

# LSI Journal

July-Sept.  
2014

**Is Creation a Viable  
Model of Origins?**

## **LUTHERAN SCIENCE INSTITUTE, INC.**

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The Annual Meeting of the Institute is held the 2nd Saturday of October. Meetings are open to the public and announced in the LSI JOURNAL and/or on our website.

### **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.

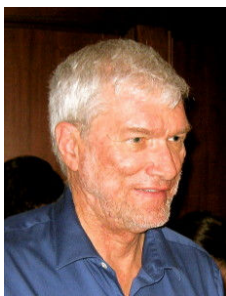
\*Dates, times, and locations subject to change. Additional meetings may be scheduled. Check with the president to verify.

**Cover Photo** — a supernova remnant, adapted from a NASA photograph.

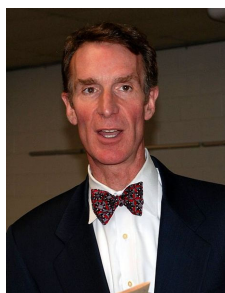
# Is Creation a Viable Model of Origins?

By Warren Krug

Ken  
Ham



Bill  
Nye



If the title sounds familiar, there is a reason. It was the official theme of the debate in February between Ken Ham of Answers in Genesis and Bill Nye, the “Science Guy.” Ham did a credible job in defending Genesis but was limited in the time he had available to cover all the bases. So, I have become brave enough to try to accomplish the task of answering in more detail the question the debate theme poses.

An affirmative answer to the question would suggest that the Bible, particularly the book of Genesis, is a good description of what we see in nature, and therefore its account of origins must be considered reasonable from a scientific viewpoint. In fact, as I hope to point out, it is the *only* description of origins that fits well with what we observe and experience in the natural world around us. In considering how well Genesis coincides with our observations of nature, at times it will be helpful to contrast it with the only relevant alternate explanation of origins—the theory of evolution.

Warren Krug, a retired teacher, is the editor of the *LSI Journal*. 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 of Trinity Lutheran, Caledonia, Wisconsin. (All illustrations are from Wikimedia Commons.)

## Exhibit #1

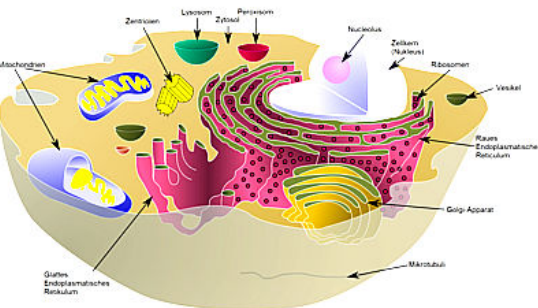
# Intelligent Design

Bible reference: “**In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth**” (Genesis 1:1.)

**T**he Bible starts right off by informing us how the world and universe got here. There is a Creator or Divine and Intelligent Designer who did the work. Do we see evidence that the earth and its living creatures have been intelligently designed?

**Evidence #1 — Irreducible Complexity.** In Charles Darwin's day, the biological cell was considered a rather uncomplicated structure. Ernst Haeckel, Darwin's defender in Germany, said a cell was a “simple lump of albuminous [containing albumen or the white of an egg] combination of carbon.”<sup>1</sup> Today, we know better. In an article titled “Basics of biblical

biology,” Shaun Doyle writes, “Cells have libraries, translation services, maintenance systems, waste disposal systems, internal and external communication networks, food location devices, food processing plants, power plants, transportation systems, and all sorts of different production industries. And on top of this, it has an automated self-replication system.”<sup>2</sup>



The biological cell is designed and organized like a little city.

If a mere cell is so complex and well-designed, what can we say about far more complex organisms which consist of cells organized into tissues which are organized into organs which are organized into systems, all working together? A biochemist named Michael J. Behe back in 1996 said that when a structure is so complex that all of its parts must be initially present in a suitably function-

ing manner, it can be said to be “irreducibly complex.”<sup>3</sup> In other words, there must have been a Creator or Intelligent Designer who organized and put everything together from the very first moment the structure or creature appeared on earth. It doesn't seem reasonable to believe the structure or creature could have developed slowly step by step as evolutionists claim. This complexity can be seen all around us in nature.

**Evidence # 2 — Biomimicry.** Inventors and scientists often turn to nature for ideas for new inventions or new ways of doing things. This is called biomimicry or biomimetics—the practice of mimicking what we see in biology or nature. There are many examples. Some well known instances include Velcro, based on the burrs of a burdock plant; sonar, copied from the natural sonar used by animals such as bats and dolphins; and the Eiffel Tower, inspired by the structure of the femur bone.

One of my favorite examples of biomimicry is the Eastgate Centre in Zimbabwe.



A termite mound — designed by the Creator and built by the insects.

This office building was designed with a ventilation system so good it does not need conventional air-conditioning or heating. Where did the architects get their inspiration for this efficient ventilation system? From African termite mounds! These insect-built structures must be kept at exactly 87 degrees F despite outside temperature swings ranging from 35 degrees to 104 degrees F? To maintain this temperature over the course of the day the termites must open and close a series of heating and cooling vents

1. “How Simple Can Life Be?” (Answers in Genesis, December 29, 1997), <https://answersingenesis.org/origin-of-life/what-is-life/how-simple-can-life-be/>
2. Shaun Doyle, “Basics of biblical biology,” (Creation Ministries International, December 26, 2013), <http://creation.com/biblical-biology>
3. Dudley Eirich, “The Amazing Cell,” (Answers in Genesis, January 10, 2000), <https://answersingenesis.org/biology/microbiology/the-amazing-cell/>



The Infinite Monkey Theorem — give him enough time and he can type anything.

located throughout the mound. The Eastgate Centre has a system similar to this.<sup>4</sup>

When science writers discuss examples of biomimicry, my recollection is they will usually give the inventors or scientists credit for using their intelligence and creativity, but typically they will avoid using the word “design” when referring to the feature or organism in nature which the inventors mimicked. However, if we acknowledge the creativity of these inventors and scientists, then biomimicry similarly calls for the existence of an intelligent designer of nature.

