90:3 — We return to dust when we die.

Psalms 103:14 — The Lord knows how we are formed and that we are dust.

Psalms 104 — Shows the order of creation.

Ecclesiastes 3:20 — We come from dust and to dust we will return.

Isaiah 54:9 — The waters of Noah covered the earth.

Matthew 19:3-6 — Jesus defends marriage by referring to creation.

Matthew 19:28 — Jesus refers to the restoration of all things to their original perfection.

Matthew 23:34-35 — Jesus refers to the blood of righteous Abel which was shed.

Matthew 24:36-39 — Jesus refers to Noah, the ark, and how the flood swept away people.

Mark 10:6-9 — Jesus defends marriage by referring to creation.

Luke 3:23-38 — The genealogy of Jesus includes Noah, Me-

thuselah, Enoch, Seth, and Adam.

Luke 11:50-51 — Jesus refers to the blood of the prophet Able being shed.

Luke 17:26-27 — Jesus refers to Noah, the ark, and how the flood swept away people.

Acts 3:17-21 — Peter refers to the restoration of all things to their original perfection.

Romans 5:12-21 — Death came to all men through the sin of Adam.

1 Corinthians 11:8 — For man did not come from woman, but woman from man;

1 Corinthians 11:12 — For as woman came from man, so also man is born of woman.

1 Corinthians 15:20-22 — Death came through a man. In Adam all die.

1 Corinthians 15:42-49 — Adam, the first man, was of the dust of the earth.

2 Corinthians 11:3 — Eve was deceived by the serpent.

1 Timothy 2:13-14 — Adam was formed first, then Eve. Eve was first to be deceived.

Hebrews 11:4 — Cain's and Abel's sacrifices.

Hebrews 11:5 — Faithful Enoch was taken away by God and did not experience death.

Hebrews 11:7 — Noah condemned the world, built an ark, and saved his family.

Hebrews 12:24 — The blood of Jesus speaks a better word

than the blood of Abel.

1 Peter 3:20 — In the days of Noah, an ark was built which saved 8 people.

2 Peter 2:5 — God destroyed the ungodly with a flood but saved Noah and 7 others.

2 Peter 3:3-6 — The earth was formed from water. The world was once destroyed by water.

1 John 3:12 — Evil Cain murdered his righteous brother Abel.

Jude 11 — Godless men have taken the way of Cain.

Jude 14 — Enoch, the seventh from Adam, was a prophet.

Revelation 22:3 — In heaven there will no longer be any curse.

Theistic Evolution

Have we taught our people about false Christian teachings like the Gap Theory, Progressive Creation, Theistic Evolution, and the Framework Hypothesis?

Do our people know the Bible interpretation methods used by Christians who accept evolution, as compared to the correct interpretation of Scripture? Some Christians falsely believe that the Bible *contains* the Word of God, and we must decide which parts are God's Word,

and which parts are the views of a human author. Some Christians falsely believe that Genesis 1-11 is myth, allegory, or metaphor. Some Christians falsely believe that Jesus taught creation and the flood as true events, because he did not want to hinder his ministry by correcting false ideas.

Bible History

When we teach Bible history, do we address the ways evolution and modern society attack historical accounts in Scripture? Do we highlight the importance of Genesis 1-11, which provides the foundation and background for so many Biblical teachings?

—Do our people know that all things were created in 6 days, including extinct life forms such as dinosaurs?

—Do we explain the difference between the Biblical “kind” and the modern term “species”?

—Do we envision Noah’s ark as being far too small and tipsy, or do we envision the massive sea worthy ship the Bible describes, a ship far larger than needed?

—Do we show that Genesis 1-11 answers many questions including:

—Why is a week 7 days long?

—What is the purpose of stars?

—Why do we marry?

—Why do we die and return to dust?

—Why do we need a Savior?

—Why do we wear clothes?

—Why do thorns and thistles grow in our gardens?

—Why don’t we live as long as people did before the flood?

—Why do people speak different languages?

—Does God approve the eating of meat (for those of us who do so)?

Bible Certainty and Changing Science

We must be careful to distinguish between teachings of Biblical certainty, and observations about how the world seems to be very much as expected (from a creation viewpoint). Teachings (doctrine) which God reveals to us in the Bible never change, as they have been revealed by an all-knowing and unchanging God. Conclusions based on observations (science) often change, since they are made with limited human reason which is corrupted by sin. Following are some examples of change in scientific conclusions.