**Evidence #3—Relative Perfection in Nature.** Years ago the infinite monkey theorem was invented to try to show how natural selection could produce the complex organisms we see around us, despite the random nature of the evolution process. How-

ever, this theorem requires an almost infinite amount of time for evolution to do its work. According to the theorem, by relying on the laws of chance a monkey typing at random on a typewriter could eventually produce words or sentences or even books, if given enough time.<sup>5</sup>

But this theorem has at least one major flaw—it doesn't take into account what would happen every time the monkey makes a mistake. Each time the monkey types gibberish on his typewriter, his handler would have to remove the paper, insert a clean sheet of paper into the typewriter, and dump the monkey's mistake into the waste basket. In no time at all the waste basket would be full of discarded paper, then the room would fill up, then the neighborhood, and so on.

If something similar to this would be happening in nature, we should have no trouble seeing evolution's mistakes, but where are they? Certainly we do from time to time see what could be called mistakes in nature, such as the birth of a two-headed snake or a calf with five legs, but those are exceptions rather than the rule. The overwhelming majority of snakes have but one head, and the overwhelming majority of calves have only four legs.



And while it is true the earth and the whole universe appear to be running down due to entropy,<sup>6</sup> this only means at one time they must have been in a superior state. The

failure to see anything like the “monkey’s mistakes” in nature points to the Creator who was intelligent enough not to have made mistakes when He created the world.

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## Exhibit #2

# Fixity of Kinds

Bible reference:

**“According to their kinds”** (Genesis 1:25.)

**T**his reference and similar phrases are used in Genesis to imply that every kind of living creature, plant and animal, will propagate its kind and only its kind. One kind of animal could not produce a different kind of animal, no matter how much time is available. We can never expect to see any new kind of creature. Is that what we observe in nature?

**Evidence #1—Lack of transitional forms.** I doubt any scientist today believes it is possible for one kind of creature, such as an elephant, to directly give birth to an entirely different kind, such as a whale. Therefore, if evolution is a fact, there should be plenty of examples of links or transitional forms in the living world, or at least in the fossil record, as one kind of

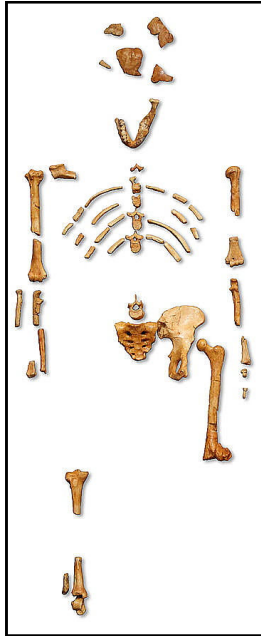
creature was gradually changing into another kind. What we do see is plenty of variation within kinds. For instance, there are hundreds of varieties of dogs including wolves, coyotes, foxes, etc. But one cannot find a single example of an animal which descended from a dog but which is now on its way to becoming something that is not a dog. The same is true for all

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4. Abigail Doan, “BIOMETIC ARCHITECTURE: Green Building in Zimbabwe Modeled After Termite Mounds,” (Inhabitat, November 29, 2012), <http://inhabitat.com/building-modelled-on-termites-eastgate-centre-in-zimbabwe/>
  5. “Infinite monkey theorem,” (Wikipedia, revised May 22, 2014), [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Infinite\\_monkey\\_theorem](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Infinite_monkey_theorem)
  6. “Entropy,” (*The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language online*), <http://ahdictionary.com/word/search.html?q=entropy&submit.x=20&submit.y=8>

other kinds of creatures. What we never see is one kind of creature developing into a different kind, which is just what Genesis appears to teach.

Not being able to find clear examples of links or intermediate forms in the living world, scientists often turn to fossils to try to identify past transitional forms. But those fossils which are called transitional are frequently or usually fragmented and incomplete, thus giving the paleontologists considerable freedom to make judgments that might confirm any preconceptions they would hold. For instance, the famous Lucy, an alleged ancestor of humans, is missing about three-fourths of her skeleton.<sup>7</sup> Arguments among paleontologists are common when it comes to interpreting the nature of specific transitional fossils.

Some secular scientists have supported the observation that there is a serious lack of intermediate or transitional fossils. Stephen Jay Gould once wrote, "The extreme rarity of transitional forms in the fossil record persists as the trade secret of pa-



Reconstruction of the Lucy fossil. That's all there is.

leontology. The evolutionary trees that adorn our textbooks have data only at the tips and nodes of their branches."<sup>8</sup> And the late senior paleontologist at the British Museum of Natural History, Colin Patterson, wrote a book on evolution that lacked illustrations of evolutionary transitions. When a letter writer asked Patterson why he didn't include any such illustrations, he said he would have if he knew of any.<sup>9</sup> These and other quotations support the observation that the kinds

God created must indeed be fixed.

**Evidence #2—Living fossils.** Speaking of fossils, a large number of fossils called living fossils offer strong support for the truth that kinds can only reproduce according to their same kinds. Living fossils are fossils said to be millions of years old but which appear the same or very similar to their modern counterparts. Living fossils include fish, insects, reptiles, trees etc. Perhaps the most famous living fossil is the coelacanth fish which supposedly went extinct millions of





Coelacanth—alive and unchanged after “millions” of years.

years ago and which some scientists believed was a link between fish and reptiles. Then in 1938 off the coast of southern Africa a coelacanth was captured alive by fishermen. Since then many others have been found alive.<sup>10</sup>

While most living fossils were never considered to have ever gone extinct like the coelacanth, the fact remains that all these examples of creatures that have changed little if any in supposedly millions of years can be considered evidence for fixity of kinds. How do evolutionists explain living fossils? They claim some representatives of a lineage found a niche and had no reason to evolve while other members of the lineage were influenced by natural selection to evolve into something else. However, this seems like too easy of an an-

swer. How could a plant or animal have resisted natural selection for millions of years while the evolution process overall was allegedly changing single-celled organisms into humans? Living fossils thus also support the observation that the Genesis kinds are fixed.

**Evidence #3—Genetics and mutations.** An organism's genes or genome is like a blueprint that determines what it will become. For the organism to evolve from a simple creature to a more complex one, the blueprint would have to become more complex too, something like going from the blueprint for a doghouse to the blueprint for the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. But there is no clear-cut example of a genome being capable of taking on the additional genetic information needed for the creature to become more advanced or complex. Genomes can lose information, such as in the cave fish which lost the ability to see or even have eyes, but

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7. Doug Henderson, “Bringing Lucy to Life,” (Answers in Genesis, December 11, 2012), <https://answersingenesis.org/human-evolution/lucy/bringing-lucy-to-life/>.
  8. Gary Bates, “That quote—about the missing transitional fossils,” (Creation Ministries International), <http://creation.com/that-quote-about-the-missing-transitional-fossils>.
  9. Bates.
  10. “Examples of Living Fossils,” (Living-fossils.com) [http://www.living-fossils.com/3\\_1.php](http://www.living-fossils.com/3_1.php).



A Dutch Dwarf Horse. Dwarfism can be caused by mutations and is hardly ever an advantage.

evolutionary processes. In fact, it looks like all examples of gain-of-function mutations, put in light of the long-term needs of upward evolutionary progress, are exceptions to what is needed, because every example I have seen involves something breaking.”<sup>11</sup>

there doesn't seem to be any example of a plant or animal acquiring a completely new feature such as wings or fins if its ancestors never had them. Its genes seem to prohibit it from acquiring new features or from becoming a new kind of creature.

Mutations are said to be the force that drives evolution onward and upward. However, mutations which are big enough to be noticed are usually harmful to the organism and its species. Dr. Robert Carter writes, “There are no known examples of the types of information-gaining mutations necessary for large-scale

There are mutations called beneficial mutations which offer a creature a limited advantage in some way, but beneficial mutations are usually accompanied by a downside. A favorite example of mine is the small group of villagers in Ecuador which experienced a mutation that protects them from diabetes and cancer. However, the mutation also stunts their growth, thus putting them at a disadvantage in a physical confrontation with normal-sized people.<sup>12</sup> Overall, genetics seems to be the Creator's method of maintaining a fixity of kinds. Variation within a kind, yes, but new kinds, no.

## Exhibit #3

# A Recent Creation

Bible references: **the genealogies in the Bible** (such as those in Genesis 5, 10, and 11)

**V**arious Bible scholars including Bishop Ussher (1581-1656) have examined the genealogies in the Bible to try to determine how much time has passed since the creation. Although these authorities don't agree on the exact age, they all conclude that on the basis of these genealogies, the earth and universe can't be more than a few thousand years old, in most cases around 6,000 years old or somewhat older. When we look at the earth and outer space, do we see this youth the Bible suggests?

**Evidence #1**—*A young-looking earth.* Although secular scientists insist the earth is some 4.5 billion years old, this planet does offer evidence of being a much, much younger globe. Geologically and biologically, it is still very much alive. A spinning top will eventually come to rest. Winds die down after a while. A fire will sooner or later burn out. Yet, when we look at the earth, we can still witness strong earthquakes, tectonic activity, volcanoes, a very hot interior, and powerful storms like hurricanes. We also note a vast array of living things. It seems logical that after 4.5 billion years, movements within and on the Earth might be expected to have slowed considerably, perhaps come to a halt. Also heat, being a form of energy, would have

lost its punch due to entropy. In addition, despite the recent increase in extinctions among species, there still are obviously many, many species which have not experienced extinctions. These observations taken together suggest that we live on a young earth, as the Bible text implies

Secular scientists generally use radiometric dating systems<sup>13</sup> to arrive at such an old planet. However, these systems all rely upon assumptions which obviously cannot be tested because modern science occupies only a minuscule fraction of the time-line of secular Earth history. On the other hand, there are numerous "clocks" which, based on current measurements, suggest the Earth is far younger than 4.5 billion

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11. Robert W. Carter, "Can mutations create new information?" (Creation Ministries International, August, 2011), <http://creation.com/mutations-new-information>
  12. Warren Krug, "Mutation Helps Some Ecuadoreans Live Longer." (LSI Blog, February 18, 2011), <http://lsiblog.blogspot.com/2011/02/mutation-helps-some-ecuadoreans-live.html>
  13. Tas Walker, "How dating methods work," (Creation Ministries International, June, 2008), <http://creation.com/how-dating-methods-work>

years. Dr. Jonathan Sarfati says about 90% of dating methods are in this group.<sup>14</sup> For instance, he mentions the rapid decay of the earth's magnetic field, which provides a maximum age of the earth of 10,000 years, and the salt pouring into the ocean, indicating an age of the earth of no more than 62 million years; etc. Other young-earth clocks which imply an age of only several thousand years include the amount of meteorite dust which has fallen onto the earth, the pressure in the oil fields, the amount of helium in the atmosphere, the amount of radiocarbon in the atmosphere, and many others.<sup>15</sup>

**Evidence #2**—A *young-looking solar system*. The age of the solar system is generally considered the same as the age of the earth—about 4.5 or 4.6 billion years old. However, there are some observations that point to a much younger solar system than that. For instance, the moon is moving away from the earth several centimeters per year. At that rate it would have been so close to earth only one billion years ago, the earth's tidal forces would have broken it into bits. Also, the earth's rotation is slowing gradually and days are getting longer, at a rate of about 2 seconds every thousand days.<sup>16</sup> At that rate our planet



Comet Halley. Comets shouldn't exist in a solar system of billions of years.

would have been spinning like a top a billion years ago and life could not have existed.

Then there is the matter of comets. Comets have short lives because every time they get close to the sun they lose some of their mass, that is if they don't collide with a planet first. Many comets have been observed to be dimmer every time they have been seen. Astronomers agree that comets, without some way of replenishing themselves, shouldn't exist at all in an old solar system of billions of years. Therefore, evolutionist scientists have invented something called the Oort cloud, which supposedly is like a nursery where new comets can be born. However, the Oort cloud has never been seen, and there is zero evidence that it actually exists.<sup>17</sup>

The simpler way to explain comets is to measure the age of the solar system in thousands of years, not billions.

**Evidence #3—Human history.** Estimates by evolutionists of when humans first appeared on earth vary greatly, from hundreds of thousands of years ago to millions of years. This uncertainty is due in part to the lack of agreement by paleontologists on what was an early human as opposed to a pre-human. Nevertheless, what we observe in the world today, or don't observe, tells a different story of human history than the mainstream account.