Concepts which have been discarded by many

creationists:

—*A pre-flood “vapor canopy.”*

—*Little dust on the moon means a young moon.*

—*Distant star light created “in-transit.”*

—*Woolly mammoths were flash frozen during the flood.*

Concepts which have been discarded by many evolutionists:

—*“Piltdown Man” as our ancestor.*

—*“Vestigial” organs.*

—*Nebraska Man” as our ancestor.*

False Claims

Have we taught our people some of the ways evolutionists attack creation?

False claims by some evolutionists:

—*Creationists are against science.*

—*Only the uneducated reject evolution.*

—*All true scientists are evolutionists.*

—*Dawkins states, “No serious biologist doubts the fact that evolution has happened.”¹*

—*A belief in evolution is required to do real science.*

—*Scientific American declares, “There is no scientifically credible challenge to evolution, only long-ago-debunked crea-*

tionist claptrap.”²

—*There is not enough water to cover the mountains in a global flood.*

Straw men

Have we taught our people about the straw men³ evolutionists erect and then easily knock down?

False claims about creationism, advanced by some evolutionists:

—*God made all animals as they are today.*

—*Dinosaurs never existed.*

—*Every species of land animal had to fit into a 450 foot boat to survive the flood.*

—*Men have one less rib than women.*

—*All fossils are from the flood.*

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1. Richard Dawkins, *The Blind Watchmaker—Why Evolution Reveals a Universe Without Design*, revised ed. (New York and London: W. W. Norton & Company, 2006), 407.
 2. Glenn Branch and Eugenie C. Scott, “The Latest Face of Creationism,” *Scientific American*, January 2009, 98.
 3. “The straw man fallacy: misrepresenting an opponent’s position and proceeding to refute the misrepresentation rather than what the opponent actually claims.” Lisle, *Discerning Truth*, 61.

—Plants did not die before Adam sinned.

Evolution – Its Effect On Our Thinking

Have we taught our people about evolutionary terminology and false concepts so embedded in our daily lives, we often do not even realize how they bend our thinking toward evolution?

False concepts:

—“Early” life forms, such as alligators, are more “ancient” than mammals.

—“Cave men” were less intelligent than we are today.

—Humans are improving morally and ethically.

—Dinosaurs never lived contemporarily with people.

—The sun is older than the earth.

—Prehistoric.

—young” and “old” stars, stellar nurseries, etc.

Evolution – A belief That There is No Creator God

Do our people know that evolution starts with a belief that everything came about through natural causes? Evolution eliminates the possibility of a Creator God before any evidence is considered.

Resource: “Can Evolutionists Be Neutral?”⁴

Scientific Problems For Evolution

Have we taught our people some of the many scientific problems with evolution?

—Scientific observations fit creation as well, or even better, than they fit evolution.

—DNA is information, and the only known source of information is intelligence.

—Statistics show the chance forming of life is impossible.

—C14 dating problems in formerly living things.

—C14 in coal, diamonds, and most carbon containing things.

—Uranium/potassium dating problems in cooled magma rock like granite and in cooled lava flows.

—Irreducible complexity in living things on the molecular level.

Invalid Arguments for Creation

Have we taught our people to avoid invalid arguments for creation?

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4. Mark Bergemann, “Can Evolutionists Be Neutral?” *LSI Journal* (May-August, 2006). <http://www.lutheranscience.org/2010-EvolutionistNeutral.html> (accessed January 19, 2012).

My personal experience is that many who accept evolution as fact, both believers and unbelievers, have major gaps in their knowledge of basic evolutionary claims.

Resource: "Shaky Creationism: Questionable Arguments Sometimes Used by Creationists"⁵

Discussing Evolution with Unbelievers

My personal experience is that many who accept evolution as fact, both believers and unbelievers, have major gaps in their knowledge of basic evolutionary claims. In addition, many of them know very little about the Biblical teaching of creation, and much of what they know is not correct. This seems to open up avenues for discussion, and without trying to do so, I find myself in discussions about evolution.