Don Batten tackled the question of whether or not a population of only eight people (Noah's family) could have grown into the world's present population in the four to five thousand years since Noah's Flood. Batten calculated that a growth rate in the world's population of only

one-half of a percent per year would have been sufficient to have reached today's population figure. This isn't much of a growth rate. The growth rate currently is 1.7% (as of 2001 when his article was published). Batten also estimated how many people would be on earth today if the first human couple had instead appeared one million years ago. Assuming a growth rate of only 0.01% per year, today's population would stand at 10 to the 43<sup>rd</sup> power, a number that means 10 followed by 43 zeros! Already long ago there would not nearly have been enough room on earth to hold all these people standing shoulder to shoulder and front to back.<sup>18</sup>

An examination of written records also points to a recent history for our species. According to an article on Wikipedia, the Kish tablet is often called the oldest known written document. This limestone tablet found in Iraq has

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14. Jonathan Sarfati, "How old is the earth?" Creation Ministries International, <http://creation.com/how-old-is-the-earth>
  15. Warren Krug, "The Age of the Earth – Part 2," *LSI Journal* (July-August, 2009): 4-8.
  16. Warren Krug, "Days are Getting Longer," *LSI Blog* (July 4, 2012), <http://lsiblog.blogspot.com/2012/07/days-keep-getting-longer.html>
  17. Danny Faulkner, "More Problems for the 'Oort Comet Cloud'," *Answers in Genesis* (August 1, 2001), <https://answersingenesis.org/astronomy/comets/more-problems-for-the-oort-comet-cloud/>
  18. Don Batten, "Where are all the people?" *Creation Ministries International* (June, 2001), <http://creation.com/where-are-all-the-people>.



been dated to no earlier than 3500 B.C.<sup>19</sup> If that is the earliest known written document, then it could fit into the biblical account much easier than it could fit into the secular time-line. It seems very

unlikely modern humans could have been around for hundreds of thousands of years and only within the past



The Kish tablet may be the oldest known written document, but it has been dated at no earlier than 3500 B.C.

5,000 or so years have come up with the idea of creating written records.

## Exhibit #4

# A Global Flood

Bible references: “on that day all the springs of the great deep burst forth, and the floodgates of the heavens were opened” (Genesis 7:11b); “all the high mountains under the entire heavens were covered” (Genesis 7:19b); “Every living thing that moved on land perished—birds, livestock, wild animals, all the creatures that swarm over the earth, and all mankind” (Genesis 7:21).)”

**T**he Bible describes what certainly sounds like a catastrophic flood which covered the whole earth, even the highest mountains, and in so doing destroyed all living land creatures including birds and humans (except for those on board the ark, of course). However, secularists are fond of saying there is no evidence for a global flood. Are they correct or are they closing their eyes to the truth?



## Evidence #1—

**Fossils.** Fossils are rarely being formed today, but estimates as to how many are in the ground number into the billions. Fossils don't form easily. When a plant or animal dies, it normally will decay or be eaten by predators or scavengers.

So, to become a fossil it must be covered rapidly, such as by sediment, in order to preserve it. There are various ways to form a fossil, but in every case the process involves a plant or animal being covered rapidly, if not completely, at least partially. A number of fossils show evidence of rapid burial.<sup>20</sup> For instance, one fossil is of an extinct marine reptile called an ichthyosaur being buried while actually giving birth to a baby. Another fossil is of a fish in the act of eating another fish, again implying a rapid burial.

Fossils can often be found far from where one would expect to find them when they were living creatures. Many marine fossils are found in mountainous areas far from



What were dozens of whales doing in a desert?

the ocean. Of particular interest is the recent discovery of dozens of whale fossils in Chile's Atacama desert.<sup>21</sup> What were so many whales doing in a desert? Taken all together, this evidence of billions of fossils, creatures having been buried quickly, and fossils being found far from where they would have been found as living creatures fits well with the idea of a global flood. A global flood could have moved creatures great distances away from their homes and would have created immense amounts of sediment capable of burying billions of plants and animals in a single event.

## Evidence #2—Strata.

Strata are layers of sedimentary rock placed on top of

19. "Kish tablet," *Wikipedia*, [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kish\\_tablet](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kish_tablet)

20. John Morris, "Chapter 9: Do Fossils Show Signs of Rapid Burial?" *Answers in Genesis* (December 30, 2013). <https://answersingenesis.org/fossils/how-are-fossils-formed/do-fossils-show-signs-of-rapid-burial/>

21. Eva Vergara and Ian James, "Whales in the desert: Fossil bonanza poses a mystery," *yahoo news/AP* (November 20, 2011). <http://news.yahoo.com/whales-desert-fossil-bonanza-poses-mystery-135321328.html>

each other. There's no better place to see strata than at the Grand Canyon where they are very visible. Old-earth scientists believe these strata were laid down in separate events with millions of years between each event. However, if there were millions of years between each event, there would be evidence of erosion.<sup>22</sup> In reality, this evidence seems to be missing. The strata instead appear to have been laid on top of each other over a short period of time with little time being available for erosion to take place. Remarkably, we have a modern day example to support this observation. The Mount St. Helens volcanic eruption in 1982 created a 150-foot-deep canyon in a single day plus 600 feet of strata due to mudflows and pyroclastic (containing bits of rock and ash) flows.<sup>23</sup> Like

those at the Grand Canyon, the layers produced by this volcano not surprisingly show no evidence of erosion between them. The lack of erosion between strata strongly suggests they were laid down in quick succession in a single event, an event such as a global flood.

Moreover, some strata have been found which are strangely bent or folded. Dr. Andrew Snelling writes, "When solid, hard rock is bent (or folded) it invariably fractures and breaks because it is brittle. Rock will bend only if it is still soft and pliable—'plastic' like modeling clay or children's Playdough. If such modeling clay is allowed to dry out, it is no longer pliable but hard and brittle, so any attempt to bend it will cause it to break and shatter." Dr. Snelling concludes his essay by writing, "The only way to explain how these sandstone and limestone beds could be folded, as though still pliable, is to conclude they were deposited during the Genesis Flood, just months before they were folded."<sup>24</sup> They couldn't have been folded after lying around for millions of years and becoming brittle.