If you find yourself talking about evolution with an unbeliever, move the discussion toward the law and Gospel. Such a discussion may start by discussing some aspect of evolution or creation. You may wish to transi-

tion to the law and Gospel by describing the fall into sin, and explaining God's plan to restore our broken relationship with Him (the Biblical worldview).

Many unbelievers today have no religious background. The concept of sin needs to be carefully explained to them, because they usually have misconceptions about it. Mentioning the perfection of God's original creation, and then the fall into sin and its consequences, leads into the Good News about Jesus.

An LSI article entitled, "How Did Life Begin?" somewhat follows the course that a discussion with an unbeliever may take. It starts with several aspects of evolution, moves to presenting a Biblical worldview, and finishes with the gospel.⁶
LSI

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5. Warren Krug, "Shaky Creationism: Questionable Arguments Sometimes Used by Creationists," *LSI Journal* (May-August, 2006). <http://www.lutheranscience.org/2006-ShakyCreationism1.html> (accessed January 19, 2012).
 6. Mark Bergemann, "How Did Life Begin?" *LSI Journal* (March-April 2005). <http://lutheranscience.org/2005-LifeBegin.html>

Monday, December 10, 2012

‘Cavemen’ Artists Better Than Renaissance Artists at Depicting Animals



A majority of ancient artists knew how to correctly illustrate animals walking.

Summary: “Cavemen” may be seen by modern culture as having been slow-witted and unskilled, with their artistic accomplishments a mere hint of what was to come during the Renaissance period and beyond. However, a new study published in *PLOS ONE* sets the record straight. These “prehistoric humans” were actually more accurate at drawing the way most four-legged animals really walk than artists from the 19th and 20th centuries.

The researchers relied on a landmark 1880s finding by British photographer Eadweard Muybridge that showed horses move their legs in a particular sequence as they walk. Later it was discovered most four-legged animals use the same “foot-fall

formula,” which goes LEFT HIND-LEFT FRONT-RIGHT HIND-RIGHT FRONT.

It turns out the ancient people already knew this formula. Of 39 ancient cave paintings that showed four-legged animals walking, 21 got it right, a success rate of 53.8%. After considering the various possible combinations a four-legged animal's gait can be depicted, the researchers determined that mere chance would lead to only a 26.7% success rate. When the scientists studied 272 paintings made during modern times but before Muybridge's findings, the painters got the formula right only 16.5% of the time. Remarkably, even after scientists had determined how most four-legged animals walk, artists still had only a 42.1% success rate.

20th century depictions of animals walking made by museums and scientific publications were somewhat more accurate—58.9% by natural history museums and 56.9% by taxidermy catalogues, but animal anatomy textbooks posted only a 36.4% score. Animal toy models were correct 50% of the time.

How could “prehistoric humans” have gotten so skilled at depicting animals such as bulls, antelopes and wild horses? The study's authors provide a possible answer. For these ancient humans, “the observation of animals was not merely a pastime, but a matter of survival,” they write. Because the ancients thought of these animals as prey, they more closely observed their subjects than do people who are not as directly connected to nature.

(Photo of Stone Age cave painting from Wikipedia)

To read the entire article, go to
<http://blogs.smithsonianmag.com/science/2012/12/cavemen-were-much-better-at-illustrating-animals-than-artists-today/>

Comment: When will modern science and the general public catch up with the fact there never was any race of grunting, brutish semi-humans? This story is just one of many that recently have shown early humans were possessed with skills, intelligence, compassion and the other traits we associate with

modern mankind. While early people did not have all the advantages of the technology we currently enjoy, they still were capable of accomplishments we still can't explain — such as the building of the Egyptian pyramids.

As for the idea of “prehistoric” humans, they simply didn't exist. According to the Bible, human history began with two people in the Garden of Eden. There is no hint in the Scriptures of any pre-humans that preceded Adam and Eve. God created humans and He created animals, separately, to reproduce after their separate kinds.

Bible-believing scientists would like to know where the evidence is to validate the idea of prehistoric humans. There are assumptions, theories, and misinterpretations galore, but solid evidence for this idea is unsurprisingly lacking. Perhaps the Bible doesn't tell us as much as we might like to know about the earliest humans, but it tells us as much as we need to know.