Folded rock is easier to explain on the basis of Noah's flood.

**Evidence #3—Flood legends.** Dr. John Morris says he has collected more than 200 stories of a worldwide flood from the folklore of cultures all around the world. While

these stories can vary in many details from the Genesis account of the Flood, most of them are similar in several important ways. Most tell of a global flood, of only a few people being saved, of a flood sent as punishment for sin, of animals being saved, of a boat used for survival, and of people being forewarned about the approaching flood.<sup>25</sup>

As far as I know, there is no similar collection of legends of the earth burning up in a fire or of the earth being devastated by rocks falling from the sky or of a dictator or disease wiping out almost all people or of any other type of worldwide calamity. But here we have all these stories of a global flood. Doesn't that suggest the legends were based on a real event? The lack of complete uniformity in the stories can be easily explained by details of the true account often being lost or twisted as the legends were passed down by word of mouth from generation to generation. But, fortunately,

we have the true account written down in God's Word so that we today need not lose the details of this awesome event.

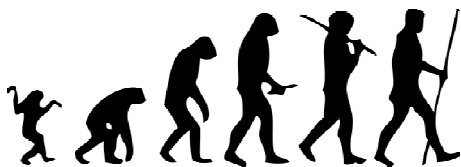
**Conclusion:** While the Bible is not a book of science, it does contain some science, and the science it describes like the rest of the Word of God is absolutely true. We would not expect God's written record to contradict the record He has left us in nature, and it doesn't. Thankfully, He didn't stop with explaining how He made the world and its creatures. He also tells us how He will bring this present world and universe to their conclusions and usher in the new eternal world we call heaven. His Gospel explains how we can be ready for that great event to come. Our Creator God and Savior deserves our praises!

**“But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ”** (Phil. 3:20). *LSI*

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22. Jonathan Sarfati, “Millions of years' are missing,” *Creation Ministries International* (March, 2009). <http://creation.com/ariel-roth-interview-flat-gaps>
  23. “Mount St. Helens in Washington State,” *Answers in Genesis* (July 24, 2008), <https://answersingenesis.org/geology/mount-st-helens/mount-st-helens-in-washington-state/>
  24. Andrew Snelling, “Rock Layers Folded, Not Fractured,” *Answers in Genesis* (March 15, 2009), <https://answersingenesis.org/geology/rock-layers/rock-layers-folded-not-fractured/>
  25. John D. Morris, “Why Does Nearly Every Culture Have a Tradition of a Global Flood?” *Acts & Facts* (2001), 30 (9). <http://www.icr.org/article/why-does-nearly-every-culture-have-tradition-global/>

# WHY EVOLUTION CANNOT EVEN BE CONSIDERED SCIENTIFIC

by Jeffrey Stueber



It's all in the marketing. A man comes to your house selling quality low-cost phone service. You take him up on his offer, and then you realize lower cost service is poor service. The phone connection is constantly full of static or dropped in the middle of a call, there are hidden charges on your bill you weren't expecting, and the customer service is non-existent. You are a disappointed customer once you realize you are not getting what you were promised.

Evolutionists market their beliefs according to several mythical claims. First, they claim creationism is complete nonsense that is foisted upon the public in various forms -

the Intelligent Design movement one of them. Second, they claim evolution is science and the only possible explanation for the existence of biological life forms. Evolutionists, and perhaps some Christians, accept the claims of this packaging without question.

Before we ascertain the scientific nature of evolution, we must ascertain the nature of science. Science explains using natural laws, natural occurrences, or intelligent or semi-intelligent design. What makes objects of observation capable of being scientifically

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studied is their ability to be analyzed and quantified in ways that can be understood by different scientists at different times and laymen as well. What makes explanations scientific is their possibility of being verified or falsified. For example, Sociology is a science because one can empirically study the objects of that science: us. A scientific explanation for our behavior can be determined to be true or false by testing it against the behavior of the humans being studied. The claim that water freezes at 32 degrees Fahrenheit is a scientific claim because we can verify it. However, most people will consider the predictions in newspaper horoscopes to be unscientific because they are not precise to the extent we can verify what they claim.

I claim that, using current evolutionists' methodology, many of their claims cannot be validated as true or false. This is because they claim that specific evidence validates the truth of evolution, but when contrary data appears they claim that is evidence as well. Cornelius Hunter explains the problem

well: "There is nothing wrong with a theory that is comfortable with different outcomes, but there is something wrong when one of those outcomes is then claimed as supporting evidence. If a theory can predict both A and not-A, then neither A nor not-A can be used as evidence for the theory."<sup>1</sup> Evolution, as it is promoted today, does exactly this as I show below.

## **The Fossil Record**

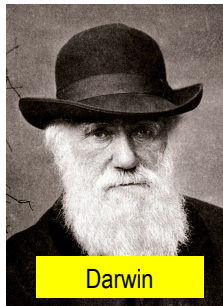
Evolutionary theory postulates that life originated as primitive single-cell organisms that evolved into multi-cell organisms and then man through a series of intermediate steps without any divine interference or creation. The existences of many transitional fossils formed the bedrock of Darwin's theory, and their absence plagued Darwin who devoted a lengthy apology for this fact: "[I]t cannot be doubted that the geological record, viewed as a whole, is extremely imperfect; but if we confine our attention to any one formation, it becomes much more difficult to understand why we do not therein find closely

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1. Cornelius Hunter, *Darwin's God: Evolution and the Problem of Evil* (Grand Rapids: Brazos, 2001), 38.

graduated varieties between the allied species which lived at its commencement and at its close.” Darwin gave us a plausible scientific test for his theory: “If numerous species, belonging to the same genera or families, have really started into life at once, the fact would be fatal to the theory of evolution, through natural selection.”<sup>2</sup> The test, then, to disprove the evolutionary hypothesis would be to find numerous instances of missing intermediate fossils, and rather than being the exception, the absence of these fossils is the rule.