Human history began with Adam and Eve. It will end when Jesus Christ returns to judge the world and usher in a new kind of existence in which time and history as we know them will no longer exist. Studying about early times can be very interesting, but knowing about the end times is crucial. St. Paul was looking forward and not backwards when he wrote, **“I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus”** (Philippians 3:14). This prize is awarded as a gift to every person who repents of his sins and comes to faith in Jesus Christ as his Savior.

Question of the Day



How hot is the water ejected by geysers?

The water from geysers may be as hot as 400 degrees Fahrenheit. Some engineers hope to convert this hot water into electricity.

Source: *Discover* (March, 2013)

Students Cheating, Lying Less

The percentage of high school students who admit cheating, lying or stealing has dropped for the first time in ten years, according to a poll by the Josephson Institute of Ethics. The survey is “a pretty good sign that things may be turning around,” Michael Josephson, the founder and president of the institute, said. According to the survey, from 2010 to 2012, the percentage of students who said they cheated on an exam dropped from 59% to 51%, those who lied to teachers fell from 61% to 55%, and those who admitted shoplifting declined from 27% to 20%—*Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* (12/2/12)



Praying for Abortion

A Planned Parenthood group in Eureka, California is preparing to sponsor forty days of prayer—for the protection of mothers securing abortions, escorts and abortionists. The Humboldt County Clergy for Choice is offering their support for the event to the tune of “forty different prayers for those involved in the ‘sacred care’ of abortions.” Apparently, no prayers for the unborn are planned.—*Answers* (Jan.-Mar., 2013)

Traditional Marriages Best for Kids

Mark Regnerus, a sociology professor at the U. of Texas, has examined the lives of nearly 3,000 American adults raised in various types of “family arrangements.” Among other things, the results of his study shows people with “same sex” parents have lower income levels, poorer mental and physical health, and more troubled personal relationships than those raised by their biological parents. Regnerus wrote that “the empirical claim that no notable differences exist must go.”—*Creation* (Jan.-Mar, 2013)

Age for Moon and Mars is ‘Guesswork’

In an article on a new design for a portable “geochronometer” possibly destined for missions to other planets, the journal *Nature* has admitted that radiometric dates are “some of the trickiest, most delicate and most disputed measurements on Earth.” The sub-heading stated, “Dating features on the moon and Mars is guesswork.”—*Creation* (Jan.-Mar., 2013)

Duane Gish Dies

Famed creationist, Dr. Duane Gish of the Institute for Creation Research (ICR), passed away on March 6, 2013. After a fruitful career in biochemistry at the Upjohn Co., Gish joined with other scientists in establishing the Creation Research Society in 1963. Gish became a well-known and successful proponent for creationism in creation-evolution debates often held on college campuses — www.icr.org/article/7318 (3/7/13)

Meditation Helps

A study of older adults has suggested that meditation as well as exercise can significantly reduce the risk of coming down with a cold and may minimize symptoms for those who do get sick. A group of 149 people age 50 and older was divided into three groups—people involved in a moderately intense exercise program, those taking part in structured meditation, and those who carried on normally. The results showed the meditation group had 33% fewer colds and the exercise group 29% fewer colds. When colds were experienced in the two groups, the duration was 43% shorter and much less severe.—*Mayo Clinic Health Letter* (February, 2013)

Diabetes=Hearing Loss

Data from 13 studies suggests diabetics are more than twice as likely to have hearing impairments and those without diabetes. The reason may be that diabetes affects blood vessels and nerves in the inner ear. The take-home message—if you have diabetes, get your hearing checked on a regular basis.—*Men's Health Advisor* (February, 2013)

Women and Their Hearts

A French study has revealed women have been almost twice as likely as men to die in a hospital after having a heart attack. The reason might be in part because women tend to wait longer before deciding to call for help. A review of 5,000 patients hospitalized with heart attack symptoms showed 9% of females died in the hospital compared to 4% of males.—*Consumer Reports on Health* (February, 2013)

Differences in Strength Training

Strength training affects older men differently than it does younger males, a study has found. Younger men (average age 24) can build muscle only by lifting heavier weights, not by doing more repetitions. However, the study found older males (average age 70) could build their muscles with more repetitions. The researchers took biopsies of leg muscles to see if protein was being made. Protein is important in repairing and building muscle.—*Nutrition Action* (October, 2012)