However, Darwin removed this test by supposing the fossil record is very incomplete and often therefore leads us to the wrong conclusions. “In all cases,” he claimed, “positive paleontological evidence may be implicitly trusted; negative evidence is worthless, as experience has so often shown.”<sup>3</sup> Darwin warned us that if we don’t keep this in mind, we might infer that God brought about these animals.



We continually forget how large the world is, compared with the area over which our geological formations have been carefully examined; we forget that groups of species may elsewhere have long existed, and have slowly multiplied, before they invaded the ancient archipelagoes of Europe and the United States.

We do not make due allowances for the intervals of time which have elapsed between our consecutive formations, - longer perhaps in many cases than the time required for the accumulation of each formation. These intervals will have given time for the multiplication of species from some one parent-form: and in the succeeding formation, such groups or species will appear as if suddenly created.<sup>4</sup>

One can only scientifically assert the fossil record is incomplete if one infers there are fossils to be found. Similarly, one can only infer there is a bloody glove to be found if a man used a glove while committing a murder. If the man did not wear the glove



while committing the murder, we would not expect to find the bloody glove. If creationism is true, we should not expect to find intermediates. Although Darwin provided us with a plausible scientific test for his evolutionist hypothesis, he provided himself a door through which to escape if the evidence doesn't fit his theory. What he essentially did is begin a process that has continued today: blaming the evidence rather than the theory.

After years of searching for transitional fossils, scientists have found that the fossil record often is dominated by stasis followed by periods of rapid change with few connecting links. Steven Stanley informs us that the fossil record has forced us to revise the conventional view of evolution because "major evolutionary transitions have been wrought during episodes of rapid change, when new species have quickly budded off from old ones [and] evolution has moved by fits and starts."<sup>5</sup> This has produced a debate

among evolutionists between two camps – the gradualists and the punctuationists. The former are loyal to Darwin's original idea of gradual change, and it was Darwin who noted that the evolution of one group from its parent form "must have been an extremely slow process."<sup>6</sup> The latter, however, imply that species have changed rapidly with few connecting links.

Stanley suggests that, for the remains of humans, horses, and many other animals, "most change has taken place so rapidly and in such confined geographic areas that it is simply not documented by our imperfect fossil record." For example, the bowfin fish family *Amiidae* is well represented in the fossil record and yet, according to Stanley, there has not been substantial change to it. During the latter Cretaceous, bowfins became slightly more elongate, but during their entire sixty-five million years of the Cenozoic, they evolved in only trivial ways. Lungfish

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2. Charles Darwin, *The Origin of the Species* (New York: New American Library of the World, 1958), 298, 305.
  3. Darwin, 305.
  4. Darwin, 305.
  5. Steven Stanley, *The New Evolutionary Timetable* (New York: BasicBooks, 1981), 3.
  6. Darwin, 305.

diversified rapidly, but their number of lineages declined where they remain the same as today. Stanley says we find this pattern of stasis for sturgeon fish, snapping turtles, alligators, and armadillos, for instance.<sup>7</sup> Stanley favors the punctuated equilibrium model but does show that species change within only specific limits. This matches what we would expect if genetic homeostasis<sup>8</sup> is true and matches what we would expect from created "kinds" as the Bible says. Stanley, of course, does not accept this conclusion.

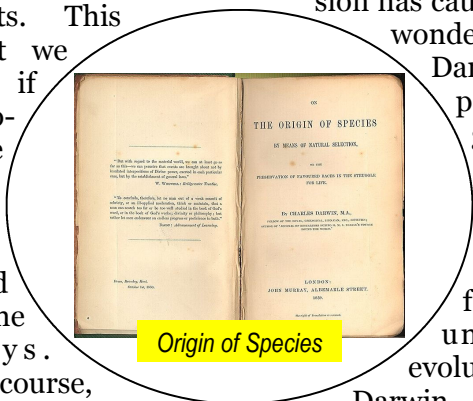
Fourteen years after Stanley published his revised evolutionist timetable, J. Madeleine Nash invoked non-Darwinian evolution as the explanation for missing fossils – particularly between the pre-Cambrian and Cambrian layers. Once again, species

change little and then new species arise rapidly.

The more scientists struggle to explain the Cambrian explosion, the more singular it seems. And just as the peculiar behavior of light forced physicists to conclude that Newton's laws were incomplete, so the Cambrian explosion has caused experts to wonder if the twin Darwinian imperatives of genetic variation and natural selection provide an adequate framework for understanding evolution. "What

Darwin described in the *Origin of Species*," observes Queen's University paleontologist Narbonne, "was the steady background kind of evolution. But there also seems to be a non-Darwinian kind of evolution that functions over extremely short time periods and that's where all the action is."<sup>9</sup> LSI

(TO BE CONTINUED)



7. Stanley, 5, 83-84.
8. Homeostasis is the tendency of a system to change very little. When applied to species, what it means is that animals may change a small amount (as in Darwin's finches changing their beak size), but no further.
9. J. Madeleine Nash, "When Life Exploded," *Time*, December 4, 1995, 74.



## Jesus - a Roman Invention?

"One Joseph Atwill says the Romans invented the idea of Jesus Christ as a form of psychological warfare to control the population. He describes himself as a 'biblical scholar', but has no formal qualifications in any of the relevant disciplines (he studied computer science at college).



"In a book titled *Caesar's Messiah*, Atwill claims the Jesus of the Bible never existed. Rather, Emperor Titus Flavins (reigned AD 79-81) created a competing belief system (Jesus Christ) to stop zealous Jews spreading their religion. The thesis is bizarre; Titus had no need for anything fancy, since he had already decisively defeated the Jews militarily in AD 70. And why would he want to start a belief system among the Gentiles that might (and did) challenge emperor-worship?

"In an interview about his 'discoveries', Atwill said: 'What my work has done is give permission to many of those ready to leave the religion to make a clean break.' "

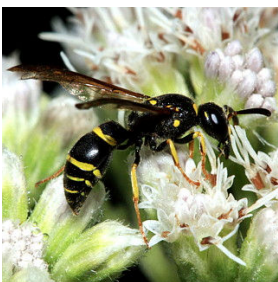
— *Creation* (July-September, 2014), page 10

## A Six-Legged Pottery Maker

Human potters can make clay pottery by putting wet clay on a wheel, and as the wheel turns they shape the clay with their hands into the style and size of their choice. An insect called a potter wasp also makes pottery, but for a different purpose. It makes pots from wet mud which then hardens into clay.

With narrow necks that keep out predators, their pots provide a safe place for wasps to lay their eggs.

Source: *Our World*  
(No. 105)  
Photo from Wikipedia,  
by Bruce Marlin



## Where to take old or unneeded items:

*CFL light bulbs* -- Ikea and Home Depot will accept them for free.

*Video games* -- Wal-Mart and Sam's Club will accept them for store credit.

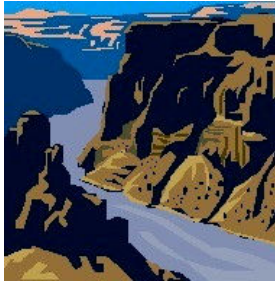
*Sneakers* -- Participating Nike stores will take them. They will later be ground up into building materials.

*Pet fur* -- The Matter of Trust charity seeks pet fur for use in soaking up oil spills (details at [parade.com/](http://parade.com/))

Source: Parade (April 20, 2014)

## Lots of Grand Canyons

"Many canyons are hidden under-round or underwater, and oddly enough some are too big to see. Recent news coverage describes a hidden canyon underneath the glaciers of Antarctica. Ice-penetrating radar studies have revealed evidence that this canyon is at least 200 miles long, 15 miles wide, and two miles deep. Similarly, the Bering Sea between Siberia and Alaska is home to many of the largest submarine canyons in the world. An impressive canyon, often enjoyed by scuba divers, lies just offshore of San Diego. The space between England and the European continent is also a canyon, for at one time the British Isles were part of the mainland. Some consider Hudson Bay to be an Ice Age "canyon" feature. And isn't the mid-continent space between the Rocky Mountains and the Appalachian Mountains a huge canyon split by the Mississippi River drainage systems? Its erosion was initiated at the end of the Flood by runoff waters and has continued throughout the Ice Age and modern calamities.



"Those who believe the earth to be billions of 'uniformitarian' years old occasionally consider modern rates of erosion to be greater than average. But the evidence appears to support the opposite—past processes occurring in one rapid, enormous, Earth-altering episode, just like we're told when we go 'Back to Genesis.' "

### Living Things in the Atmosphere We May Not Know are There

It's not just birds, bats and insects that fly above our heads, but a massive number of microscopic creatures as well. "Aerosphere" is the name given to the part of the Earth's atmosphere that supports life. Aerobiology and aeroecology are disciplines involved in studying the aerosphere. A space the size of a giant beach ball above a grassy field could contain more than 100,000 living things including bugs and bacteria. "We're really interested in how animals are sensing and using and adapting to changes in atmospheric conditions," said U. of Oklahoma aeroecologist

Jeffrey Kelly.

Source: Mary Hoff, "Something in the Air," Discover (June, 2014):12.

## Smart Fliers

“Scientists recently documented how migrating bar-headed geese could fly over the Himalayas at an altitude of up to almost 24,000 feet above sea level. The birds accomplish the feat by timing their trips to coincide with the presence of cooler air, in which it’s easier to fly and breathe.”



—Mary Hoff,  
“Something in  
the Air,”  
*Discover*  
(June 2014):  
13

Photo from  
Wikipedia, by  
Diliff

“Take the helmet of  
salvation and the sword  
of the Spirit, which is  
the word of God. “  
(Ephesians 6:17, NIV)



The new allosaur exhibit at the  
Creation Museum.  
4,300 years in the making!

—<http://www.answersingenesis.org>

### How Much is a Serving of Food?

When a scale is not available, it may be possible to visualize a serving size with the following suggestions:

- Think **TENNIS BALL** for 1 cup of berries or vegetables.
- Think **DECK OF PLAYING CARDS** for 3 ounces of chicken.
- Think **FOUR STACKED DICE** for 1 ounce of cheese.

—*Mayo Clinic Health Letter* (June, 2014)

### DID YOU KNOW?

An 11-12 week old unborn baby:

- ☒ Has brainwaves recorded at 40 days.
- ☒ Squints, swallows and can make a fist.
- ☒ Can fit comfortably in the palm of your hand.

—Wisconsin Right to Life - Racine Chapter

## Sea Slug Steals Stingers



“Most sea creatures leave sea anemones well alone because their tentacles are tipped with poisonous barbs, which usually burst on touch, with fatal results. However, the Nudibranch Sea Slug swallows these barbs without bursting them. What happens next? There are tubes, lined with moving hairs, leading from the Sea Slug’s stomach to the fronds on its back. The barbs from the sea anemone are transported along these tubes to the fronds, where they are stored, ready to be used to attack its own enemies!”

Source: *Original View*, Creation Resources Trust, England (Photo of Nudibranch from Wikipedia, by Parent Géry)

## Those Radiometric Dates?

“But what about those potassium-argon millions-of-years dates? There are good reasons they must be regarded as greatly exaggerated.

“Excess argon rises with the lavas from beneath the earth’s crust, contaminating them so that they yield excessively old dates. This volcanic argon gas does not arise from radioactive decay of the potassium in the rocks, but instead it is trapped in the basalts, making them ‘read’ older. Furthermore, potassium-argon dates of volcanic rocks on seamounts can increase with depth underwater, regardless of actual age.

“This type of faulty assumption behind radioactive dating leads to exaggerated dates. Another crucial, unverifiable assumption made by evolutionary scientists is that the decay rate has been constant throughout time—that is, the radioactive ‘clocks’ have always ticked at the same rate. But creation research has demonstrated that all the decay rates were grossly accelerated in the recent past, during the global Flood cataclysm.”

—Andrew A. Snelling, “Hawaii’s Volcanic Origins—Instant Paradise,” *Answers* magazine (January-March, 2014), page 58





## Horns

“Rescue me from the mouth of the lions; save me from the **horns** of the wild oxen.”  
(Psalm 22:21)

Our Bible reading is a prayer for protection. Today we probably don't need protection from wild lions or oxen. So a similar prayer today for us might go something like: “Rescue me from the hands of mean people; save me from the bumpers of fast-moving cars and trucks.”