Ginseng May Help

Research led by the Mayo Clinic raises the hope that the herbal supplement known as ginseng may help cancer sufferers deal with fatigue. Half of 340 people in a trial took 2,000 milligram capsules of American ginseng twice a day. The other half took an placebo. After eight weeks, the ginseng takers experienced a 20-point improvement in a 100-point fatigue improvement scale.—*Mayo Clinic Health Letter* (December, 2012)

Multivitamins Don't

Multivitamins don't seem to help men avoid heart attacks or strokes or die from heart disease. A study reported in the Nov. 7, 2012 *Journal of the American Medical Association* compared 14,641 men ages 50 and older, some of which took the vitamins and some a placebo pill.—*Consumer Reports on Health* (February, 2013)



A Softer Hardee's

In an experiment involving a Hardee's restaurant, one portion of the dining area was remodeled with softer lighting, paintings, plants, tablecloths, soft jazz and waiters. The other portion was left untouched with its bright colors and lighting. It was found that those people eating in the "fine dining" area consumed 133 fewer calories on average than those eating in the regular section.—*Consumer Reports on Health* (December, 2012)

Earthquake Blamed Partly On Drilling

A deadly earthquake in southern Spain in 2011 was likely caused in part by farmers drilling ever deeper wells over the years to water their crops. Nine people died and nearly 300 were injured during the magnitude 5.1 quake in Lorca, Spain on May 11, 2011. Satellite images found the quake ruptured a fault running near a basin that had been weakened by 50 years of groundwater extraction. The discovery may add concerns about the effects of new energy extraction and waste disposal technologies.—(*Racine*) *Journal Times* (10/22/12)

Solar Power Record

On May 25, 2012 Germany set a new record for the highest output of solar power that any nation has ever achieved in one day. Nearly one-third of that nation's midday electricity was provided by the sun, some 22 gigawatts of power from tens of millions of solar panels across Germany. Helped by generous public subsidies, the country has become the world's largest solar market.—*Discover* (January/February, 2012)

Invisibility Cloak

Physicists say they have invented an invisibility cloak that so far works only in microwave light. However, they believe it is a step closer to a true invisibility cloak that could hide a person in broad daylight. The invention is made of a new material called metascreen which consists of copper strips attached to a flexible polycarbonate film. Other attempts to make an invisibility cloak have aimed to bend light rays around an object so they don't reflect off of it. This new invention instead tries to cancel out light waves so that they don't reach an observer's eyes.—*news.yahoo.com* (3/25/13)

U.S. May Soon Become Top Oil Producer

The United States may soon overtake Saudi Arabia as the world's biggest oil producer. High prices and new drilling methods has caused production of crude and other liquid hydrocarbons to rise 7 percent in 2012 to an average of 10.9 million barrels per day. 2012 would be the 4th straight year crude production has increased and the biggest single-year gain since 1951. The Energy Dept. predicts production will average 11.6 million barrels per day during 2013.—(*Racine*) *Journal Times* (10/24/12)

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NUGGETS

POLITICAL CORRECTNESS IS LEADING TO BAD GRAMMAR

Dr. Donald Chittick says the push for a unisex agenda is leading to bad grammar as in “A student is required to turn in *their* homework on time.” Traditionally, if an individual’s gender was not known, the male pronoun would be used as in “A student is required to turn in *his* homework on time.” Political correctness is leading to bad grammar.



Source: Donald E. Chittick, *The Puzzle of Ancient Man*, pages 4-5

ANGULAR MOMENTUM

“Angular momentum is another serious problem [for cosmic evolution theory]. Why do stars turn? Why do galaxies rotate? Why do planets orbit stars? Why do binary stars circle one another? How could the super-fast *linear (straight line)* motion, started by the supposed Big Bang, have changed into rotation (spinning or revolving motion) and revolution (orbiting motion)? How could angular momentum exist—and in such perfectly balanced orbits throughout space? There is no possible way that floating gas could transform itself into rotating and orbiting objects, like stars, planets and moons.”

A LOT TO LEARN

A survey by Beloit (WI) College of incoming college freshmen found most do not know the following terms come from the Bible: “forbidden fruit,” “writing on the wall.” “good Samaritan,” or “promised land.”-

—*Racine Journal-Times*



HOW DENTAL PROBLEMS CAN MAKE YOU LOOK OLDER



Dentists can help you with the following dental problems that may make you look older than you really are:

WORN TEETH—Tooth grinding can wear down teeth, reducing the distance between the chin and nose. A shorter face makes a person look older.

MISSING TEETH—Because of missing teeth, cheeks may cave inward to cause an older, drawn appearance.

ABNORMAL JAW POSITION (TMD)—TMD (*temporomandibular disorder*) can cause the chin and lower jaw to move to abnormal positions that can distort the face.

DETERIORATED FILLINGS—Bacteria can get under worn metal fillings and make them darken. This can cause gray shadows to appear through tooth enamel making for an older appearance.

GUM PROBLEMS—Changes in the shape and health of the gums might result in teeth that appear too long or gums that are too prominent, again causing the face to look older.

POOR DENTURE FIT—It is normal for gums and underlying bones to change over time. This can result in dentures that don't fit as well as they used to and lead to jowls and wrinkled skin.

Source: *Bottom Line Personal* (3/1/2013)

MYSTERIES THAT REALLY AREN'T

MYSTERIES

“THINK! Have you ever stopped to think just why so many things turning up about ancient cultures end up being classified as “mysteries”?... According to evolutionary notions, anything that is discovered to be both very ancient and technologically or culturally advanced, is automatically labeled as a mystery.”



—Dennis R. Peterson, *Unlocking the Mysteries of Creation*, El Dorado, CA: Creation Resource Publications, 2002-2012, page 178



MORE NUGGETS

A COMMON ANCESTOR WHO LIVED RECENTLY

“The amount of genetic variation throughout all modern human populations is surprisingly small and implies a recent origin for the common ancestor of us all.” Common ancestor? What about Adam and his wife, Eve?

Quotation from: www.stanford.edu/~harryg/protected/chp25.htm



“Before the mountains were born
or you brought forth the whole world,
from everlasting to everlasting
you are God.”

— Psalm 90:2 (NIV)

EVOLUTIONIST ADMITS HARMFUL MUTATIONS ARE MUCH MORE COMMON THAN GOOD ONES

“Because deleterious mutations are much more common than beneficial ones, evolution under this relaxed selection will inevitably lead to a decline in the mean fitness of the population.”

—Mutation expert Alexy Kondrashov, quoted in *Acts & Facts* (November, 2012)



A GOOGOL

“If the total number of people doubled every 150 years, today's population could have easily arisen since Noah's Flood. On the other hand, if man evolved 50,000 years ago, and the population doubled every 150 years, we would have one *googol* of people—that is a 1 followed by 100 zeroes!”

—*Answers* (Jan.-March, 2013)

IF YOU TAKE MORE THAN ONE MEDICATION....

Be aware that your chances of falling increase. A new study conducted in New Zealand of 687 people found that the odds of falling, for even young and middle-aged adults, increased on average 2.5 times if they took at least two medicines. Blood pressure and lipid-lowering medicines including statins were most associated with falling.

Source: *Bottom Line Personal* (10/1/12)



**Piri Reis
Map from
Wikimedia
Commons**

PIRI REIS MAP

“The Piri Reis Map and other copies of very ancient maps show that the ancients not only were aware of world geography, but that they accurately mapped it as well. For example, the entire coastline of Antarctica before the Ice Age was mapped including the location of the south geographic pole. Recent research indicates the Ice Age began within about 300 years after the Flood. If Antarctica was mapped before the ice was on the continent, then the mapping must have been carried out very early during post-Flood times.

Source: Donald E. Chittick, *The Puzzle of Ancient Man*, pages 58-59.

More information on the Piri Reis Map (http://www.world-mysteries.com/sar_1.htm)

THEORIES AS TO WHAT KILLED OFF THE DINOSAURS

In addition to the well-know theory of a comet or asteroid impact, other ideas as to what caused the dinosaurs to go extinct have included—

- *Rodents ate all the dinosaur eggs.
- *Their tiny brains eventually made the animals too stupid to survive.
- *Their large size caused back problems making hunting difficult and leading to starvation.
- *Global warming made them sterile.
- *They ate too many poisonous plants.
- *There was a mass epidemic of dinosaur constipation.