**What are horns?** Horns are two bony structures that grow from the heads of many animals. They are usually found in the front part of the skull.

**Are antlers the same as horns?** Antlers are also bony structures found on the heads of some animals. But they are not the same as horns. Antlers have branches

like a tree and are lost and must be re-grown every year. Horns usually have no branches, and they are permanent in most cases. In some species, horns keep growing as long as the animal lives. Horns usually have a bony center called the core which is covered by a material called the sheath.



**Goat**

**What animals have horns?** Animals called bovids have horns. Bovid is a family of animals which include cattle, water buffalo, oxen, goats, and similar animals. In larger species, both males and females usually have horns. In smaller species, only males generally have horns.

**What are some unusual horns?** A giraffe has only short horns, but these horns



**Giraffe**

can be found in males, females and even newborn giraffes. In rhinos, the horns have no core or sheath. Depending on the species, rhinos can have either one horn or two. Unlike bovids, the pronghorn antelope has branched horns which are lost every year and must be re-grown. While most animals with horns have only a single pair, a few species have two or more pairs of horns.



**Rhinoceros**

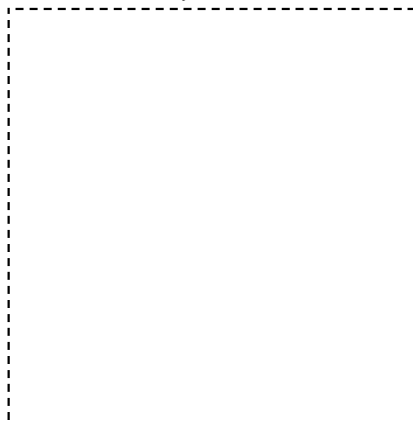
For what purposes do animals use their horns?

The main purpose is for protection and in fighting. The males often use their horns to impress the females, as if to say, “Hey, look at me!”

Sources: Animal Diversity Web  
Wikipedia

God hasn’t given us horns for protection, but He has given us our brains (to try to help us stay out of danger), parents, police, other humans, and, of course, angels. For protection from the devil, we have the Bible which reminds us we have a Savior who wants to take us to heaven which there will never be any kind of danger.

**Activity:** Try drawing the horns pictured here and any other horns you know about.



## **Join LSI as a Member (or renew membership)**

Thank you so much for your dues and donations. While LSI is a WELS organization, it receives no funding or support from the WELS. LSI does not share personal information with any other organization.

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- ☐ 1 year adult, plus print Journal (USA) \$18.00
- ☐ 1 year adult, plus print Journal (Canada) \$25.00
- ☐ 1 year adult, plus print Journal (other) \$38.00
- ☐ 3 year adult, plus print Journal (USA) \$42.00
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If you do not have email, you will probably wish to purchase the paper print version of the *LSI Journal* and *LSI Bulletin*.

My email address (please print clearly)

\_\_\_\_\_

If you provide a valid email address, LSI will email the LSI Journal (4/year), the LSI Bulletin (8/year), and other LSI email (password changes, announcements, questions; up to 4/year). You will have the option of cancelling any or all of these emails.

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What is your college major? (or NONE)

\_\_\_\_\_

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## My View

### How to Reassure Worried Astrophysicists

**P**lanetary scientists looking for life in space are putting their hopes on a new space telescope to be launched in 2018. The James Webb Space Telescope will have the ability to look for chemical signatures of life in the atmospheres of other planets.

"We can't really tell what life is," admitted Sara Seager, an astrophysicist from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, in an online article published on Yahoo News. "All we can do is work with what life does. Life metabolizes and generates gasses, so that's what we're looking for ... The good news is, whatever life is, as long as it uses chemistry, we're all set. I think it's fair to say that we just want to see one example. If we see one, we almost know that it's everywhere because we need to be reassured, we need confidence that life is actually ubiquitous."

So, what is it about which

scientists like Sara Seager need to be reassured? Presumably, they want some confidence that nature can create life. As long as life is confined to one planet, Earth, then that supports the truth that all life begins with God, as Genesis declares.

Not surprisingly, scientists have been totally helpless in creating life in their labs. Yet, they want us to believe that blind nature has done it, perhaps countless times in space. That idea is not logical.

There is not even a hint in the Bible of God putting life on any other planet, although I suppose we can't categorically rule out the possibility.

Still, we must recognize that all life comes from our living Creator God, who has not only given us our earthly lives but is offering us eternal life in heaven.

Jesus said, "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full" (John 10:10b). And the "they" includes also scientists.

So, researchers like Ms. Seager can be reassured that God loves them enough to have sent Jesus to earth to die for their sins. Scripture assures us heavenly life truly does exist and is freely offered to everyone through faith. *LSI*

—Warren Krug, editor

New posts appear almost every day on the Lutheran Science Institute Facebook page. One of the most popular posts recently was the item below. More than 330 people read the post. Maybe you will find it interesting also, but atheists probably won't appreciate it.

Our Facebook page can be found at [www.facebook.com/LutheranScience](http://www.facebook.com/LutheranScience)

## **Atheists Lose Their Own Kids**

"Leading atheists such as Richard Dawkins and the late Christopher Hitchens have long argued that without religious instruction and 'parental indoctrination,' there would be far more atheists. Some atheists, such as Dawkins and Lawrence Krauss, have strongly campaigned against the teaching of creation, whether by schools or parents. labeling it 'child abuse.' If only children can be protected from parental and societal 'brainwashing' until they reach the 'age of reason', argue the atheists, then religious belief will wane and atheism will flourish.

"But that prediction is contradicted by the recent finding in the U.S. that the children of atheists are the least likely of any world-view to retain their parents' beliefs. The 'retention rate' for atheism was only 30%, i.e. less than one-third of the children of atheist parents retained their atheism as adults. (Cf. 84% for Hindus, 68% for Roman Catholics, and 60% for Baptists.)

"As one commentator observed, 'If atheism is natural and religion is only caused by brainwashing, then atheists ought to have the highest retention rate of any religion.' Yet 70% of the children of atheists abandon atheism."

—*Creation* (July-September, 2014), p. 7.