-- Petersen, Dennis R., *Unlocking the Mysteries of Creation*, El Dorado, CA: Creation Resource Publications, 2002-2012, pages 170-171.

Willows

On the first day you are to take branches from luxuriant trees—from palms, *willows* and other leafy trees—and rejoice before the **Lord** your God for seven days. (Leviticus 23:40)

There were rules the Old Testament Children of Israel had to obey when it came to celebrating certain days. For one of the days, God wanted them to gather branches from certain trees such as the willow tree.

What is a willow tree?

There are many kinds of willow trees, but they all have soft, tough wood, thin branches, and large roots. The leaves usually are long and thin but may be round or oval-shaped. A willow tree is a deciduous tree, which means it sheds its



A Weeping Willow

leaves every year.

What are some of the most popular willow trees? There are over 400 types or species of willows with the Weeping Willow, which looks like it is crying, being among the most popular. Other popular willows include the Scarlet Willow, the White Willow, and the Golden Willow.

Do willow trees produce flowers? Willow flowers are of a type called *catkins*. A catkin is a slim cluster (group) of flowers having tiny or no petals. The catkins often can be seen in early spring before the leaves open up.



A catkin

Where do willows grow?

Willows grow best in cold and temperate areas in the Northern Hemisphere. Temperate areas are those which are usually not too hot or too cold. The soil will normally have a fairly good amount of moisture.

What uses have people made of willow trees?

Some people since ancient times have found temporary relief for aches and fever from the leaves and bark of willow trees. Something called *salicin* is taken from the bark of trees and can be converted into an ingredient which today is used in aspirin.

Willow can also be used for making fishing nets, baskets, brooms, furniture

and many other things. Willows produce nectar which bees can use to make honey and willows are also useful for producing fuel.

Source: Wikipedia

Even though we don't normally use willow trees in our religious celebrations these days, we still worship the same God as did the Old Testament believers. It is the God who sent Jesus down to earth to become our Savior.

Activity: Fill the boxes with the missing letters from each word to form an important message:

<input type="text"/>	__OLDEN WILLOW
<input type="text"/>	WILL__W
<input type="text"/>	OL__TESTAMENT
<input type="text"/>	CATK__N
<input type="text"/>	A__PIRIN
<input type="text"/>	PETA__S
<input type="text"/>	SOFT W__OD
<input type="text"/>	OUR SA__IOR
<input type="text"/>	WE__PING WILLOW



Evolutionism Sure Seems Like a Religion

Secular scientists will surely deny it and even some creationists caution against making such a connection, but it is hard at times not to envision evolution theory as being like a secular or a godless religion.

While doing some research on the topic of abiogenesis, I ran across the following (since revised) from the online Wikipedia encyclopedia:

“The generation of life from non-living material is called *abiogenesis*, and it has occurred at least once in the history of the Earth, when life first arose. However, the law of *biogenesis* is still valid today; it is a fundamental characteristic of life, as the conditions required for abiogenesis no longer exist.”

Notice that the author of this Wikipedia article acknowledges the reality that the law of biogenesis—that life can only come from other life—is completely valid today.

But, without providing any evidence, he offers his observation that life must have arisen from non-life at least once in the history of the earth, when life

first arose in the beginning. Without offering any evidence, he infers conditions were different on the primitive earth that made abiogenesis possible.

It is certainly true that secular scientists do a lot of science in their work. They make observations. They do experiments. They formulate reasonable hypothesis which they then test in the laboratory or in the field. And they even admit at times when they are wrong.

But it is also true that they often rely on their secular faith—that what we see around us in nature has all come about through natural processes without input by any intelligent agent.

To hold onto this position, they must assume there is no God and Creator. They must assume abiogenesis has happened at least once. They must assume that the countless examples of intricately designed features seen in all living organisms merely provide an illusion of having been designed.

As Christians who believe in a Creator, a faith made possible by the Word of God but not contradicted by what we see in God’s world, we can feel blessed. We don’t need to fall back on unreasonable tenets. Along with David we can exclaim, “The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands” (Psalm 19:1). **LSJ**

—Warren Krug, editor

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